

S O U T H E R N

VOICE

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FEB 18 - FEB 24 / 1993

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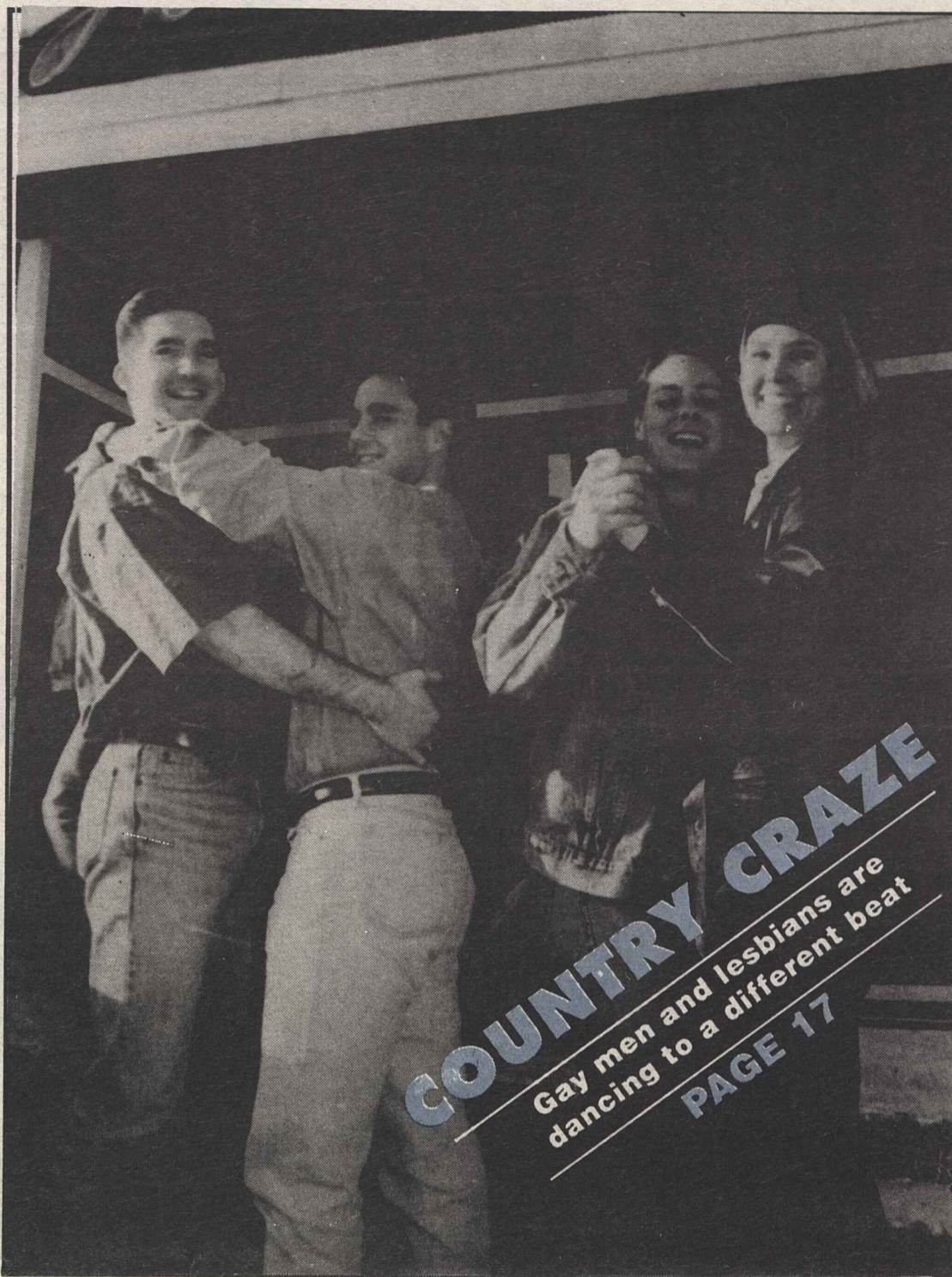
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350 rally to urge lifting of military ban

Resolution is introduced in Ga. House of Representatives to urge Congress to keep ban against gays and lesbians

KC WILDMOON

Atlanta—A biting wind did not deter some 350 people gathered on the steps of the Richard B. Russell Federal Building last Saturday to show support for President Clinton's efforts to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. The crowd huddled for warmth and heard gay and lesbian veterans, politicians, and gay and civil rights leaders, ending with an emotional gathering of 32 gay and lesbian vets at the podium.

"They have proudly served their country," said keynote speaker Miriam Ben-Shalom, founder of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America. "They deserve their country's respect."

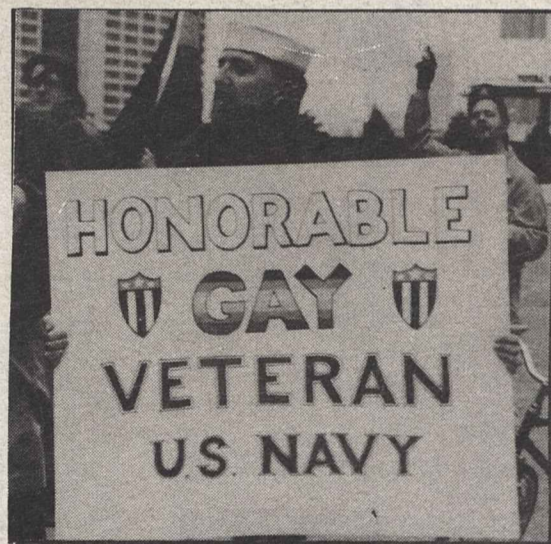
Ben-Shalom, who battled the Army over her 1976 discharge for eleven years, and won, likened the rhetoric used against gays to that used by Nazis against Jews in the middle of this century, and urged the crowd not to "engage in silence," but to speak out against the injustice of the ban.

"This is not a gay rights issue," she said. "This is a civil rights issue. This is a citizenship issue."

"Win this one and you win it all," she continued. "Lose this one and the theocratic right will smell blood."

Atlanta Army veteran Jana Tyson presided over the rally, telling listeners that "This is a very personal issue for me, as a lesbian and as a veteran of the armed forces." Civil rights and labor union leader James Orange set the tone early when he ended a rousing speech shouting "We are fired up, we are fed up, we are used up, and we ain't gonna take no more!"

Other speakers took Orange's lead, with many tak-



ing Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn to task for his opposition to Clinton's plan to lift the ban. Standing underneath the windows of Nunn's Atlanta office in the Russell Building, Queer Nation co-chair Dave MacDonald asked, "Sen. Nunn, what are you afraid of?"

Calling Nunn's actions "insulting and disrespectful," MacDonald told the senator, "If you are looking for sexual misconduct, may I suggest you start with the Tailhook scandal!"

MacDonald also drew cheers and a rousing chant of "None for Nunn" when he said "If we can elect a President, we can certainly retire a senator!"

Other speakers echoed that message, including HRCF representative Dick Rhodes, who said that when the issue is finally decided, Nunn would be remembered either for leading the way "or [as] just another Southern senator who stood in the schoolhouse door."

Several politicians were on hand as well, including City Council member Mary Davis, who revealed that one of her daughters is a lesbian. State legislators Rep. Mike Polak and Sen. Ron Slotin also urged the crowd to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 9



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Ga. Supreme Court rules "live-in lover" statute doesn't apply to same-sex couples

Atlanta—The Georgia Supreme Court has ruled that the state's "live-in lover" statute—which allows for the termination of alimony payments in the event that a spouse lives "in a meretricious relationship with a person of the opposite sex"—may not be applied to same sex relationships. The ruling, released on Feb. 8, overturned an earlier DeKalb County trial court decision.

The decision was handed down in the case of a Lawrenceville radiologist who wanted alimony modification because his former wife was living with a lesbian lover.

Attorneys for Dr. Philip Giles Van Dyck had argued last fall that the intent of the law was to apply to persons of either sex, and that the wording of the statute itself violated the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment (equal protection) by discriminating based on the gender of the live-in spouse. All seven justices concurred in reversing the lower court decision.

"[T]he plain language of the statute does not apply where the former spouse is involved in a homosexual relationship," wrote Presiding Justice Willis B. Hunt, Jr. for the court.

The justices rejected the sex discrimination argument as well, with Hunt writing that "the statute applies equally to former spouse/alimony recipients of either sex, and is not unconstitutional..."

While on the surface the ruling may appear to be a defeat for recognition of same sex relationships, a concurring opinion written by Justice Leah Sears-Collins is a clear acknowledgment of what such relationships are—and are not. Justice Sears-Collins wrote that "logically," the orientation of a live-in lover should make no difference in alimony considerations. "But," she added, "this is not yet a perfect world."

Sears-Collins then enumerated a list of

rights which she said were "forever denied" to lesbian and gay couples, "no matter how deep their love and how firm their commitment."

"It would not be fair to expand [the live-in lover statute] through judicial interpretation so as to saddle gay and lesbian couples with a penalty...without according homosexual couples...the benefits of a relationship that for them can never happen under the law," she wrote.

Martha Kuckleburg, attorney for Ginger Mull Van Dyck, said that Sears-Collins concurrence was "a foot in the door."

"[The main ruling] said simply that the English grammar in the law means what it says," said Kuckleburg. "But Justice Sears-Collins' opinion says you've got somebody up there who is sympathetic. It says that in future cases, you know somebody will listen."

Future cases—at least as far as the alimony modification laws are concerned—may be moot if state Rep. Denmark Groover has his way. Groover has introduced a bill to strike the words "with a person of the opposite sex" from the code. HB 110, which is co-sponsored by Rep. Roy Barnes, was introduced in mid-January and is currently before the House Judiciary Committee.

Larry Pellegrini, lobbyist for GAPAC on gay and lesbian issues, said that he and his coalition partners are opposing the bill.

"Our first thought about it was not to do anything," he said. "But then we realized its intent was homophobic and we had to oppose it."

The intent may, in fact, be specifically geared to the Van Dyck v. Van Dyck case. In an article in the Fulton County Daily Report, Albert M. Pearson III, the University of Georgia law professor who argued Dr. Van Dyck's case before the Supreme Court, said that Van Dyck's attorneys had suggested the bill to Groover.

"We contacted Groover because we felt like we needed an alternative in case we didn't win the case," Pearson told the Daily Report.

KC WILDMOON

Levinson, Manager of Public Policy and Communications, "but also cause disruption that can only delay ongoing research, as well as discourage other companies that are involved in or contemplating AIDS drug research."

The drug company has also come under fire recently from its Community Action Board whose fifteen members resigned last month. The CAB was created in 1992 to allow mem-

bers of the AIDS community to meet with company representatives to discuss anti-HIV drug research and development. The entire board resigned January 16 citing the company's "continued unwillingness to include [the board members] as meaningful participants in decision-making processes."

CRAIG PATE

College editorial writer says being gay is a "mental illness"

Marietta, GA—A commentary in Kennesaw State College's student newspaper declares that homosexuality is a mental illness, and that gays and lesbians need treatment, and not protections from discrimination.

The commentary, written by The Sentinel's Viewpoints editor Richard C. Korson, Jr. and published in the February 3 edition of the paper, also declares homosexuality fails both the

sexuality, because "[i]t is not survival of the sickest!"

"Legislating to protect them from discrimination is not relevant or the answer," he concludes. "Treatment to cure the individuals who suffer from the illness of homosexuality is."

The Sentinel's editor, Kathleen M. Vetromile, said that the paper prints views such as Korson's under the "commentary" heading to distinguish them from unsigned editorials, which are the opinions of the editorial staff.

"[Korson] based [the commentary] on his religious beliefs," she said. "To me that's his opinion. It's not much different from a letter to the editor."

Commentary by Richard C. Korson Jr. on "sexual orientation"

Viewpoints Editor

I am sure that the readers of *The Sentinel* have noticed the recent flak on campus about the sexual orientation proposal sponsored by the Student Government Association and in the national media about Bill Clinton wanting to allow homosexuals in the military. The SGA and Bill Clinton believe that discrimination against homosexuals in any form should not be tolerated and should be punished severely. I agree that dis-

crimination in any form should not be tolerated and that all steps possible to prevent discrimination should be taken.

Now saying that, I would also like to say that I am against both the SGA's sexual orientation proposal and homosexuals being allowed in the military. Now if you think that those two statements are conflicting, look closer. The people debating the issue are missing the bigger issue. It is not,

are homosexuals being discriminated against? It is whether or not homosexuality is a legitimate "alternative life-style," as I have heard claimed repeatedly. If it is a legitimate alternative life-style, then discrimination against homosexuals should be prevented by all means possible. But, homosexuality is not a legitimate alternative life-style. It is a mental illness.

The purpose behind sex is to procreate. Obviously,

a homosexual relationship will not produce a child. I have heard some people say that the purpose behind sex is also pleasure, and I cannot argue that sex is not pleasurable. But, just because something is pleasurable does not make it right. Ted Bundy killed people for pleasure. Women are raped for pleasure. Homosexual relationships are wrong, just as murder and rape are wrong.

All major religions state that homosexuality is wrong and should not be practiced. In Leviticus 18:22, in the Old Testament of the Bible, it mandates, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable" and in the New

see KORSON, pg. 7

test of religion and the test of evolution.

"We should have evolved so that we want to multiply ourselves by having sex with the opposite sex," Korson wrote. "Sex with anything other than the opposite sex would then be lunacy."

Korson began his diatribe with a disclaimer, stating that "discrimination in any form should not be tolerated," and then justifies his argument that gays and lesbians should not be protected from discrimination because homosexuality "is a mental illness."

Korson then used several passages from the bible often cited by the religious right to prove that homosexuality is wrong before declaring that evolution also disproves homo-

Jim Fleming, assistant to KSC president Dr. Betty Seigal for college advancement, said that while the academic community is generally very tolerant, such opinions do exist and should not be censored.

"One of the benefits of being with an educational institution is that we do not protect people from ignorance," he said. "If you want to sign your name to that and write that, you can. We hope that people would be more sensitive, and that because we're at an educational system, people who read that will be able to use logic...and critically examine it."

Letters to *The Sentinel* may be addressed to P.O. Box 444, Marietta, GA 30061.

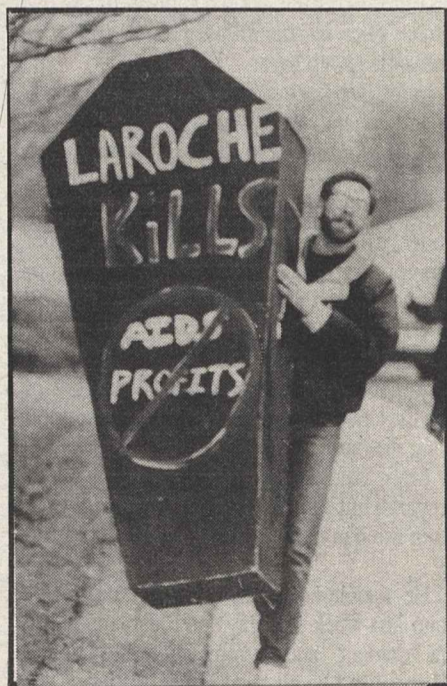
ACT UP demands drug company release research data

Atlanta—In a demonstration February 9, ACT UP/Atlanta called for pharmaceutical giant Hoffman-La Roche to release research data concerning several AIDS drugs. The AIDS activist organization was among several groups across the country targeting the company for what they feel are "unethical practices."

ACT UP demonstrated outside the Roche Professional Services Building on Northside Drive demanding that the New Jersey-based company release data about the drugs ddC, the tat compound, and the proteinase inhibitor. The information, they claim, is crucial to people infected with HIV because their lives depend on the rapid evaluation of the safety and efficacy of new drugs.

Members of the AIDS community are upset at the failure of the drug conglomerate to contribute money to the evaluation of the clinical efficacy of ddC. The only studies currently being conducted are funded by the federal government while Hoffman La-Roche has been given permission to market the drug. ACT UP believes the situation is allowing the company to profit at the taxpayers' expense.

Another area of concern is the reluctance of Hoffman La Roche to provide data about the tat compound to other research organizations. The tat gene on HIV produces a protein that is necessary for viral reproduction. While there are anti-HIV therapies currently available to help prevent the infection of new cells, the tat inhibitor halts replication of the virus in cells that are already infected. ACT UP claims



that after five years and \$2.8 million in government subsidies, the company has presented no information about the effect of the inhibitor in humans.

The pharmaceutical conglomerate has completed two clinical trials of the proteinase inhibitor that blocks the spread of HIV by interfering with the action of the proteinase enzyme. AIDS activists call for the company to stop playing "corporate politics" and release the "potentially life-saving information."

Roche believes these types of demonstrations damage the effort to develop new treatments for AIDS. "We believe this will not only further damage relations between Roche and the AIDS community," stated Gail

CONTINUES TOP NEXT COLUMN

Sex education will stress abstinence, gay issue put on hold

Atlanta—The state Board of Education delayed discussion on the parts of the new sex education curriculum dealing with homosexuality, but approved a compromise designed to allay fears of some parents that the curriculum is too permissive in its guidelines. The discussions on the curriculum took place on Feb. 9, and the board voted to approve the changes on Feb. 10.

The Board ruled that abstinence from sex should be emphasized in discussions of birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, and decided that parents may keep their children out of sex education classes. The board also gave more control over the curriculum to local school boards, giving parents the option of reviewing all materials presented in the classes, and left the first discussions of AIDS at the 6th grade level instead of the recommended 4th grade level.

Following the Board's vote last Wednesday, the board will accept written comment on the report for 30 days. A final vote will take place in March.

The battle over the sex education curriculum has been waged for several months, fol-

lowing the release of an ad hoc committee's report and a minority report written by three dissenting members of the committee.

The original report would have given teachers permission to teach a variety of methods of birth control and disease prevention, and would have begun discussions of AIDS at an earlier age. The committee also recommended that homosexuality be taught in a neutral light instead of a negative one. The report caused a flurry of condemnation from the religious right, which decried the changes as a break in family values. The board then held three hearings across the state to collect information from Georgians.

Linda Hamrick, who co-wrote the minority report, said that she was encouraged by the compromise.

"We were disappointed that they did not discuss the homosexuality issue," she said. "We are happy about the emphasis on abstinence."

Hamrick and other parents have joined forces in a group called United Parents for Values in Sex Education, which has put into action plans to collect 1 million signatures on petitions demanding what they call a "values based" curriculum. The organization, co-chaired by baseball star Brett Butler and football star Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, will promote parental approval of all sex education material, abstinence before marriage, age-appropriate materials, risks and failures of contraceptives, and the destructiveness of homosexuality.



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FL governor wannabe also working to outlaw gay rights by 1994

Tallahassee, FL—The man who hopes to put an anti-gay rights amendment on the 1994 ballot in Florida is a Republican candidate for that state's governor's office.

Anthony R. "Andy" Martin, of Palm Beach, is also executive director of the Christian Action Council of Florida. Martin filed his petition for the ballot measure on Jan. 28, and announced that the secretary of state had accepted it the next day. He immediately went on the offensive against the current governor, Lawton Chiles, and Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality (FREE), an organization that formed to combat the ballot initiative.

"The so-called 'group' which has formed to oppose me is nothing less than, and nothing more than, the elite corps of left-wing politically correct storm troopers of Lawton Chiles," Martin said in a press release. Martin also challenged FREE to a discussion of the issues. "Let them face me, face to face, dare I say 'man to man,' in debate," he said.

Martin also charged that the Chiles administration had unleashed "its gay men and dysfunctional women to attack my efforts."

"What Chiles' supporters offer is not 'FREEdom.' It is capitulation to sexual addition [sic] and social decay," he said.

Martin and his Christian Action Council must gather nearly 500,000 signatures by Aug. 9, 1994 in order for the proposed amendment to be placed on the November ballot that year. The amendment, which would add a Section 25 to Article 1 of the Florida constitution, reads differently from the ballot measures in either Oregon or Colorado.

Entitled "Limitations on Sexual Orienta-

tion, Status or Preference," the amendment first defines the terminology it uses, and then reads:

"No unit of Florida government may make or pass any law, ordinance or other form of legislation concerning sexual orientation, status or preference protecting heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual status, condition, practice or preference. Any such laws previously adopted are hereby declared null and void."

FREE spokesperson Jeff G. Peters said that after the Christian Action Council collects about 30,000 signatures, the Florida Supreme Court will be asked to approve the language of the proposed amendment, and that those opposed to the amendment will submit opinions.

