

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

MAY 13 - MAY 19 / 1993

NEWS
Mayor Jackson asks gay and lesbian community to become more involved in city projects PAGE 3

Sen. Jesse Helms calls HUD nominee Achtenberg a "damned lesbian," admits to being a bigot PAGE 3

ACLU will sue Alabama for refusing to fund gay student groups PAGE 4

North Carolina accepts MCC into Council of Churches PAGE 10

AIDS AT THE CROSSROADS
Gay male community becoming divided along lines of HIV status PAGE 6

HEALTH
AIDS cases increase 21% in 1992 PAGE 7

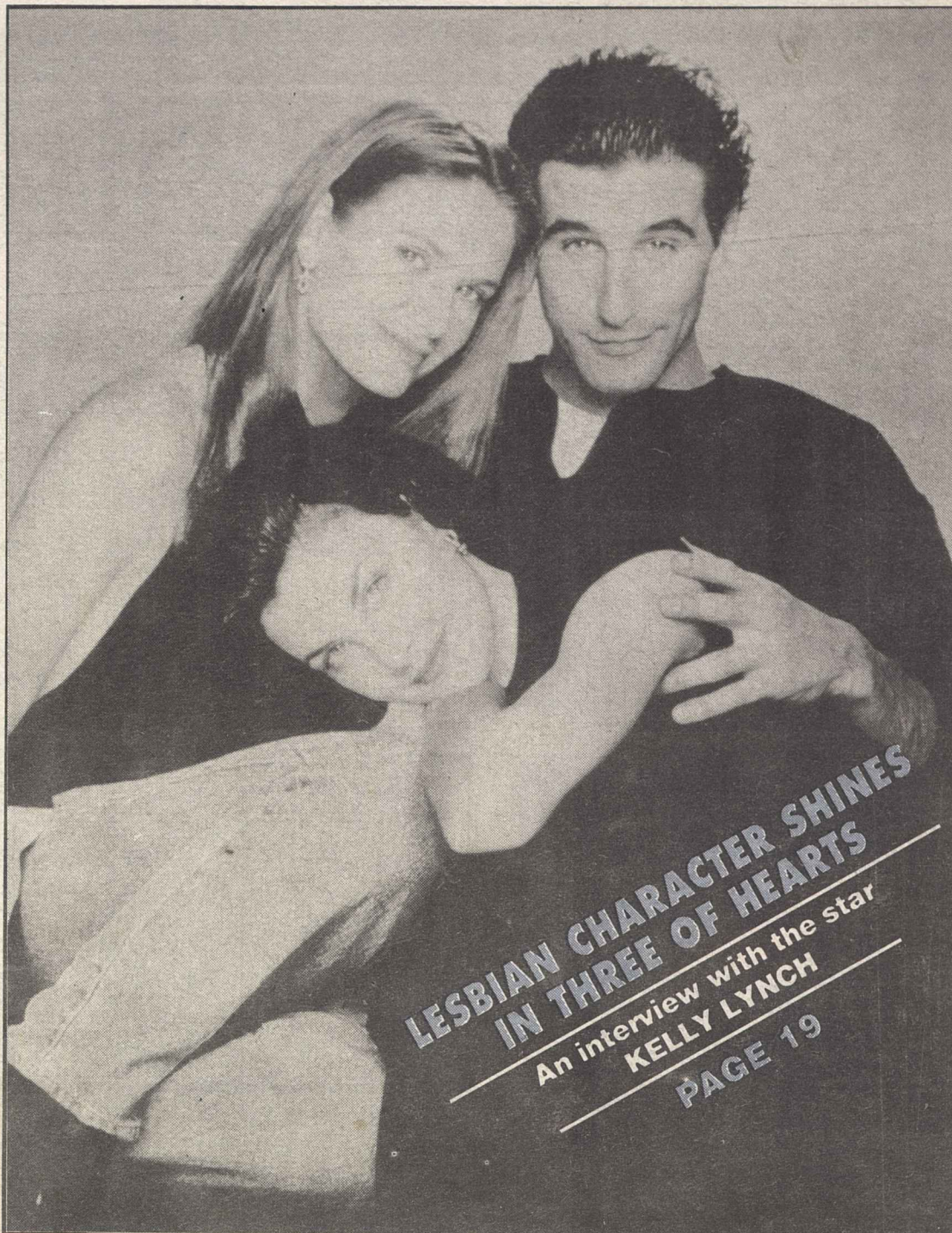
Susan Sarandon joins campaign to raise money for AIDS programs PAGE 7

LESBIAN HISTORY
The Lesbian Herstory Archives finds a permanent home PAGE 12

ATLANTA ACTIVISM
The HRCF Dinner is expected to draw 1500 people PAGE 13

GAY MALE SPIRITUALITY
An interview with Heart Fire's Michael Ganther PAGE 17

EAT
Cafe Tu Tu Tango is too too good PAGE 23



GREG GORMAN

LESBIAN CHARACTER SHINES IN THREE OF HEARTS
 An interview with the star
KELLY LYNCH
PAGE 19

Chattanooga Pride march could result in arrests

City Council changes 1992 route for march; Pride Committee charges homophobia and vows to walk it anyway.

Chattanooga, TN—Members of the Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee say they are ready to go to court—or to jail—over the City Council's decision to bow to neighborhood pressure and change the route of this year's Pride march.

The City Council voted 8-1 last week to grant a march permit for a route the Pride Committee says is unacceptable.

"We would be marching by a cemetery—is that disrespectful or what?—and railroad tracks," said CGLPC co-chair Susan Nicholas. "It's basically an industrial area. The area we requested is pretty much the gay area of town—there are two gay bars, and the park is where the softball teams play."

The Pride Committee has contacted the Lesbian/Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union about suing the city over the permit disagreement, and that group has agreed to look into the matter. Nicholas says her group will march on the originally proposed route, even if it means going to jail.

The battle over the march route is a continuation of a controversy that began last year—Chattanooga's first ever Pride march—when the City Council refused to grant a permit for a march, forcing marchers to walk on the sidewalk to Warner Park, the rally site. The committee applied for a march permit for the same route this year, and the plan was tentatively approved by the city's traffic engineer.

But opposition from some residents of Highland Park, a neighborhood traversed by the route, opposed the plan. Those residents contacted Councilmember Yusef Hakeem, who represents the neighborhood's district and who backed the route change proposal. Hakeem and Council Chair Don Eaves denied any homophobic intent in the Council decision.

"That's not the problem, never has been and isn't now," said Eaves. "We were a little afraid that we wouldn't be able to protect them [on the Highland Park route]."

Hakeem also cited "high anxiety levels" for some of the older residents of the area.

"It's not just Gay Pride," he said, "it's any large group."

The CGLPC's Nicholas scoffed at what she called the council members' excuses, charging that anti-gay bias was behind the controversy.

"The basic thing is that [Hakeem] doesn't want us in his district," she said. "Last year, they didn't want us downtown. We marched without a permit, on the sidewalk, and there were counter-protestors on the street yelling at us. They did nothing about it."

Indeed, some Highland Park residents apparently confirmed the anti-gay sentiment in television reports on the issue. WDEF anchor Rebecca Williams announced during a broadcast that "the route was altered at the request of Highland Park residents who do not want their children exposed to gays and lesbians."

Marchers may be arrested if they march on the old route.

"Eaves and the Mayor (Gene Roberts) both told me that they would provide us protection on the route they approved, but that we were on our own if we went down the other route," Nichols said.

Eaves told Southern Voice much the same thing, although he said that the decision to arrest the marchers would have to come from the Mayor's office. Roberts did not return a phone call for a comment.

Chattanooga City Councilmember Leaman Pierce, a former council chair, is the Pride Committee's lone supporter on the council.

"I support them in terms of their rights," Pierce said. "If I have to be out there on the 13th," the councilman added, "I intend to be out there. Not to march, but if they are confronted by police I'll be there. If that means going to jail, then I'll go to jail."

KC WILDMOON



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Mayor Jackson seeks help for city from gay and lesbian Atlantans

Atlanta—Mayor Maynard Jackson met on May 6 with some 60 representatives of a wide cross-section of Atlanta's lesbian and gay community, asking for "the help and support of the lesbian and gay community in every regard."

Jackson's remarks surprised many who attended the reception at the Ansley Park home of attorney Harry Harkins, with most expecting the Mayor to more directly address some of the issues affecting the community. But following Jackson's speech, and a question and answer period that addressed some of the issues of concern to the community, many in attendance were pleased with the offer of inclusion in the city's business.

"We need to pull ourselves out of this attitude that it's only gay and lesbian issues [that affect us]," said Queer Nation co-chair David MacDonald. "It's not about assimilation. We really should be working with the city to get involved and be seen doing it."

Patrick Bell, of the Coalition for African Descent, said he would have liked to have heard more details about lesbian and gay issues.

"But I do realize that we are part of a bigger picture," he said. "Still, it was good to have him here, meeting with us like this."

Friends Magazine publisher Gloria McCrary agreed. "This may lay the groundwork for other things," she said.

That was the purpose of the gathering, said Mayoral assistant Marcia Okula, who, along with senior advisors Jay Neely, Joan Garner and Maury Weil, organized the meeting.

"We wanted to bring more of the community in contact with the government," she said, "and to let those officials see the diversity of the community, and who we are."

"And we need to realize that if we're going to be of value to the city, we have to be present and work on issues other than our own," Okula continued. "We actually do that all the time, but nobody knows it's us. If the Mayor is going to be supportive of us—and he is—we need to reciprocate and be supportive of him. And be recognizable when we do."

The Mayor, after reiterating his often stated commitment to the civil rights of lesbians and gay men, spoke at length about the ongoing controversy surrounding airport concessions

and asked for the community's support as he embarks on an airport project he called "the largest economic development in the history of the state of Georgia"—a hotel and concessions project set for the center of Hartsfield's main terminal.

Jackson's remarks came after a question posed by Harkins during his introduction of the Mayor.

"Most of us are just coming back from the march in DC—energized and determined to be full partners in the city," Harkins said. "What can we do?"

The question and answer period touched on issues such as Jackson's attendance at Pride ("If I'm in town, I'll be with you. Otherwise I'll be with you in spirit"), the city's commitment to the fight against AIDS, job discrimination, increasing violence against lesbians and gays, and Councilmember Mary Davis' domestic partnership ordinance for city employees.

"It's ready," Davis said of the ordinance. "We're working on getting city council ready. We need help convincing the chief fiscal officer that domestic partnership doesn't increase expenses."

"There does not appear to be any extra costs," Jackson said, referring to a study completed last year by an ad hoc committee. "And the argument may be, so what if there is?"

At Davis' request, the Mayor agreed to speak again on behalf of the ordinance to the city's chief fiscal officer.

During a private discussion after the Mayor's speech, City council member Debbie McCarty told Southern Voice that council members need to hear from the community on the issue.

"If the average citizen makes a phone call, writes a letter, pretty soon council will get the idea that there's a need," she said. "And there's no substitute for a face to face meeting. Sometimes it takes a personal contact."

Also attending the meeting were Council members Bill Campbell and Jabari Simama, who said that he planned to challenge Marvin Arrington for the council presidency this year. Arrington was also at the reception, as were interim Airport Commissioner Michael Pack and acting Public Works Commissioner Doug Hooker.

KC WILDMOON

Sen. Jesse Helms condemns Roberta Achtenberg for being "a damned lesbian"

U.S. Senator admits to being bigot

San Francisco—In a move reminiscent of the 1950s communist witch hunts conducted by Sen. Joe McCarthy, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) on May 6 called San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg "a damned lesbian" and, the senator added, "if that makes me a bigot, so be it." Achtenberg is President Clinton's nominee as an assistant secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

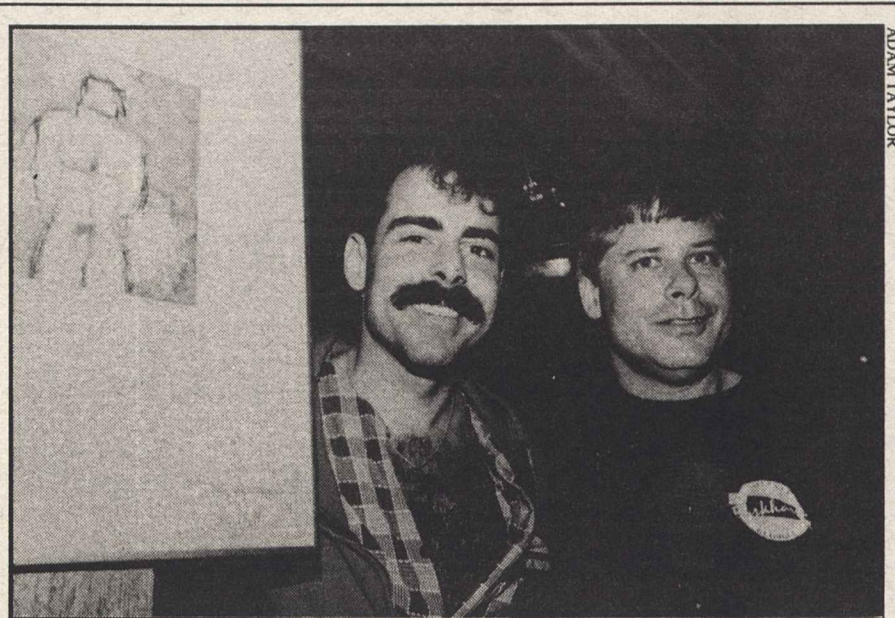
"The fact that Jesse Helms is a bigot is not news to lesbian and gay people," said Al Kielwasser, a spokesperson for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD/SFBA). "Having admitted his bigotry to the public, I hope that Americans everywhere will take this opportunity to express their outrage that Sen. Helms continues to hold Congress in a gridlock of hate."

A Senate committee on May 5 recommended that Achtenberg be confirmed as assistant HUD secretary, but Sen. Helms obstructed the nomination process by asking for a full debate. Helms argued the debate was necessary for "Americans to have a chance to decide whether they want to get in the business of having an avowed lesbian in high government position," said Kielwasser. "The Senator's hate-mongering is a moral disgrace and an insult to all Americans."

Helms has repeatedly called attention to Achtenberg's opposition to funding for the Boy Scouts of America because of that organization's anti-gay policy. GLAAD/SFBA Co-chair Jesse Greenman has called Sen. Helms' emphasis on the Boy Scouts issue "a lavender herring."

"The Supervisor's qualifications are impeccable," Greenman said. "As an elected official of San Francisco and as a civil rights attorney, Supervisor Achtenberg has fulfilled her duty to act against discrimination and injustice."

Senate leaders are currently meeting to decide how to respond to Helms. Once confirmed as assistant secretary, Achtenberg will become the highest-ranking openly lesbian or gay official to serve in the executive branch.



Contributing artist Michael Williamson and Burkhart's owner Palmer Marshall at ArtFest '93.

Burkhart's ArtFest raises \$17,000 for Project Open Hand

Burkhart's Pub can be very proud of itself this year. Not only did the popular Midtown bar win the "Most Community Minded Bar" award from Southern Voice last month, its ArtFest '93, held April 30-May 2, raised \$17,100 for Project Open Hand/Atlanta. The fundraiser was a combination art auction, entertainment extravaganza and arts and crafts show.

Local artists and over 30 leading art galleries contributed items for auction and donated portions of their sales from arts and craft booths on Burkhart's patio. Items sold at the booths ranged from T-shirts to cards and jewelry.

Burkhart's absorbed all of the expenses and donated 100% of all monies raised to Open Hand. The \$17,000 figure greatly surpassed their goal of \$10,000 and was a 52% increase over last year's total amount raised.

Project Open Hand/Atlanta, a non-profit group, prepares and delivers two meals a day, seven days a week, to over 700 people with AIDS/HIV in the Metropolitan Atlanta area.

Sailor admits killing gay shipmate

Guilty plea may prevent further investigation of homophobic conditions in the military

Yokosuka, Japan—Terry Helvey has admitted killing gay sailor Allen Schindler, but his admission of guilt may keep the issue of homophobic violence in the military from further public scrutiny in the case.

Helvey pleaded guilty on May 3 to a charge of murder with intent to inflict great bodily harm in the brutal October 27 slaying of Schindler, who in addition to telling his commanding officer he was gay had complained of anti-gay harassment on board his ship, the Belleau Wood. Helvey has been charged with premeditated murder, which carries a maximum penalty of death. If accepted by the court, the lesser charge would result in a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Helvey also pleaded guilty to two charges of assaulting a Navy shore patrolman while escaping the scene of the murder. He pleaded innocent to charges that he tried to convince Charles Vins to lie about the crime. Vins, a sailor who participated in the murder and pleaded guilty to charges of resisting arrest and failing to report a serious crime in return for his testimony against Helvey, received a dishonorable discharge and a reduced sentence of four months.

The judge in the case, Cmdr. David P. Holcombe, has yet to rule on Helvey's pleas. If Holcombe accepts Helvey's plea, the defendant would be tried only on the obstruction of justice charge relating to Vins, ending gay activists' hopes for an investigation of homophobic conditions on the Belleau Wood.

The guilty plea last week prompted the Human Rights Campaign Fund to join with Queer Nation's Michael Petrelis and Pink Panthers' Lawrence Saltzman in calling on Attorney General Janet Reno to begin an independent investigation of the case.

During the pretrial hearing last week, Helvey said that he continued to beat Allen Schindler even after his victim fell uncon-



Terry Helvey admitted last week that he beat a gay shipmate to death on October 27, 1992.

scious. He did not say why he attacked Schindler, but he said he lied in previous statements when he claimed Schindler, 22, made sexual advances just before the killing.