"We've launched an educational campaign to make the case about why people shouldn't sign this bigoted proposal," he said. "And we have a broad coalition of support."

Peters believes the CAC amendment will meet with strong opposition from many Floridians. Florida is one of six states with a Privacy Amendment in its state constitution, he said, "which basically says that every citizen of Florida has the right to be let alone. And the Supreme Court has been broadening the scope of that Amendment in the last few years."

"The residents of Florida have always treasured the strong protection of individual rights guaranteed by its Constitution," he said. "Bringing Colorado's amendment to Florida would run counter to those longstanding traditions."

KC WILDMOON

SC Congressman says "deviant" gays shouldn't be in military

Spartanburg, SC—A nationwide telephone campaign is being launched to show U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis that some people support lifting the ban on gays in the military, a leader of a Greenville group says.

Inglis last week referred to gays and lesbians as "deviant" and "wrong."

"The word is out to call Inglis. Not just in the gay and lesbian community, but in the supportive community as a whole," said Carole Lender, whose 32-year-old son is gay. Lender is co-founder of the Greenville, South Carolina chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

She said the group suspected him and other congressmen of downplaying the number of calls they're getting from people who support lifting the ban.

Inglis said he wasn't aware of a phone campaign but said most of the calls in favor of lifting the ban came in last Thursday and Friday.

He also stood by his comments to a civic group last week that gays and lesbians represent "deviant" and "wrong" lifestyle choices and shouldn't be allowed in the military.

Of the entire South Carolina congressional delegation, only U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Democrat from Columbia, has offered support for President Clinton's efforts to lift the ban. (AP)

weekend. That record keeping also is made difficult because federal law doesn't cover gay bashing as a hate crime, said coalition coordinator Ann Burlein.

"The catch is, under federal hate crimes law, homophobic violence counts as an incident—a number," Burlein said. "But it can't be prosecuted as a hate crime because gays and lesbians aren't recognized as a class of people the way other minorities are."

The group held a vigil and rally outside the downtown Durham post office last Wednesday afternoon to honor Pridgen and to show support for President Clinton's stand on lifting the ban on gays in the military.

"Many of us and many of you have felt a rising tide of hatred this week," Mab Segrest, a member of the coalition's board, told about 125 people gathered for the rally.

"When the head of the armed forces says we cannot make our boys do what the president of the United States says, we've got a problem," she said. "...We're not pawns. We're human beings and that's what we're here to say."

Law enforcement agencies in North Carolina don't track hate crimes or crimes against gays and lesbians, so the coalition tries to fill in the gaps.

In 1991, the last year for which statistics have been compiled, the coalition documented 61 incidents that would qualify as hate crimes under federal law.

The group has a separate hot line for reports of violence against gays and lesbians in the military. Communities that report and document hate crimes include Charlotte, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Raleigh, Durham, Wilmington, Fayetteville and Alamance County.

"What we need are more communities to do reporting and more people—not just those identified as gay—to come forward with information. Our hope with documentation is to raise consciousness, to say it's not acceptable to have 'faggot' be the kind of slur 'nigger' used to be," said Burlein. (AP)

NC group counts hate crimes

Durham, NC—Many victims of gay-bashing are reluctant to come forward because of fear, says the North Carolina Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality.

Numbers kept by the coalition reflect the most flagrant incidents, such as the beating of Crae Pridgen outside a Wilmington bar last

weekend. That record keeping also is made difficult because federal law doesn't cover gay bashing as a hate crime, said coalition coordinator Ann Burlein.

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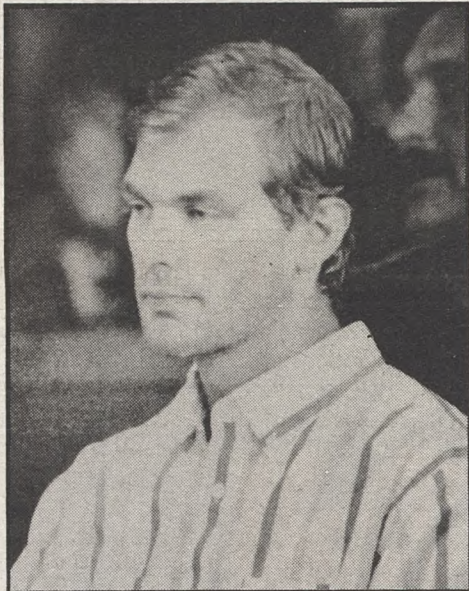
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Gays Urged To Debunk Video: Gays and lesbians are being urged to help educate the public about their lives as a way of responding to a video that portrays them as sex-starved people. "The Gay Agenda," produced last year by a conservative anti-gay group The Report, was shown to members of GLAAD/Atlanta at their Feb. 8 meeting. The video has been used by Sen. Jesse Helms on the Senate floor as an example of why gays should be banned from the military. Jerry Bunge, chair of Ohio's OutVoice, said that most Americans don't know that the video does not represent the realities of gay people. "If the lies about us get out before the truth about us does, people will believe the lies," he said, urging that gays and lesbians get more involved in educational efforts.

How Many Of Us Are There? New evidence has suggested that the Kinsey Report may have been wrong when it estimated that 10% of the American population was gay. The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, in its annual General Social Survey, reported that 2.8% of men responding to the survey reported exclusive homosexual contact, while 2.5% of the women did so. Meanwhile the anti-gay right, according to an article in Newsweek magazine, is still using its own studies, and claiming that as little as 1% of Americans are gay or lesbian. In its battle to pass Amendment 2, Coloradoan for Family Values put the number at 3%.

Advocate Stays On The Shelf As Library Looks Into Complaints: The Clermont County (Ohio) Public Library board has decided that the Advocate will stay on the library's shelves while the board looks into complaints that the 25-year old gay magazine is too explicit. More than 75 people overflowed seating at last week's meeting. During an hour's worth of public comment, seven people spoke for the magazine, while five spoke against it. County librarians reviewed the magazine after receiving three complaints, finding that it was not "racier" than other magazines on the shelves. The Rev. Randy Worthington of Springvale Baptist Church brought the issue before the board, which tabled the issue until next month's board meeting. "There's a lot of information we need to digest," said board member Allen Bureson.

Investor Wants To Build Club For Gay Youths: An Alexandria, Virginia man wants to build a club for gay youths age 16-21, but he predicts he will face opposition from neighbors. Gordon Vivace said the social club would offer dancing several nights a week and serve snacks and nonalcoholic drinks. Alexandria's city council must approve the measure, and many city officials believe the club could increase traffic and parking problems in the city's Old Town neighborhood, where Vivace wants to open the club.



Victims' Relatives Irked At Publicity For Dahmer: Relatives of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims gathered to view a television interview of the serial killer last week, but questioned why it was necessary to give his gruesome crimes another round of publicity. Dahmer was videotaped in prison for the syndicated program "Inside Edition," in what he said would be his only interview. Shirley Hughes, the mother of one of Dahmer's victims, said most of Dahmer's answers already had been reported from his statements to police when he confessed to 16 dismemberment murders in Milwaukee in 1991. During the interview, Dahmer admitted that he occasionally does "have those old compulsions."

NY Overturns AIDS Education Resolution Stressing Abstinence:

Saying it "confines teachers in an instructional straitjacket," New York State Education Commissioner Thomas Sobol overturned the rule that made New York City public school teachers spend more time promoting abstinence than any other method to avoid AIDS. The nine-page ruling released early last week came two days before the school board fired school Superintendent Joseph Fernandez, who had fought the requirement to emphasize abstinence. The resolution's repeal also allows outside AIDS education groups to assist schools in teaching about AIDS without promising in writing to abide by the rule.

NY Legislator Explains Gay Rights Comments: A Republican state senator in New York had to backtrack when his comments about sexual orientation as a choice offended some ethnic Americans, notably New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. "I look at it different than an Italian person or blacks or Chinese, people who have genetic traits that they can't do anything about," said Sen. John Kuhl last week. Cuomo called Kuhl's comments "very troublesome," and requested an explanation. Kuhl then explained that he "didn't intend to outrage or offend anyone who has ever been discriminated against for simply having been born a certain race or color. One of the terrible realities of this world is that people are discriminated against for reasons beyond their control or choice, and that's wrong," he added, "but that's also different, I believe, from choosing to be gay or lesbian."

Presbyterian Pastor Tells Congregation She's Lesbian, Then Resigns: A Presbyterian minister who hid her homosexuality for six years has resigned because of her church's opposition to gay pastors. The Rev. Kathleen Buckley, 39, told members of the First Presbyterian Church of Watervliet, NY, about her relationship with another woman at the same time that she resigned this month. "It is my firm belief that committed monogamous same-sex relationships are not contrary to God's word or sinful in any way," she wrote in her resignation letter. However, she felt she had to step down after a national Presbyterian body ruled in November that a Rochester church could not hire a lesbian, the Rev. Jane Spahr, as its pastor. Members of Buckley's church initially voted 55-7 not to accept her resignation, then agreed to let her leave. Buckley's partner, Susan Kramer, had at one time considered becoming a Lutheran minister, but was not ordained after receiving a degree from a seminary because she told officials she is a lesbian.



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AIDS will have little impact on U.S., says government report

Washington, DC—A report that AIDS will strike mostly the "socially invisible" and will have little impact on American institutions suggests a callousness in U.S. society that will cause millions to suffer, AIDS organization officials say.

A report released Feb. 4 by the National Research Council concluded that despite thousands of deaths and billions of dollars spent on research programs, there is no evidence that the AIDS epidemic will have any serious, permanent effect on American society.

The National Research Council report said AIDS is different from historic epidemics, such as the bubonic plague that swept across Europe in the 14th century claiming victims in virtually every part of society.

The study described people at higher risk for AIDS such as gay men and IV drug users as "socially marginalized groups" with "little economic, political and social power."

As a result, the study concluded, AIDS "will 'disappear,' not because, like smallpox, it has been eliminated, but because those who continue to be affected by it are socially invisible, beyond sight and attention of the majority population."

Dr. Denny Donnell, state epidemiologist for the Missouri Department of Health, said that the Council's report may be dangerous.

"I am distressed by the panel's report, which is open to misinterpretation and could lead to risky sexual behavior by creating a false sense of security," he said. "People from all walks of life need to know that the AIDS virus could be within their own community or own circle of friends."

"AIDS has devastated the personal lives and social communities it has touched, but the epidemic has had little effect on American society as a whole or its way of doing business," said Albert R. Jonsen, chairman of the study committee and a professor at the University of Washington.

John McIlveen, with the People With AIDS Coalition in New York, said he believes AIDS issues have invaded every segment of society and that this should be acknowledged by the nation's social institutions.

"It's a risky assumption to make that we can carry on business as usual," he said. "By the end of this century, there won't be a person in this country who doesn't know at least one person with AIDS or HIV."

The National Research Council is part of the National Academy of Sciences, a private organization chartered by Congress to provide scientific advice to the federal government.

PAUL RECER

Lesbians more at risk for breast cancer

New York City—Lesbians run a two to three times higher risk of breast cancer than heterosexual women because they are often childless, smoke and drink more and have poorer access to health care, a study concludes.

All those factors are known to raise the risk of breast cancer, and they combine to give lesbians a 1-in-3 chance of the disease, said the study's author, Suzanne G. Haynes, an epidemiologist at the National Cancer Institute.

Haynes computed the theoretical risk by examining all available studies of factors known to increase the chances of breast cancer. All the risk factors she looked at were more common in lesbians than in heterosexual women.

Haynes did the study for the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation. She has not yet submitted it to a scientific journal for publication.

Caitlin Ryan, a social worker and researcher who heads the AIDS office of the city of Washington, said Haynes' study is an important extension of a survey of lesbian health she and her colleagues published in 1987.

"Our hope is that perhaps with this analysis the federal government would include lesbians in research," said Ryan.

"They are terrifying figures," said Susan Hester, founder of the Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, a patient support group in Washington.

"When you compare the numbers with AIDS, it's amazing. It's more of an epidemic, but the numbers are not recognized yet. It's absolutely a plague."

PAUL RAE BURN

Lab says it has found clue on how HIV spreads

Denver, CO—A research laboratory reports it found a chemical change in human cells that helps explain how HIV spreads in the body.

Webb-Waring Institute for Biomedical Research in Denver announced on Feb. 5 its tests show how the virus suppresses production of a vital enzyme that keeps cells healthy.

Without the enzyme, superoxide dismutase, to help keep it in check, HIV replicates quickly, destroying the cell. Then new copies of HIV are released into the bloodstream in search of new cells to attack, the scientists said.

Researchers are now testing human cell cultures to determine if a drug can block HIV's ability to suppress the enzyme.

If the enzyme's levels in cells can be protected, it might prolong the time the virus remains dormant or under control, perhaps indefinitely, they said.

"All of us carry viruses within our bodies, and we can live normal, healthy lives if those viruses remain inactive," said Joe McCord, the Webb-Waring scientist who discovered superoxide dismutase. "The same is true with HIV."

"It is a laboratory observation," said Dr. Robert "Chip" Schooley, chief of infectious disease research at the University of Colorado. "We must be careful not to oversell anything."

AIDS-like syndrome not caused by HIV, research shows

Washington, DC—After seven months of investigation, researchers have identified several key features of the syndrome in which people have markedly low levels of the white blood cell CD4+ T lymphocyte, yet no signs of infection with the HIV or related viruses.

In an editorial in the Feb. 11 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Diseases (NIAID), reviews four reports and a letter published in the same issue that focus on the syndrome.

"We can reasonably conclude that [idiopathic CD4+ T lymphocytopenia or ICL] is a rare syndrome, is not new and is not caused by HIV-1 or -2 or human T lymphotropic virus (HTLV)-I or -II nor by a transmissible agent," he wrote.

Cases of ICL have been identified since 1983, Dr. Fauci notes. ICL came to the public eye during the IXth International Conference on AIDS in Amsterdam last July.

In summarizing the Journal's reports, Dr. Fauci says, "it is highly likely that there is not a common cause for ICL. Nonetheless, there may be certain common causes among different subgroups of patients that are yet unrecognized."

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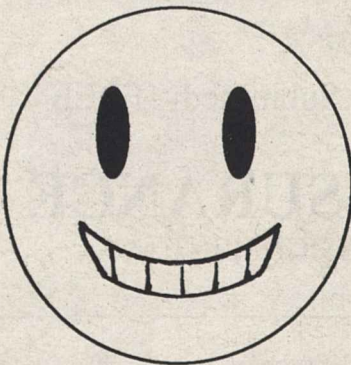
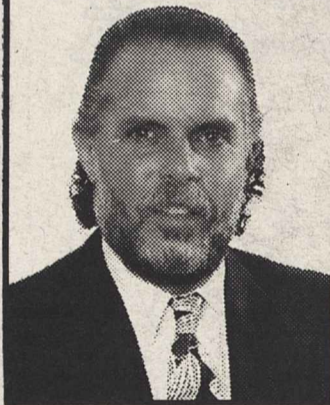
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AIDS AT THE CROSSROADS

"You Can't Say That"

A lesson in medical arrogance

BRUCE MIRKEN

I do some writing for medical journals from time to time, and for the most part it's been a positive experience—both because the pay is considerably better than in the gay and lesbian press and because I get a chance to reach an audience that probably isn't reading this publication. But I've had a series of experiences in the past year that raise serious, disturbing questions about prevailing attitudes in the medical profession. Some subjects, I found out the hard way, are too taboo to even discuss.

A few months ago I wrote a piece about likely trends in hospital AIDS care in 1993 for a journal read by hospital administrators and staff. For the most part it was pretty innocuous stuff, but one sentence proved to be a land mine. I had quoted a southern California hospital administrator about the profitability of private hospital AIDS wards. "Some AIDS units are carrying the hospitals," he'd said, confirming the widely-held impression that, in my part of the country at least, such units can be very, very profitable.

The editor nearly had a heart attack. "We can't possibly say that!" she told me. Oh.

Another booby trap turned up in an article about long-term AIDS survivors written for a journal whose main audience is doctors who treat people with HIV/AIDS. A key point was that a determined attitude—including willingness to question and challenge their doctor's advice—seems to be a common denominator among those who've beaten the survival odds. One physician I'd quoted summed up the point perfectly. "Some of my patients who have done the best," he said, "have been some of my least compliant." In other words, sometimes those who don't follow doctors' orders do better than those who do.

But when the piece ran the quotation had disappeared. At the time I didn't think about it too much; editors, after all, cut things for lots of reasons, often simply due to lack of space. But when another journal wanted to reprint the story two months later, I decided to try to get the missing line restored. "Oh, no," the second editor told me, a pained look on her face. "They'll never let that through!" She didn't object, but said she knew her medical review committee would throw a fit. Apparently the possibility that a patient who disobeys his doctor's instructions might do just fine is too threatening to physicians' delicate psyches.

My third jarring encounter with the medical mind-set, slightly more subtle but no less discomfiting, involved terminology. The article dealt with a "mini-course" series of sessions at last year's 8th International Conference on AIDS titled "Alternative, Complementary and Traditional Therapies." The sessions surveyed a variety of traditional healing techniques native to other cultures—ayurvedic medicine from India, Chinese herbs, the traditional practices of African tribal healers, etc.

A recurring theme of the sessions was that for much of the world these traditional practices are the only form of medicine available and that modern western medicine—which has existed in its present form for less than a hundred years—is actually the new kid on the block when compared to healing traditions that have been around for many centuries. Speaker after speaker emphasized that although most traditional healing practices have never been studied by western science, knowledge built from hundreds of years of observation should not be dismissed out of hand, and that more effort should be put into studying these techniques.

The problem was the word "traditional." Western medicine has decreed that only it is "traditional" medicine, and that all other healing practices—traditional Chinese medicine, chiropractic, acupuncture, whatever—must be termed "non-traditional." Never mind that we were talking about practices which had been around for hundreds of years and which remain, for the cultures from which they sprang, the only "traditional" medicine in existence. To satisfy the incredible arrogance of the medical establishment the terminology would have to be stood on its head: Traditional Chinese medicine, for example, had to become "non-traditional."

I argued like crazy. Not only did the changed terminology do violence to the very point of the article, it created absurdities in the text. The course, after all, had been titled, "Alternative, Complementary and Traditional Therapies." To mention that title and then immediately turn around and call the same therapies "non-traditional" sounded silly.

To his credit, the editor (not a doctor by the way) understood my point completely, but his hands were tied. "My medical review board didn't want to run the piece at all," he complained wearily. "Changing the terminology was the only way I could get it through." He did agree to insert a line explaining that for billions of people around the world these "non-traditional" therapies are in fact traditional and that they would consider western terminology backward. It was a small victory, but better than nothing.

Maybe these are all minor incidents, but they add up to something that makes me uneasy. Science, we are told, is about the free and unfettered pursuit of knowledge. If the very mention of some thoughts, some ideas, even some words is forbidden, aren't we crippling that search for knowledge? Is "You can't say that!" really the way to find a cure for AIDS?

I doubt it.

Bruce Mirken is an AIDS and health writer for various publications including The Advocate, the Los Angeles Reader and PACC Notes. He lives in West Hollywood. His column appears in Southern Voice once a month.

Lift the ban rally

Continued from page 1

call on their elected representatives, with Polak adding that the fight for gay rights needs to be moved to the rest of Georgia.

"Take the lesbian and gay movement to Main Street, Georgia," he said, "and you will see change."

As this issue went to press, Slotin and Polak's words took on an urgent meaning. Lookout Mountain, Georgia Rep. Brian Joyce introduced a resolution Monday morning on the House floor calling for Congress to take whatever action necessary to keep the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. Larry Pellegrini, GAPAC's lobbyist for gay and lesbian issues, said he did not have a complete count on the number of signers, but that it was "a good number."

"Start generating letters now to your representatives," he urged.

At Saturday's rally, letters and statements of support from Fulton County Sheriff Jackie Barrett and U.S. Reps. John Lewis and Cynthia McKinney were read, as was a proclamation from City Council and Mayor Maynard Jackson proclaiming Feb. 13 as "President Bill Clinton Day." The proclamation cited Clinton's economic efforts, health care plans, and his repeal of "regulations that infringed on a woman's right to choose," as well as his efforts leading "the nation toward lifting the ban against gays and lesbians serving in the armed services."

At the conclusion of the rally, participants signed a 20-foot banner thanking President Clinton for his stand against the 50-year ban on lesbians and gays in the military. The banner will be delivered to the White House at a later date.

Across the way, from a window in the 5th floor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building, an unidentified cameraman filmed the entire rally. Rumors that the taping was FBI-related could not be confirmed, but several speak-



Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom

ers, including Staff Sergeant Ben-Shalom, referenced the cameraman. Ben-Shalom stepped off the stage at the start of her speech and addressed the camera, loudly calling out her name, rank and serial number before issuing a stern warning.

"Those who stand for the government must also be able to stand against it," she said to raucous cheers.

The Atlanta chapter of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America is collecting money to fund its fight to end the ban. Buckets were passed at the rally, and the group asked that further donations be sent to P.O. Box 512, Duluth, GA 30136.

The Feb. 13 rally was sponsored by the Coalition to Lift the Ban on Gays and Lesbians in the Military.

UPDATE: Georgia General Assembly

Sodomy reform promises to be an issue again this year in the Georgia General Assembly. A bill to restructure the state's rape statute would also have the effect of eliminating sexual acts between consenting adults as criminal. While the bill is intended to make it easier to convict rapists, religious fundamentalists are sure to oppose any change in the sodomy law.

Under current Georgia law, rape requires the penetration of a female by a male. The new bill, modeled after laws in several states, broadens the definition by classifying sexual assault under five categories based on the amount of force used. The supporters of the bill hope that it will provide juries with a better understanding of the crime and give them more options with regards to conviction.

Under existing law, rape is a felony and capital crime, punishable by one to twenty years or life in prison, or the death penalty. Under the proposed law, the first four categories are felonies with penalties of differing degrees. The fifth category is a misdemeanor. Supporters feel that the new system will establish a better mechanism for keeping plea bargains in the sex crime category.

The bill also defines "consent," criminalizing only non-consensual sex acts. The members of the Georgia Coalition to End Sexual Assault (GANESA), a statewide coalition of rape crisis centers who originated the proposal, are seeking to make the sexual assault statute less confusing.

"When we sat down and began preparing our sexual assault package," says Terri Strayhorn, Director of Gainesville's Rape Crisis Center, "we realized that adult consensual sodomy was right in the middle of all of these laws dealing with violent sexual conduct. It

had no place there and it has no place in our package. Rape crisis centers don't deal with consensual adult sodomy because there are no victims."

Several more bills of interest to the lesbian and gay community are currently under debate in congressional committees. Georgia Political Action Committee (GAPAC) Lobbyist Larry Pellegrini urges members of the community to contact their congressional representatives to express their opinions about the bills: House Bill 210 grants immunity from liability to employers who release private information about previous employees. Pellegrini cautions that such immunity could be damaging for people whose HIV status is revealed.

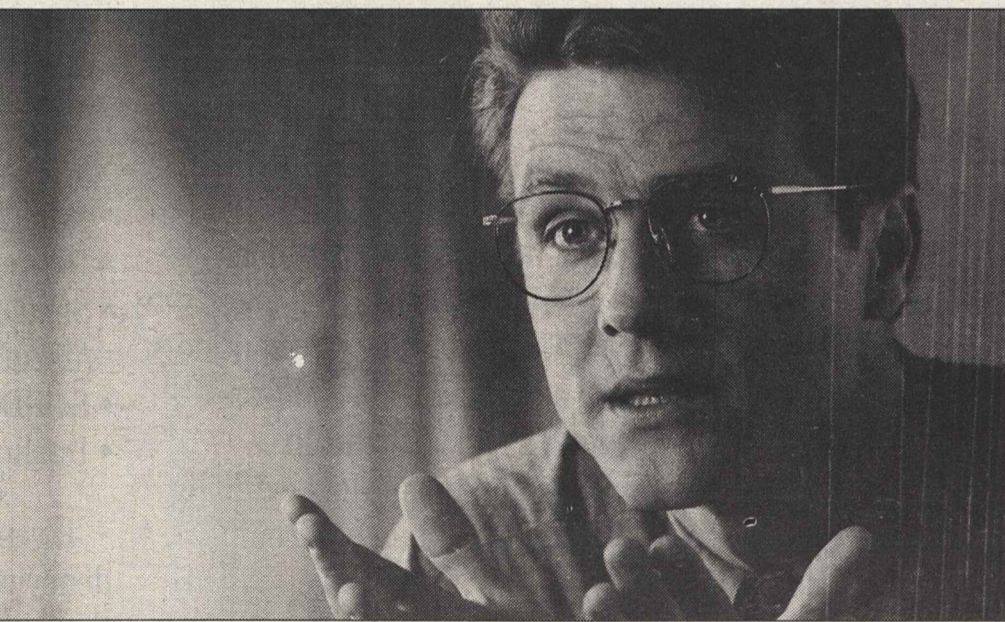
H.B. 162 allows law enforcement officials who come in contact with a person they suspect has a contagious disease to mandate a blood screening. The City of Atlanta and the Department of Human Resources have joined in opposition to this bill.

Both houses have restrictive sex education bills, but H.B. 357 removes instruction in AIDS prevention from the curriculum, requires that a parent give written permission before a student can receive sex education, emphasizes a narrowly defined family unit, and prohibits guest speakers from stating or implying homosexual activity is "acceptable or inevitable for any particular person." Pellegrini feels that support for these types of bills are waning since the state Board of Education approved a new sex education curriculum.

"Now, as the business of the General Assembly proceeds," says Pellegrini, "bills will be moving faster through the process and we urge everyone to be attentive to the calls for support or oppositions for various pieces of legislation."

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Gay historian will speak at Emory

You know the famous line, "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it."

John D'Emilio, professor of history at UNC-Greensboro and a member of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force has another opinion. "If not doomed to repeat it, they're doomed to be stupid."

D'Emilio will be in town to make sure our community remains smart where history is concerned. He will give a free lecture at Emory University on Thursday, February 18th. His talk is entitled "After Stonewall: A Generation of Lesbian and Gay Activism."

"It's an overview of the history of gay and lesbian politics in the last 30 or 40 years," D'Emilio explains from his North Carolina home. "My focus will be how we got to this point where our issues can occupy the center of the country's consciousness as we did during the recent military issue."

It's an issue D'Emilio has studied and has written about in his most recent book "Making Trouble: Essays on Gay His-

tory, Politics and The University."

The recent addition of gay and lesbian studies to the curriculum of many universities like Emory has shocked D'Emilio in many ways. "I never thought I'd live to see it," he laughs.

But in other ways, he doesn't find it surprising.

"In a sense, it's the same phenomena that has put us on the front page recently. A lot of serious, on-going, determined, pit bulldog-like work has been done by people for a generation now, and most of it has remained invisible to virtually everybody except those that have been doing it," he explains. "We've gotten to this critical mass where things are taking off. Not only are we now visible in national politics, we now have a foothold in American intellectual life through the Universities."

Saralyn Chesnut, Director of the Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Life at Emory says the university is happy to have D'Emilio speak.

"There are many students at Emory who want to do work in gay and lesbian studies, but there are not enough faculty members here. This is one way to bridge the gap, by bringing in people like John D'Emilio who can share their work with the students," she says.

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Lecture Committee also has plans to bring others to the campus, like Essex Hemphill and Liz Kennedy.

D'Emilio will speak at 8 pm on February 18th in White Hall, Room 103, with a reception to follow in the Faculty Commons. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"Whatever the identity of the person in the audience," D'Emilio concludes, "I hope they come away realizing that you can't make sense of the present if you don't know something about the past."

CANDACE CHELLEW

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A very personal outing

PAMELA EVANS

Last week someone in Atlanta revealed a secret. I owned that secret. It was mine—to keep, to live with or to tell. But it was mine. Until last week.

When I returned to work from the Christmas holidays, I was filled with the warmth that comes from spending quality time with family and friends. Already out to my parents, in the Fall I had married a woman whose family also knows of our lifestyle, so our holidays were open, honest, and rich with a holiday spirit I had never before experienced. No longer did I have to make up a reason for not wanting to return to Dallas. In fact, both sets of parents, once they knew of the relationship, immediately assumed my partner and I would alternate families and cities from year to year. What a triumph!

The decision last summer to tell my parents was difficult, one I made after months of therapy and the realization that even if my family disowned me the alternative was really no better. You cannot lose a family who does not know the real you. Which is why, at times in my life, I have felt my lesbian friends of 17 and 20 years make up my true family. Today I am fortunate to love and be loved by both.

But most of all today I feel fortunate to have a job. I feel fortunate that I am still a vice president of Walden Management Company, Inc. I feel fortunate that I can pay the mortgage, pay the utilities, pay the bills, buy food and necessities—in other words, I still have the same life I had one week ago today when the phone call came. It could have gone a different way. My life could have been irrevocably altered.

When I heard my boss' voice on the phone that day, I knew something was wrong. Why did he ask if my secretary was away from the office? Why did he want to know if I was alone? He had a question to ask me, he said. He felt "funny" asking me, but he felt he "needed" to know. Someone had sent the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

a typed envelope with a newspaper article from a publication called "Southern Voice" inside. The article, he said, had a photograph of me poised on the arm of a chair. A woman was seated beside me. We were holding hands.

That's all he had to tell me. The wedding announcement. My god, someone...who, who, who...had sent him my wedding announcement. "And, so, I'd like to know what you can tell me about this," he went on to say. "It says you were married on Oct. 17."

At this point I could barely hear him. My hands were trembling and my mind was racing back to when I was 16 and I could manufacture the most perfect lies to tell my parents about why I had arrived home late.

It was a joke...that's it. A joke. Of course I wasn't gay. I mean look at me, for heaven's sake. I'm feminine, aren't I? I have long hair. I wear lipstick. I love dresses...

Then it happened. I heard my own voice at all of those Human Rights Campaign Fund house parties addressing this very issue—

GUEST EDITORIAL

well hidden lives, lesbians afraid to become affiliated with gay organizations, the very groups that were trying to make their lives better so that they would one day not have to hide. I was talking to women who were scared. Scared of being found out. Scared of losing their jobs. And I was saying: "but it's important. Women like us need to come out of the closet, have to come out of the closet if the world is ever to learn about lesbians, if the world is ever to accept us." I was calming them, soothing them, urging their involvement. So how could I now attempt to hide my own homosexuality?

(Not to mention, he had it in black and white. What lie would have possibly worked?)

That day I told my employer that, yes, I am gay. In fact, I have been a lesbian since I was 17 (and before that, I suppose, if there is truth to the theory that we are born gay). My boss listened. He said he was "personally disappointed," a comment I still do not fully understand. And then he went on to

say that my sexuality had nothing to do with my job. He assured me the article would go no further than his own desk. Then he put the clipping in an express envelope and sent it back to me that night with a note that said, "This is a very good picture of you. I hope your life goes well. I really mean that." Pretty darn good for a 37-year-old male with fairly traditional views of women (we're talking about a guy who still thinks his wife should not work).

So, my job still intact, I can move on to who and why. Who hates me so much that he or she would try to cost me my job? Who would save an article that was published in early October, then mail it to the CEO of my company on Dec. 17? And could the person be a member of our community?

Even before last week, I had a difficult time understanding "outing." I recognize the importance of public figures being out so that the public can see we are everywhere, in every kind of job. But I have always felt going public with your lifestyle is a personal choice, and I hoped encouragement and education would cause more politicians, entertainment personalities, and dignitaries to reveal their too long held secrets.

I know opinions vary. If you are for it, I suppose you would argue that outing a public figure is done with a purpose, a good, justifiable purpose. My question then, must be addressed to the person who "outed" me. What was your reason? Did it make you feel better when your hand released the envelope through the mail slot? Did you lie awake in bed that night feeling smug and satisfied, knowing that on a jet somewhere, maybe even flying over your house at that very moment, was the envelope that carried the news to my company?

But now I am wondering if the fire of your satisfaction will grow dim when you learn I am still well and working. And will it grow even less radiant when I tell you a secret I do not think you, my one time friend, anticipated in your passionate rush to harm me?

You see, you gave me a gift I have been yearning for longer than I can remember. I am now out to everyone. Hiding, secrets, are behind me forever. A new life has begun. And I have you to thank.

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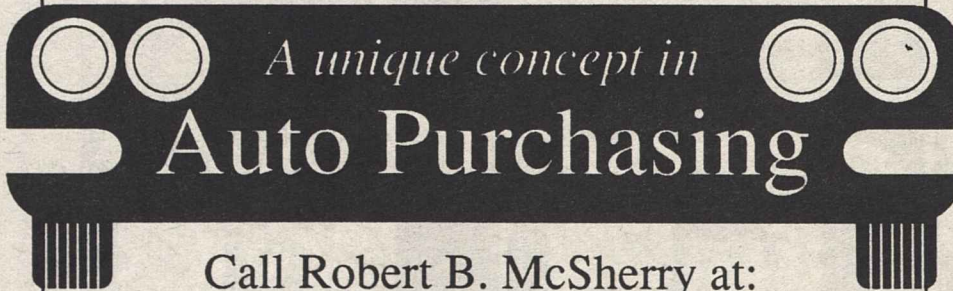
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES:

Judy Mercer and Laura Reed will celebrate three years together on February 20th. The two say they plan to put celebration plans on hold until the March on Washington in April where they will take their vows during the mass commitment service to be held in front of the Internal Revenue Service Building. Congrats and our early congrats on the upcoming commitment!

BIRTHDAYS:

Happy birthday to Seth Benton who welcomed his 27th year on February 10th. Your lover Hal says, even though you'll always be older than him, he'll never be as wonderful as you! All together now, Awww...Congrats!

Joel Brown will mark his birthday on February 25th with a party at his home. He's hoping all his friends and his parents will be on hand bearing gifts. There will be 32 candles on his cake this year. Better talk to the city about a burn permit, Joel. Hope it's great!

Maria Helena Dolan celebrated her 39th birthday on Valentine's Day. She marked the occasion in a secret exclusive celebration where she says she hoped to break several archaic laws. We hope you were successful, Maria!

JOBS:

Bon Voyage. Funny...That Way takes its show on the road to Nashville for a February 20th performance. The travelling troupe will perform "Come-A-Lot" again in At-

lanta in March as a benefit for the upcoming March on Washington in April. Knock 'em dead, ya'll.

ELECTIONS:

Mary Elliot has been elected Vice President of the Southeast Gay Rodeo Association. She also is on the organization's Royalty Committee, serving as the "Ms." There are two other members—a Mr. and a Miss—on the committee. Mary says her job as Ms. is to be responsible for charity events sponsored by SEGRA and to compete for the national Ms. title in the International Assn. of Gay Rodeos. There she must exhibit her knowledge of the Association and western wear. Last year at the contest in Phoenix she didn't win Ms. but she did take away the prize for Miss Congeniality. Good luck in Fort Worth, Texas this year, Mary!

ORGANIZATIONS:

Speaking of SEGRA, they've reserved a bus for 46 passengers to go to the March on Washington. They will leave Atlanta at 11pm on Thur., April 22nd and arrive in DC at noon on the 23rd. They will return to Atlanta on April 26th at 9pm. Total cost round trip is \$89, but a deposit must be paid by March 1st to reserve your seat. SEGRA has also booked 18 rooms for those 3 nights at the Days Inn-Downtown. Cost is \$58 per night, per room. For info, call the Rodeo Hotline at 760-8126.

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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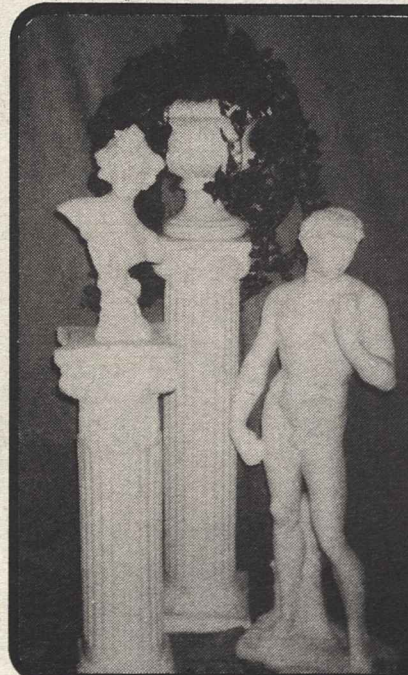
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DAVID SALYER

I don't understand

I went to see that Dracula movie recently. I didn't like it. It was gorgeous, but interminable. Absurdly turgid, yet curiously static. In other words, it sucked out loud. I can't understand why it cost \$40 million to make this movie. I especially don't understand why a studio would give Francis Ford Coppola that much money to make a vampire movie that's not even scary.

So anyway, driving home from the theater, I started thinking about all the things I don't understand about living and life. First, it was the little things that came to mind...like why do some people park in fire lanes when "No Parking" is painted right there on the asphalt? And how come hair stylists insist on blow drying your hair into some frightful arrangement? It's almost like they can't remember what you looked like when you came in to get your haircut.

I also don't understand why some buildings skip the 13th floor. I know it's a superstition thing. But no matter what you call it, it's still the 13th floor. Incidentally, what did we do to deserve eight "Friday the 13th" movies? For that matter, what did we do to deserve Spam, Valveeta, Tang, Count Chocula, and Cheez Whiz? Why did they spell cheese that way? Why doesn't k. d. lang capitalize any of the letters in her name? Why does Whitney Houston shout so much? Why is Ed McMahon famous? How did Columbus "discover" America when there were already people living there?

And neckties. I just don't get neckties. What is the point of this piece of cloth hanging around your neck? Just exactly what does "90 days same as cash" mean? How can something be both new AND improved? Why do straight men have an addiction to being right all the time? And how come hospitals make you pay for parking when you visit sick people? I think that's rude.

I don't understand a lot of religious stuff either. Why do people watch televangelists? Religious programming is so histrionic and garish. Take Oral Roberts. Oral...that's an odd thing to call your child. Do you suppose he has a brother named Anal? And answer me this, why is Jim Bakker in prison while Tammy Faye is loose? She ought to at least be jailed for Merle Norman malpractice. I also don't understand religious bumper stickers. Like "Honk If You Love Jesus." From what I've read, Jesus seems like a pretty cool guy. I don't think he wants people going around honking just because they love Him. I really don't.

And what was all that commotion recently about Sinead O'Connor tearing up a picture of the Pope on "Saturday Night Live?" Let's put this in perspective. She tore up a picture. It's not like she bought a gun, broke into the Vatican and stalked the man. The only thing she's guilty of is non-violent protest. So what happens? A few weeks later she gets booed off the stage while performing at a tribute concert for Bob Dylan. The same Bob Dylan who

launched a career in the '60s by singing protest songs. Am I the only person who caught the irony in this?

Speaking of musicians, doesn't it seem like a disproportionate number of them die in plane crashes or get shot to death? Like Rick Nelson, Buddy Holly, Patsy Cline, John Lennon and Marvin Gaye. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to these deaths either. I mean, if I was going to shoot a rock star or put one on board a doomsday flight it wouldn't be any of the above. Nope. I'm afraid it's be curtains for Neil Diamond, Phil Collins, Yoko Ono, Axl Rose, Michael Bolton and Kenny G.

While we're on this death subject, why do people think Elvis is still alive? And why can't we seem to get over the fact that JFK and Marilyn Monroe are dead? And you know something else? I'm really going to be pissed off if Don McLean dies before he tells us what the lyrics to "American Pie" mean.

Television also reminds me of more things I don't understand. For instance, how could anyone take Ross Perot seriously? Every time he gets on TV he's so cranky. I've decided Ross Perot isn't a real person at all. He's an elf. Like maybe one of Santa's elves grew up disgruntled. Or maybe one of those Keebler elves who lives in a hollow tree and he's upset because someone stole his secret cookie recipe.

I think Geraldo Rivera is kinda cute with the sound turned down. But I don't understand why anyone would want to be a guest on his show. Geraldo has all the charm of a barking dog. He's fond of addressing distraught mothers something like this: "So, your best friend did it and now he's out of prison because of the early release program... how does that make you feel?" Bleah.

And then there's violence and guns and murder and war. For instance, I don't understand the National Rifle Association. I mean, here's an organization for people who love guns. This is a pretty serious fetish. It frightens me to hear these NRAers say things like "Guns don't kill people; people kill people." Yeah. Well, last time I checked, people WITH GUNS kill people. A lot.

Also, I really can't get over that whole Jeffrey Dahmer mess. Here's a guy who lured people to his apartment in Milwaukee, tortured and killed them, sexually assaulted the bodies, dismembered and cannibalized the remains. He must have lived in a building with the most clueless neighbors on the planet. I mean, hell, I've lived in apartment where I could hear the guy next door to me urinate.