"I remember hitting him in the face and stomping on his neck and kicking him in the groin," Helvey testified.

Helvey said he could not remember all that happened during Schindler's beating because he was drunk. Under questioning by Holcombe, he acknowledged kicking Schindler at least six times in the head and upper abdomen.

Schindler, formerly of Chicago Heights, Ill., was so badly battered that his mother, Dorothy Hajdys, had to identify him by tattoos on his arm.

"I'm glad he finally admitted to what he did, which was to kill my son," Hajdys said from her home in Chicago Heights.

Hajdys said she would be satisfied if Helvey received life in prison. She said she opposes the death penalty for him.

Another pretrial hearing in the case is set for May 24.

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NC high school invites gays to prom

Chapel Hill, NC—Chapel Hill High School is on a roll, outdistancing other southern secondary schools in its approach to gays and lesbians and AIDS education.

Last week, prom organizers at the school announced that they will encourage gay and lesbian students to attend. And students at the school have bypassed a continuing debate over a condom-distribution program, opting to push ahead with their own plans to offer condoms to teens.

Hannah Shelp, co-president of the junior class and a prom organizer, said the request from the school's gay and lesbian support group to prom organizers to extend an invitation to same-sex couples took her by surprise.

"I think it was good because it aroused a lot of awareness within the junior class," she said. "I'm not a sheltered person, but this was something I never even thought about."

Shelp said prom organizers have tried to emphasize in public announcements that everyone is welcome at the prom. But they won't make special references to gays and lesbians because it would make some students stand out, she explained.

And a change in attitudes won't be easy, Shelp added.

"There have been a lot of mixed com-

ments," she said. "I don't know how to take it all. I've heard students say it's not a big deal, but it's a big risk on the gay and lesbian's part. They will get looks."

"The message is we want everyone to come and have a good time," said Gail Boyarsky, a teacher and prom adviser. "Be safe. We don't care if you are purple. It doesn't matter if you are gay or straight. We really want to include everyone."

Reacting to what they feel is slow movement on a proposal to distribute condoms to teens, about 15 students will receive special training to distribute condoms off school grounds from the Orange County Health Department. Health officials will cover teen sexuality, pregnancy, AIDS, the benefits of abstinence and condom use.

"You have to respect the system and the political process, but it was getting drawn out. We wanted to have something in place by the end of the year," Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, CHHS student government president, said.

"In my opinion the issue at the root of this is the health and well-being of all students," Beach-Ferrara said. "Teens are having sex. If people want to intervene to protect people we have to do it now."

ACLU will sue Alabama for refusal to fund gay student groups

Mobile, AL—The American Civil Liberties Union's Gay and Lesbian Rights Project in New York plans a court challenge of an Alabama law that bans state spending on lesbian and gay student groups.

"We're preparing to challenge the basic statute because under the First Amendment, it violates gay and lesbian students' freedom of expression and association," said ACLU spokeswoman Ruth Harlow.

She said the rights of gay and lesbian student groups are well established "and we believe this statute goes too far in curbing their activity."

Ms. Harlow said the lawsuit is being prepared and no specific filing date has been determined. "But it's forthcoming," she said.

The law has been debated in connection with gay and lesbian groups at the University of Alabama and Auburn University. The law bans the use of university funds by groups that encourage violation of the state's sodomy law.

The latest challenge at the University of South Alabama in Mobile is over the university's refusal to allocate funds for speakers sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance.

The Student Government Association at USA held up the funds until they receive an attorney general's opinion.

"This law is based upon discrimination and if they deny our funding request, they are supporting a policy that is discriminatory," Alliance president George Hite Wilson said April 20.

In 1991, Auburn's SGA refused to give a charter to the Gay and Lesbian Association. Auburn administrators overruled the SGA's decision and granted the charter, which led to criticism from some students, alumni and politicians. (AP)

NC wants sodomy kept on the books

Raleigh, NC—It took three days for a North Carolina House committee to kill a bill that would make sodomy legal in the privacy of one's home.

The House Judiciary Committee quickly

spiked the measure last week, despite the pleas of the ACLU and several gay and lesbian groups who said the law is used to discriminate against them. It was the second time in a week that opponents had tried to kill the measure, sponsored by Rep. Marie Colton, D-Buncombe.

The "crime against nature" law makes the practice of oral or anal sex a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine. Ms. Colton's bill asks that the law not apply "if the act occurs in the privacy of a home between consenting adults and is not for hire."

Supporters said the existing law is outdated. Detractors thought otherwise.

"I'm glad we're finally getting around to calling this bill what it really is, a gay and lesbian bill...I personally see it as one more step in eroding the American society as it is today," said Rep. Ronnie Sutton, D-Robeson.

Five people came to speak in support of the measure, including the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina and several members of gay and lesbian groups.

Rep. Annie Kennedy, D-Forsyth, chided the committee before the vote for not having enough courage.

"I see around these halls some very frightened people," she said.

HUNTER T. GEORGE II

COMING EVENTS

Charlotte, NC—One Voice, Charlotte's only gay, lesbian & gay-affirmative mixed chorus, will present its Spring concert, "Keep It Gay: Celebration of Our Lives," Friday and Saturday, May 14 & 15. The 8 pm concert will be held at the Unitarian Church of Charlotte at 234 N. Sharon Amity. Tickets are \$9 and are available from any Chorus member, Rising Moon Bookstore, and White Rabbit Books.

Durham, NC—Plans are underway for North Carolina Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Pride '93, scheduled for Saturday, June 26 in Raleigh. A march and rally with the theme "The American Dream Belongs To Everyone" will begin at 11 am. For information, write NCLGBP, PO Box 3284, Durham, NC 27715-3284, or call (919) 487-6535.

Men Who Firebombed Lesbian's Home Found Guilty Of Murder:

Two men have been convicted of felony murder in the deaths of a lesbian and a gay man in Portland, Oregon, last fall at the height of the campaign against the homophobic Measure 9. According to Portland's Just Out, Leon Tucker and Philip Wilson were found guilty of throwing Molotov cocktails into the basement apartment of Hattie Mae Cohens and Brian Mock. In addition to the murder charges, Tucker and Wilson, identified as Skinheads, were found guilty of racial intimidation. During the trial, evidence was presented that the intended victims were relatives of Cohens, who was African-American, and that the crime was more a racist one than homophobic. Sentencing is set for May 13.

Indiana City Bans Discrimination: The Lafayette (Indiana) City Council approved an ordinance May 3 that prohibits discrimination against lesbians and gays. The law does not apply to churches, church schools, or church-affiliated day care centers. The city's Human Rights Commission is charged with enforcing the law, but the Commission has limited power and it is unclear what the practical impact of the ordinance will be. The commission has authority to investigate and mediate complaints about discrimination and can fine someone up to \$300 for not showing up at a mediation hearing. However, its decisions are not legally binding. Councilman Jerry Ledbetter, who proposed the law, said it has value as an educational tool, despite its lack of legal teeth.

IL State's Attorney Under Fire For Remark About Gays: Gays are upset over a remark Macon County State's Attorney Larry Fichter made about a police crackdown on sexual activity in a city park. Fichter used the term "fags" when asked by reporters about Park District rangers who used an undercover officer to arrest men who solicit sexual favors in restrooms in a Decatur, IL, park. Fichter, seeing no offense in the derogative, said that he intends to stand by his use of the term. "I referred to individuals who are on public property committing criminal acts," he said. "People of alternative lifestyles who go about conducting their lives with some modicum of discreet behavior pose no problem."

Lesbian Honored at White House Awards Ceremony: Shelli Craver, the Midwest Coordinator for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, was honored at a White House Rose Garden reception along with 99 other young Americans on April 20. The reception, sponsored by Public Allies, honored the 100 as "Tomorrow's Leaders Today." Craver is the first openly gay or lesbian activist to be honored at a White House awards ceremony. "I believe that giving people a sense of their own power and helping exercise that power to bring about social change is one of the most important things we can do," Craver said.



Iowa High School Senior Arrested For Cross-dressing At Prom: Brett Martin, a senior at Knoxville (Iowa) High School, was arrested May 2 and charged with criminal trespassing when he arrived at the school in a sequined dress, high-heeled shoes and a wig. Martin's "date," Terry Massick, said that they had decided as a joke they would go as a couple to the prom because Massick's date canceled. Martin said he thought everybody knew it was a joke, but the school administration decided he was trying to ruin the prom. "I think if they would have left us alone, nothing would have happened," he said. School officials met with Martin on May 1 when they learned of his plans. He then started a petition drive and collected names of students and teachers who said he should be allowed to go. "He didn't really do anything illegal because it's not illegal to cross-dress," said Martin's sister Jennifer Leslie, who loaned him her dress and helped with his make-up. "It happened on public property and he had an invitation."

Traveler Arrested In Colorado Over Boycott Sign:

The American Civil Liberties Union has taken on the case of a traveler arrested after she refused to stop displaying a folder-sized "Boycott the Hate State" sign at Denver's Stapleton International Airport. Janet Hertz, during a lay-over at Stapleton while traveling from Massachusetts to

Seattle, was arrested Feb. 5 under a regulation that prohibits the display of commercial or political signs without prior approval. Hertz was held overnight in Denver County jail, and charges were later dropped. The ACLU filed a lawsuit on Hertz' behalf on May 3, charging that her constitutional rights were violated. On her return flight from Seattle, Hertz requested permission to display the sign, but was denied.

MIT Grants Benefits To Partners Of Gay Employees: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced last week that it would offer medical and dental benefits to the partners of its gay and lesbian employees. The benefits will be the same as those already provided to the wives, husbands and dependents of MIT's faculty and staff. Unmarried heterosexual partners will remain ineligible for coverage. MIT Vice President Constantine B. Simonides said the policy was changed "to address a recognized inequity in access to benefits by gay and lesbian employees." The coverage takes effect June 1.

Students Arrested After Toppling Gay Pride Tent: Three students at Oregon State University have been arrested for toppling a tent where student groups were offering information about Gay Pride Week. Four women sleeping in the tent on May 1 reported that the tent was pulled down about 2 am. Campus police caught John E. Wahgren, Sean T. Fowler, and Derek A. Ebel a short time later. The three were charged with criminal mischief, and could face suspension under the Student Code of Conduct. Two hours later, police were called back to the tent after three other men were spotted walking around. Anti-gay graffiti was found on the sidewalks near the tent. The university's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance has vowed to stay in the tent around the clock to increase visibility. "This is why we're here—to stop this violence," said member Shaun Marks.

NY Sex Clubs Ordered To Curb Customers' Behavior: Sex clubs in New York City must start monitoring their customers' behavior more closely to curb the spread of AIDS, the city's Health Department said last week. The new policy will intensify scrutiny on the clubs while encouraging voluntary compliance with the health code. Clubs will be asked to develop safe-sex programs—perhaps through employee surveillance, condoms, literature, better lighting or a different decor. If they don't comply, and risky behavior is found, the clubs could be warned, fined, or possibly closed.

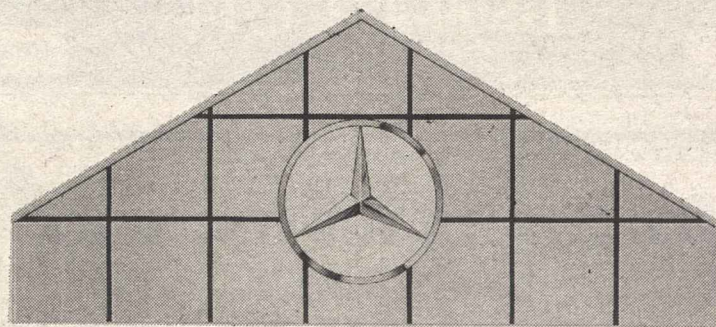
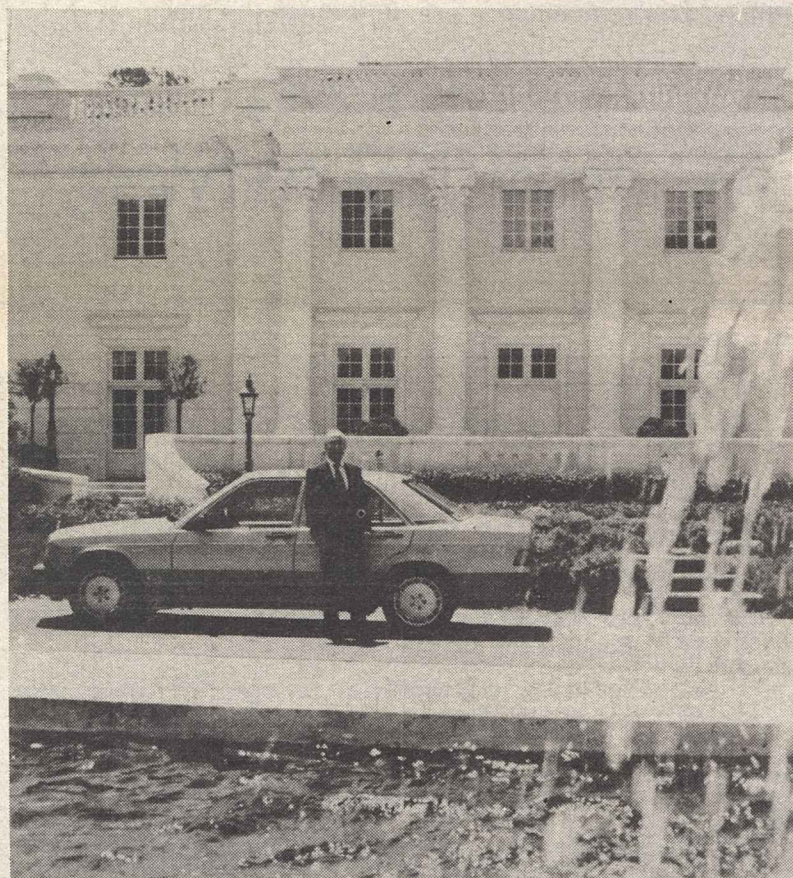
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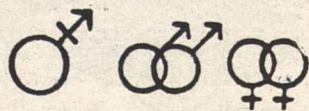
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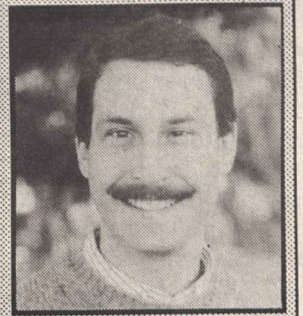
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AIDS

AT THE CROSSROADS

by Bruce Mirken



HIV Apartheid

He was cute. And intelligent. And interested. After we talked for about 40 minutes I had no doubt that this acquaintance was highly likely to get more...uh...intimate.

Then he asked The Question: "Have you...been tested?"

I told him the truth, that I had taken the HIV antibody test three times over the past several years and had always come back negative. But I couldn't resist asking, "Would you lose interest if I'd told you I was positive?"

The unease of his reply made it clear that the answer was "yes."

We continued talking. Frankly, I was curious about someone who thought they could avoid AIDS simply by asking potential dates about their status.

I acknowledged that I'd been with men I knew had the virus, hoping to make the point that, as AIDS educators keep telling us, it's what you do that counts, not who you do it with—since you can never absolutely guarantee that a potential partner is uninfected.

I never heard from him again.

My experience was not an isolated occurrence. Of the male "relationship" ads in the current issue of one major gay paper in my town of West Hollywood, a staggering 42% either specify that those who reply must be HIV-negative or list the advertiser's own negative status among their desirable attributes ("handsome, athletic, HIV-...").

Frankly, I think it's about time we got over it.

It's become a cliché that the gay community has done a magnificent job of educating itself about safe sex, becoming a model for AIDS prevention efforts. While it's true that we've done better than most of the populace, that, I'm afraid, isn't saying much. We are a community increasingly being split in two by a sort of viral apartheid.

The idea that large numbers of us still think we're "protecting" ourselves by asking potential bedmates about their HIV status is terrifying. After all, even if our potential trick/boyfriend/husband knows their status and even if they are telling the truth, the fact that someone can be infected for six months or more before testing positive guarantees that such "protection" is worthless. There is no substitute for practicing safe sex, period, yet too many still think "using protection" means putting up a sign saying, "HIV-positives need not apply."

But fear of infection is far from the only kind of fear in operation. A magazine article about the subject last year quoted one gay man as saying, "Why get involved in a relationship that's certain to end in death?" In other words, don't date someone with HIV unless you look really good in black.

Funny, but the last time I looked the human death rate was exactly one per person. Any relationship that lasts is likely to end in death because we all die, and being HIV-negative by no means guarantees living to a ripe old age—take it from one who recently buried his 32-year-old, HIV-negative ex-lover after an excruciating year-long battle with liver cancer. None of us gets out of here alive, but that doesn't mean we have to live in fear.

Besides, studies show that up to a third of HIV-infected persons are still healthy twelve years after becoming infected. Does it make sense to write off a relationship because the person *might* get sick at *some* point in the future?

There's plenty of intolerance and misunderstanding on the other side of the fence as well. Eric Rofes, former executive director of San Francisco's Shanti Project, took a lot of heat recently for daring to suggest that HIV-negative people, many of whom have buried dozens or even hundreds of friends, have been traumatized by this epidemic as well. In some quarters the idea that people who have lost most of their friends, coworkers and support systems may need a little help coping was treated as if it were a treasonous heresy. In AIDS activist circles, I've heard infected people make cruel and scornful remarks about their uninfected compatriots, as if having the virus in your body was somehow a prerequisite for wanting this damned epidemic to end.