And then there's the military. And more specifically, gays in the military. Apparently, lots of straight soldiers find killing foreigners more palatable than discovering some guy in the barracks is admiring his ass. Hmmm.

Of course, I could go on. There are so many things I don't understand. I may never know what E.T. was doing on the cover of People magazine or why there are so many Waffle Houses in the world. And why do they call them "wisdom teeth?" People don't suddenly get stupid after they're removed, do they?

I guess there just isn't an answer to every question in the universe. But when I die, if I get to meet God or whomever's in charge, I'm certainly going to ask.

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

Jerry Falwell
Thomas Road Baptist Church
701 Thomas Road
Lynchburg, VA 245-140001

Dear Mr. Falwell:

As a parent of a gay son, and a member of P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), I want to express my concern about the stands you have made in the past and continue to make against homosexuals.

Enclosed is a letter I recently received from my sister-in-law, who lives in Florida, and my reply to her (I had given her some materials to read after she asked about my gay son). Apparently the main problem with the homosexual is a religious one.

Your fear that the military ban against homosexuals will be a great mistake is groundless as has been proven by Canada's example in the military. Your fear about "family values" is unnecessary. The gays and lesbians I know have high standards (do you know any homosexuals personally?). Your concern about "non-traditional" families is needless—there are non-traditional families in America and many of them are doing a better job than "traditional" ones.

Your religious judgment against homosexuals is ironic because Jesus had nothing whatsoever to say on the subject. It does seem that he would have mentioned it. He did have much to say about love, false prophets, wealth, caring for others, etc.

Sincerely,
Marceline

PS—I am not giving full name or address as I don't want abuse and hatred hurled at myself or my son. I do believe if you had a gay son or daughter you would feel as I do.

The Honorable Sam Nunn
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Nunn,

There is a question that arises when one pursues certain career paths; public service and the clergy, to name two examples. Do you lead or do you follow? Do you represent the ways and wishes of your flock, your constituency...or do you play the role of a teacher because you think you know what is best for them?

In the 1970s I attended a forum given by the Georgia Women's Political Caucus. You had accepted an invitation to present your case before the state's emerging female block of voters. But you, Mr. Nunn, did not show up. You sent your wife. I shall never forget the beautifully articulated tongue lashing delivered to you on the floor of that forum that day, and the applause that followed. What I also cannot forget is that you escaped without a scratch while your poor wife had to take the verbal abuse.

Nothing much has changed in these past twenty years. For all the expensive education we, the voters, have given you, you're no smarter than you were twenty years ago, when you sent your wife to address the women of this state. We have yet to see her name on any ballot.

In politics it isn't the Lord who giveth and taketh. It is the voters. The issue of gays in the military is the most compelling example of how out of touch you are.

It's a funny thing about political power. It can vanish overnight.

Bill Clinton got it right. He read this nation and this state right. You, Mr. Nunn, screwed up and continue to misread your constituents. If you don't start supporting your President, whom Georgians put into office more recently than they re-elected you, you're going to learn a hard lesson. We're going to "Wyche" you right out of office. Just watch us.

Claire Hamlin

Dear Senator Nunn,

I won't bore you with the reasons why I think your stance on gays in the military is wrong. However, I will tell you that I believe this stance gives sanction to those with more physically violent tendencies to think it's okay to beat a gay sailor to death or to drag a gay man from a bar and severely beat him.

You may rejoice in the knowledge that this gay male will campaign with all his strength to see you defeated in your next election. I, however, find comfort in the knowledge that I'm standing firm on what I believe to be right, fair and just. You may also believe that your stance is right, fair and just. To me, ostensibly at least, your position of gays in the military appears to be merely politically expedient, if not downright Machiavellian.

Sincerely,
Dedrick Burch
East Point, GA

Dear Senator Nunn,

I can no longer live with the illusion that my vote meant something to you on Election Day. Instead, I must confront the reality that I must fight for my basic civil rights.

Though you may feel your position as a Senator is solid, I would like to remind you that I, a 22 year old gay male, am part of a new generation of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals that demonstrated our voting power on Election Day. I can only pray that you will not allow your bigotry precedence over human rights. The lift of the ban will one day become a reality, with or without your approval, but please be aware that we will no longer stand idly by and allow discrimination to continue on Federal and/or State levels.

I, personally, will no longer tolerate my country, nor my state of birth to dictate to Americans that being gay is sufficient grounds for exclusion from the military. Remember that when you speak and vote for the continuation of the ban you provide justification for various factions to continue gay persecutions. The military ban is not a political, or moral issue; it is an issue of human rights.

I hope my letter will be one of many that will cry out to you. Being gay, it would be wrong for me to sit by as you help drive in the nails of my coffin. I am pleased to say that on April 25, 1993 all of America will be able to witness our vast numbers. You will see us standing united and marching for what you have taken for granted: civil rights. If, among the masses, you see a smiling gay man carrying a sign that reads: YOUNG, EDUCATED, GAY and PISSED, that should be me. Then remind yourself that you had an integral part in my being there. For if it wasn't for people like you, I would have never become so outspoken.

William G. McNair
Georgia Registered Voter

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February
EQUALITY

In celebration of
Black History Month
Four speak out

I often dream of the day when we cease to assume the role of victim and claim our lives as our own as we know our existence to be, uniquely beautiful and valid. These four contributors personify that dream. In recognition of "Black History Month," they were asked to choose a topic that weighed heavily upon their minds as African-American lesbians and gay men. In this tiny sample of opinions from a richly diverse community, you will find issues of self actualization, homophobia, internalized racism and invisibility.

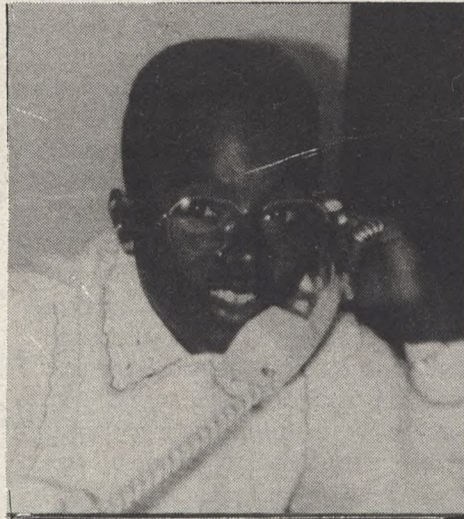
Despite the isms, phobias and countless other issues that must be faced daily and overcome,

these four contributors are excellent examples of the hundreds of thousands of African-American lesbian and gay people who have survived the hurricane of hatred and ignorance to be delivered to a morning calm of self acceptance and love. They are to be commended for their perseverance and courage to step beyond the shadows of conformity to be seen and heard.

— Patrick Bell, member Atlanta African American Lesbian & Gay Alliance

S. Faybell Ma-Heé, Performing Artist

I was born July 5, 1972 in New York City. I grew up in the South Bronx, reared in the projects by a single mother. I am the eldest of four chil-



S. Faybell Ma-Heé

dren. At 14 years of age, I had to confront the issue of my sexuality. Living in New York being Black, gay, poor and female was a hard thing to confront.

I chose to go to a performing arts high school because of the large gay student body, and also because I had always had a hard time in school and thought I might have an easier time among students like myself.

What I found when I enrolled at the school, and came out, was the same hatred so perpetuated by society. I met and started dating my first girlfriend in high school. The relationship was sweet but quickly soured due to the cruelty of our classmates. Eventually, I was forced to leave the school.

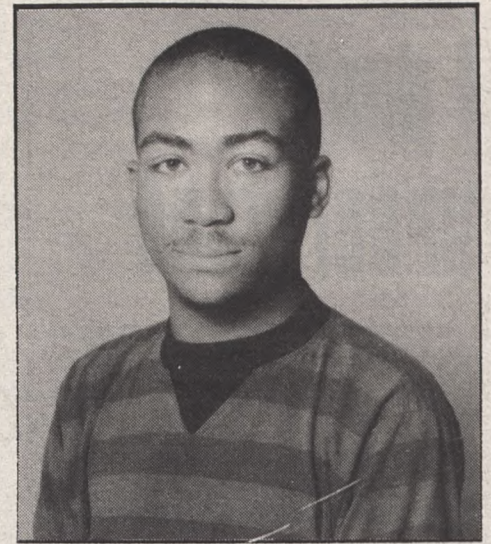
I didn't understand the hatred. I had always been told that God didn't like homosexuals and with the problems I had been having I thought that maybe everyone was right. I became a born again Christian, thinking to myself that God would save me and all the while not really wanting to be saved. This whole thing with being in and out of the church went on for years until I realized there was nothing wrong with being gay...it was something I should celebrate.

I moved to Atlanta almost three years ago where I met and fell in love with my "wife." I began a womyn's theater company so that I and other womyn could see our images. In New York, I spent a lot of time doing lesbian theater. I found myself looking to create my own images as an African feminist lesbian surrounded by a theater company consisting mostly of white lesbians.

I have met approximately 700 African-American lesbians while living in Atlanta. Only one has not had an issue with being out. The purpose of my theatre company is to minister holistically to African sisters about the beauty of our lives. I feel one of my reasons for being in Atlanta is to help build a strong African lesbian community, so that the next generation of African lesbians are not without images of their own.

Tré Johnson, Performing Artist/Poet

It's one of my most enjoyable and favorite times of year. The month of February, and the celebration of Black History Month. As a singer and writer, I get a chance to really contribute and give back to so many who have given so willingly to me. Whenever I perform, the first question that I'm usually asked is, "Aren't you



Tré Johnson

scared, or does it make you nervous...?" My response is usually, "I guess I'm just different."

From the beginning of my time on this earth, I've always known that I was different. My father was a "Junkyard Dog" hardcore blues singer and my mother was a full time Jehovah's Witness. So I had a severe case of cultural diversity in my household. I'm surprised to this day that I have my sanity. Early on, my family also knew I was different, as they so affectionately put it, "special." I was called artistic, talented and unique.

I was a perfect child. I made decent grades, respected my elders and said my prayers. I only had one minor flaw. I was a sissy. A mama's boy. Before I knew what a sissy was, I was told I would grow up and do the "nasty" with old perverted men. I was told I would never amount to anything and I would be destroyed and not be resurrected.

Color was another big issue in my upbringing. In my experience of being reared in the deep South, in the African American community, there is always constant conflict about the



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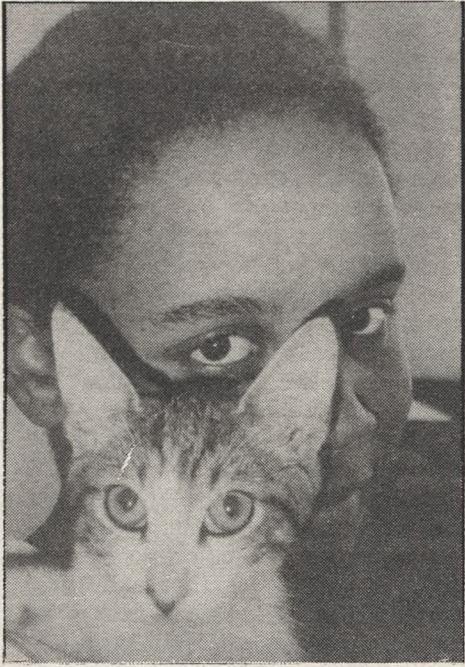
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Brooke Perry

lightness or darkness of your skin and whether or not you've got good or bad hair. And let me not forget those of us born with hazel, green or gray eyes. I was often called "lemon drop" or "house nigger."

I graduated from high school and bought myself a one way ticket to London, England. I got the hell out of Dodge vowing never to return to Georgia. In the pursuit of happiness, I finally came to the realization that along with this madness, before anyone could or would acknowledge and love me, I had to face the "mirror of life" and examine myself. After a long and intense soul search and the love of a wonderful Nigerian man, who I lived with as my manager and lover, I realized that I did in fact learn to love myself, when no one else would. If the general public knew what vast trials and tribulations so many of us African American gays and lesbians had to conquer to survive, love would

overwhelm them.

I am proud of my Blackness. I am proud of my gayness. I now surround myself with others who see and appreciate the beauty of my life.

Brooke Perry, Architect/Teacher

Several weeks ago, one of my co-workers decided to tell everyone in the office about two "fags" he saw over the weekend. After his speech about how "disgusting" they were and how he would like to kill them, another co-worker responded that "a lot of her friends were gay and they couldn't help it and they wished that they were straight because they don't like being unnatural, but they were born that way." I argued with them both until, in discomfort, they changed the subject.

Later that day, another male co-worker took a break from talking about hunting, threatening women and the martial arts. As he scanned my legs and breasts, he made oafish attempts to convince me to meet him outside of work. I told him that I was not interested and I found his obsession with violence disturbing and potentially dangerous. After failing in his effort to convince me that I really didn't mean what I said, he sulked and eventually started talking about Italian architecture.

On my way home, I picked up a copy of one of Atlanta's gay and lesbian publications and found out that Audre Lord had died. My sense of loss was almost overwhelmed by anger that this news appeared not on the first page as did the news of a white male who denied until his death the fact that he was gay. Later that evening, I called an old friend who told me that I am "playing on the wrong team" and I needed a "good man" to set me straight.

Many people have told me that as an educated black lesbian, I should be more understanding of those who anger and frustrate me and take the opportunity to educate them.

The fact of the matter is bigots are unprepared for learning. They must be convinced to stop their disruptive behavior. If they cannot

respect the basic humanity of another, they must accept the possible consequences of their actions—constant challenges to their assumptions, uncomfortable social situations, loss of support, or criminal prosecution.

I do not want difference and I do not expect deep personal regard, but I insist on acknowledgement of my humanity.

W.D. Foster, Novelist

Being a writer, when I think about Black History Month, I can't help but think about the literati. In an age that is more and more video



W. D. Foster

oriented and concerned with "instant gratification" ideology, the power of the pen still has a very important place. Persons such as Pat Parker, Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde, Coulee Cullen, James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, etc., painted their images with words. When their writings tape into your imagination, you become an active participant.

The black gay literati has the opportunity to make its voice heard now the way it never has

before. I can remember going through book stores in my teens and early twenties, finding nothing relevant to me. Sure, there were books that affirmed by Blackness, but nothing was there to affirm my gay sensibility. It was like I didn't exist; I was a nonentity. Where were my role models? I didn't know James Baldwin was gay until I was almost out of college, when I read something about it in a Playboy interview with Huey Newton.

Maybe James was out back in 1955 when he wrote Giovanni's Room, but he seemed to be one of the exceptions. Within the last ten years I've seen more strides made by black gay men and lesbians in literature than ever before. What makes a difference now is that our sensibility is expressed in our work. We have identified ourselves as people with dignity, pride and honor. That's important. Who will leave the legacy for those who come after us if we don't? In the Black History Celebrations to come, what about those future Black gay and lesbian authors, poets, playwrights who will look for us the way we "looked for Langston"? What will they find? We're part of this history, and that must be acknowledged.

My African ancestors left a strong oral tradition, and I'm glad that some of it has been put into print. So many of us have books, poems, plays, and stories inside of us. And they die with us. Why? Sometimes it's that attitude, "Well, someday I'll do it," only someday never comes. Other times it's insecurity, fear of stepping out and taking the plunge. Then there are those who have taken the chance and utilized their gifts, but have no outlet to share their work. For all of these, we need that network of support, understanding and resources.

It's Black History Month, and I think of James, Audre, Pat, Langston, Joseph, Zora, Essex, Lorraine, Vega, Assoto and others who brought so much to me, someone who made the public library his second home. I hope one day to be a part of that history. I want to leave something of value for those yet to come.

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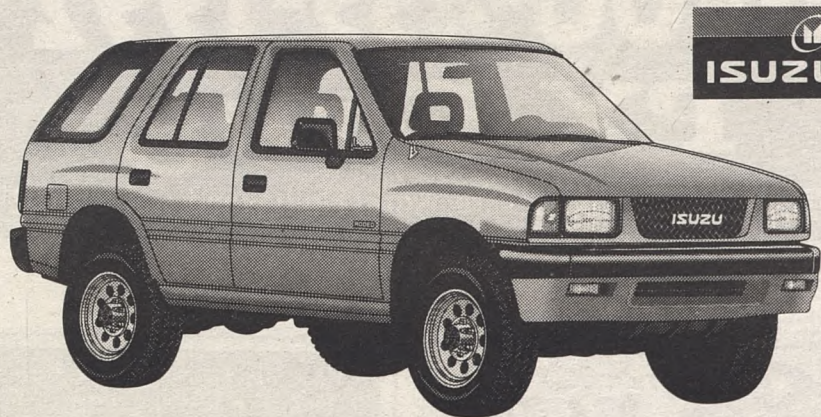
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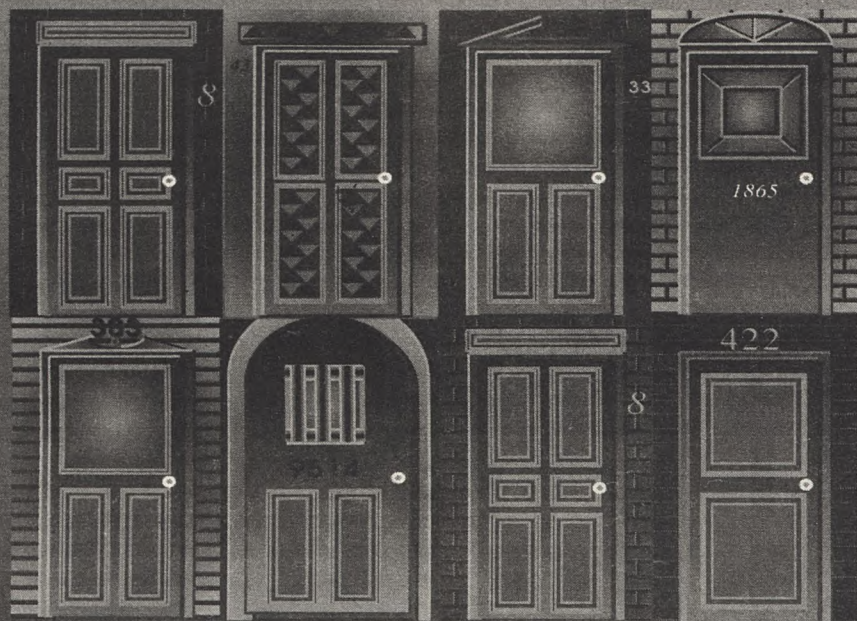
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EYE ON THE MILITARY

Sam Nunn Several members of Atlanta's lesbian and gay community met with Sen. Sam Nunn on Feb. 11 to discuss his stand on gays in the military and the upcoming hearings on the subject. The group was encouraged that the Senator had met with them, but stressed that he needs to hear from more lesbians and gays.

"He's very uncomfortable with the whole subject of homosexuality," said Annie Archbold, who was also among the group that met with Nunn's chief of staff Bob Hurt last week. "He really needs to be educated about our issues."

"He's going to have to come into contact with more gay men and lesbians," added Chip Rowan. "It's not a lost cause to be talking to Sam Nunn."

Both Archbold and Rowan said that Nunn

ated his position that military service should not be based on status, and pointed to conduct, particularly heterosexual harassment, as the real problem.

Following the town meeting, Republican minority leader Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas tipped his hand, commenting about the military issue (and Pres. Clinton's plan to drop the immigration ban on persons with HIV), "Some of these decisions are being made that ought to be postponed forever."

Campaign For Military Service Clinton advisor David Mixner and former Lambda Legal Defense director Tom Stoddard have formed the Campaign for Military Service to coordinate gay and lesbian response to the gays in the military issue. The group received a start-up donation of \$25,000 from record mogul (and out bisexual) David Geffen.

An ad hoc group has formed to coordinate local efforts. The group put together last week's Tell Sam to Lift the Ban rally. For information contact Don George at 231-5751.

Allen Schindler Elsewhere in the military, Airman Apprentice Terry Helvey, accused of beating to death shipmate Allen Schindler last October in a public restroom near a U.S. naval base in Japan, has been told that the Navy will seek the death penalty if he pleads innocent, according to Helvey's mother. Helvey did not enter a plea during a hearing last week.

Schindler, 22, had informed his commanding officer that he was gay a month before his death, and also told his mother that he had been harassed by his shipmates. The Navy denies knowledge of any threats against him. In the attack, Schindler was beaten so badly that his mother identified him only by his tattoos. A second sailor, Charles Vins, has already been discharged and given a light sentence in return for his testimony against Helvey.

Four sailors and two Marines were sentenced to a year in jail after they pleaded guilty to beating up a gay man they lured from a bar in San Francisco's Castro district last February. The six were given less than honorable discharges.

Alabama By a 69-11 vote, the Alabama House last week passed a resolution supporting the ban on gays in the military, while Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt considered keeping the ban in the Alabama National Guard.

North Carolina A lawyer has organized a group to oppose gays in the military, claiming that lifting the ban would create a "paranoia" on the part of straight soldiers. James Coster said that Straight Americans Military, or SAM, has about 300 members.

"Gays have always been in the military," he said, "but they have been in covertly. The reason gays have been able to do their job is no one has known it. Everyone is fairly confident there are not many gays in the military."



Allen Schindler

seemed committed to holding fair hearings in March, and that although he repeated his opposition to President Clinton's plan to lift the ban on gays in the military, he said that he would listen carefully to all the evidence presented at those hearings.

"I really think he wants to have hearings that don't become a free for all media event, like the [Clarence] Thomas hearings," said Archbold.

Archbold said that the discussions with Nunn about the issue seem to focus on what she called "the boys in the bathroom issue," adding that "we have to keep raising the issue that there are lesbians in the military."

President Clinton also addressed the military issue during his televised town meeting last week, telling studio audiences in Miami, Detroit, Atlanta and Seattle that there was no rift between himself and Sen. Nunn over the issue, and blaming Republicans in Congress for the controversy. Clinton reiter-



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Country Craze

Gays and lesbians dance to a different beat

It's either a very well-rehearsed line, or it's the truth. "Those who participate in country dancing at the bars are just friendly, down to earth people. They don't go out to cruise or throw attitude, they are just regular friendly people."

Those words came from the mouth of both Dan Ahern, with the Southeast Gay Rodeo Association and Terry McDurman, co-chair of "Hoedown's—Heart of Country."

Others have corroborated their stories, so it must be true that country folks are good folks. But why does the country craze bring out the good in people?

"It's a sign of the times," says Ahern. "People are more into romancing and dancing close. Years ago during the disco craze, people danced ten feet away from each other. Now, romance is back in."

Skip Rognien, Chair of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs in New York has another theory. "It's a shared activity between gay men and lesbians. We're no longer

community's interest in country "is a compliment to the industry." He says Nashville's younger executives have brought a more progressive attitude to Music Row. "The hardcores are evolving out of the industry."

But gay performers still must exercise caution. Mattea told Southern Voice in an interview last September, "There's an unspoken thing here in Nashville that if you're gay and in country music then you better keep your mouth shut about it."

Hopefully, with a large and loyal gay and lesbian following that situation will soon change. As Paul Loveless, owner of CDX, a company that services CDs to radio stations, told Billboard, "Look what that group did for the disco craze."

If you want to become a part of the growing country community in Atlanta, you have several upcoming opportunities. On Tuesday, February 23rd, Hoedown's will host "Heart of Country," a benefit for AID Atlanta's PWA Emergency



looking across the room at each other. It's a chance to get together and meet new people," he explains.

The country music craze in the gay and lesbian community seemed to come out of nowhere, but apparently it's been bubbling under the surface for a while.

The International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs is now 10 years old, with 51 chapters and 2600 members around the country in 23 states and three Canadian provinces. The largest is Times Squares in New York with 297 members. Ever year the association holds an annual July 4th weekend of square dancing. This year it will be held in Seattle, Wash. where 1400 people are expected.

"Actually it's not a sudden movement, it's been happening slowly but surely," McDurman says. "Southern Country started five years ago with about 30 members, now we have well over two thousand."

For proof of the popularity, walk into Hoedown's on Friday or Saturday night, or country nights at other bars such as The Otherside, and face the challenge of finding your own space on the dance floor.

Reaction to the movement from record companies and artists has been mixed.

Performers like Kathy Mattea and Garth Brooks have openly supported the gay and lesbian community. Mattea performed at the last From All Walks of Life AIDS fundraiser in Atlanta last October. Brooks has been quoted in interviews as saying he supports his family fans no matter what the cost to himself. Then, of course, there was k.d. lang who opened the door for us into the country scene, and made androgyny a really cool thing.

Rick Blackburn, Atlantic/Nashville's Vice President and General Manager was quoted in Billboard Magazine as saying the gay

Assistance Fund and the First Metropolitan Community Church Grady Memorial Hospital TV Fund.

"Heart of Country" will feature an auction of twelve of the hottest cowgirls and cowboys from Atlanta's country community.

"When someone buys them, it's for a date and it includes dinner for two at some very nice restaurants around the city including Bones, Chops and Bridgetown Grill," McDurman, chair of the event, explains.

They are hoping to raise over \$5,000 with the event. If it's successful, McDurman says, they plan to do it every year.

What also may be a sign of the growing acceptance of gay and lesbian support of the country music industry is the signing of a national sponsor for the event, Jose Cuervo.

"They have been absolutely wonderful," says McDurman. "They are very excited about working with a gay and lesbian fundraiser."

"Heart of Country" begins at 9 p.m., Tuesday, February 23rd at Hoedown's.

The Southeast Gay Rodeo Association has a full slate of events, beginning with its Second Annual Country Western Couples Dance Contest at Backstreet on February 19th & 20th.

Three divisions of dancers from Amateur, to Pro-Am, to Professional will dance a waltz, a two-step, and their own free-style routine.

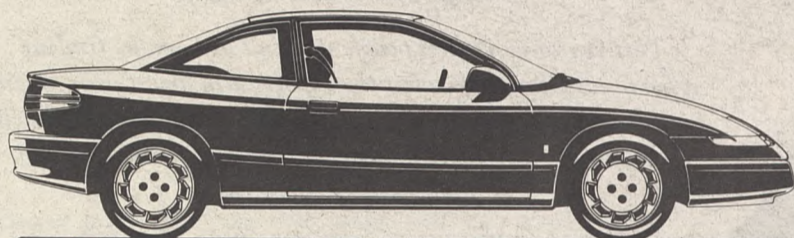
"In the waltz and the two-step we have rules against lifts," says Ahern, "but in the free-style, you'll see all kinds of lifts. It's incredible."

The winners will compete at the International Gay Rodeo Association's Convention in Billings, Montana in August.

On March 26th & 27th, SEGRA will host the first Line Dance and Clogging Dance Contest at Backstreet.

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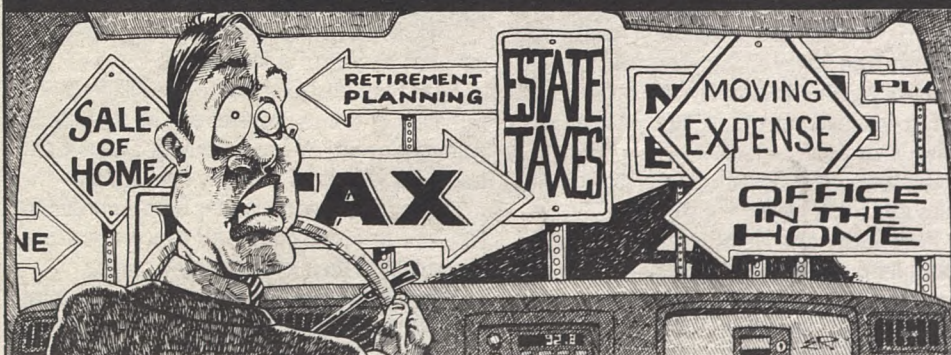


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FIGHTING THE RIGHT

With abortion beginning to wane as a hot-button issue, gay rights has emerged as the social and civil rights issue of the '90s at both the state and national levels. The issue fills the airwaves and the front pages, with few fence-sitters.

"This will be the cash-cow of the 1990s for the right wing, said Jerry Sheehan of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, where Lon Mabon, creator of Oregon's Measure 9, is launching a similar anti-gay campaign. "They no longer have communism as the bogeyman and they have lost the political war for abortion and now they're going for whatever emotional bigotry is still available, and that is gay rights."

Cal Anderson, Washington's only openly gay legislator, agrees.

"When you look at what's happening in Washington, DC, with gays in the military and see Lon Mabon trying to import his hatred, it is pretty clear that protective legislation is needed," he said. "Lon Mabon has turned hate into an industry. This is how he puts food on his table and I really resent that."

Oregon In his native Oregon, Mabon's Oregon Citizens Alliance has vowed to fight a domestic partners bill filed in the Oregon Legislature. The bill, he said, would put gay couples on an equal legal footing with married couples, and to recognize gay couples would "legally codify the act of sodomy."

"We don't believe that homosexual activity is a normal and acceptable lifestyle," he said.

Rep. Tom Mason of Portland, the bill's sponsor, said the bill would allow state employees to register a domestic partnership with an individual of the same or opposite sex.

"It's time for society to recognize these committed, long-term relationships," he said.

In Colorado, one of the organizers of the drive to put Amendment 2 on the ballot now runs a ministry to help "repentant homosexuals" change their sexual orientation.

In an exclusive interview with the Rocky Mountain News in Colorado Springs, Tony Marco and his wife Joyce told of their early drug-checked youths and how they met in a New York religious school after being born again. Marco, a free-lance writer, has worked for Jim Bakker's PTL Club and televangelist Pat Robertson.

Marco's involvement in the legislation to limit the civil rights of gays and lesbians began in early 1991 when he testified before the Colorado House Judiciary Committee on proposed legislation to beef up penalties for harassing gays.

"Should we let the necrophiliacs also demand open admission to our funeral parlors to exercise their sexual preference?" Marco said to the committee.

Marco left the Coloradans for Family Values group when he formed DoveTail Ministries to help gays change their sexual orientation. CFV rejected adopting DoveTail's

religious goals, according to director Kevin Tebedo, because that would confuse the public.

Colorado The boycott continues against Colorado, with officials estimating that the state has lost more than \$26 million in potential convention revenue since the passage of Amendment 2. The 50,000 member American Jewish congress voted last week to endorse the boycott, along with the Independent Feature Project, a group of independent filmmakers, and the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, Telluride, a small western Colorado ski resort that is gaining cachet among the Hollywood elite, this week joined Denver, Boulder and Aspen in adopting laws protecting gay rights. Vail, Winter Park, and Crested Butte are considering such measures.

Taking a different approach are two Colo-

rado Springs residents who are planning a petition drive for a ballot measure that would grant gays protection from discrimination, but no "special rights." Attorney Greg Walta and accountant Marvin Strait said their amendment would prohibit discrimination against any person or group in employment, housing or public accommodations based upon sexual orientation.

Alaska An ethics complaint against a member of the Anchorage, Alaska equal rights commission has questioned Michael Johnston's role in a drive to repeal the city's new gay right ordinance. Johnston, who operates a counseling service that claims to help gays live as heterosexuals, is working on the petition to put Anchorage's ordinance before voters in April.

"He is sworn to uphold the law, and should not be out campaigning against it,"

said the Anchorage Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Les Baird, who filed the complaint.

Maryland A bill that would have prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation died on a 6-5 vote in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on Jan. 28. Opponents of the bill argued that by extending civil rights protections to gays, lawmakers would be supporting the gay lifestyle and speeding the decline of the American family.

Sen. Janice Piccinini, who introduced the bill, testified at the hearing that passage of the bill would not condone homosexuality "anymore than the inclusion of 'religion' [as a protected category] indicates the state's support for a particular religion or religion in general.

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DIFFERENT VOICES

Those who saw the first production of "The Harvey Milk Show" probably recall Sally Robertson's moving rendition of the song, "Lovely." And theatre goers will also remember Deadra Moore for her performance as the evil Natalie in "The Gay Deceivers."

Now audiences have another chance to catch these two women in "Portraits of Twilight" at the 14th Street Playhouse. This time, however, Moore and Robertson will showcase other dimensions of their talent, as the producing and artistic directors of the new theatre company, "Different Voices." As its name implies, the theatre company seeks to expose audiences to culturally diverse, and historically underrepresented, playwrights.

Says the animated Robertson of the duo's idea to start the theatre group, "I like to cut to the heart of it. I was going around auditioning for plays and I noticed they were always plays written by men. There were triple the number of women to men trying out for the parts and the available roles were in the exact



Sally Robertson



Deadra Moore

opposite proportion." She pauses. "For me, it was the thought of no women's plays..."

"And I'm focused on a cultural spread," says Moore. In addition, both women wanted to do a little more toward making the working environment easier for actors.

So 26-year old Robertson and 28-year old Moore founded "Different Voices." Commenting on what led the two twenty-something women to undertake the risky venture, Moore says, "We're starting early so we'll get further." She flings back her long black hair and drops into a chair.

After talking about starting a theatre group while in graduate school at the University of Georgia, the two actors decided to follow through on the idea last year. The result was the well-received full-length play, "Roosters," by Hispanic-American Milcha Sanchez Scott. According to Robertson, al-

most everyone in the audience came up to she and Moore after productions. "The audiences really enjoyed it, based on their comments," she says.

Because of their commitment to making their audiences a part of their theatre, Moore and Robertson had positioned themselves in a visible spot after each show. Out of that same desire to create a dialogue with the audience, the two women have created the upcoming "Portraits of Twilight."

The show begins with a television-generation skit. Most of the actors in the play are in their 30s, so they recalled all the songs they remembered, like "Flintstones, Meet the Flintstones." The result is a medley. Robertson and Moore hope the audience will join in.

"That breaks what we call the fourth wall," says Moore. Adds Robertson, "That barrier is very strong at the beginning of a play. Everyone's thinking about what they left outside, the kids and the day at work..."

The upcoming production then features the hilarious, lesbian gothic spoof, "This Brooding Sky." The play will be presented in its intended fashion, with characters that include an ingenue, Stephen, the moody mistress—and Sally, the slovenly servant girl. "The characters are all very different and the actors are very fit to those roles," says Robertson. At intermission, the audience will vote on which actors they want to play the roles after the break. "To have a man play the role of the little girl—that could change it all around and twist it," Robertson adds.

Talking of whose plays they will produce and the audience they'd like to draw, Moore speaks of overlapping circles. Some plays will be by lesbians, some by Hispanics and most by women.

"We're creating little pockets of audience and hopefully they'll pull together later," she says.

Talking about how they find women's plays to produce, Robertson says it's very difficult to unearth works by women, but Moore adds, "With the upswing in women's studies, women's manuscripts are being dragged out of the stacks."

Asked if they're scared about their venture, both women stop breathing. Robertson says, "If I even thought about everything I had to do in the next six weeks, I'd fall apart. All I think about is what I have to do today."

Both she and Moore note they've been cheered on by their audiences and the artistic community. When other directors and producers first heard the two women planned to start the company, they thought the two women were nuts.

"Now," says Robertson, "they're surprised at how far we've come. I'm cheered by that."

C. MITCHELL

THEATRE REVIEWS

NIGHT SKY

7 Stages has managed to stage another coup, presenting the southeastern premiere of a new play scheduled for New York production in the fall of 1993. "Night Sky" is an eloquent presentation about speechlessness exploring universes that retain their mystery.

The play has a twilight zone scenario. Anna, a brilliant, articulate astronomer, has an auto accident which leaves her aphasic. Her mind is sound, yet she can no more tell the people around her what she wants than she can say her own name. Her inability to communicate takes her to strange new worlds where she finds it may be easier to say you're Dutch and don't speak English fluently, than to say you have no language at all.

The playwright, Susan Yankowitz, wrote "Night Sky" for, and in many ways about, Joseph Chaikin, the highly-acclaimed off-Broadway director and founder of New York's Open Theatre who has been aphasic since a stroke eight years ago. She handles the story with tenderness and realism that cuts to the heart of the matter. The dialogue, in particular, carries the story well. Del

Hamilton directs the sensitive script with his usual aplomb and the result is a crisp, professional production.

Lindy Wood, as Anna, holds the production together and moves it along with her compelling presence. Her struggle with silence is a herculean undertaking. Kent Whipple, as her friend and co-worker, has a solid stage presence that makes his time with his head in the stars. Helen Butler, the speech therapist, proves a competent guide in exploring strange new universes. She is the navigator, charting a course through the black holes of Anna's mind.

All the key ingredients combine to create an evening of theatre which is both entertaining and educational. Once more, 7 Stages boldly goes where no one has gone before.

Accomplice is a merry murder mystery with more twists and turns than a mad mouse ride. It is fun free-for-all which teases the audience and tricks them with equal finesse. I don't know when I have seen death and laughter mixed in such perfect proportions.

Jennifer Massey is simply fine as Janet Taylor, the quick talking, quick thinking, mover and shaker. Whether she is fornicating on the Persian rug, or cracking the whip, she holds the audience firmly in her blood stained hands. Dr. Jim Braude delivers his quips with surgical precision and shows he operates as well as behind the footlights as in his office. His boyish charm captivated the audience, many of whom were already in his fan club. Kim Trenerry plays an airheaded Barbie doll whose sexual preference may be questionable, but whose sex never is. Brian Bascle rounds out a killer cast, who work and die well together. The director, Thom Gillott, moves the play along at such a breakneck pace, one wonders if he used Massey's whip during rehearsals.

The realistic set designed by Lawrence Graham is a perfect backdrop for the scheming foursome. Their murderous intentions are manifested with the magical help of Ken Ballard's special effects. Anything it seems, can and does become a weapon.

"Accomplice" is a surprising confection, a chocolate eclair filled with arsenic and black lace. Its adult humor and brief nudity may have driven the Baptists from the hall, but the rest of the audience stayed and enjoyed.

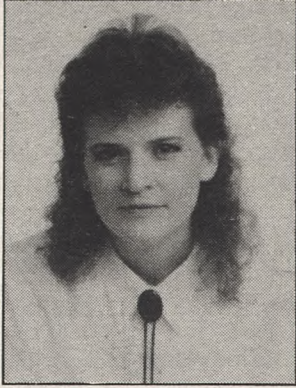
GALE RETER



Dr. Jim Braude is bound to please in "Accomplice."

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C A L E N D A R

18 THURSDAY

JOHN D'EMILIO. The UNC history professor and NGLTF board member will speak at Emory University tonight at 8:00 p.m. in White Hall. The lecture is entitled "After Stonewall: A Generation of Lesbian and Gay Activism." Call 727-2136 or 727-0272 for info.

PRIDE COMMITTEE. The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee meets tonight. Call 662-4533.

MAKING FRIENDS. Perry Treadwell, cofounder of The Men's Experience and The Atlanta Men's Center, will share from his book tonight at Charis Books and More beginning at 7:30. The book explores friendships between women and men. Call 524-0304 for further info.

TONY WINSTON. Popular jazz pianist/singer Tony Winston performs at The Coach and Six Restaurant through March 13. Three performances nightly Thurs.-Sat. Call 872-6666 for further info.

LIZ SPRAGGINS. Atlanta legend Liz Spraggins performs Thurs.-Sat. at JoHanna's Upstairs on Piedmont. The jazz/pop/gospel artist can be seen through the end of Feb. For more info call 885-1816.

BEL CANTO. The first rock group to hail from north of the arctic circle plays at Center Stage Theatre at 8:00 p.m. The Norwegian band performs as part of the ACOG's Cultural Olympiad. Call 224-1835 for ticket info.

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

PSYCHO BEACH PARTY. Through Feb. 21. Art Attack presents its inaugural production at Neighborhood Playhouse in downtown Decatur. The play is a spoof of beach party movies and can be seen Fri.-Sun. evenings. Call 881-6304 for ticket info.

THE WOMEN. Through Feb. 21. The classic American comedy by Clare Booth Luce hilariously illustrates the differences, or lack thereof, between upper and working-class women in 1936 New York City. This all-woman cast is directed by Stephen Petty, director of the smash hit, "The Harvey Milk Show." Actor's Express. 221-0831.

NO EXIT. Through Feb. 21. Theatrical Outfit presents a new translation of this Jean Paul Sartre's play. The production is staged in film noir style, with the set, costumes and actor's skin tones all colorless. The play can be seen Wed.-Sun. Call 872-0665 for ticket info.

MARVIN'S ROOM. Through Feb. 21. Horizon Theatre presents this offbeat allegory about caring and care-giving in the time of AIDS. A collection of



19 FRIDAY

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCING. The Southeast Gay Rodeo Association is holding its Second Annual Country Western Couples Dance Contest tonight and tomorrow at Backstreet. For details call 874-6556 or 760-8126.

BLACK MARIA FILM FESTIVAL. The Tenth Annual Festival is a premiere forum for avant-garde media artists from the U.S., Canada and abroad. The screenings begin at 8:00 p.m. and are presented by IMAGE Film and Video.

oddball relatives pulls together when the heroine begins to come apart. Runs Thur., Fri. and Sat. Call 584-7450 for ticket info.