The gay and lesbian press has to face up to a share of responsibility for this growing division among us. Most papers make little effort anymore to publish basic HIV/AIDS and safe sex information, apparently assuming in the face of all logic that readers already know it all. Often we tend to bury HIV/AIDS news on a separate page or in a special column or box, as if it's not of concern to all of our readers—or as if, by keeping it separate, we can continue to indulge in the fantasy that this thing somehow doesn't affect us.

We rightly expect society to treat AIDS as a crisis worthy of everyone's attention. We rightly expect society to treat people living with HIV no differently than anyone else. We need to start by healing the divisions this virus is creating in our own community.

A couple of years ago I participated in a civil disobedience action to demand better AIDS care in Los Angeles County. We all agreed that anyone who was arrested, if asked about their HIV status, would give the same answer: "We are all living with AIDS."

We are.

Bruce Mirken is an AIDS and health writer for various publications including *The Advocate*, *the Los Angeles Reader* and *PAAC Notes*. He lives in West Hollywood, CA. His column appears monthly in *Southern Voice*.

NY AIDS Walk raises \$5 million

New York City—Organizers called AIDS Walk New York the most successful AIDS fundraiser ever, with \$5 million raised for the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

The eighth annual walk was held May 2, beginning and ending in Central Park.

A total of \$5,006,424 was collected primarily from individual sponsors, said Craig Miller, co-producer of the AIDS Walk. Between \$300,000 and \$400,000 was collected from corporations. The walk was sponsored by GMHC, the nation's oldest and largest

AIDS service organization.

"The funds will be used by Gay Men's Health Crisis to provide direct services to people with HIV and AIDS as well as AIDS prevention programs and advocacy work," Miller said.

Before the walk, participants listened to opening remarks made by actor Tony Randall and Mayor David Dinkins.

"But if you think that this march ends in a few hours, I've got news for you," Dinkins said. "Our march is not over until we tackle this virus—and until New York City is as good as you and I know it can be." (AP)

AIDS cases increase sharply in the first quarter of 1993

Atlanta—The number of Americans with AIDS surged by more than 35,000 during the first three months of this year, mostly because of a new definition of the disease, government health officials reported.

But even cases not attributed to the broader definition surged, climbing 21 percent, or twice the rate for the same period last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week.

"That is higher than we expected," said Dr. John Ward, chief of AIDS surveillance for the CDC. "Some of that 21 percent is a sign that the AIDS epidemic is continuing to grow."

It also means that people with the AIDS virus who have fought off AIDS with medication for several years are starting to get sick, said Lynora Williams, spokeswoman for the AIDS Action Council, an advocacy group based in Washington.

"The figures should definitely be read as a cause for concern," she said.

Since 1987, patients infected with the AIDS virus were diagnosed with full-blown AIDS once they contracted blood infections,

Kaposi's sarcoma or any of 21 other indicator diseases.

On Jan. 1, pulmonary tuberculosis, recurring pneumonia and invasive cervical cancer were added. So was a dip in the level of the body's master immune cells, or CD4s, to one-fifth the level of a healthy person.

From Jan. 1 through March 31, 35,779 new AIDS cases were diagnosed nationwide, a 204 percent increase from the 11,770 new cases during the same period in 1992, CDC reported.

Sixty percent of those new cases, or 21,582, were based solely on the new definition—a surge the CDC had expected. But 14,197 other cases were based on the old definition. Last year, cases increased about 10 percent every three months.

Ward attributed some of the most recent increase to the publicity surrounding the new AIDS definition, which may have prompted doctors to test more patients.

But it's probably also due to patients succumbing to AIDS because AZT and other anti-viral medications work for only a few years, Ms. Williams said.

LAUREN NEERGAARD

Susan Sarandon joins AIDS awareness campaign

New York City—Susan Sarandon joined a grass-roots effort for AIDS awareness May 3, urging people to send greeting cards to Washington officials this Mother's Day calling for increased funds for AIDS.

"On a day in which we traditionally honor our own mothers for their love and compassion it seems crucial that we voice our concerns about the health and well being of all our families as we face the second decade of the AIDS epidemic," Sarandon said at a Manhattan news conference, kicking off the greeting card campaign.

Some 500,000 cards were provided free to various organizations by Mother's Voices, a grass-roots AIDS awareness and advocacy organization founded last year. They include a message that reads:

"On this Mother's Day join our family in the fight to end AIDS with better funded and organized AIDS research, AIDS education programs that recognize the realities of people's lives, adequate health care for all, and an end to discrimination against people



MIRRI ANSIN

living with HIV and AIDS."

Dorry Bless, co-founder of Mother's Voices, asked senders to add their own heartfelt messages to the cards and mail them to their elected officials, the president, his wife and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. (AP)

AIDS conference for women a first in New England

Portland, ME—About 120 people from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont converged last week for the first AIDS conference in northern New England to focus exclusively on women's issues.

One of the conference goals was to "break down the wall of not wanting to acknowledge the existence of women and HIV," said Irene Snow, 28, who organized the gathering and has the virus herself. "There is very little research on women with HIV, and there is a large perception still out there that women can't get HIV and AIDS."

Much of the information on how to treat women with the disease is anecdotal, she said. Most studies have been done on men.

One of the first signs of HIV in women is recurring vaginal yeast infections, she said. A diagnosis of cervical cancer often signals full-blown AIDS. Women also tend to have more kidney problems, Snow said, and they may get more bacterial pneumonias than men.

Smith said many doctors haven't treated women with AIDS before, so they have to refer to articles in medical journals or rely on

their experience with men.

"We're going to fight to get better [care] for women. We're hoping this conference will be the first step as far as teaching medical professionals and social workers what our needs are." (AP)

Free nutrition book for HIV+

Pittsburgh, PA—The Physicians Association for AIDS Care and Stadtlanders Pharmacy have released a booklet offering easy-to-follow nutritional recommendations for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"The vast majority of AIDS deaths are actually due to protein-calorie malnutrition, which is a disease in and of itself, and needs to be recognized and treated as such," said PAAC President Dr. Paul J. Cimoch.

The booklet, "HIV Disease Nutrition Guidelines: Practical Steps for a Healthier Life," is part of the PAAC Nutrition Initiative, and is made available through an educational grant from Stadtlanders.

A free copy of "HIV Disease Nutrition Guidelines" is available by calling Stadtlanders at 1-800-238-7828, or write to Stadtlanders Pharmacy at 600 Penn Center Blvd, Suite 700, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

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PHOTO BY TOM BIANCHI

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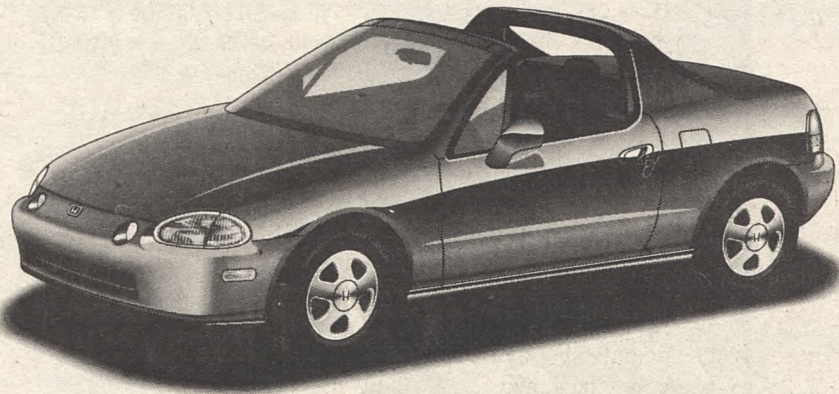
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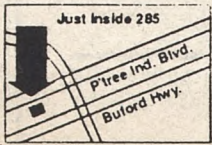
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During my two days of business at your dealership, I was aware of two other same-sex couples making purchases. Thank you once again for your dealership's stance to be gay/lesbian sensitive and for providing quality gay personnel such as Julie Ellis.

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ANNIVERSARIES

On May 18, Bob McNeir and Michael Clark will commemorate six years of friendship and four years of commitment as spouses and life partners. Congratulations, guys.

David Caron and Steve Maddern celebrated 10 wonderful years together on May 5. They renewed their commitment to each other at The Wedding on April 24 during the March On Washington weekend, and later celebrated at a party at home with all their friends.

AWARDS

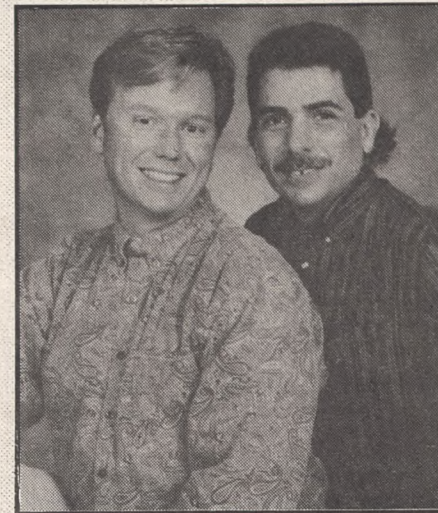
Occasions recently heard that Hugh P. Simons, Jr., employed by WGNX TV as News Producer, was recognized by the Associated Press for Best News Cast of 1992! This award covered the entire southeastern area of the United States. Hugh's lover Paul sent us this announcement with a note at the end that he loves Hugh dearly. Then we heard that Paul is in the hospital and cannot attend the award dinner with Hugh. So get well soon, Paul, and Congratulations, Hugh!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday on May 16 to avid SoVo reader Lilly Correa. Her partner, Diana, told Occasions that she is very glad Lilly is in her life, and that she wishes her the Happiest of Birthdays (and so do we)!

Happy Birthday goes out to Jackie Hightower on May 18 from her friend Danny.

Happy Birthday to another South Africa reader, Anthony Fernandes on May 19. Anthony reads Southern Voice every week



David Caron and Steve Maddern celebrated ten years together on May 5.

(about 3 weeks late due to mail delivery) and can't wait to visit Atlanta sometime in the near future. Happy 21, Anthony.

GRADUATIONS

Mona Love would like to wish a Happy Graduation to Jeanne Peters and Judy Gerber. These Phi Beta Kappas will celebrate the completion of their studies at Agnes-Scott College with a stroll in cap & gown on May 15. Mona reports that the campus will be a less radical place without these two. Congratulations!

MARK du PONT

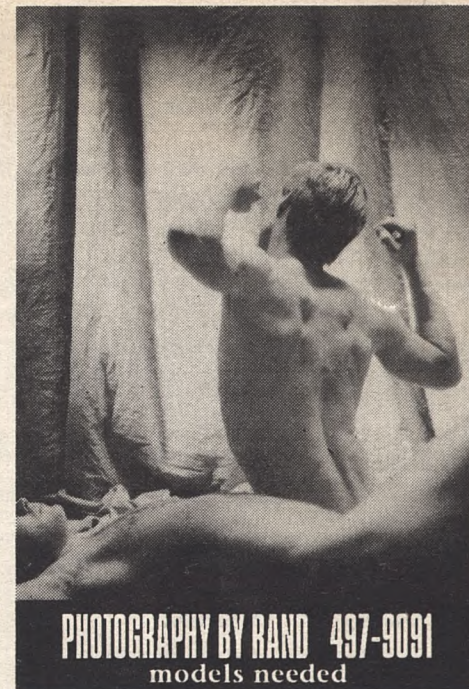
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NEXT WEEK

Oops!

We told you in this space last week to look for Al Cotton's review of "Queer in America" by Michelangelo Signorile. Wrong. It's scheduled for next week.

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

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

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

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SOUTHERN VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

Still the most powerful act

by PAUL VARNELL

Recently this column surveyed several national gay organizations to find out how those of us now involved full-time in political lobbying can help support the President's efforts to overturn the military's ban on gay personnel.

For the most part the answers were intelligent enough, if predictable—write or call your senators, get your friends to do it too, write letters to the local paper, help create a media presence, and so forth. All true, no doubt.

But when I spoke with Gregory King, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, though he had those same suggestions too, he began with, "Well, the most important thing people can do is come out."

I have often criticized the Campaign Fund, and no doubt will again, but here it seems to me that King's priorities are entirely correct. It is surprising how often our issues, whatever they are, come down to, or back to, coming out.

And yet, there is something very unsatisfactory with that advice, too. For many people, coming out is difficult, painful. They fear that their parents will reject them, their boss will fire them, their friends will avoid them, their co-workers will shun them—in short, that they will have fewer of those external sources of self-esteem that prop all of us up when we are insecure.

Those fears are not, of course, generally borne out, but sometimes it seems that when we urge people to come out, we should provide them with a guide book on strategies and tactics and a manual on stress management.

Yet whatever the problems and seeming risks, our circumstances press the issue upon us. It seems that letting people know we are gay is the single most important thing we—us, you—can do to promote our goal of legal and social equality. If people believe many if not all of the stereotypical views about gays promoted by fundamentalist moral entrepreneurs, ultimately it is by our showing people personally that those views are untrue that we enable people to overcome them.

There is, for instance, a videotape called "The Gay Agenda" being widely distributed by a fundamentalist California church. The tape includes extensive footage of the creative costumes and frenetic, not to say uninhibited, behavior of people at gay pride parades, presented as if that were how most of us live our lives on a day-to-day basis. If we are to convince people that those images are untrue to the reality of our daily lives, then it will not be sufficient for gay spokespeople to appear in television offering sound bites, turning puce-faced and yelling, "Lies, lies," though it may have an entertainment value of its own. It is simply necessary that we demonstrate to those around us that for the most part our lives are rather different from that image and rather closer to their own.

Probably it is exactly because of those same popular stereotypical images of gays, and the fear that they are widely accepted, that many gays do not come out. It is as if they fear that if they come out, people will impute to them all the preconceptions and erroneous beliefs people have absorbed about gays. They fear, in other words, that they will be devalued if they come out.

But such fears are apparently not very

well-grounded. As Gregory King pointed out, polls have repeatedly shown that the single most significant correlate for someone's support of gay rights is... simply knowing someone who is gay.

The lesson there seems to be that whatever people's fears may be about the power of stereotypes, the simple fact of knowing even just one gay person in real life has the power to undermine a good deal of second-hand learning.

"Well, John isn't like that," people think, "so I don't believe that stuff is typical."

In other words, stereotypes may be a mile wide, but they are only about an inch deep. In America, we may be a media society, but as individuals we are still very much people persons.

It might be possible to object that such a claim mistakenly reverses cause and effect: that it is just as reasonable to say that people who are already perceived as tolerant and open and accepting are the sorts of people whom gays are the most comfortable coming out to, so of course, they know gay people.

It would be possible to say that—except that those results seem to hold true across all differences of social level, geographical region, political ideology, race, etc.—as true for the farmer in Mississippi as the attorney in New York City.

Nor does most of our first-hand experience support the skeptical interpretation of the statistical correlation. A close friend of mine from college days to whom (somewhat later) I came out ended up working at the Reagan White House. He used to call occasionally, not, alas to ask for advice on policy alternatives, but just to chat. One time he remarked, out of the blue, "You know, you really turned my views around about gays."

This was not, I should emphasize, the result of any big philosophical discussion about how being gay was good or natural or self-actualizing, though it can be all of

those. Nor was it because of any personal excellence on my part, so far as I can tell, but just my being me, someone he liked, and my letting him know that I was gay.

Most people probably have an exaggerated notion of the risks of coming out or being openly gay. While it is certainly true that more and more young people seem to be coming out earlier, others a little older seem to continue to feel reluctant. One rule of thumb here is that people tend to believe that it is still just as risky to come out now as it was when they first realized they were gay. In Freudian language, people get fixated at that perception of the level of risk and fail to notice how the world has changed, how much more open it has become.

I actually know unmarried, middle-aged gay men whom I think of as pretty clearly gay who express absolute terror of what might happen if anyone found out they were gay. These people are living in fantasyland! Everyone they know must realize they are gay. Either such people have absolutely zero self-esteem, or they like the excitement of living in an imaginary dangerous world in which they carry off a disguise, or else they have absolutely no ability to discern how the world has changed since they were 15.

We need to realize that the gay movement has made progress to the extent that people have come out to friends, family and colleagues, behavior that has made it easier for those who came after them. If we are to make major progress, yet more people will have to come out.

In the controversy over the military's ban on gays, we have, for the first time, a national issue, affecting all of us. We have a specific time frame in which to alter public opinion on the issue, and we know how each of us can help alter public opinion about gays. It will be interesting to see how this historically unique combination of factors alters gay coming-out behavior.

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



North Carolina accepts MCC into Council of Churches

NC is only second state in nation to accept gay Christian fellowship

Greensboro, NC—By a stunningly wide margin, the North Carolina Council of Churches has voted to accept North Carolina's seven Metropolitan Community Churches as full members. The vote, taken by the Council's House of Delegates at its annual meeting on May 6, was 54-15 with 7 abstentions.

"North Carolina is considered a buckle of the Bible Belt," said Rev. Randy Votsch of MCC-Charlotte, who attended last week's meeting. "For this to happen in North Carolina is incredible. I can't use the word 'encouraging' enough."

The United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was founded by the Rev. Troy Perry in Los Angeles in 1968 in order to give gay and lesbian Christians an opportunity to practice their faith openly and without discrimi-

nation.