THE FISHERMEN. Through Feb. 21. In celebration of Black History Month, Jomandi Productions presents an encore production of this rattling tale of a family in crisis. The play can be seen at 14th Street Playhouse. Call 876-6346 for info.

LEMON SKY. Through Feb. 21. This autobiographical play by Lanford Wilson traces his early relationship with his father and stepmother and his coming to terms with his own sexuality. SAME presents the piece at 8:00 Thurs.-Sun. at TULA, 75 Bennett St. For ticket info call 609-9590.

GETHSEMANE. Through Feb. 21. Angel Media Group presents the story of a man and a woman confronting AIDS and incest during one turbulent night in the 'Garden of Terror.' The production can be seen Downstairs at Theatrical Outfit in Midtown. Call 321-9063 for ticket info.

COME BACK LITTLE

HEADLINERS. A new nightclub opens tonight in Buckhead featuring a cabaret-style theatre and a piano jazz bar. Headliners is located at 56 East Andrews Drive. Call 261-4666 for info.

ADAM'S RIB. The High Museum presents this Soviet film about three generations of women living in a single flat in Moscow. The screening begins at 8:00. Call 898-9286 for more info.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS. Singer-songwriters Michelle Shocked, Guy Clark, Barret Strong and Sonny Landreth perform their material and

SHEBA. Through Feb. 27. The story of a deep-seated frustration in a marriage and the inevitable and furious eruption. Presented by Southern Fried Productions at Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. Fri. and Sat. at 8:00, Sun. at 2:00. Call 378-8646 for more info.

NIGHT SKY. Through Feb. 28. Seven Stages presents a story of an astronomy professor who becomes disabled in a car accident and her fight to overcome the disability. Wed.-Sat. at 8:00, Sun. at 5:00. Call 522-0911 for info.

ACCOMPLICE. Through Feb. 28. A labyrinthine thriller laced with sex, intrigue and adult humor. The comedy/murder mystery is presented by Onstage Atlanta and can be seen Thurs.-Sat. at 8:00 and Sun. at 2:30. For reservations call 897-1802.

SWASHBUCKLING ROMANCE. Through Mar. 6. The Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern begins 1993 with "The Rover," a tale about the soldiers to the banished Prince Charles. The play was authored by Aphra Behn, the first female playwright to have her work

discuss their work at Variety Playhouse beginning at 8:30. Call 524-7354 for ticket info.

PATTY D. BELL. The Atlanta artist presents a collection of assemblages and paintings at Ariel Gallery at TULA, 75 Bennett Street. A reception for the artist begins at 6:30. Call 352-5753 for info.

20 SATURDAY

WOMEN'S CHORUS. The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus Ensemble will be joined by Louisa Branscomb and Bom Gypsy, Liz Carrier, the Self-Righteous Brothers and Sighs at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation on Cliff Valley Way beginning at 8:00. For ticket info call 438-5823.

PWARTY. NAPWA holds a bi-monthly social gathering for all "HIV-friendly" people. The party begins at 8:00 at 44 12th Street. Call 874-7926 for details.

SIMPLE MEN. Metropolitan Film Society presents a comedy by American independent filmmaker Hal Hartley. The story of the "dysfunctional" family can be seen at Cinevision, located off Chamblee-Tucker Road, at 8:30 p.m. or AMC Tower Place at 4:00 p.m. Call 729-8487 for more info.

PHISH. One of the country's hottest progressive bands plays at the Roxy in Buckhead Friday and

presented on the professional English stage. Call 874-5299 for ticket info.

PORTRAITS AT TWILIGHT. Through March 14. A trip into the twilight zone of the American experience, Different Voices Theatre Company presents a trio of pieces with a twist which requires audience participation. Features the gender-bending gothic spoof "This Brooding Sky." Thurs.-Sun. at 8:00 p.m. at the 14th St. Playhouse. Call 370-1350 for more info.

THE FILM SOCIETY. Through April 18. Horizon Theatre Company presents the story of an innovative teacher who tries to shake up the system at a conservative South African boarding school. Thurs.-Sun. Call 584-7450 for ticket info.

INVESTING WITH PRIDE. February 25. Investment Executive James Dean will present an hour-long seminar focusing on a portfolio of high-quality stocks of companies that openly make beneficial contributions to the gay and lesbian community. Make reservations by calling 262-5818. Seating is limited.

Saturday. The performances begin at 9:00. For ticket info call 249-6400.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY. Franz Welser-Moest, music director of the London Philharmonic guest conducts the ASO Thurs., Fri. and Sat. The concert includes Argentine pianist Nelson Goerner performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2. Call 898-1182 for reservations.

HIV UPDATE. The nationally syndicated cable TV show will focus on HIV and nutrition this month. The program airs weekly at 6:00 p.m. on People Television 12.

21 SUNDAY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE. Larry Pellegrini, lobbyist for gay issues at the Georgia General Assembly, holds an open forum concerning bills affecting the gay/lesbian community. 2 pm. 1051 Hudson Dr. 533-5991 for more info. Next meeting will be Mar. 7.

WOMEN ALIVE. A Benefit for the AIDS Hotline for Women will be held at the Star Community Bar in L5P beginning at 5:00. Featured Performers include Harp and Soul, Joyce & Jacque and Betty's Not a Vitamin. Tickets are \$10 in advance. Call 875-7115.

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL. An organizational meeting will be held at Thelma's Pump Room at The Armory. An information meeting for sponsors and coaches begins at 4:00 p.m., and a sign-up party for players starts at 5:00. Call 873-4061 for additional info.

EYES ON THE PRIZE. GPTV presents an encore of its acclaimed series chronicling the civil rights movement since 1965. GPTV Channel 8, 12:00 p.m.



Harp and Soul

22 MONDAY

HEALING AND THE MIND. Bill Moyers hosts a five-part series investigating the field of mind-body medicine and its revolutionary effect on health care. Two episodes air tonight beginning at 9:00, the third airs Tues. at 10:00 p.m., and the final programs air Wed. beginning at 9:00. Ch. 8.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program can be seen tonight at 10:30 and again Wed. at 5:30 p.m. on Cable Channel 12.

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

23 TUESDAY

HEART OF COUNTRY. Hoedown's presents a Benefit for AID Atlanta's PWA Emergency Assistance Fund and First MCC Grady Memorial Hospital TV Fund. The highlight of the evening will be a cowboy and cowgirl auction. Call 874-0980.

FOURTH TUESDAY. Atlanta's organization for lesbians will focus on Women's Health Issues. The program will include an exploration of how the health care system deals with diseases affecting lesbians. Call 662-4353 to make reservations.

CARNIVAL. A Fundraiser for AID Atlanta's Community Outreach Program will be held tonight at Backstreet. Daisy Chain will emcee the entertainment to begin at 10:00. \$3 cover.

24 WEDNESDAY

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND. The Alliance Theatre presents this Broadway musical fantasy tonight through April 3. The Caribbean tale told through song and dance begins at 8:00. Call 892-2414 for tickets.

POSITIVE LIVING. This locally produced show about people living with AIDS can be seen on People TV Channel 12 at 2:30 p.m. and again on Sat. at 10:00 p.m. It also airs on City Ch. 6 at 5:00 p.m. on Thurs.

Pictured: ABOVE: Harp & Soul will perform at "Women Alive" on February 21, a benefit for the AIDS Hotline for Women BELOW: Lily Yancey and Lindy Wood in "Night Sky" at 7 Stages Theatre through February 28. Photo by Jonathan Burnette ABOVE LEFT: "Portraits at Twilight" runs through March 14 at the 14th Street Playhouse. Photo by Annemarie Poyo



24 O U T & A B O U T

If your idea of a fashion show is laconic models striking unlikely poses before a bored and jaded audience, you can dispel that notion forever at the **Super Style Show** coming up on February 26 at 800 East. This once a year event is described by producer Ed Woodham as "...the only event of its kind—the haute couture event of the season where the most diverse group of people come together for an evening of self-expression and interaction with the audience."

Last year's event drew over 1,000 people to the warehouse space at the end of East Avenue, in the shadow of the Presidential Parkway. The Super Style Show is a marathon fashion show featuring clothing from Atlanta's hottest designers as well as appearances by an amazing number of Atlanta entertainers and performance artists.

Hosting various segments of the show will be MC Host-O-Matic, Julian Helms, DeAundra Peek, and Cissy Rimwell. These hosts will keep the show rolling, as models of every description sashay and chanté down the runway in garments from designers as diverse as Bill Hallman, Paragon, Greg's Stuff, Obnoxious Fashions, Hats by Shawn Dockery, and Designs by Wyatt.

The audience will be as much a part of the action as the models. There will be several "beauty booths" set up to give guests makeovers, transforming them into visions of loveliness. Trendy salon Key Lime Pie will man one of the booths so you know you'll be in good hands. And when you see the new you, head on over to the photography booth where Katherine Kolb will record your beauty on film. Want more? How about being interviewed on a talk show? Ed plans to have a TV crew in house (complete with chatty hostess) to get your impressions of the evening.

The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday the 26th, with a "Bad Wine Tasting." Then the SSS kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and will go till the wee hours of the morning. Music will be provided by DJ Suave who is in from Paris. How much will all this fun and glamour set you back? A mere \$5.00 at the door. Mark your calendars now, fashion goddesses!

It was a great way to spend a late afternoon—toasting the birthday of dancer and choreographer Jim Chappelleaux in the upper bar of **Blake's** on his jour de fete, Saturday, February 6. The location was perfect for a party, and what a party it was. Most of the party-goers were artists, including Jody Hanvey,

AFTER HOURS

D A N N Y R O B L E



Rosser Shymanski (aka Deaundra Peek) will be one of the hosts of the Super Style Show on February 26.

video and performance artist most recently linked with Madonna and her best selling book, "SEX." Jody introduced me to another local talent, Dan Henigman, whose painted tee shirts and jeans are all the rage at Prometheus Unbound, next door to Blake's. Jody's own artwork and cards are also available there. Also on

hand was the very talented painter, Lee Bomhoff, who showed us photos of his most recent work which features Jim Chappelleaux dressed as an acrobatic court jester amid the iridescent, jewel-like colors which he incorporates into all his works. Lee is best known for his awe-inspiring paintings of nude male angels, and is a generous contributor to such fundraising efforts as ArtCare.

While enjoying drinks with crackers and spinach dip, guests were treated to videos on the large screen TV of Jim and his partner Cherie Carson as they danced their original works in a program recently broadcast on PBS. Also congratulating the birthday boy were singer Jan Barlow, just back from appearances at clubs in Florida, go-go boy about town Porter Betts, and opera singer Cory Colton.

With the new season on Cable Access, many new shows have been launched. Brightest of them all is **It's Emilio** starring actor and comic Emilio Perey. The show comes to us from DeKalb Public Access and should be a model for other would-be TV personalities to emulate. "It's Emilio" features interviews with local celebrities, performances by local entertainers, and theater reviews. All of this is handled smoothly and professionally before a live audience. Recent guests on "It's Emilio" have been Megan McFarland, comic Leonard Shearing, and the improv troupe Laughing Matters.

Producer of the show, Jim Elasmr, assures me that the show is only going to get better. He and associate producer Tom Carpenter work with a dedicated group to put the show on. Aside from talent and quality, the main thing which separates "It's Emilio" from the rest of the pack is that it is live. For this reason, the show is limited right now to a once a month schedule in DeKalb, but Fulton County has the option to show the tape on their schedule. The most recent showing was at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. Mark your calendar for Monday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. for the next live broadcast.

In bar news, the talk of the younger set is the soon to open **Club 21** which is a night for 18-21 year olds at the Metro at 48 6th Street. This night of their own is intended to give the kids the opportunity to let their hair down among their peers. Since I miss the age limit by a couple of years, I'll have to hear about the goings on from someone else, then I'll fill you in. In the meantime, call the Metro at 874-9869 for details.

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Market Savvy: Atlanta theatres take note. The producers of the hit off-Broadway show "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" have declared Thursday night "singles night" at the play about gay life in the Big Apple. Playgoers are invited to wear color-coded emblems indicating their availability—green for available, red for not, yellow for negotiable. The first night that the new system was in effect, 50% of patrons wore green, the remainder split yellow and red about equally. Not the best odds in the world, but better than you'd do on the street, and the play is supposed to be pretty good too!

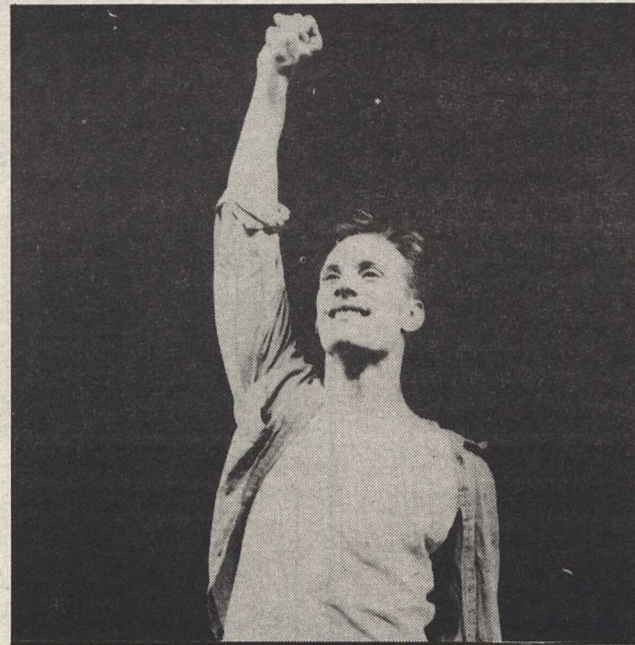
An (Expensive) Vision: An enterprising entrepreneur in DC has come up with an idea that we'd like a whole lot more if some of the (considerable) profits were going to some worthy cause. For \$40 (plus \$8 shipping) you can be the owner of a 5x7 inch piece of glass etched with an image of the (national) capitol, the words "I have a vision and you are a part of it. I believe tomorrow will be better than today... We are all part of the same community..." and the signature of (now) President Bill Clinton. The words are from a speech he gave in LA in May '92. For info, write The Vision Project, 1718 M St. NW, #289, Washington DC, 20036.

A (Clean) Idea: Activists in West Hollywood have come up with an idea (actually they copied it from a similar project in San Diego) of a combination thrift shop and (free) laundry service for PWAs. The money that comes from selling used clothes (and other stuff), along with donations, funds the free laundry service. Sounds like a capital idea to Dish. If you'd like more information on donating to "Aunt Bee's Laundry Service and Thrift Shop" or setting up a similar service in Atlanta (Aunt Pittypat's?) call David Barber at 213/668-2038.

Public Display: The February newsletter of Black and White Men Together/Atlanta contains a short article by Doug Stickels that promotes what we think is a nifty idea. Seems Doug and Charles Hickman went shopping at three different malls during the December holidays and made a point of walking around holding hands just like many hetero couples do. The result of their experiment was generally positive, especially from clerks

Dish

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



MARTHA SWORE ASSOC.; WILLIAM GIBSON

David Drake in "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me."

in stores. A couple of groups of teenagers made wisecracks, but the "faux boyfriends" reported no outright hostility. Dish, too, has recently noticed that most waitrons and retail folks seem perfectly comfortable when we hold our honey's hand in public. Try it, we think you'll like it. Well, maybe not at a tractor pull.

Sour Grapes: DC's chapter of Queer Nation has issued an especially nasty diatribe against the Nation's largest queer organization, the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Much of what's at issue in this testy missive seems to be HRCF's unwillingness to

write off Sen. Sam (not in my Army!) Nunn as a lost cause. Dish knows how QN/National Capitol feels, we'd like to tell Nunn to take his toys on a long and winding hike to hell. But we're pleased to note that the ad hoc activist coalition (on lifting the military ban) which has sprung up in Atlanta seems committed to going at Nunn from every angle possible. If the strategy works, we may have a new model for cooperation among the city's very diverse activists. If it fails? Well, sometimes the process is every bit as important as the product. Whatever the outcome, it'll be a damn sight prettier than the nattering negativism of DC's QN chapter.

Differing Accounts: The NBC First Person special on the Gay '90s a few weeks ago reported that the owners of that beleaguered queer bed and breakfast in Russellville, KY (that's Kentucky, not jelly) had split up and that the business was in bankruptcy. The Associated Press report on the same subject sounds both more grim and more hopeful. The sad part is that the break-up between Jim Cates and Jim Turner appears to be fairly acrimonious—not what was reported on NBC. The good news? AP says that the business is in fact doing quite well and that it is not in bankruptcy as NBC reported.

Information, Please: Dish hears rumors of an Atlanta band called Harvey Milk. We're way far out of the loop when it comes to the local music scene, so we've not the faintest idea about these dudes. Are they homos? Or hets who have (mis)appropriated the name? If you've got the goods on Harvey Milk, the band, give us a call at 876-1831.

Desert Hearts: Deneuve Magazine calls it the "Michigan Women's Music Festival without the music." Straight folks call it the Dinah Shore Golf Tournament. Dish calls it desert dykes for days. By any name, the 20th edition of this annual (mainly) lesbian orgy in the Palm Springs (CA) sun is about to happen once again. This year, in addition to golf, sun, women, women, and more women, there will be a comedy triple bill featuring Ellen Degeneris, Kate Clinton and Suzanne Westenhoefer. March 26 is the date. For info on the Funny Girlz show call 310/288-6400. For travel info call Ticket Qwik Travel, 310/396-9503.

February 18-February 24, 1993

The Sun moves into mutable, watery, intuitive and emotional Pisces on the 18th, the New Moon falls on the 21st, Mardi Gras is on the 23rd and Ash Wednesday is the next day. What a busy, emotional week! Time to be centered and open to spiritual flow. **ARIES**, the Sun is in your 12th house now, energizing your dreams, visions and possibly interrupting sleep. You may be more aware of your intuition or sudden flashes of insight. Pay attention and take good notes for future reference. **TAURUS**, Spring is coming, so cheer up! It won't be chilly, damp or dreary much longer. Be sure to release as much emotional baggage as possible before Spring actually arrives, so you can really enjoy the explosion of new life. **GEMINI**, hey diddle diddle the cat and the fiddle. Who jumped over the Moon? Is life making sense or are you wishing for the days of nursery rhymes and fairy tales? Well, we are the fairies, and we do need to enjoy life now. Dear **CANCER**, time to forge ahead, again. Just when you thought you could maybe have a week or two off from this constant intensity, you are still having to deal with Mars moving forward in your 1st house. Good news! It won't last forever. **LEO**, with

STARSIGNS

Venus in your 9th house of travel, spiritual quest, metaphysical studies and global awareness, you should be expanding your horizons and running into wonderful people who share your perspective on life. Let yourself expand! **VIRGO**, now the Sun and Mercury are in your 7th house of partnerships, contracts and other "social relationships." This is the time to initiate and develop long term, committed friendships that could be very nurturing or very profitable. **LIBRA**, even though you find yourself very attracted, even magnetized, to someone, do your best to move into the situation slowly and somewhat cautiously. It could be a wonderful, loving expression or, a very brief solar flare. **SCORPIO**, with the Sun joining Mercury in your 5th house of romance, recreation, plea-

sure and creative expression, you may have a difficult time sleeping with all this wonderful expressive energy surging through your system. Be creative. **SAGITTARIUS**, as you may have felt, Pluto is roaming back and forth in your 12th house of dreams, visions, secrets and connection to the collective unconscious, stirring up all kinds of stuff you probably need to let go. **CAPRICORN**, hopefully, now that Uranus has moved ahead of Neptune in your very personal 1st house, you are feeling a little more solid. Although Uranus often expresses the unexpected in our lives, it is a little more defined than nebulous Neptune. **AQUARIUS!** How was your birthday month? Did you feel appreciated and acknowledged by your friends and loved ones? If you didn't, then spend some quality time valuing your wonderful self and special abilities. Happy Birthday, **PISCES!** If you have had a tough year, then let's definitely start this one out right. Begin right now planning more than just a few delightful ways to celebrate your life with good friends and loved ones.

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.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...

© '93 By Eric Orner.

Panel 1: I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE MARCH, I MEAN, OUR FRIENDS CLINTON + GORE WERE JUST ELECTED. SO, IT'S LIKE, WHO ARE WE MARCHING ON? ... I JUST THINK THE TIMING'S WRONG.