North Carolina's Council is only the second in the nation, and the first in the continental U.S., to accept the UFMCC congregations as members. The Hawaii Council of Churches was the first. UFMCC has tried for eleven years to gain membership in the World Council of Churches, the state councils' parent organization, but has repeatedly been rebuffed, most recently last November when the organization was denied even observer status. But there was no such drawn out process in Greensboro.

"This is the first time this issue has come up [in North Carolina]," said Votsch. "It could not possibly have gone any smoother, much to the credit of the leadership of the North Carolina Council of Churches."

The vote on membership came after nearly two hours of debate, and a vote on a substitute measure to table the issue for further study. That proposal lost by a narrow margin, and hopes

began to dim for an affirmative vote on membership. But, said Votsch, the tide of the discussion turned from mostly negative to mostly positive after the first vote.

"Some of the mainline denominations gave the same old tired arguments during the initial debate," he said. "And there was fear that the main denominations would pull out if they made this momentous and unprecedented decision. [but during debate on the substitute motion] people began speaking in our defense."

Collins Kilbourne, executive director of the NCCC, said that the leadership of the council proceeded cautiously on the issue.

"I expressed my personal view that the UFMCC was an authentic Christian church and that I would be delighted to accept them into membership," he said. "But I also said we needed to weigh the potential problems—that it might create a strain with some of our member bodies. There were a lot of people who wanted to take

this step, but were afraid there would be trouble bringing their congregations on board."

"If I had had to guess before the meeting," Kilbourne continued, "I would have guessed that the motion to study the matter would have prevailed."

Rev. Jay Neely, coordinator for the Gulf/Lower Atlantic District of UFMCC (which includes North Carolina), said he and the national leadership of the church were pleased with NCCC's decision.

"The women and men in the House of Delegates were wonderfully supportive, even those who had concerns over the homosexuality issue," he said. "But they felt it was important to continue the dialogue within the council rather than outside."

"One by one by one if these councils accept us, it is another step higher," he said. "It's a step closer to being accepted by the general public."

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Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS



Washington Coup

He was going to Washington. And I was amazed.

He was a self-defined nelly queen. Of an age I used to think of in my twenties as aging, but now that I've moved into the same chronological neighborhood, I think of as amazingly young for our ages. He wasn't a flamer, just a near-fifty year old man with gestures and a great haircut, joining the rest of us in constantly re-evaluating the purpose of our lives, the apparent outcome, and whether this, indeed, was all there was. Because if there was any more, we were going to try for it, find it, go for it, squeeze it dry. It's an attitude that came with our potty training. It's not a gay/lesbian thing. It's a cultural phenomenon of the Pepsi Generation, the Pampers Population, who grew up knowing we were the center of the universe, and because of us, so many of us, so multitudinally, economically, many of us, things would change.

Now, I have to confess that I really didn't understand him. Perhaps it is something in my genetic profile that prevents me from fully appreciating the imperatives requiring the tiniest leaf curl in the table lamp skirt to be in color balance with the wallpaper border. It's a fault. I admit it.

Didn't mean I didn't like him. Just meant I made judgments. Like when I first met him. He seemed kind of fluffy. Meticulous and fluffy, an opinion I was never given reason to change. So the day I met him at the grocery, as I'd met him before at various events of a certain status, I figured I had him pretty well pegged. Well, let me tell you, I was the one who got my preconceived notional peg taken down a notch.

I had been to a dinner party the night before with a room full of his twins. Great cooks with terrific tailors who said to me, "What march?"

These were, for the most part, men who had made their peace with their lives without, thank you very much, any marching. Men who concerned themselves with keeping their schnauzers groomed and their transportation detailed. There was not a lambda earring, or a triangle harmony ball anywhere in evidence. It was a politics-free zone. Not the least bit politically correct. And the roast lamb and peas with fresh garden mint were sensational.

"We're getting on the train Saturday," he said. "We'll arrive in DC about ten in the morning, just in time to line up and march. I guess it's about eighteen hours."

"Where are you staying?" I queried, storing up Washington whereabouts of potential neighbors and supportive friends just in case the descending hordes im-

posed too much reality, and I needed to find hometown solace.

"Staying? Oh, we're *not*. We have to be back on the train by 8:30 Sunday night."

"What? You're going to spend thirty-six hours in Amtrak splendor just to hike a couple of miles down the capital mall? Why on earth would you *do* that?" I knew why on earth I would do that. But here was a well-groomed gentleman of a certain age who wasn't even supposed to know what Stonewall was.

"Well, my friends and I talked about it," he responded. "And none of them were going to go to Washington. They said, 'Why should we bother? It's just going to be a bunch of leathermen with their asses sticking out, drag queens, and bearded guys in long satin gowns.' And I said, 'That's all the more reason why we should go.' So we are."

My dentist asked me for information on accommodations in Dupont Circle for the march. *My dentist!*

This lady is so far in the closet she's dragged in a desk, a chair and a reading light. We are talking deeply immersed in the hangers here. As you have come to know, I readily admit to sharing an affliction with comic, Lea Delaria: Gay Tourette's Syndrome, causing me to come out wherever I am. But approaching my dentist's office, out of deference to her in-ness, I strip myself of any obvious icon, and never use pronouns, lest any of her staff figure out that the twenty or so calls a day that she gets from a particular female friend might actually mean something.

So you can understand my shock when she asked after Washington.

"Are you going?...Why are you going?"

"I have to." She answered. "It's important."

Wow. I know dozens who never went to the 1987 march, who, five months ago weren't considering going to this one. People who are leaving their feather boas and flannel shirts at home. Who are going respectfully and relentlessly to the seat of their government to petition it in our historical right of assembly for their liberty and justice for all.

By now, you know how many showed up. The March on Washington is history. Herstory. Ourstory. In 20-20 foresight, I can tell you, we were impressive in our numbers. Amazing in our restraint. Dedicated in our determination. I leave tomorrow. My car is packed, my road map marked, and my objective perfectly clear. *To be a countable speck in an aerial photograph in front of The White House.*

Me and a few million of my closest friends have every intention of capturing the Capitol. Without firing a shot.

L E T T E R S

Man from Lithia Springs captured the spirit of the March

To the Editor:

The weekend of April 23-26 is one which those of us fortunate enough to be in Washington and participate in The March will remember forever. I went to be counted and experience the thrill of being part of the weekend. And thrilling it was with rainbow flags flying on businesses and hanging in hotel and car windows and with same sex couples publicly holding hands all over town. Although the gay and lesbian community is very diverse, the sense of community was palpable throughout Washington.

I think the overall feeling and spirit of the weekend can be summed up in the following article which appeared in the Monday, April 26 edition of The Washington Post. It was in a sidebar of vignettes of weekend experiences and was titled "Respite from Being 'So Isolated.'" For purposes of privacy, I have deleted the last name.

"It was a day for belonging, no matter how much effort it took."

"John [Blank], 19, stuck out his thumb in Lithia Springs, Georgia, Friday night and reached The Mall at 2PM yesterday, in time for most of the festivities. Along the way he hitched rides with nine people, and as he emerged from the Smithsonian Metro Station onto The Mall, his eyes welled with tears."

"I just had to be here," he said. "Some of us are so isolated from the rest of the gay community that something like this is monumental...I see a whole lot more younger people than I expected."

"As he got closer to the stage, the tears began to stream down his face. 'This is just so wild...seeing so many people who are like me,' he said."

"But already, [Blank] was thinking about the trip home. In black grease pencil, he wrote 'GEORGIA' on his left arm, hoping to find someone going his way."

"He has to be at work on Tuesday."

I am glad that you could join us in Washington, John. I hope that you made it back to Atlanta safely. Your spirit and that of hundreds of thousands of others made The March successful. Join us at Gay Pride this year. Transportation should be easier!

Sincerely,
Hank Wheeler

Six Flags not a world of fun for gays

To the Editor:

On the eighteenth of April, fourteen of us went to SixFlags over Georgia. We rode rides and had an enjoyable time. Later in the day three juveniles started harassing us. They started calling us names like fag, queers—the stereotypical uncreative slang. They also used a lot of gestures; such as the bent wrist and skipping, to name a few. There was also a belt that was being cracked behind us.

The harassment was starting to get annoying. We approached a Cobb County police officer, employed by the park, and asked him to help. The officer replied something to the effect of "you're making a statement—I won't help you—you are on your own."

At this point we had a chat among ourselves and decided to let these kids follow us all day; if this is how they wanted to spend the day after they paid to get in, we would let them. It did start to get uncomfortable when they enlisted other patrons to help them with their slurs. It is important to note that the police officer we first spoke with, saw us being harassed. Also, security from the park

seemed to be following at a distance and could see the harassment also. Neither the police officer nor security did anything about the harassment.

We were moving through the park to go to some more rides when security stopped us and told us that our group would have to follow him. We were brought to the back gate where more security started to surround us and more security pulled up on the outside of the gate. We were told that there were complaints about our group. We all were over the whole thing so we headed out the gate and drove to the front entrance and asked for the manager.

Park management, at our request, refunded our money. They also signed the reimbursement forms which stated the reason they were refunding our money. "Reason for Reimbursement: Harassment by security and patrons, made to feel unwelcome and unsafe within the grounds of the park."

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Burris, Kenneth B. Bugg,
Jonathan M. Levy, Gregory G. Baxter,
Chynna Fox, Randall W. Wells,
William G. Morris, M. Craig Bowles,
Christopher Johnson, Erik Hayes

No fun in Mableton either

To the Editor:

We had been fortunate to not have had to deal with any homophobic discrimination towards us since receiving our Honorable Discharges from the US Armed Forces. Earlier this week that changed.

We went to Bankhead Bowling Lanes in Mableton to bowl. We have bowled there over four years, with each other or several friends, so we are familiar faces. Because of our prior military service we do not show any public display of affection in blatant heterosexual settings; but, we don't hide that fact we enjoy being together. As we were bowling our last game a men's church league came in. Prior to their game, announcements were made over the PA system.

We were slapped in the face by the homophobic views and fears expressed during these announcements. An employee of Bankhead Lanes announced that there was a petition at the desk to block the lifting of the ban against gays in the military. He went on to say that they did not wish gays any wrong, gays needed help and they would pray for them—but they didn't want them integrated into the military to "demoralize the family."

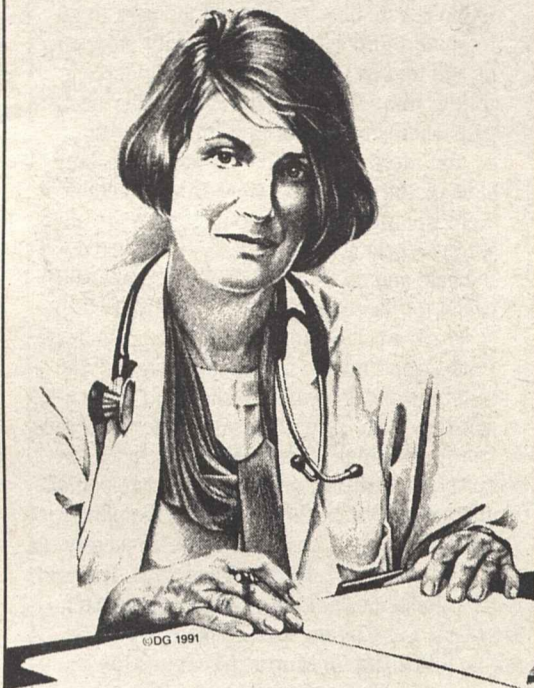
We realize that this is small town intelligence but we need to show these homophobes we're here, we're in their stores, their facilities and everywhere. We pay taxes and support their communities, yet we get slapped in the face...or worse! We are sure that many other gays, lesbians and bisexuals in smaller Georgia towns have had to deal with this type of discrimination also and, like us, are unsure how to handle it. Maybe it's time our community held rallies or demonstrations in these smaller Georgia towns to let them know we are *everywhere*. We would encourage and participate in rallies or demonstrations held in Mableton and other small communities where these ideologies exist.

In the meantime, we will call, call, and call again, the Senators and Representatives on the list we received at the lift the ban rally in Piedmont Park on March 27.

Sincerely,
Pat & Deb

We respectfully request that our last names and address be withheld should you decide to publish our letter. Because we live in this small community we fear grave consequences could come our way should our names be published.

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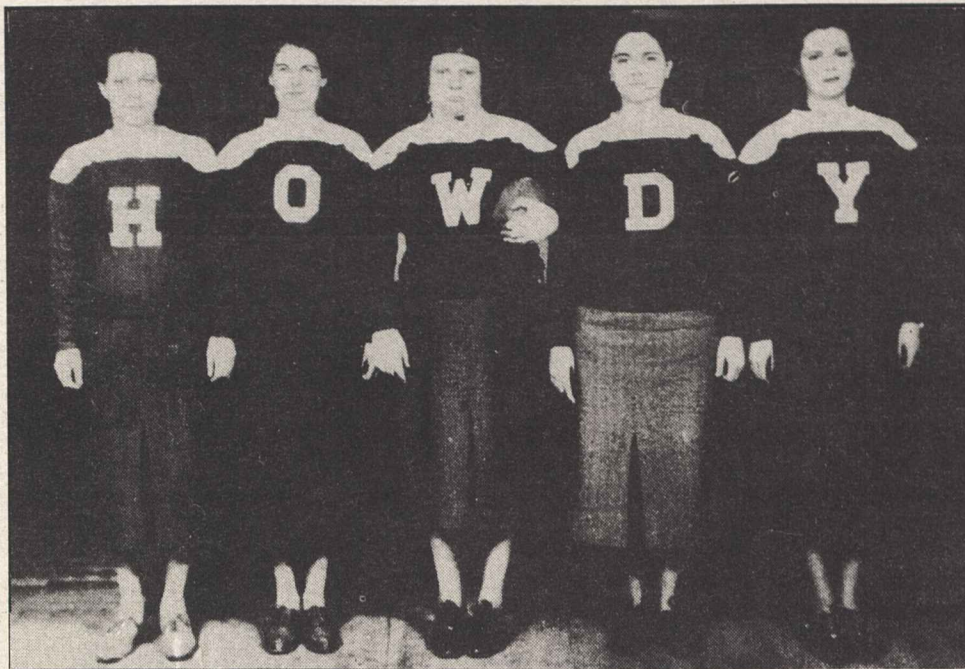
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Waitresses from Howdy's, a New York City bar, ca. 1940. The photo is one of 12,000 housed at the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

Lesbian Herstory Archives purchases permanent home

The Lesbian Herstory Archives, the largest and oldest lesbian archives in the world, has announced the opening of their permanent home at 484 14th Street in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York. This is the first openly identified lesbian organization to own a building in New York City.

On June 20, 1993, a ribbon-cutting at the Archives building will kick-off opening day festivities. The Archives will reopen on a regular basis after July 4th.

Since 1974, the Archives, an independent, grassroots community organization unaffiliated with any institution, has been housed in what was the apartment of Joan Nestle and Deborah Edel, two of the founders. Parts of the collection had to be stored in various other locations. Now the entire collection will be in one accessible building, which will also serve as a center for cultural events as well as research.

The building, a turn-of-the-century landmark limestone townhouse, with three stories and a garden, was purchased with thousands of relatively small contributions from lesbians all over the country.

"This new Archives building is a community center in its most profound sense—it was bought by, organized by, and filled by

the lesbian community," comments Morgan Gwenwald. "Like a true home it will serve as a center of our past, present and future."

Today, the Archives houses over 10,000 volumes, 12,000 photographs, 200 special collections, 1,400 periodical titles, 1,000 organizational and subject files, thousands of feet of film and video footage, art and artifacts, musical records and tapes, posters and T-shirts, buttons and personal memorabilia. The range of material is astonishing—from medical texts to steamy 1950s pulp novels to short-lived lesbian publications, from rhinestone pasties worn by a lesbian stripper to a team-autographed softball to a lambda-embazoned hard hat. Also included are files on topics such as Butch/Fem, Lesbian Theatre, and Lesbians in Africa.

"The Archives is a place for all lesbians, those who want to browse, read a book, look for their own reflections in the papers or photographs," says Polly Thistlethwaite. "At the Archives, lesbian lives exist in their full diversity and from our own points of view instead of the views of the people who hate us. It's a living archives. No lesbian life is excluded. We urge all lesbians everywhere to contribute materials so it will grow."



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Atlanta Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner expected to draw 1,500

Once a year in Atlanta, eating dinner becomes a very political statement, especially if it's the annual Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner.

Every year the dinner raises money for HRCF lobbying efforts.

"It's not just the money, but the power locally that is created by the dinner," says Steve Huber, Development Director for HRCF. "Members of Congress know that the HRCF is capable of mobilizing action on a dime because our members around the country are used to rolling up their sleeves and doing work."

But money is a big part of that. Last year's Atlanta HRCF dinner contributed \$150,000 dollars to HRCF's coffers—money that has funded lobbying efforts for lifting the ban and on gays and lesbians in the military and working on passage of the federal civil rights bill for gays and lesbians.

"Our lobbying staff is on the Hill every day working with Members of Congress on issues important to the community," emphasizes Huber. The President and Congress are very aware of HRCF and the role we played in mobilizing the gay and lesbian community during the election. Congress members say we are the most effective voice for our community on the federal level."

HRCF is also very concerned with activism at home. Two awards are given annually to outstanding members of the local community.

Don George, noted Atlanta gay activist, will receive the Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award. The award, named for one of the founders of HRCF, is given annually to the person who has gone beyond the bounds of leadership and joined the ranks of the few we can call heroes.

Asked how he feels about being named a

local hero, George says, "I feel very blessed just to be alive, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to do the things that I'm doing. My goal is to help make growing up gay or lesbian in this country better than it was when I was a child."

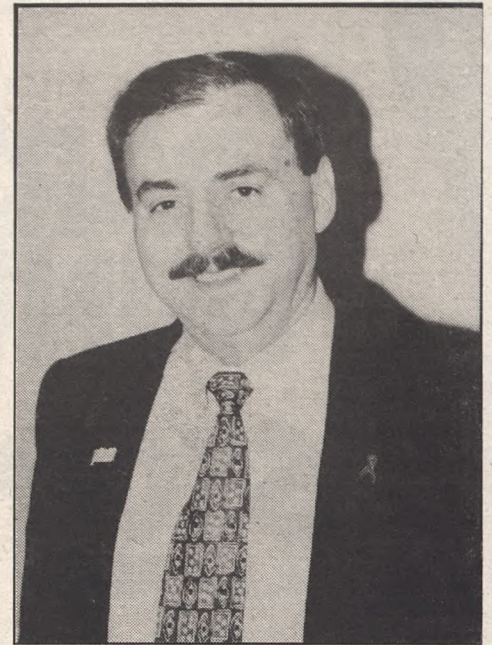
When George attended his first HRCF dinner three years ago, he was so moved by the speech given by HRCF Executive Director Tim McFeeley, he just had to get involved.

Since that time, he has recruited and mobilized volunteers to work in the Atlanta lesbian and gay effort to elect Bill Clinton. He testified for HRCF before the CDC on mandatory AIDS testing and was quoted on a front page story in The Washington Post. Don's most recent project has been lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. He has spearheaded letter writing campaigns and coordinated the two Lift The Ban rallies held in Atlanta this year.

The HRCF Community Leadership Award will go to Linda Bryant and Sherry Emory, owners of Charis Books and More, Atlanta's first lesbian and gay bookstore. This award is given to individuals or organizations in Atlanta who have demonstrated outstanding achievement on behalf of gays and lesbians.

In 1974, Linda Bryant daydreamed with a friend about opening a bookstore—"a store for all people who are open to change, who care for the planet, and who support alternatives to the hatefulness of patriarchal culture." In November of that year, Linda realized her dream when Charis Books and More opened its doors in Little Five Points.

In 1985, Sherry Emory joined Charis as a volunteer and a year later was in partnership with Linda as an owner of Charis. Today, Charis is more than a bookstore. It's a community center of sorts—a meeting place, a performance



Linda Bryant and Sherry Emory of Charis Books & More will receive the 1993 HRCF Community Leadership Award and Don George will go home with the Dan Bradley Humanitarian Award.

space, a resource for information about political events, as well as a place to find books that reassure, challenge, and entertain.

The evening's feature speaker will be Joseph Steffan, former Battalion Commander at the Naval Academy of Annapolis, Maryland. Steffan landed in the spotlight following his dismissal from the Academy in 1992, because he is gay. Steffan's experience has been recorded in his book "Honor Bound."

And no evening is complete at a gay and lesbian gala without entertainment. Robert Ray has produced a 40 minute performance segment made up of local singers and dancers. This year's performance will be "in the round" so the audience can experience the performance.

"This is like no other dinner in the U.S.," explains dinner co-chair Pamela Evans. "Most

never stray from the usual agenda of dinner, speaker, awards, go home. But we decided to mix entertainment with politics."

Obviously it's a mix that works. Over the past three years, attendance at the dinner has steadily risen.

"We had 750 two years ago, 1,200 last year and we're hoping for 1,500 this year," says Evans.

This year there will be three video screens so even those with tables in the back can see everything on the stage.

The HRCF 1993 Dinner will be held in the Tom Murphy Ballroom of the World Congress Center on May 22. A silent auction, featuring \$50,000 worth of items will begin at 6:30 PM with dinner at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$175 and are available by calling (404) 662-4280.

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EYE ON THE MILITARY

Hearings continue in Congress over the gays in the military issue, and while media coverage has dropped to near nothing, the fireworks are approaching a crescendo.

During the April 29 hearing conducted by Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn—who still insists that his hearings are fair—lawmakers ignored the scheduled agenda—discussions about gays in foreign militaries—instead opting to devote most of the day to the homophobic rantings of retired Lt. Gen. C.A.H. Waller, who was second in command during Operation Desert Storm. As reported last week, Waller testified that gays in the military would create a "second-rate" armed force. But Waller had much more to say.

In an exchange that so far has only been reported by the Washington Blade, Waller was asked about by Maine Republican Sen. William Cohen about a hypothetical soldier who acknowledges his homosexuality but says he has not engaged in homosexual activity. Cohen asked if that soldier should be allowed to remain in the service.

Waller initially named the hypothetical soldier "Corp. Cohen," then "Corp. Nunn," but changed the name to "Buttpucker" after the chamber audience laughed at the original names. No senator challenged the general's use of such a derogatory term. Following a break in the hearing, Waller explained that he had actually said "Fudpucker," and Nunn said that was the name he heard. A phone call to Nunn's press secretary Scott Williams was not returned for a comment about the incident.

A day after the "Buttpucker" testimony, Senate Armed Services Committee member Sen. Edward Kennedy clashed with Nunn, the committee chair, in a closed door meeting. Kennedy was angry over the expertise of witnesses Nunn has called to the hearings, according to others at the meeting.

The Senate is holding hearings at a Naval base in Norfolk, Virginia, this week.

Across the Capitol in the House Armed Services Committee hearings, begun on May 4, U.S. Representatives erupted into a brief shouting match, spurring committee chair Rep. Ron Dellums to call on the committee members "to act as mature adults as we grapple with each other...if that's not the business of being here, then we all ought to get up and walk out."

The loud, chaotic exchange was touched off when Democratic Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii requested that Republican Rep. Stephen Buyer of Indiana yield him time to speak. Buyer, who was questioning the relevance of testimony of police and fire department officials on the issue and claiming that ending the ban on gays is not a question of



Members of Queer Nation D.C. at a March 25 press conference where they protested Sen. Sam Nunn's chairing the hearings on gays in the military.

civil rights, refused. Buyer claimed he didn't "have much time here," to which Abercrombie responded, "You don't make much sense either."

The resulting din lasted less than a minute and ended with Abercrombie shouting derisively "The military and civil rights do go together, pal."

Despite the haranguing, the House committee did listen to testimony from gay veterans and high ranking heterosexual veterans who support lifting the ban, a feat not yet managed by the Senate hearings.

Former Army Capt. Tanya Domi, now with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, testified that gays and lesbians want no special rules or privileges, only fair treatment.

"We are only asking that the rules be applied fairly," she said, "with parity and without regard to sexual orientation."

Domi, who testified that she hid her sexual orientation for the 15 years she served, also described being propositioned by a fellow officer, a man, and then investigated on his charge that she was a lesbian when she refused his advances.

Also testifying was highly decorated former Army Colonel Karl Cropsey, who told the congressmen that he "didn't join the Army to have a date."

Rep. Dellums has said that in future hearings he will hear from the religious right, which should bring more titillating news from congressional chambers.

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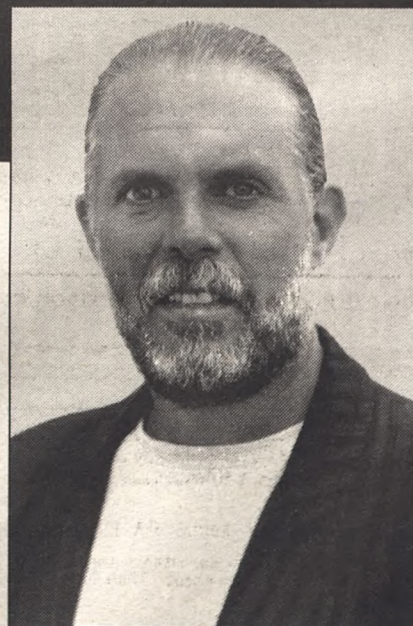
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1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Marchers fly home with religious right-winger Lou Sheldon

All the fun was on American Airlines during the return trip from the April 25 March on Washington. On a flight from Washington to California, March participants found themselves flying with Religious Right leader Lou Sheldon, founder of the Traditional Values Coalition. Sheldon told a flight attendant that he felt threatened by the gays and lesbians on board, and the captain of the flight moved the conservative demagogue to first class.

Versions of what happened on board the plane differ. Sheldon said the lesbians and gays threatened him while the marchers said they simply wanted to greet him.

Some passengers went to Sheldon to say "I'm a gay person and I'm just like everybody else," said Karen Norman, who attended the march with her partner Pat and their son Zachary. "The hate that this man espouses toward gay people made him fearful for his own life, not because it was coming from us."

Sheldon, through a TVC spokesman, said the crowd suddenly became unruly after he spoke briefly with a fellow passenger.

"Reverend Sheldon shook a person's hand and that conversation soured and became a mean spirited vendetta," said Steven Pendergraft.

Norman said the crowd briefly chanted "Shame, shame" and "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to it" after Sheldon was moved from the coach section. The anti-gay activist requested a police escort to walk to his connecting flight when the plane landed in Chicago.

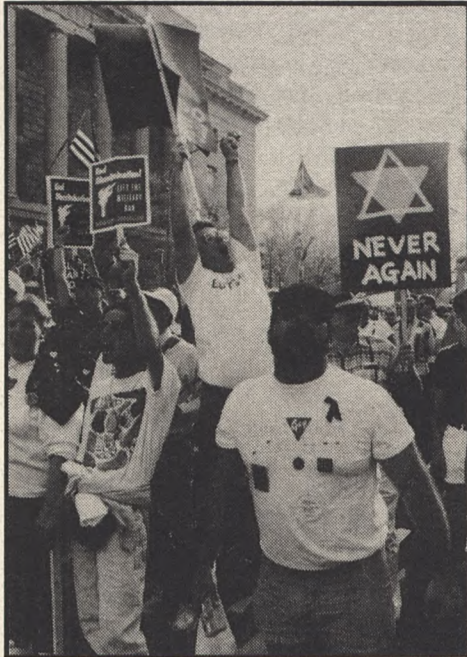
Anti-gay activists have often declared they were threatened in the presence of gays and lesbians. Last year, Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell escaped out the back door of a Los Angeles hotel when he believed gay and lesbian protestors outside the hotel were trying to kill him.

News reports of the incident did not indicate why Sheldon was in Washington, nor did they speculate whether or not Sheldon might have purposefully hoped for some incident when he booked a flight he most certainly knew would hold many gays and lesbians returning home from the march.

In another American Airlines incident, the company apologized for an internal message to replace blankets and pillows used by passengers from the Washington march on a flight to Dallas-Ft. Worth.

The crew's request read: "inbd crew req complete chg of all pillows blankets due gay rights activists group onbd."

According to American spokesman Tim Smith, the crew on the flight made no reference to gays or lesbians when it made the request, and the reference apparently came from a ground crew worker. Smith, calling the message "outrageous and totally inappropriate," said replacement linen may have been needed because the crew used some blankets to clean up food spill.



KEN BERG

Some marchers returning from Washington, D.C. were harrassed on the way home. A woman in Greensboro, NC was fired from her job.

David Taffet, vice president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance said the apology was sufficient.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force leaders report they are tracking several anti-gay incidents against those who participated in the march. According to NGLTF's Martin Hiraga, a man in Virginia threatened a group of lesbians at gunpoint as they were riding the subway home from the march, and another man pointed a gun out his car window at a busload of Oregon activists.

"It's happening in every city, every area of the country," Hiraga said. "It's not just the big cities."

Another marcher, Janet Blevins of Greensboro, NC, returned home to a termination notice from her employer. Blevins, who was North Carolina's representative on the March's national steering committee, claims that she was fired because of her sexual orientation.

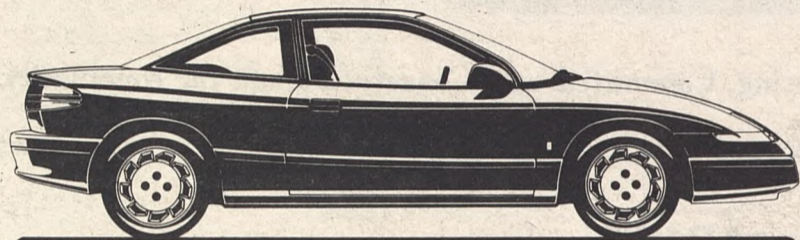
"It's very upsetting," she said. "Here I spent a whole week feeling very empowered in Washington and was supposed to come back and help people to come out. Then this happens."

Blevins' former manager, Emily Pope of CD Super Store, denied that Blevins was fired for her sexual orientation, instead insinuating that Blevins was not a "team member."

March officials still have not tallied the final numbers on monies spent and raised for the March, but that is expected later this week. The March Store was open for business until May 9 for walk in and mail order customers.

March organizers also plan to meet with National Park Service officials to go over photos and other data in order to review the Park Service's estimate of the crowd size.

Do not pass.



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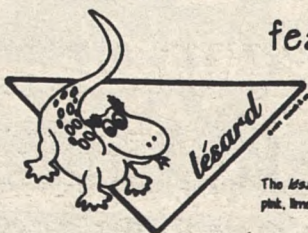
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RIGHT WATCH

Atlanta's High Museum of Art will join at least 16 other museums who are boycotting next month's Museum Store Association convention in Denver, Colorado. High spokesperson Anne Wilson told Southern Voice that museum shop manager Maureen Marks would not attend. The museum gets "tremendous support from the gay and lesbian community," Wilson said. "To attend the convention did not seem right."

Other museums boycotting the convention are the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Chicago Institute of Art, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Los Angeles County Museum, the Walker Art Institute in Minneapolis, the Detroit Art Institute, the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The High's director, Ned Rifkin, had already joined other members of the Association of Art Museums in the boycott when that group cancelled its convention set for next January. The group would have brought 150 directors of arts institutions to Denver and Colorado Springs.

Also joining the boycott effort is the New York University Law School, which has barred Colorado employers from recruiting law graduates on the NYU campus. A faculty committee also recommended NYU administrators ban official travel to Colorado or purchases from companies in that state.

Legislative update

A proposed ban on discrimination against gays and lesbians has won the Oregon Senate's approval, but the bill faces an uncertain future in the state House.

The Texas Senate last week approved an overhaul of the criminal justice system, including dropping gay sex from the state's penal code. Political observers say the revised code stands a good chance of passing the House.

The state's sodomy law, which applies only to same-sex relations, has been declared unconstitutional by a state appellate court. The state has appealed that decision to the Texas Supreme Court, which has yet to rule.

A gay rights bill has passed the Illinois House, the first time such a bill has been passed by either the House or Senate chambers in that state. The bill, which bans discrimination in jobs and housing, faces a stiff fight in the Republican controlled Senate.

Most surprisingly, both House and Senate committees in the Louisiana legislature approved gay rights bills, but both bills were quickly shot down by the full chambers.

Ballot initiatives

The Idaho Republican Party Central Com-



The High Museum of Art, along with 16 other museums, will boycott a Museum Store Association convention in Denver next month.

mittee declined a Democratic challenge to condemn the Idaho Citizens Alliance's anti-gay initiative, voting last week to bypass the issue. The Democratic Central Committee had voted last month to oppose the initiative "because it encourages bigotry and hatred."

Idaho Citizens Alliance chair Kelly Walton, a former Oregon Citizens Alliance official, said he was pleased Republican leaders informally reaffirmed their support for previous state and national party positions.

In Oregon, anti-gay initiatives are set for vote in five counties and one city on June 29. The Oregon Citizens Alliance has enough signatures to place the measures on the ballots in Crook, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath and Linn Counties, and in Junction City. Other initiatives may be on the ballot as early as September in other locales. The earliest vote, in Cornelius, takes place May 18.

And finally, gay Catholics are planning low-key protests during Pope John Paul II's visit to Colorado this summer.

"The spirit of what we have planned is positive and educational," said Dugan McGinley of Dignity/Denver. "We want to use this opportunity to make our issues known while the world's attention is focussed on Denver."

The pope plans to visit Denver Aug. 12-15 as part of the week-long World Youth Day conference, which is expected to draw about 200,000 people. Dignity members plan to hold a prayer service Aug. 8 on the steps of the state Capitol to make a special appeal to gay teenagers participating in the conference. They also will join other groups in an Aug. 12 rally, and participate in a public panel discussion sponsored by Catholics Organizing for Renewal, a coalition of about 2000 disaffected Catholics.



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SPIRITUALITY

Heart Fire: Creating a Men's Community

An interview with Michael Ganther

by AL COTTON

When Michael John Ganther, a gay man and Texas psychotherapist, discovered the men's movement in 1987, he threw himself into it "with gusto," and started facilitating workshops that brought together gay and straight men.

But there's only so much that gay men can do to heal themselves in a predominately straight context. That led Ganther to found **Heart Fire**, a weekend workshop that creates community for gay men to deal with common issues, problems and dreams.

Al Cotton spoke with Ganther about Heart Fire and gay men in the men's movement and in society as a whole.

AC: What is Heart Fire?

MG: A creation of my own that is sustained by myself and a circle of gay men who are committed to working with other gay men in the basic essential of empowerment, both self and community.