Panel 2: ..GAYS'LL RUIN HISTORY'S FINEST FIGHTING FORCE... Whelped SENATOR PHIL GRAMM

Panel 3: I'LL HAFTA HOLD HEARINGS, I'LL HAFTA FAHR ALL TH' HOMOSEXUALS ON MAH STAFF I'LL HAFTA HAVE A HISSY FIT 'CAUSE I WUZ PASSED OVER FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE... COWERED SAM NUNN..

Panel 4: I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE TIMING WAS WRONG... SHUT UP, BUCKY..

Panel 5: ..THEN CALL WASHINGTON AND TELL 'EM TO LOCK THEIR FUCKING CLOAKROOMS, 'CAUSE I'M HEADED THEIR WAY AND I AIN'T FEELIN' PRETTY...

Panel 6: SEE, THERE'S BAD DISCRIMINATION, AND THEN THERE'S GOOD DISCRIMINATION... Political General POWELL

Panel 7: NOW, IF I MYSELF AM THE SUBJECT OF DISCRIMINATION, WELL THAT, OF COURSE IS BAD Y'SEE..

Panel 8: "THEY'LL PROVE DELETERIOUS TO MILITARY DISCIPLINE".. Bluffed ONE NAVY SPOKESMAN (ENJOYING A ROUND OF PIN THE TAILHOOK ON THE FEMALE RECRUIT..

Panel 9: WHAT A DIFFERENCE A Gay Bashing MAKES...

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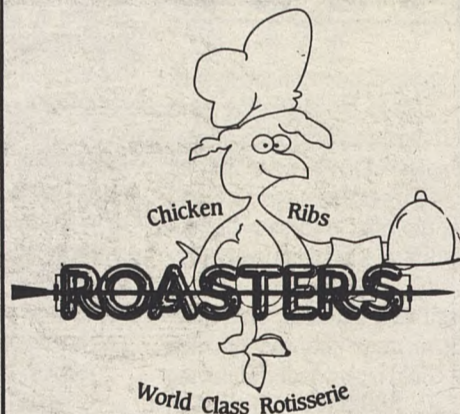
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Lunch. Too many of us, myself included, lunch as little more than an onerous interruption in our daily toil. Proof positive is the fact that even the most awful fast food franchises are packed tight as a kipper can at the noon hour, while many really good (and not expensive) sit-down options are almost empty.

I've lunched at two in the past week and both are well worth your time and money. Here's one; I'll let you know about the other one next week.

Marra's Seafood Grill (1782 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 874-7347), one of the city's most enduring cateries, is once again serving lunch. I heaped praise on the place back in '87 when owner-chef Gene Marra opened for lunch the first time. My visit last week has me equally as happy.

Marra's looks great. The long, high-ceilinged room is done in easy shades of beige and green, with humongous carved and painted wooden fish artfully scattered through the room. Light floods the room from tall windows even when the skies are grey. Bobby McFerrin, Enya and other easy sounds fill the air.

On the surface, the menu is simple and straight forward—six or seven each of appetizers, soups and salads, sandwiches, and entrees. The most expensive items (grilled tuna and a beef filet) are under \$10. Most other items are in the \$5-6 range.

The menu may look simple, but the nuances and flavorings are often pleasingly quirky and complex. Mayo is never just eggs and oil, it's spiffed up with garlic, or lemon, or chutney. Slaw contains a hint of curry...and raisins. Chili is made with venison, cilantro, and tomatillo; burgers are buffalo rather than beef.

Sound good? It is.

For a light meal try a simple house salad and an order of fried calamari—barely brown in a tempura-light batter, Marra's version is among the best in the city. The accompanying marinara is delicate and spicy all at once. Good stuff.

A thick (but meltingly tender) fried calamari steak sandwich comes slathered with excellent garlic mayo. If you are squeamish about squid in any form except crispy fried ringlets, be sure and try this satisfying package. The accompanying coarse-cut curry slaw, manages to be sweet and tangy all at once. A side of black bean salad is flecked with red and green pepper and, again, perfectly balanced between tart and sweet.

A filling smoked turkey club (on dark wheat bread with chutney mayo) is available for those who eschew fish, as is a burger made with farm-raised buffalo meat. But next time, I'm going to try the salmon BLT.

If you're really hungry try a whopping bowl full of spaghetti pescatore, an ocean of noodles with clams, mussels, shrimp, and scallops swimming in spicy marinara. It's a bargain at \$7.95.

If you've got room for dessert try the English trifle, a big bowl full of cake, pastry cream, raspberry jam, and toasted almonds. Yum! Warm peach pie ala mode is tasty, but probably not worth the calories.

Service is friendly and well paced, but, because everything is cooked to order, don't expect to be in and out the door in 15 minutes. Marra's is perfect for a business lunch, a solitary break from the madness, or a tete-a-tete between you and your sweetie. Check it out soon.



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WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



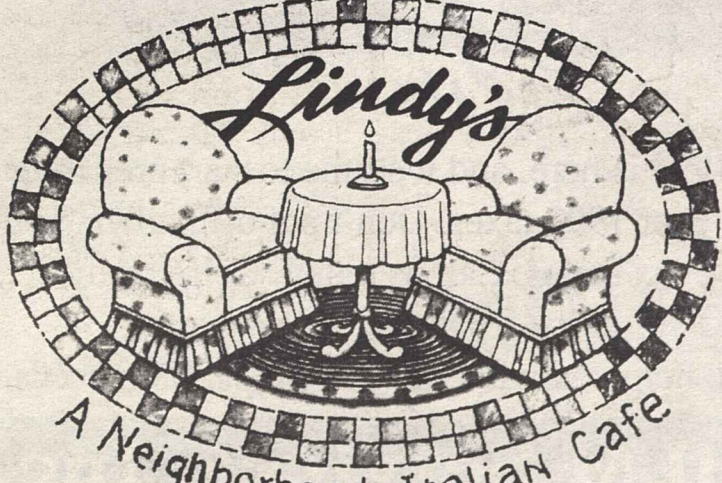
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MARIA HELENA DOLAN



So far this year, we've covered soil and seeds—two of the four fundamentals in good gardening. Appropriate light and water stand as the third pillar in our construct. Plants can die of thirst, be drowned, shrivel from lack of light, or burn to a crisp with too much.

Those are the extremes, of course—something I am often accused of going to, in this and all other areas of life. That being as it may, deprivation or excess can seriously impact plants (or us, for that matter) not only to the point of death, but enough so that the plant simply can not thrive.

Our mission, should we decide to accept it, is to ensure that we not only don't injure, but that we provide optimal conditions for plant growth.

Hence, we should understand something about how plants use light and water. What is light, anyways? We know that the sun sends out waves of electrical energy, with about 3.5 million kilowatts striking our small sphere daily. Free and unmetered energy. Why we pay to burn fossil fuels instead of relying on solar power, however, is another discussion for another time.

Let us return to the waves of radiation, emitted in pulses of photons. The waves cover a wide band, and are of various lengths. Light is actually the visible-to-human-eyes portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Our species gravitates towards "white" light—i.e., all the various colors melded together. Junior High prism experiments in science class should have demonstrated that.

Plants, on the other hand, absorb light in the blue or red areas of the spectrum. In fact, only about 1.2% of sunlight is used by plants. And a plant may only utilize 5-3.5% of the light which strikes its leaf area.

Additionally, they like a certain concentration of light,

THIS OR THAT

EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

which is measured in foot-candles (yet another archaic unit of measure we retain, horsepower being another).

Considering the above, can we wonder that most plants will die under the miserable spectrum provided by a dinky-assed, ordinary incandescent bulb? First of all, it isn't the right type of light. Second, it doesn't provide the needed level of concentration. Most plants need light in the 600-2,000 foot-candle level; a reading light will throw about 50 foot-candles.

Full, direct sun outputs about 10,000 foot candles. Which is why your rhododendron will parch out if she receives full afternoon sun, even with optimal soil and moisture conditions. So it's very important to determine the light requirements of your plants, and place them where their needs can be met. Tons of books and articles give detailed info on this. Or call the Botanical Garden's Plant Hotline at 888-4769.

What does the plant use the light for? Photosynthesis, of course. A term we're all familiar with, but which often doesn't create a very distinct mental picture. Photosynthesis is plant metabolism. Very basically, light striking the leaf causes chlorophyll—in the presence of water—to transform carbon dioxide into carbohydrates, with oxygen as a by-product. Thus will the plant be able to grow; and thus is all life on this planet made possible! (Interesting Plant Trivia: chemically, chlorophyll, the light-trapping substance of the plant which also provides its green coloration, is very similar to human blood. Or, perhaps we should say, blood resembles chlorophyll.)

As for moisture, few things can match the sorry spectacle of plants slowly wilting from lack of water, or from too much. Roots need air, you can literally drown them. Too much water

interferes with nutrient uptake. But, too, if you continually cause plants to wilt from inadequate moisture, they can't grow. Paradoxical?

Not really. Bear in mind that water is 1) the essential medium for chemical reactions (like breaking down those photosynthesized carbs into useful substances) 2) the plant's lifeblood—it provides the flow of all nutrients, 'cuz they're on a liquid diet 3) the way that plants stand upright. It's not done with mirrors—turgidity comes from internal hydraulic pressure. When there isn't enough, plants fall over. (The internal hydraulic mechanisms are amazing. It's their sheer force which forces tree roots, for instance, to shatter concrete, or displace buildings.)

The general rule of thumb is that plants need about 400 pounds of water for each pound of matter they create. (Interesting Plant Trivia: an apple is about 84% water, and an apple tree requires about 50 gallons of water for each bushel she produces.)

Now obviously you can't give the plant that amount of water in one sitting; she'd drown. But if you just provide tiny, frequent sips, a shallow root system will develop, a fate we also want to avoid.

What's a mother to do? Just find out how the plant likes to drink. One long draught, with a drying-out period in between? Constant moisture (without a deluge)? Periodic intervals of three to five days? Yes, all this info is available in print and over the phone...

Keep in mind, too, that certain soils retain moisture, while others drain quickly; you have to determine which type you have. And there are all sorts of little things to be cognizant of: pots out on a deck will dry out faster than ones set on the ground. Dry indoor winter air evaporates water faster than humidified air. Organic mulch prevents rapid evaporation. Call your mother once a...hey, how did that get in there?!? Goddess, how embarrassing! Learn from the mistakes of others—do not encourage your mother to take computer courses. Get her to stick with plants.

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O U T L I N E S

BRIAN ROUNTREE

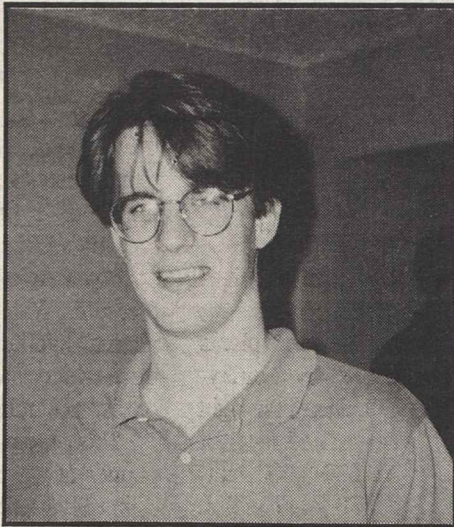
Age: 19

Relationship status: committed

How long in Atlanta: 10 years

Last book read: "Bad or the Dumbing of America" by Paul Fussel

Pet peeve: Intolerance of any kind



"Sometimes I feel like I'm 19 going on 35 years old," says Brian Rountree. A first impression would lead you to believe Brian is soft-spoken, even shy. Yet a flash of flamboyance decorates his person in the form of freedom rings, an ACT UP button and an earring, and it becomes apparent that there are two sides to this very serious nineteen year old.

In this age of television, the influence of the media in relation to gays and lesbians is becoming increasingly important. Brian took his own cue to come out from Oprah Winfrey during a National Coming Out day show five years ago.

"I was watching Oprah after school and looking at all of these out lesbians and gays on the tube and this lightbulb went off and I knew, this is what I am." Combining the naivete of his youth with his newfound boldness, Brian rushed to tell people about his sexual orientation. "Just make sure," Brian comments to other young lesbians and gays, "that you have a support system in place; friends, gay peer counselors, whatever, before you take the plunge."

Soon after the Oprah show, Brian's bedroom was searched by his father who found copies of Southern Voice, magazines and other "gay paraphernalia." After confronting Brian, his father became hostile and then silent.

"There was a period of time when weeks went by and nothing was said. I was 14 years old and dealing with these issues and if he talked to me, it was about a story on the news about gay people, and he would make derogatory comments about it. He has this bizarre idea," Brian continues, "that the only reason I'm this way is because I was seduced by a bunch of lecherous old men. I'd like to know," he adds chuckling, "where these old men are!"

Some of the difficulty within Brian's family can be traced to a rough divorce. His mother and stepfather are much more supportive of his lifestyle but the pain of the divorce lives on.

"It's hard when you're young and you are hearing these incredibly horrible things being said between two people whom you are supposed to be closer to than anyone else. I'm still working through it, actually we're all working through it."

Brian used some of the resources available to young lesbians and gays in Atlanta to ease

his transition. He attended a Youth Group at the Gay Center, "but I was okay with myself and knew that I could only live being completely out of the closet, so after a couple of meetings I went on with my life." Yet his father continued to believe Brian was going through a phase, and in his last act of control chose the college he thought Brian should attend.

"He thought a good Southern Conference Football School would set me straight, so to speak, and he told me I was going to LSU. Have you seen how many rainbow stickers are on cars in Atlanta that say LSU on them? My Dad had no idea what a gay reputation it has."

But not wanting his father to run his life Brian left home the day before he was supposed to leave for college. "I told him from a pay phone outside Crazy Rayz, and I haven't talked to him since." Though the ensuing months have been difficult financially, he did eventually find work, a lover and happiness.

"I'm living my life by my own rules now, I don't ask anyone's permission for being who I am and if people can't deal with that, then I have no time for them."

Brian is saving the money he earns for college and he hopes to attend Georgia State as soon as possible. He mentions a triple degree without blinking an eyelash of Economics, History and Political Science.

Brian adds that he has, "an urgent sense of activism," which he expresses in his actions. "Instead of seeing how I can help out other lesbians and gays coming out of the closet, I'm out there finding new ways." He will be attending the March on Washington in April with friends from Central Florida GLAAD.

His desire is to one day channel his activism into a career in politics, though he is quick to point out, "probably not completely mainstream." With his fearless determination and quiet charm, one day Brian is going to be a politico to reckon with.

IAN W. GINSBURG

I N T H E L I F E

Southern Country Atlanta

Type of Organization: Social

Number of Members: "Anyone who country dances is a member of Southern Country Atlanta"

Year Founded: 1988

Recent Accomplishment: Fundraiser for ChildKind at Backstreet on Feb. 10.

Contact: P.O. Box 8262, Atlanta, GA 30306

Southern Country Atlanta was the first organization of its kind in the Southeast, and started as a country dance night out one night a week at the Cove. "When we started at the Cove, I was the only woman," says Mary Elliott, one of the founders. "Now I'd say we're about half and half."

Country dance is now an option seven nights a week in Atlanta bars, and several bars offer lessons one or two nights a week sponsored by Southern Country Atlanta. Schedules for country dancing are put out at the bars that offer it. "We started it as something fun to do that didn't cost anything and brought the men

and women together," says Elliott. They have also raised funds through country dancing for local charities. "Over the past two or three years, we've probably given \$8,000 to groups like Project Open Hand, ChildKind, etc."

In addition to offering country dancing for Atlanta's lesbian and gay community, Southern Country Atlanta sponsors Southern Line, a line dance team; Southern Stampede cloggers; and the Southeast Gay Rodeo Association (SEGRA). SEGRA is currently planning for a Gay Rodeo in Atlanta in 1994. Rodeo events have been modified to be kinder to the animals. "There's no mistreatment of the animals at a gay rodeo," says Elliott.

Elliott remembers when she and other members of Southern Country Atlanta had to beg bars to offer country dancing one night a week. "Now they're packed" on those nights, she says, "Country people like to dance." Apparently, the trend is catching on with city people as well.

DEBBIE FRAKER

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

AIDS Organizations

AID Atlanta—872-0600
 AIDS Education/Services for Minorities—POB 87277, Atlanta, 30337, 762-6002
 AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
 AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728 (State-wide).
 AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
 AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—872-2246
 AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
 AIDSCHAIM—Edie, 642-3467
 Atlanta Buyers Club—(404) 874-4845, or POB 77003, Atl, 30357.
 ChildKind—936-9655
 First MCC AIDS Ministry—872-2246
 Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network—1-800-551-2728
 The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—633-0634
 National Assn of People With AIDS/Atlanta—874-7926
 The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
 Outreach, Inc.—(404) 346-3922
 People's United Pet Support—370-0178
 Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)—876-PALS
 Positive Outlook On Health—872-9954
 Project Open Hand Atlanta—525-4620

Arts/Entertainment

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—872-4432
 Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—POB 771144, Atlanta 30357
 "Funny...That Way"—875-2275
 Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.—609-9590
 Southern Country Atlanta—938-0609

Bars

The Armory—836 Juniper. 881-9280
 Backstreet—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986
 Blake's—227 10th St. 892-5786
 Buddies Cheshire Square—2345 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-5895
 Buddies Midtown—239 Ponce de Leon. 872-2655
 Bulldog & Co—893 Peachtree. 872-3025
 Burkhardt's—Ansley Square. 872-4403
 The Cove—586 Worcester. 875-2477
 Crazy Rayz—1492 Piedmont. 873-4655
 The Eagle—308 Ponce De Leon. 87EAGLE
 551 Downstairs—551 Ponce De Leon. 873-4052
 Gallus Bar & Restaurant—49 6th St. 892-8983
 Goodies—64 Third St. 873-3355
 The Heretic—2069 Cheshire Bridge. 325-3061
 Incognito—857 Collier Rd. 355-5189
 Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125
 The Metro—48 6th Street. 874-9869
 New Order—1544 Piedmont. 874-8247
 Opus—1086 Alco St. 634-6478
 The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238
 The Pear Garden—11 Luckie St. 659-4055
 Peppers by Frank Powell—980 Piedmont Ave. NE 872-4000
 Petrus—1150 Peachtree St. 873-6700
 Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon. 892-7871
 Scandals—Ansley Square. 875-5957
 Tin Lizzie—Ford Factory Square. 874-3961
 Visions—2043 Cheshire Bridge. 248-9712
 Weekends—688 Spring St. 875-5835

Direct Action/Political

ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
 ACT UP—874-6782 (O)
 Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
 Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—605-7477
 Gay Republicans—Republicans for Individual Freedoms, 2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
 Georgia Advocates for Battered Women and Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atlanta 30312
 Georgia Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—(404) 662-4199 or POB 5282, Atlanta 30307
 GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
 Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field Committee, 231-5751
 LEGAL—605-7476
 National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
 National Organization for Women—875-0176
 Neighbors Network—257-5550
 Queer Nation—605-7396
 Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324, 239-1679
 Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
 STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

Professional

Bar Owner's Assn—POB 15114, Atlanta 30333-0114
 Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
 Georgia Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
 HomeGirls—622-0105
 LEAGUE (Employees of AT&T)—404/872-2359
 Nat'l Federation of Career Women—(404) 659-0315
 OUTstaff (Emory)—727-2787 (Donna)

Spiritual

All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—622-1154
 Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—409-0203
 Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
 Congregation Bet Haverim—642-3467
 Emergence/Atlanta (Christian Scientists)—215-0585
 First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta—872-2246
 Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)

Integrity (Episcopal)—642-3183
 Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—636-7109
 Oakhurst Presbyterian Church—378-6284
 Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—373-5830
 Unitarian Universalists—634-5134, George at 688-2242

Sports/Outdoor/Hobbies

Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
 Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
 Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—662-GAME
 Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
 Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—SASE to: GANG, POB 7546, Atlanta 30357
 Hotlanta Soccer—876-7372
 Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl. 30324, 873-4061
 Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
 Lambda Car Club—POB 941263, Atlanta 30341
 Mountain Catalyst—POB 199, Demorest, GA 30535
 S.E. Gay Rodeo Association—POB 7881, Atlanta, 30357, 760-8126
 Women's Outdoor Network—624-3418
 Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
 TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
 Underwater Escapes—289-0696