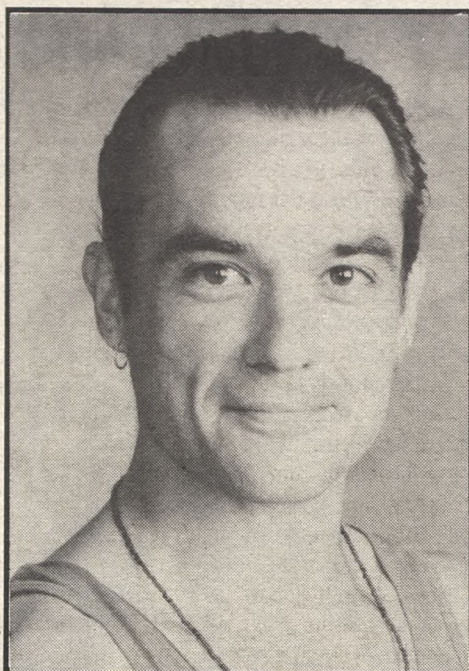
There's a word I really like: re-enchantment. I believe all human beings are enchanted, and the system trains that out of us. Kindergartners, when asked to draw a house, draw these incredibly creative, imaginative, magical houses. By the time they're halfway through kindergarten, they all draw a box with proper rooms, proper windows and a proper front door. We lose a significant amount of that enchantment. I think gay people are enchanted in a special way, not better, but with a specific role in this world.

Many of the Native Americans call the sexually diverse people the Walk-In-Between people. There is an adventure there for the gay man or woman who chooses to receive it, in healing, in creativity, in bridging, in seeing things from an advantageous perspective.

Joseph Campbell said that the new Mythology started when men landed on the Moon and saw Earth for the first time from that vantage point. Well, gay people who choose to do so live from that vantage point. As much as we have suffered from our different uniqueness, we have also been gifted. We indeed are on the Moon looking back at the Earth, living that New Mythology.

AC: What do you do at Heart Fire that teaches this to gay men?

MG: We use active meditation, and music and movement and dance. I like to think that we involve ourselves in self-expression at all possible levels.



Michael Ganther

I am a psychotherapist by trade, but what I do at Heart Fire is way beyond psychotherapy. At Heart Fire, we do shadow work, which incorporates an acknowledgment, then an appreciation, and then an empowerment of the whole person. To do that, one must embrace the shadow. As gay men and women, we've all experienced our gayness being pushed into the shadow. Right now, in the military, are voices saying, "Keep it in the shadow..."

AC: And we'll leave you alone.

MG: The reason gay men receive projected rage from the mainstream society is that in America, people are identity-less. They are with their parents, their teachers, their religions, their governments, their employers—all of those identities instead of their own. Beneath that tremendous loss is an empty, strong pain, and all sorts of things are pursued fruitlessly to end that pain. Along come gay and lesbian folks who have the courage to claim an identity against the mainstream. That's exceptionally bold.

AC: Sort of like the psychic garbage collector or street sweeper, or perhaps, the flea-marketeer, one who takes things and makes them valuable again.

MG: That's a wonderful description of what gay people do on this planet. Being a part of the re-enchantment.

Before Heart Fire, our group was called Shaman Circle. I and another man had gotten involved in the Men's Movement. The result was that gay men said they wanted to do more, but also said "There's no way you'll get me to an event where the majority are straight men." So we formed Shaman Circle. I have since released the word "shaman" out of respect for the indigenous peoples. I think a big part of what's happening with gay men and women now is that we're evolving a new relationship

CONTINUES ON PAGE 18

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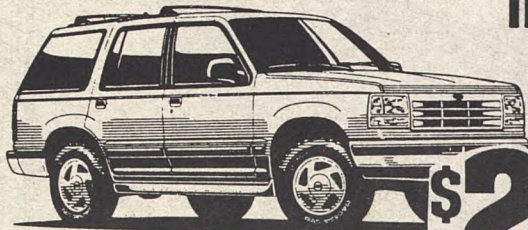
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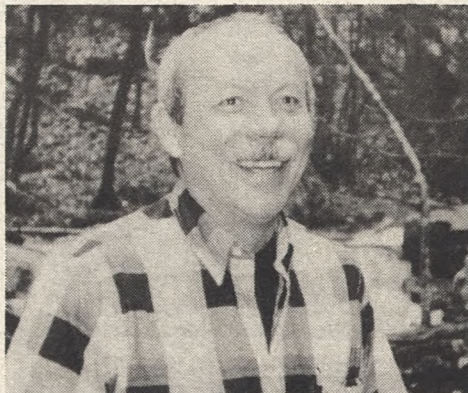
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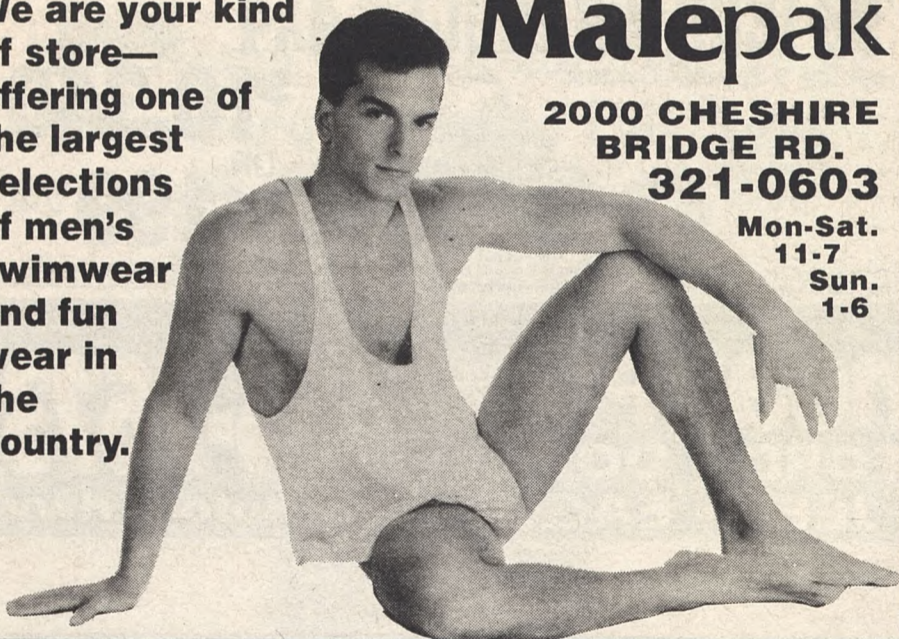
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Celebrating Gay Spirit Visions

Atlanta's version of Heart Fire is the Celebrating Gay Spirit Visions Conference, which will occur this year on the weekend of September 17-19 at the mountain, a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference near Highlands, North Carolina.

The conference, which began as a place where gay men could meet and learn from our gay elders, was the brainchild of three men: Ron Lambe and Peter Kendrick of Asheville, North Carolina, and Atlantan Raven Wolf-dancer. Its first speaker was Faerie father figure Harry Hay. Over 70 gay men attended, and a safe space for gay male spiritual exploration in the Southeast was born.

Year two brought poet James Broughton to the mountains, with the theme "Celebrating the Erotic Godbody." We learned from the Good Gay Poet, in a hands-on workshop, about "Penis, Perineum and Anus—Where the Soul Dwells in the Body." Over 100 men attended.

Year Three saw a dozen men join the planning committee. We came together to choose words that describe the gay experience—touch, shadow, power, gifts—and explore them. Almost 100 men came to revel in gay abandon.

This space has become for us a place where we can claim a spiritual path, and find support from other gay men to follow it. Collectively, we explore in many directions: some of us walk Native American paths, learning wisdom from the Earth; others work to create a gay enclave in the men's movement; others seek to rebuild lost connections between the sexual and the spiritual; still others dance with the Faeries. There are many paths.

Words to describe it? Circling. Connecting. Dancing. Dreaming. Drumming. Giving. Holding. Hoping. Hugging. Reaching. Touching.

Wandering. Weaving. For more linear thoughts, I asked conference organizers to tell what's important to them about our group.

Keynote speaker Andrew Ramer: "There is something that happens when I get together with other men who love men...There is something that happens when we walk, eat, talk, cry, laugh, dance, sing, sleep and simply live together for three days. These days...are long in the way that a time-stopping glance at someone you love is long. Only this is a glance that embraces a hundred people."

Conference organizer Martin Isganitis: "What I found was an opportunity to sit in council with the elders, to talk of the men of our past and to listen to the voices of silence. And the mountain is a place where you can hear the voices of our ancestors on the wind and feel their caress under your feet...I have discovered my tribe, the people to whom I belong."

Conference organizer Elliot Mackle: "Gay Spirit Visions is a search [where] I prostrate myself before the altar of whatever It is: Gay Spirit, Male Power, Male Forde—the concentration of brother souls I've blended with over the past several years. I feel It like a pleasant surge of warm electricity all through me."

Keynote speaker Franklin Abbott: "I continue to attend [such] conferences to be in gay defined space...and to meet new men who are as much homo-spiritual as they are homo-sexual. The conferences are the next step in my journey, a place where love is so strong I cannot but surrender my fear and open my heart."

Our fourth conference is tentatively entitled "Celebrating Our Nature." Planning for it, and the enjoyment of each other's company, occurs every second Saturday. Any man wanting to Celebrate a Gay Spirit Vision is welcome. Call 378-7224 for location and details.

AL COTTON

Ganther interview

Continued from page 17
of our place on the planet.

AC: You're doing an event in Highlands, North Carolina soon. How do the geographic surroundings affect what goes on at Heart Fire?

MG: At a Heart Fire event in a canyon in Texas, I realized that being in those settings and affording the power of those natural settings and ceremony is part of the weave that we create, and allows amazing things to happen, things that can't happen in an office under fluorescent lights.

AC: Do you do events with women?

MG: We have done a gay/lesbian event in 1992. We also have the Allies Conference, which is for sexually diverse people of all genders. We put that off 'til 1994—I feel like a lot of energy has gone into the March this year. That's something we'll have plans for in the future.

Heart Fire will be at the mountain in Highlands, North Carolina, May 21-23. For more information, call Liberty Books in Dallas at 1-800-828-1279, between Noon and 9 PM CST.

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INTERVIEW

KELLY LYNCH

Kelly Lynch could have been Sharon Stone, the highest paid actress in Hollywood. Offered the Catherine Trammell role in "Basic Instinct" months before Stone had even been called, Lynch declined because, "It wasn't a sexy role to me. It's not what gets me excited. It wasn't erotic or sensual. It was angry and violent, and anger and violence never gets me off." Lynch may make a name for herself yet. Well, she sort of already has.

Always ready to get earthy and blunt, Lynch never moralizes about the outsiders she tends to play—drug maven, the loner, the bisexual model—or as in her latest film "Three of Hearts," the proud and loud, if insecure, lesbian.

The Four Seasons Hotel is a perfect place to catch traveling stars and filmmakers promoting their latest films. They all come through here. For Lynch, it's an ideally neutral setting to pull up a chair, lounge on a comfortable sofa with an Evian and go off on a tangent with the gay press. She's grateful to get away from the pack of press people who have been interviewing her in groups all afternoon.

Having starred opposite Matt Dillon in Gus Van Sant's acclaimed "Drugstore Cowboy," Lynch knows what it is to slog it out in the world of independent filmmaking. "Three of Hearts" provides Lynch the opportunity to control the creative process while still doing what she does best, act with gusto. Just as in her pre-Hollywood modeling career, she's had the rough with the smooth, the big bucks and the small potatoes.

Those ups and downs are a recurring theme in her life from her small town roots at the barstool in the Minnesota drag bar her father owned, to her modeling career competing with Supermodel Gia, to passing on the opportunity to be the highest paid actress in history. Lynch doesn't hold any grudges, nah...

KL: We're trying to get into the National Holocaust Museum that opens next week. But I'm not Sharon Stone, so I can't just drop my name and doors will open. Would you like something to drink?

MC: Sure. Just some water, please. There wasn't a lot of advanced publicity about "Three of Hearts."

KL: There has been a gay publication which was negative.

MC: Lance Loud had a good bitch about William Baldwin. I always get William Baldwin and his brother Alec confused.

KL: Billy's got less of an edge.

MC: A "street" edge, you mean?

KL: I don't know. There's something, he would hate me to say it, but there's something like "Bambi-in-the-headlights" about him. Innocent. His brother's a man, but there's something really boyish about Billy.

MC: He uses that to great effect in "Three of Hearts."

KL: Oh yes, that's absolutely who he is in the film. It's a shame, because the original script was a love triangle, with a gay character and a bisexual character, but it wasn't about "being gay." Every movie with a gay character always has to be about "being gay."

MC: That's what's really nice about this film.

KL: There was an early cut of the film where Billy gets in the cab with Sheryl and drives off into the sunset.

MC: Where did that leave your character?

KL: The last you saw of me was in the hospital saying goodbye and "Gee, life is strange," and all of that stuff. But we were never going to let that be. One battle with the movie was to shoot the film with that "Casablanca" ending that it has. The three men in charge of this decision were three gay men! They thought they could make more money with a conventional Hollywood ending. Billy, Sheryl, I, the writer and the director all said, "No."

MC: What was your experience with Gus Van Sant?

KL: I adore him. He's a brilliant, brilliant man. Unfortunately, he just walked away from the Harvey Milk story with Oliver Stone, because he would rather make great movies rather than big, Hollywood movies.

MC: That was a lot of responsibility on Van Sant's shoulders.

KL: And he would have done an awful lot with it, unfortunately the studio wants to make a different movie. When you've got \$40-50 million budget, they may want the Kevin Costner version of Harvey Milk's life.



Kelly Lynch (Connie) and William Baldwin (Joe) strike a deal to get revenge on Connie's ex-girlfriend in "Three of Hearts."

MC: What did your parents do? Were they actors?

KL: No, my mother was a dancer and my father was in the bar and restaurant business. Actually, one of the bars he owned for many years until taxes and the city came after him and shut the place down was a wonderful drag bar in Minneapolis on Helopen Avenue. Great bar.

MC: Have you known a lot of lesbians? You hear rumors about various models.

KL: There are a lot of lesbian models, for sure. When I was working [modeling], there was a beautiful woman named Gia. They're doing all sorts of stories about now that she's died of AIDS.

MC: You were modeling at the same time she was?

KL: You know, I never met her, but everybody adored her. She was amazing, but unfortunately, she was a heroin addict. She was one of the great beauties of all time. She was the Keith Richards of modeling.

MC: What? A great original or something?

KL: The coolest guy in the Rolling Stones. She was the coolest woman in the modeling world as far as I was concerned. Several actors and agents I know are lesbian. I have great girlfriends who are gay, and none of them is like the character I play. Connie is her own weird hybrid.

MC: You had some great opportunities in this film to really act. Sherilyn Fenn and William Baldwin get the schmaltzy lines. But it's you who gets to stand in the middle of Washington Square and say, "OK world, I want everybody to know that my girlfriend just needs some space!"

KL: I wish I had the balls to do that in real life. I've wanted to. It's so great to play someone who doesn't edit herself. She's really emotional. We're told that we can't say those things. You've got to be brave, and you've got to be strong.

MC: But Connie is a believable character. I've seen people do that sort of thing in Washington Square.

KL: People do that. Absolutely. So many people ask me what I did to research this part of a lesbian. It's such a naive question, I think. It's not about examining my sex life with Sherilyn Fenn. She dumps me, and I love her and I want her. Now what am I gonna do? How am I gonna get over this? And on top of all of this, Connie was obsessed. For her the break-up wasn't so clean.

MC: I wonder how that'll play to a straight audience.

KL: I just don't know.

MC: Any initial reactions so far?

KL: I think people are afraid of it. The straight audience is waiting for Sharon Stone who will do things with a woman for straight men, to be a bisexual for men. There

were rewrites which were really homophobic, but I had script approval and I said I will not do this.

MC: How'd you get script approval?

KL: I negotiated my own contract. Movies like this are about artistic integrity, you know. In my career, because of the way the world is, I'll be able to play a gay character once in my life without getting stereotyped. I'm certainly not going to waste that chip on something silly and homophobic.

The fact is that there are no lesbian or female bisexual characters in Hollywood films. There have been several small movies. "Fried Green Tomatoes" was almost there. "Basic Instinct" was just the only image of gays from a major Hollywood studio that year, but that wasn't the only reason I passed on it.

MC: You said it was not sexy. Were you concerned that that was going to be your vagina on screen?

KL: Absolutely.

MC: It was a big selling point for the movie. That would have been you.

KL: When a man can show his dick on camera as freely, then maybe it'll be different for me.

MC: What's happened to Meryl Streep, who even when she was at the top of the acting heap with Oscar after Oscar, wasn't making as much as the men?

KL: Let's just say that Robert De Niro who hasn't broken a hit in quite some time still makes \$5 million per picture. And Meryl Streep's lucky if she makes \$1 million. Hell, Kurt Russell just got \$7 million to star in a science fiction movie. He's a nice guy, but really.

MC: Have you seen any great female performances so far this year?

KL: Oh yeah, I love Holly Hunter. Did you see "The Positively True Adventures of the Texas Cheerleader Murdering Mom" on HBO? Wasn't that just the Robert DeNiro performance?

MC: Do you think that with "Raising Arizona" and this that she'll get typecast as the crazy Southern hick?

KL: She is Southern. That's her natural accent. She's a girl from Texas.

MC: She wears it well. Have you met her?

KL: Yeah, I meet everybody at Lori Davis' getting my hair colored. I love her, "So tell me all about Cher!" "What do you want to know? Cher's a doll."

MC: Where is Lori Davis located?

KL: She's in that Arnold Schwarzenegger complex in Santa Monica.

MC: No kidding. Hmm, Santa Monica. Thanks.