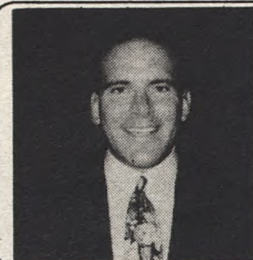
Service/Support/Social

About Crossdressing—Janet, 624-3770
 African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
 Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—223-3718
 American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (evenings).
 Asians & Friends—Atlanta—876-0090
 Athens Lesbian Information Line—(404) 613-7661
 Atlanta Corporal Punishment Club—Box 11863, Atlanta 30355
 Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
 Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
 Atlanta Lambda Community Center—POB 15180, Atlanta 30333, 662-9010
 Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
 Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—POB 5502, Atlanta 30307, phone 378-9769
 Atlanta Lesbian Singles Organization (ALSO)—843-4492
 Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
 Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
 Caregivers to PWAs Support Group—874-1109 or 875-6109
 Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
 Chrysalis Women's Center—881-6300
 Delphi—POB 14591, Atlanta, G 30324
 Emotions Anonymous—872-0979
 First Women—Write G.G. Richardson, POB 724711, Atl. 30339, phone 612-9473.
 Friends Atlanta—662-4501
 Gay Fathers of Atlanta—296-8369
 Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America—623-4099
 Gay/Lesbian Task Force to the Public Safety Comm. of City Council—330-6504
 Georgia Girth & Mirth—POx 9678, Atlanta 30319, (404) 621-5710
 Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
 Gwinnett Lambda—POB 464848, Lawrenceville 30246, 871-GAYS
 Hospitality Atlanta—627-0520
 Interact of Atlanta—804-1477
 KO-Existence—875-8936
 Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
 Leather S/M Discussion Group—873-2453
 Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—325-4909
 Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
 Lesbians Over 50—850-1005
 Lesbians With Children—740-1729
 Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 30307
 Name the Violence Support Group for Battered Lesbians—822-9570; Crisis Hotline—688-9436
 Out Youth—POB 78401, Atlanta 30357, 239-9286 (no calls after 10pm)
 Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)—892-5868
 Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—296-0830 or 875-9440
 Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Athens—(706) 208-1704
 Queer Youth—P.O. Box 54032, Atlanta 30308; 605-7396
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
 Single Lesbians Group—466-3287
 Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 873-9832 (staff counselor)
 Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
 Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
 Women of Wisdom—289-8819, POB 8871, Atlanta 30306.
 Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
 Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
 Zami—908-3356

Students/Alumni

Agnes Scott Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance—Box 501, Decatur 30030; 373-1632
 Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
 Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Comm. College 426-8160
 Georgia Tech Gay Alumni Group—POB 50291, GA Tech Sta., Atlanta 30332; 873-2263
 Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union of the Univ. of Ga.—POB 2438 Athens 30612-0438 or call 404/549-9368
 S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—248-9307
 Univ. of Ala. Lesbian/Gay Alumni Assoc.—284-3479 or 284-1347

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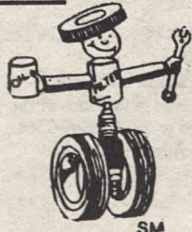
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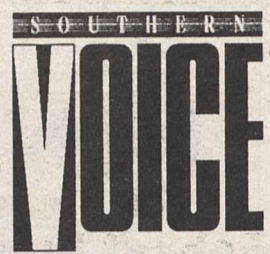
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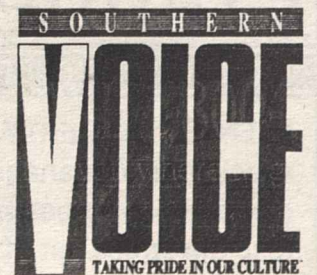
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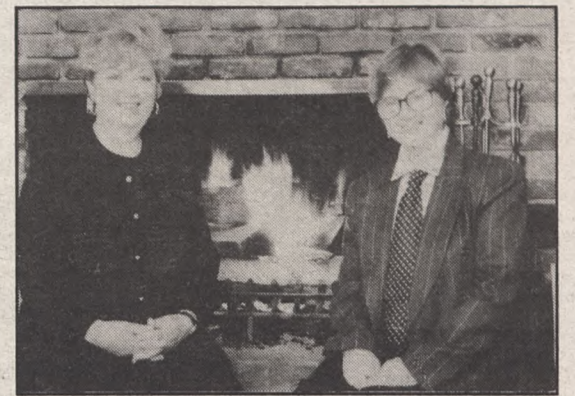
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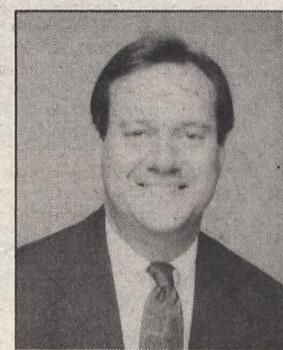
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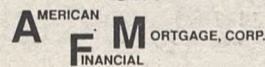
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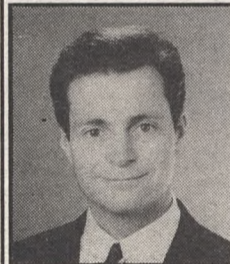
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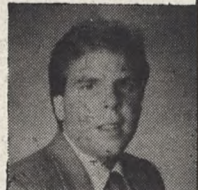
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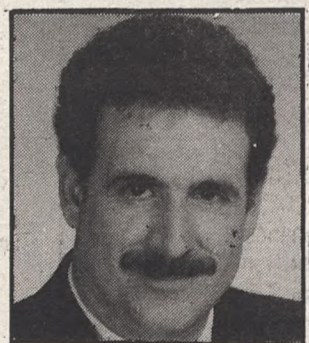


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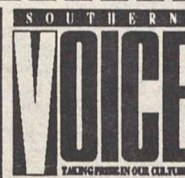
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TO PLACE AN AD DEADLINE: Tuesday, 5pm for following week's issue.

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Ad Policy: Southern Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Ryan Publications' standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Southern Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Volunteers

Pets Are Loving Support, Inc. P.A.L.S., a non-profit organization which provides ongoing care and support to pets of Atlanta area persons living with HIV/AIDS, is looking for the following volunteers. Interviewers to register new clients. Drivers to deliver pet food to members one Saturday each month. "PALS" to work one on one with members and their pets. ALSO VOL. COORDINATOR NEEDED: "People Person" to lead volunteer recruitment and placement efforts, assist in training and report of 100 current volunteers, oversee related administrative functions and volunteer databases. 5-10 hrs/wk. (6.1)

Palmetto AIDS Life Support Svcs of South Carolina is sks volunteers to work directly with PWAs and also vols to serve on the District Advisory Council. Trng \$18 for persons volunteering for 6 mo. or more. Also open to professionals, etc at the cost of \$50 for the weekend. For application or info., write or call: PALSS, PO Box 410, Spartanburg, SC 29304, 587-0844, 1-800-723-7257. (6.1)

Kimberly Quality Care's Hospice needs volunteers to provide assistance and support to terminally ill persons and their families. Call 936-5100. (5.52)

The number one health problem facing women in our country is domestic violence. The Women's Resource Center of DeKalb County is currently seeking volunteers for the following positions. Crisis Hotline, child advocacy, office support, shelter advocacy and legal advocacy. Help us end the cycle of violence. For more information, please contact the Women's Resource Center at 688-9436. (6.2)

Voice Connection

WOMEN

For my wife, Tammy Blount—I never thought I could find someone so perfect for me. Then you came along and made all my dreams come true. I love sharing my life with you. Happy Valentine's Day Sweetheart. Love, your wife, Julie R. Blount

GWF, attractive, slim, 40, feminine, non-smoker, self-supporting, seeks: butchish GWF to lead in country dancing, friendship, hopefully more. ☎ 1308

"WHERE ARE YOU?"

GWF, fem, lipstick lesbian, pretty, 30's, looking for someone special to date. I love art, music, guitars, dancing, poetry, theatre, travel, romance, hugs, candlelight dinners, positive people, motivation. Do not want: drugs, negative people, one night stands, games, butch women, men. Show me an ad can work by replying! I know you're out there, we just haven't met yet! ☎ 1310

GBF—25 tender years is an assertive, progressive and extremely conscious college student who prefers a self-assured understanding feminine woman. ☎ 1259

Zesty tall XLarge 35WFF artistic w/hangups likes gabbing cinema tunes games emotions lonely for WF admirer 30-50 size who cares ☎ 1256

ME: VERY attractive Bi-Racial Fem. YOU: Feminine female with dynamite DRUG FREE body. Please write: 2625 Piedmont Rd. #56-258, Atlanta, GA 30324.

Attractive GBF (a little tomboyish at times), seeks aggressive yet beautiful, articulate and intelligent counterpart. 22-32 for friendship

or more. ☎ 1253

Lonely GBF, 35, attractive, professional, seeks attractive, feminine woman for one-on-one relationship. No Butch/Bi's. ☎ 1249

Two single GFs looking to expand network of friends. Interests include movies, picnics, etc. Expand your horizons. Call us today. ☎ 1254

GWF, 31, 5'2", 113 lbs, professional, attractive seeks similar GWF for movies, dining, working out, travel & possibly more. ☎ 1247

GBF, 27, new to Atlanta, discreet. Enjoys a night in rather than a night out. Wants a fem for friendship. ☎ 1239

GBF, 5'8", 139 lbs seeks GF who is intelligent and serious about a friendship and possible relationship. ☎ 1231

GWF seeks same age 30-38, intelligent, attractive, good values, emotionally healthy, playful. No drugs or smokers. ☎ 1232

Progressive GWF looking for other progressive women for friendship or possible relationship. ☎ 1235

Attractive, attentive, gregarious, honest, intelligent, intense, off-the-wall, romantic, sensual, late 30's, travelling professional needs affectionate, eclectic, striking, sexually adventurous sophisticated for weekend romantic pursuits. No flakes, druggies or gamers (I don't know the rules!). ☎ 1127

GF seeks that special someone to fill her arms—and warm her nights. Call me, let's get together! ☎ 1124

GWF, romantic, feminine, 32, attractive, intelligent, searching for similar sincere WF who desires honest caring friendship (Atlanta, Macon, Covington). ☎ 1123

WF, 26, 5'11", 140 lbs, br/br, looking for gay/bi female for fun, friendship, and who knows. Femmie, no butches, 21-35. Fit & no drugs. ☎ 1126

Attractive GWF with chronic fatigue syndrome seeking same for walks, picnics, books, friendship & life in the slow lane. ☎ 1113

GWF, 28, professional, well-educated, cultured, refined, feminine, attractive, seeks sophisticated, feminine GWF who possesses good values for friendship / monogamous relationship. We'll share sports, travel, theater, dining. ☎ 1106

Pretty GBF seeks loving counterpart. Should enjoy books, classic jazz, cards, outdoor activities. Should detest drugs, alcohol, Madonna, cigarettes. ☎ 1099

GWF Couple (27, 26) seek other GWF couples for platonic friendships for movies, dinner, going out, etc. Please call ☎ 1094

GWF, 22, responsible, educated, crazy, wide-open, kind-hearted. New to GA. Looking for similar new buddies. P.S. - Having dance withdrawals. ☎ 1102

Lifting weights is not the only thing this GBF has the arms for. Feminine smile and gentle touch needed. ☎ 1097

GBF, Floridian: Quiet, sensitive, cerebral, professional, avid reader, traveler. Into New Age thought. Seeking like-minded sisters for correspondence / friendship. ☎ 1093

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN

GWM seeking friends, possibly more. Age, race unimportant, sincerity and honesty are. No drugs or alcohol. Photo/phone. All answered. Box 1314, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (6.3)

Clean-cut, 36yo GWM, blonde, green, thick, hunky body, honest, well-grounded, successful, energetic, oral and sexually-charged. Wicket kisser. Seeks guys who are honest, well-balanced, have aspirations and energy. Turn-ons, thick, hunky men with a little meat on them, Italians, dark hair. ☎ 1309

GWM, 5'8", 160#, retired senior, healthy, financially responsible, seeks male 25-40 for daytime relationship. ☎ 1307

Attractive, quality GWM, 50 BI/BI, 6 ft. 185 lbs. HIV+, top, healthy, masculine. Seeking same 25-40, Latino a plus. Respond to: Boxholder, PO Box 12182, Atlanta 30355. (6.1)

Couples—Masculine, clean-cut GWM 33 physically fit, healthy, seeks similar 20s & 30s who occasionally enjoy the company of another. ☎ 1260

BM 35, 5'8", 155 lbs, healthy, trim, versatile, well endowed, masculine seeks GM with same qualities. No fems. ☎ 1257

Horny, hairy, hung GWM, 23, 165 lbs. NEEDS a daddy to spank him. "Chris" 2490 1/2 Barnett Shoals Rd. Athens, GA 30605. ☎ 1261

Masc GWM 32 Frech Active seeks horny young MEN, looks unimportant (18-25) Pref smooth, young-looking. Let me worship you. ☎ 1255

Tall, dark, sexy, hairy black male, 28. Seeks honest, sincere, muscled, affectionate Bi/GM Top Man for mutual friendship / more. ☎ 1251

Intelligent GWM seeks same for lunchtime companion or friend. Perimeter mall area, early / mid-afternoon, Monday thru Friday. ☎ 1248.

GWM, 35, TEDDYBEAR, 5'10", 275 lb.+ seeks hunk w/mind, for conversation and adventurous safe sex. Call voice box—let's talk! ☎ 1250.

GWM, tall, smooth, slim - would like to meet aggressive, hairy, stocky, masculine man - 40 to 50. Bald a plus. I'm HIV+,

healthy, friendly, good looking. ☎ 1246

Horny GWM, 30, 5'4", wants to do helicopter spins on your face! Love hot letters / photos / videos. Call—leave address ☎ 1243

Single woman seeks GM for marriage of mutual convenience. % 1244

Gdlkg GWM, 32, rdsh br/gr., clean-shaven, 5'10 1/2", 189#, healthy, good stocky build, collegiate/professional type, sks collegiate/professional type, 22-42, with ticklish feet for hot tickle sessions. "Bottoms" only. Same, sensual, safe fun. Live in Birmingham but can travel. ☎ 1241

GWM, 54, 5'10", 165, healthy, mature, romantic, secure professional seeks quality, slender GBM, age unimportant, for friendship, perhaps relationship. ☎ 1242

Adolescent Florida Executive, 6 ft., 170 lbs. Blond. ISO spontaneous, artsy, skinny, young companion for dinner, romance here, sailing, diving, vacations there. ☎ 1240

GBM, 25, sexy, versatile, endowed, seeks brother w/similar qualities and w/sincere interest in developing friendship into more. No fems. ☎ 1238

WM, 32, 5'10", 155#, F/A, loner type seeks fellow non-fam WM Southerner 30-50 wanting possible one-on-one relationship. % 1237

BM seeks masculine BM to become ? buddies. ☎ 1236

Good looking GWM, 6'1", 190, successful, secure, romantic top seeks relationship oriented cute bottom, 28-38. ☎ 1234

GBM, tall, athletic, professional, discreet, youthful 33, masculine, seeks sexy similar for friendship, fun, mutual enrichment. ☎ 1120

GWM, 32, 5'9", 142 lbs. Professional, handsome, seeks same. ☎ 1125

Responsible, stable, mature, romantic WM - masculine, 40s, professional. Great mentor. Seeks quality friendship with novice / curious WM 18-25. Discretion Assured. ☎ 1115

BM, 30's masculine, endowed, versatile, trim, seeks same in Hispanic or BM. ☎ 1116

Very goodlooking WM, 26, clean cut, muscular, All-American looks, seeks wealthy, generous, supportive WM for mutually beneficial fun. Any age, weight. ☎ 1117

HOT TOP: Clean-cut, boyish, 38, blue eyes, plays safe. Seeks cute bottom for hot fun. ☎ 1118

French passive seeks buddy. Dominant white professional wants aggressive French active companion. Affectionate man for hungry partner. Let's start something! ☎ 1119

MB 25, 6', 170 lbs, new to town seeks other males 21-35 for friendship. Interested? Leave msg. ☎ 1112

Good looking, fun, passive HIV+ man, new to Atlanta wants safe kink (bondage, spanking, etc.). Also into local music scene. ☎ 1114

GWM, 36, HIV+, healthy, discreet, masculine, submissive seeks BM top for friendship, fun, weekends in Atlanta. POB 928, Athens 30603. ☎ 1109

Latino GWM, 24, 6', sincere, good personality, seeks secure male for friendship—possible relationship, race unimportant. Healthy, no fems please. ☎ 1108

GWM, 35, 6', 165, versatile, seeks single masculine hairy GWM over 6' for friendship & poss. relationship. No head games. ☎ 1110

Are you out there? GWM, 29, seeks honest, caring GBM (21-40) Prince Charming. I want my happily ever after. ☎ 1111

GWM, 50; seeks younger, mature, masculine, non-smoking GWM/GAM who appreciates the companionship of an older gentleman for possible relationship. ☎ 1103

Submissive, GWM 48, eager, willing, ready to serve. Seeks aggressive, strict, well built, top, dominant with small fist. Call soon!! ☎ 1104

WM, 34, attractive, well built, masculine, with strong intellectual curiosity seeks that same combination in someone else, 27-38. ☎ 1107

GWM, 34, 5'8", 160lb., BR/BL. Goodlooking, athletic, muscular. Cultured, well-educated, stable, masculine, romantic, adventurous. Seeks same in mature GWM 30-45. ☎ 1100

Novice GWM Slave Boy, short, cute, lean, muscular, hairy, 35. Seeks light training from Muscular Daddy, GWM, HIV-, smoke/drug free. ☎ 1105

BiWM 6'4" 260lbs, 34, looking for sports-minded BM masc. (TOP) discreet to handle it. ☎ 1091

WM, masculine, 6'3", 185 lbs., 43, HIV-, closeted, seeks only similar, masculine, HIV-, hung, WM for private regular mutual satisfaction. ☎ 1098

GWM, 37, BL/Blue, attractive, intelligent, healthy, passionate, masculine, trim, muscular, hairy, long "married" and horny. Seeks attractive, daytime top buddy. ☎ 1096

GWM, 25, 5'3", 135, br/bl, looking for hot safe times with 35 or younger top. PR, Latino, Oriental preferred. ☎ 1095

GWM, 41, 5'11", 165, BR/BL, romantic, relationship oriented, looking for long term relationship with caring, down-to-earth WM, 26-32. Call ☎ 1080

GWM, 5'8", 160#, healthy, professional, generous, seeks lunch partner and afternoon relaxations. ☎ 1082

GWM, 29, 5'11, 170, BR/BL. Attractive, receding, honest, monogamous. Seeks safe, romantic, fit, smooth WM around same age. Possibly permanent relationship. ☎ 1084

Attractive GWM, 33, with boyish good looks, in great shape, seeks young, handsome, hunky GBM for hot times and friendship. ☎ 1090

GWM, 50; apiarist, aviculturist, herbalist, horticulturist; humble, meek, healthy seeks masculine, aggressive partner to share simple country life (handicapped welcome). ☎ 1089

GWM 38, 170, 6', clean cut daddy type. Work out. Seeks 25-40 for submissive relationship, non-smoker, HIV neg. ☎ 1087

White male bottom looking for top man, any race or age for daytime get-togethers—very discreet. ☎ 1086

GWM, 30, country music lover eager to learn C&W dance, needs partner, teacher, new friends. Interested? Please respond. ☎ 1079

Above average, masculine GWM, 40 seeks similar attractive and sincere GWM 25-40 for relationship. POB 550183, Atlanta, 30355. ☎ 1083

GWM, 37, 6'2", 200, smooth uncut seeks hairy bearded guy 30-40 for friendship or more. Smoker OK. ☎ 1085

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

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

TV/TS

CROSS-DRESSER'S GUIDE! A complete information resource. Hear full details (pre-recorded) 1-404-333-6455 (24 Hrs). Fantasies • Personals • Catalogs • True Experiences • Coaching • More! (6.3)

30 yr. BM 5'8", 170#, handsome, clean ISO sexy TV/TS. Race unimportant. Columbia, SC—Love travel. Love boots. Call today ☎ 1258

BM, 38, seeks very feminine (looking) TV/TS or very butch lesbian for first encounter. Am disease-free, discreet. Let's talk. ☎ 1252

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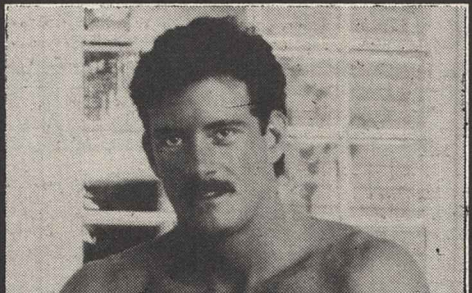
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