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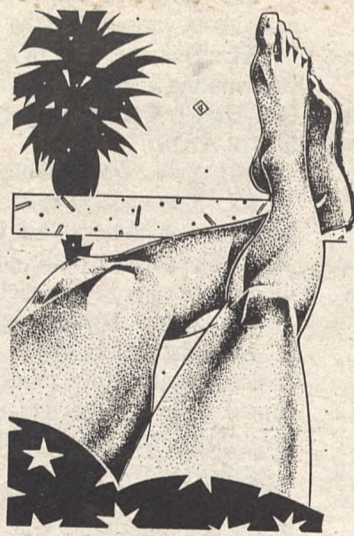
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OUT & ABOUT 21

C A L E N D A R

13 THURSDAY

RUBBING NOSES. Put on the kibble and Ritz at this fashion show and silent auction benefitting P.A.L.S., featuring pets and their owners in outrageous creations by local designers. GA Railroad Freight Depot. 6-9:30p.m. \$25. 876-PALS.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. The AIDS Legal Project presents a program about how to pay medical bills. Topics include Medicaid and Medicare, COBRA, and the Ryan White Payment Assistance program. 7-9p.m. The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church on the corner of MLK and Central. 614-3969.

HOT CHICKEN WINGS. Charis Books and More presents a dialogue with Lambda Literary Award nominee Jyl Lynn Felman, author

14 FRIDAY

THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME. Cartoonist Lynda Barry's upbeat comedy with music makes its south-eastern premiere. Two young girls, one black and one white, form an unforgettable friendship sparked by their passion for popular music. Through June 27. Horizon Theatre. Little 5 Points Community Center. 584-7450.

DOC WATSON featuring CEDAR HILL. Catch this legendary bluegrass and country picker from NC in one of his few performances this year. 8:30p.m. Variety Playhouse, L5P. 521-1786.

LE MISANTHROPE. See this very contemporary translation of Moliere's witty comedy, called "Moliere meets Madonna" by one critic.

ART FURNITURE. Artist Turner Duffy speaks on art furniture theory and method at an exhibition of his recent works. 7-10p.m. Art Forms, 22B E. Andrews Dr. 264-0246.

15 SATURDAY

ROGER AND ME. Sat. Nite Videos at the L5P Community Center presents this famous documentary about the effect's of GM's move to Mexico from the city of Flint, Mich. 7:30p.m. Corner of Euclid and Austin. 377-5962.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PEST CONTROL. Learn how to control pests without damaging the environment. Atlanta Botanical Garden. 10a.m.-noon. \$12-15. 876-5859.

past Hartsfield on I-85 at Exit 12. Sat & Sun through June 13. 964-8575.

CONCERT ON THE SQUARE. Pack a picnic and relax to "New Music Night" featuring a variety of entertainers. 7-10p.m. The square in downtown Decatur. 371-8386.

HIV UPDATE. The syndicated cable TV show airs every Sat at 6:00 p.m. on Channel 12. This month's program focuses on how the medical community deals with death and suicide by people with HIV/AIDS.

16 SUNDAY

THOLUKUKHANYA LIBRARY FUNDRAISER. Attend the first fundraiser for Sharing the Light, a group dedicated to building a library at a South African school. South African singing and dancing will follow dinner. 7p.m. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 LaVista Rd. 634-3336.

CHEHAW INDIAN FESTIVAL. The Institute for Southern Culture wants you to spend a day witnessing Native American Indian dances, and sampling arts and crafts and Indian cuisine in Albany, GA. In fact, for \$30 they'll even take you there (admission included). Depart 7a.m. from Rio Shopping Center, return 8pm. 681-7549.

ATLANTA FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL. The week-long festival continues with "Humanizing the Disease," films that give faces to the statistics and advocate the empowerment of those living with HIV. 4pm. 75 Bennett St. 352-4254.

17 MONDAY

A CELEBRATION OF SPRING. A gourmet dinner benefitting Atlanta NAPWA with food by several area restaurants. 7 and 9 p.m. seatings. Bacchanalia, 3125 Piedmont Rd. \$50/person. 365-0410.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program tonight presents "Georgia Marches," a focus on the events and activities of GA lesbians and gays during the historic 1993 March On Washington. 10:30p.m. and again, Wed. 5:30 pm. Cable Ch. 12.

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

18 TUESDAY

RITE OF REPAST. The TULA foundation presents an installation, made of 500 loaves of bread, by artist Joan Silver. T-F 12-5p.m., Sat. 11-5p.m. 351-3551.

CARMEN. Bizet's famous opera full of romance, intrigue surrounding the colorful lives of the Spanish Gypsies will be performed by the Capitol City Opera company. 6:30 pm. San Gennaro Italian Restaurant. \$39.50 (dinner and wine included). 633-2848.



19 WEDNESDAY

OPERATION SURVIVE! The HIV/AIDS Survival Training Course, a six-week seminar of specific topics related to surviving HIV, begins tonight. Wed. 7-9:30p.m., Sat. 11a.m.-1:30p.m. 874-7926.

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

LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART. An award-winning comedy drama about two hetero couples spending a weekend on Fire Island unraveling the secrets of their relationships when not gawking at the escapades of their gay neighbors. 8p.m. T-Sat., 3 & 7 p.m. Sun. Theater in the Square. Through June 26. Tickets \$10-\$22. 422-8369

Pictured: ABOVE: Caesar (Richard Fagan) and Calphurnia (Gigi Weinrich) embrace in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" at the Shakespeare Tavern through May 15. Photo by Michael Holland
BELOW: Bonna (Tracey Copeland) and Edna (Carolyn Cook) share their love of popular music on the front porch in "The Good Times Are Killing Me" opening May 14 at Horizon Theatre. Photo by Kathryn Kolb
LEFT: Out in Atlanta will feature Georgians at the March On Washington on its May 17 program. Photo by KC Wildmoon



of "Wings." 7:30 p.m. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Featuring violinist Frank Peter Zimmerman and conductor Yoel Levi performing Mozart. Through Saturday. 8:00 p.m. 898-1182.

Stillwell Theater, Kennesaw State College. 8p.m. Th-F. 423-6151.

ATLANTA...DANCE ON THE LOOSE. An evening of contemporary dance at Seven Stages Performing Arts Center. 8p.m. Th-F. 1105 Euclid Ave. 523-7647.

GEORGIA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. A cast of thousands entertains visitors and hundreds of craft shops present their wares for demonstration and sale in this recreation of an English country fair. The 30-acre 16th century village is located 10 miles

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

JULIUS CEASAR. Through May 15. The Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern presents this tragedy of honor, politics and murder W-Sat. 7:30p.m. 499 Peachtree St. 874-5299.

BETRAYAL. Through May 16. The Alliance Theatre presents Harold Pinter's romantic drama directed by Michael Olich. Tues-Sun. 898-1127.

SECOND SAMUEL. Through May 22. The whole town of Second

Samuel, GA is talking about what happened when sweet old Miss Gertrude got her final wash and set before being laid to rest in this play presented by Southern Fried Productions. F & Sat. 8:00 p.m., Sun. 2:00p.m. Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. 378-8646.

BENT. Through May 30. OutProud Theater presents Martin Sherman's classic play about the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi

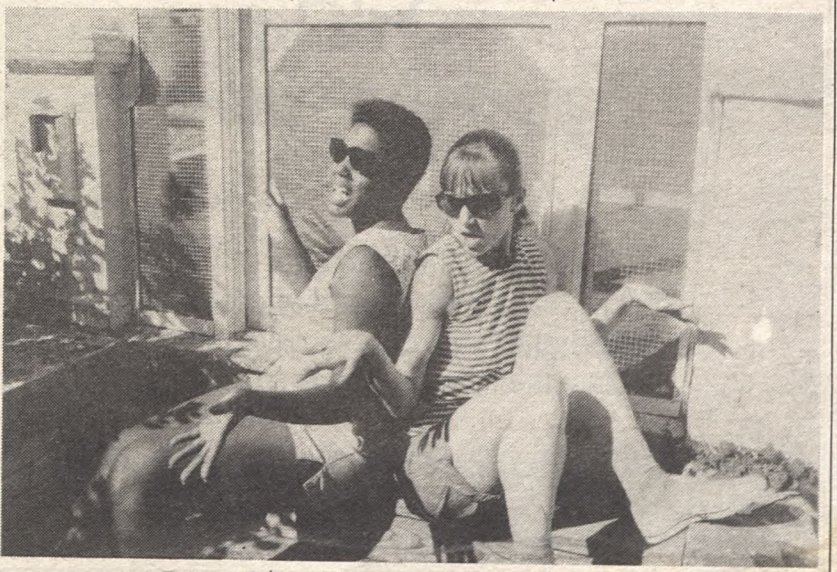
Germany. The Broadway production received extraordinary critical acclaim. Th-Sun 8:00p.m. 609-9590.

FOOL FOR LOVE. Through June 6. San Shephard's drama of two lovers tortured by their bond starring Kenny Leon and Carol Leon Mitchell. Actor's Express. 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

6TH ANNUAL HRCF DINNER. May 22. A black-tie evening of political inspiration,

entertainment, silent auction, cocktails and dinner with 1,500 members of the gay and lesbian community. Tickets are on sale now. \$150. 662-4280.

ATLANTA LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE MARCH. June 27. This year's Pride March is expected to be the best ever with 100,000 people expected to attend. Related events will take place the week preceding the March. For info or to volunteer, 662-4533.



VAL•UE (val'ū)

- n. 1. a fair equivalent in money, etc. for something sold or exchanged. 2. the worth of a thing in money or goods at a certain time.
- 3. that quality of a thing according to which it is thought of as being more or less desirable.
- 4. a buzz word for the '90s. 5. a seafood restaurant on Cheshire Bridge Rd.
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

The owners of **Cafe Tu Tu Tango** (220 Pharr Rd. at Bolling Way. 841-6222) want you to think of their import from Miami's Coconut Grove as an "artist's loft in Barcelona." Not quite. Tu Tu is more like a multicultural tapas bar for the 90s. But call it what you may, the latest in Buckhead's mini-explosion of trendoid eateries is definitely unlike any other chow palace hereabouts.

Imagine a semi-monstrous warehouse, chockablock with mix-and match-furniture, kinked-out tchotckes, the work of local artists (and some of the artists themselves), multiple levels, and enough energy for several dozen Pride parades. Then there's the music: a masterpiece of camp alternating Robert Goulet doing "Camelot" with Enya, The Bulgarian Woman's Chorus, and the theme from "Spartacus."

Add to all that a 50-plus item menu that wanders the world—from pizza to egg rolls to ribs to hummus.

Sound like too much? Well, nothing succeeds quite so well as well modulated excess, and the folks who invented and refined this concept know just how far to go without going too far. Cumudgeons beware: enter at your own risk—you may leave with a smile on your face and a song on your lips.

I harbor a strong distrust for restaurants that seem to want to serve one of everything and wind up serving nothing worth eating in the process. But that's not the case at Tu Tu Tango where much of the food is better than good, and the portions (advertised as appetizer size) are exceptionally large for the price. The most expensive thing on the menu is \$7.95, with lots of choices in the \$4-5 range. Assuming that three or four people are grazing together, you can afford to order a dud or two and hardly ever miss the money.

And, since most dishes come out of the multiple kitchens in less than five minutes, it's possible to order one course at a time and still proceed at a rapid clip through your meal.

As close as we came to an absolute failure was a big bowl of artichoke and chayote dip that was not bad, simply boring and far too filling to waste time or calories on when there are other goodies to be munched.

Like a small plate of exquisitely crisp, fried calamari with a lusty marinara on the side. It's as good as any in town and priced below most at a very reasonable \$3.95. Or two empanadas, stuffed with shredded duck, spinach, currants, and pine nuts, and fried to a beautiful brown. Assertively and unusually flavored, these are another winner and again a mere \$3.95.

On the milder side, a fat slice of plantain, potato, and onion fritata springs to life when dredged through the creamy red pepper rouille that surrounds it. Add a handful of greens, dressed in a well-balanced balsamic vinaigrette, and you may have one of the city's best \$3.25 meals.

A shrimp and black bean pizza is also pleasing, though lacking focus in its flavors. But the crust is thin and crisp and at \$5.95 for an 8" pie, this is yards better than the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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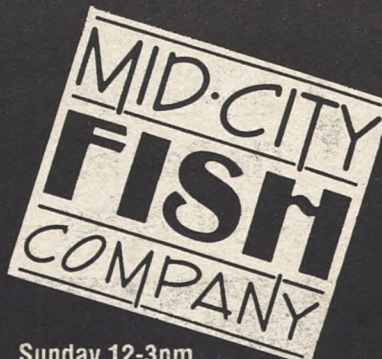


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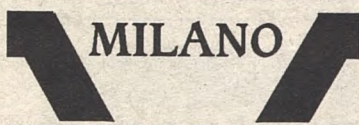
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

drek dished up by the California Pizza Kitchen. Next time I'll try a spinach, wild mushrooms, garlic, shallots, fontina and parmesan pie. Or a duck and leek combo with cheddar.

We tried two desserts: a dreamy, creamy amaretto flan and an intense chocolate mousse flecked with bits of ripe plantains. The latter is more like dark chocolate frosting than mousse, but yummy nonetheless. The flan, beautifully presented with whipped cream, chopped almonds, and an elegant dice of tropical fruits, is more like pudding than flan, but again, who cares?

There's a \$6.50 wedge of chocolate cake that wasn't available, but which must be pretty spectacular given the menu's general inclination towards economy.

But not everything is a bargain at Tu Tu Tango. Cheap wines are \$4 a glass as are designer (and even near-designer) beers. (But do try a Pete's Wicked Ale if dark brews float your boat.) Sangria manages to be both mild and pack a kick at \$3.75 a glass. Coffee drinks feel a mite stiff at \$5.75, but they're strong and the coffee is flavorful.

Four days after opening service tended to hyper-friendly, but that's bound to calm as time passes. Everyone seems to know what they are doing and appear to be pretty happy doing it. Tu Tu Tango is open continuously from around noon until midnight or later daily. It's predictably crowded on Saturday at prime time, but try it early or late and there shouldn't be a line.

Micro Brews

Beer has never made much of an impression on me, but that may be because I grew up drinking mass-produced commercial brews. Sure, they quench your thirst and enough of them will get you high, but most have all the flavor and character of a network sitcom. Boring!

Micro breweries have been challenging the status quo in the beer business for more than a decade now. Problem is that they are by definition small and usually distribute their product in very limited geographic areas. We're lucky to have the excellent Helenbach nearby, but what about all those tasty brews from the West coast and Texas and even the Midwest? Unless you or a friend travel to these areas and lug the stuff home in your suitcases, you miss lots of great and unique tastes.

Well, some enterprising folks in Illinois have come up with a brew of the month club with the prosaic name of **Beer Across America** that will (for \$13.95 a month plus tax and \$4+ per six pack shipping) get you two cartons a month of varied beers from small breweries around the country.

That's not exactly cheap, but it's less than you'd pay buying the stuff a bottle a time at a bar or restaurant. And think of how impressed your friends will be when you're the first on your block to serve up some Geary's Pale Ale.

For more info call 1-800-854-2337.

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Check out the sinful deserts Chef Scott has cooked up like truffles, creme caramel, chocolate melt cake... just don't spoil your appetite for dinner.



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Missing Music: Dish heard lots of tunes while we were in DC for the March, but we didn't hear "The Marine's Lament, or The Pink Peril," one of the funniest, most wicked ditties to come down the pike in a long time. Said song (all two minutes of it) was penned by the very talented Fred Small who also wrote the lullaby "Everything's Possible" that has been made so popular by the Flirtations. Lament is a rousing tune that questions why big brave Marines should be so frightened at the thought of having to take a shower with some fairies. It's a hoot and a half, albeit a bit dear at \$4 per cassette plus \$2.50 shipping. But a dollar goes to HRCF, and we guarantee that you'll get at least \$10 worth of chuckles every time you listen to it. Call 1-800-788-6043 to order.

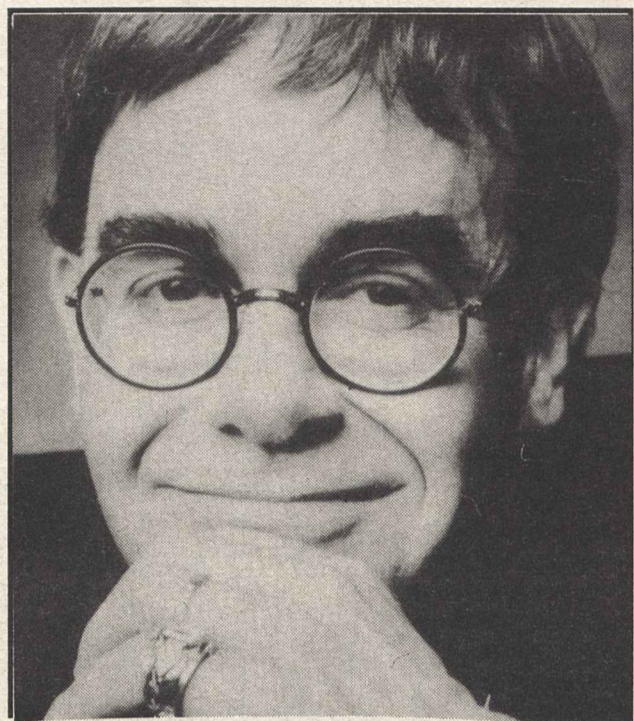
Doom and Gloom I: Yet another military commander has come forward and claimed that the inclusion of openly queer folk in the military of this great country would result in a "second rate force." Lt. Gen. Calvin Waller has suggested, however, that he could live with a policy of "limited tolerance." We guess that means tolerating queers in the closet. And we guess that's okay—so long as hets keep their sexual orientation a secret, too.

Doom and Gloom II: Then there's the following quote, "Neighbors will become the enemies of neighbors, fathers of their sons and sons of their fathers. Murder, rape, robbery, adultery and incest will be openly taught and practiced, the air will be rent with cries of distress, the soil soaked with blood, and the nation black with crimes." No girlfriends, those are not the hyperbolic wailings of Gen. Waller, Pat Robertson, or Colin Powell vis-a-vis homos in the military. They are from an editorial in the "Connecticut Courant," in 1800, describing what would happen to the country if Thomas Jefferson were elected President. The newspaper apologized for its hysteria a few weeks ago—on Jefferson's 250th birthday. Reckon it'll take the likes of General Waller that long to come around, too?

One at a Time: The mainstream media has been run over with editorials about the meaning of the recent March on Washington. Most that we've read have been favorable. (We understand that

Dish

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



Will Elton John attend the HRCF Dinner?

the Atlanta Journal's Dick Williams managed to break his recent string of silence on homo issues with a nasty little piece on the Saturday before the March, but we didn't read it so *that* doesn't count.) Our fave of all the supportive words came from Anna Quindlen's "The Power of One" in the New York Times: "The numbers in Washington were not as important as the faces, the

sheer humanity of one person after another saying: Look at me. I am a cop, a mother, a Catholic, a Republican, a soldier, an American. So the ice melts. The hate abates. The numbers, finally, all come down to one." In other words, Harvey Milk's adage still stands. You simply must come out.

Sneaky Stuff: Speaking of coming out, our friend Spike Muffy (who is a "Simpsons" addict) reports that Matt Groening sent a big thank-you to out homos in the episode that ran the week after the March. At the end of a speech about the Springfield Snake Whacking Festival the Mayor made it a point to thank the listeners for "coming out." Spike Muffy says that, on hearing this, she sat up so quickly that she knocked her houseboy to the floor (no damage done, thank the goddess). Spike M also reports that the metaphor of the Snake Whacking Festival was not lost on his household. In the end Lisa, Bart, and Barry White devise a plan to save the snakes from their doom (by singing "Can't get enough of your love, babe") and educate the community about all the contributions that the slithery beings have made to their well-being. The bashing stops, and all live happily ever after. Nice work, Matt.

Elton's Out: But you already knew that. You've probably also noticed that Dish tends to grumpiness about the fact that Atlanta's most famous homo seems to do all kinds of good works for AIDS causes, but never makes himself visible at public gay gatherings. (Have you, for instance, seen any evidence of the Rocket Man at the local HRCF dinners? Or Pride? Or the March? Nay. Nay.) Well, maybe that's changing just a bit. The summer issue of 10 Percent features a piece by Adam Block about the making of Elton's touching video "The Last Song." Publicists originally told Block that he could observe the video production, but that Elton would not speak to him. But Block charmed Mr. John into some conversation. As far as we know, this is the first time that Mr. J has been interviewed by a gay man for a gay publication. Check the issue for some other good (and controversial) stuff too—like an article propounding the idea that sex work can empower rather than degrade women—specifically lesbians.

MAY 13 - MAY 19, 1993

One of the most wonderful aspects of Spring is the opportunity to enjoy the splendor and beauty of our natural world. Often we get busy with all of our human activities and Spring is here and gone before we know it. Do yourself a favor and take time to savor its wonders this year.

ARIES, Venus is still moving through your 1st house bringing grace, charm and potentially a new perspective on your own life. Consider what makes life meaningful for you and what brings you joy. Happy Birthday, **TAURUS!** Hopefully you are finding lots of ways to celebrate the beginning of your new solar year. If you are restless or dissatisfied with the past year, it could be that some kind of very helpful change is coming your way. **GEMINI,** one of your amazing abilities is your ability to connect with all kinds of people and know about many different things. In some ways, you are like a walking library. Find work that allows you to use this gift.

CANCER, Uranus and Neptune are moving backward in your 7th house of personal relationships and partnerships, possibly creating some change. You may feel like being a Hobbit close to home for awhile. **LEO,** with Mars moving through your 1st house

STARSIGNS

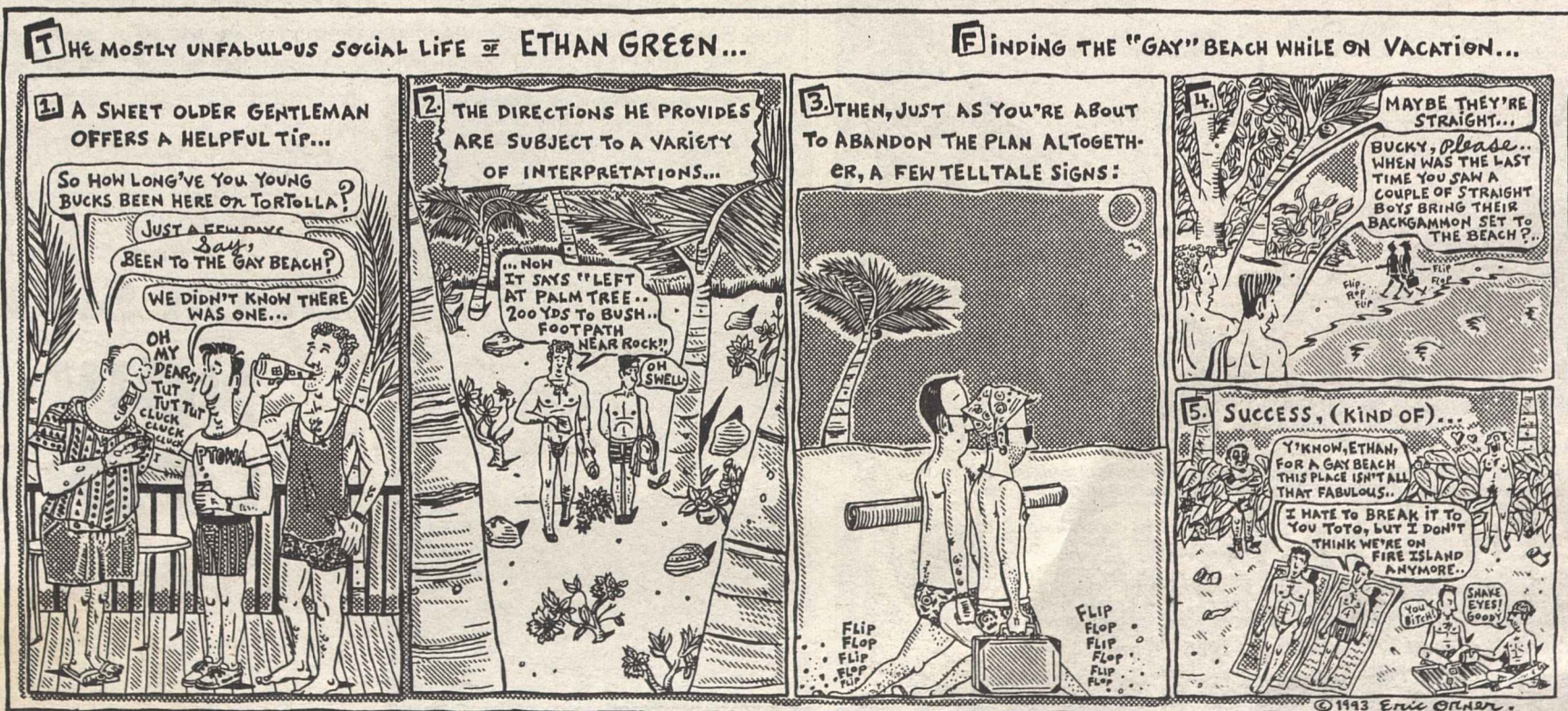
of personality, self-awareness and physical appearance, you may find that you have more than usual physical energy which could cause you to be even more assertive. Use the overflow for regular exercise. **VIRGO,** with Mars in your 12th house connecting you to the images of the collective unconscious, and expansive Jupiter still activating your 2nd house of material resources, you may be having some odd or conflicting impulses. Be cautious.

LIBRA, you still have some time left to consider the way you would like your life to be in the next six or seven years. Time to develop some clarity, and formulate definite images for your subconscious to work with for the future. **SCORPIO,** finding ways to nurture yourself in the midst of all the current craziness may seem difficult, but it is important for your overall sense of well-

being. Be sure you have at least a few minutes of peace and quiet each day. **SAGITTARIUS,** with all this wonderful Fire energy available, you have an excellent opportunity to experience personal transformation and much more clarity in the spiritual realms. Be patient with those who aren't into transforming at the moment.

CAPRICORN, now that your close companions, Uranus and Neptune, are moving backward in your 1st house of personality and self-awareness, you may need to make changes in the ways you are used to doing things. **AQUARIUS,** you have plenty of energy and interest for other people and partnerships right now, so be sure not to over-book yourself. Arrange time for yourself and personal projects. **PISCES,** yes, you really do have excellent intuition. However, fear, doubt, and hesitation can interfere with and cause problems with your clarity. Be patient with yourself when working with the Unseen and always ask for protection!

MARY BAILEY RULE is a professional astrologer who specializes in personal and relationship chart interpretation as well as crisis management. She can be reached in Santa Fe at (505) 982-3104 to order charts or arrange a chart interpretation.



Have you heard about the **Bacchanalia** dinner to benefit **NAPWA**? This incredible five-course meal planned and prepared by chefs Annie Quatrano and Clifford Harrison of Buckhead's Bacchanalia Restaurant will feature an incredible menu as well as four wines. The wines have been donated by Joseph Phelps Vineyards and will provide a perfect complement to the food. And oh, what food! Start off with sauteed soft shell crab with sweet red pepper relish, roast sesame crusted salmon with cucumber water, and St. André triple-creme with fresh berries. Yummmmm!

Quatrano and Harrison have been partners for several years since graduating from the California Culinary Institute. They worked at the Zuni Cafe in San Francisco, and there became involved with "Aid and Comfort," a charitable organization which provides hospice care as well as fundraising for AIDS groups. One very successful method of raising money were monthly dinners where various restaurants donated food and wine for the cause. The pair hope to continue that tradition here in Atlanta.

I asked Ms. Quatrano how she came to choose NAPWA. She replied, "I admire what NAPWA does. Their educational program provides a great service to the community. I chose them in lieu of other groups because they are smaller and money donated to them is used directly to benefit PWAs."

The dinner will take place on Monday evening, May 17 at Bacchanalia, at 3125 Piedmont Road in Buckhead, across from Bones. Reservations may be made by calling the restaurant at 365-0410. The requested donation for the meal is \$50.00 per person, payable by check made out to Atlanta NAPWA. There will be two seatings, at 7:00 and 9:00 pm.

Wayne Sizemore and Ed Woodham are busy getting their **800 East** space ready for the third annual Cartoon Show. The show will focus on cartoonists, performance and fine artists. Running for three weeks, the Cartoon Show blasts off on Friday, May 14 with a lineup of performers which includes Tallulah Banks, Copacetic Chris, dancer Loretta Calbro, Sacha and Bobby Wayne, comic clown LaBanana, Shanti, Neil Fried, and Terence Jackson, who will perform "A Black Orchid Rises While A Tweety Bird Sings." Atlanta legend **DeAundra Peek** will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

The focal point of the visual art on display will be cartoons and work by cartoonists including the many contributors to

AFTER HOURS

DANNY ROBLE



Homeboy RuPaul goes back to his roots on his new release set for May 18.

Highpoint and Dog Soup Comics: Panorama Ray, who photographs and writes the Cabbagetown Chronicles, Loraine Bowen, Walter Czachowski, Pat Leidy, Hart Chamberlin, Mark Buford, and Shira Levine (aka She-Ra). Also in the show will be Bob Burden, creator of the Flaming Carrot, Bill Holbrook, whose syndicated strip "On the Fast Track" was carried for several

years in the Journal/Constitution, former Southern Voice cartoonist Charles Haver, who penned the "Bittersweet" strip, and Alex Burnes from Creative Loafing. Fine artists involved in the show will be Terry Hardy, Lou Majors and Joe Mason. For more information, call 522-8265.

800 East is a virtual shrine to creative self-expression and is a beacon of light on the alternative art scene in Atlanta. Where else can you see shows such as the Goddess Show, The Nude Show, the Super Style Show, and not one but two Homo Shows? Ed and Wayne are making an appeal to the thousands of people who have enjoyed their shows to help defray the cost of insuring the building for another year. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to "The Living Room Group" at 800 East Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30312. Please help keep this space open. Atlanta would be a much duller place without it.

Homeboy **RuPaul** is set to appear everywhere across your television screens again soon in support of his new single and video release "Back to My Roots." The song is a celebration of family roots (and hair roots, too). Sadly, just a short while after performing before the million or so marchers in Washington recently, RuPaul was informed of the passing of his mother, to whom the new single is dedicated. May 18 is the release date, and the black and blonde one will hop a flight to France for the Cannes Film Festival where he will perform at an AmFAR benefit. Get your VCRs ready to record his second appearance on the Arsenio Hall Show on May 28.

Music fans are in for a treat when the 5th annual **Heartsongs** benefit concert is held at **Eddie's Attic** in downtown Decatur. This event, featuring at least 16 bands, has grown into a much anticipated affair. All monies raised go directly to Trinity Community Ministries, which feeds the hungry downtown every Sunday (the only free meal in Atlanta on that day), and operates a transitional housing service for adult men. The program helps these men deal with the many obstacles to be overcome in leaving the streets, such as finding employment, recovery from substance abuse, and making connections to permanent housing.

A partial listing of the bands and singers offering their time and talents include: Uncle Green, Vigilantes of Love, Wild West Picture Show, Catbird Seat, Ashley and Mark, Andrew Hyra and Kristian Bush, Shawn Mullins, and Gerard McHugh. The music begins at 1:30 pm and goes on til 2:00 am. Cover charge for all this music is only \$5.00 at the door.

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MARIA HELENA DOLAN

I fulfilled a secret fantasy while in Washington for the March last month. Instead of spending all my time sucking up Queer sights, I hied myself to Monticello for a tour of Thomas Jefferson's home and gardens.

Elementary school history teaches about the author of the Declaration of Independence, President, diplomat, inventor, architect, etc.

As an adult Lesbian gardener, I have been quite interested instead in the nation's earliest arboretum keeper, botanist, organic gardener, etc. I was not at all disappointed by his plant legacy.

Atop a small (867') mountain (hence, the name Monticello, Italian for 'small mountain'), a Tulip Poplar flanks the large manor house on both the east and west sides. Planted by Jefferson circa 1820, they are the largest specimens I have ever seen! (Actually, four trees he planted remain standing today.)

The sheer cataloging of his efforts staggers the imagination. Jefferson had a total of 1,031 fruit trees in South Orchard alone. He planted 113 species of ornamental trees; 65 different types of shrubs; over 100 various herbaceous plants; and 450 varieties of 95 species of fruits, vegetables, nuts and herbs.

A peach freak, he had as many as 38 varieties among his 160 peach trees. (The peach is actually an Asian native, which escaped from the early Spanish settlements and naturalized in the south.)

Convinced of the health benefits of wine, Jefferson planted 287 vines, representing 24 varieties of European grapes—although he was unhappily never able to obtain sustained results. And don't forget the two acres of vegetable gardens.

Source materials (in this case, guide queries and an informative book, "The Gardens of Monticello," by Peter Hatch) tell of lettuces, radishes, and "interesting greens like orach, corn salad, endive, and nasturtium, and sesame in order to manufacture a suitable salad oil. While the English pea is considered his favorite vegetable, he also cherished figs, as-

THIS ONE OR THE OTHER

EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

paragus, artichokes, and such 'new' vegetables as tomatoes, eggplant, broccoli, and cauliflower." Not to mention cukes, cabbages, sea kale (*Crambe maritima*), and all sorts of beans—runner types, snaps and haricots.

The one truly 'unmentionable' plant, though, is hemp—a curious omission, given that the Declaration of Independence was drafted on durable hemp paper, and hemp was used for all sorts of fibrous and nonfibrous applications throughout the colonies. Some of these included rope, canvas, textiles, paper products, mechanical lubricating oil, songbird seed, high protein meal cakes, medicines, etc.

I'm afraid that historical veracity once more falls prey to political considerations...However, let that not detract from enjoying the 20 oval-shaped 10' flower beds Jefferson designed, which were restored only recently. They sport a wide variety of flowers, but bulbs predominate.

Bulbs were popular with the colonists, as they could make the voyage over from Europe relatively intact. Direct descendants of Jefferson's original bed inhabitants thrive today!

Interestingly, Jefferson planted approximately 25% native flowers, such as twinleaf and cardinal flowers. Imports include carnation, white poppy, and different types of Iris.

The more I wandered around the grounds, the more impressive his vision became. As a horse manure enthusiast myself, I've always enjoyed this quote, penned to his adult daughter Martha:

"We will try this winter to cover our garden with a heavy coating of manure. When earth is rich it bids defiance to droughts, yields in abundance, and of the best quality. I suspect that the insects which have harassed you have been encouraged by the feebleness of your plants; and that has been produced by the lean state of your soil."

Yes, all praises accrue to those organic inputs. Even more

radical is the following. The Father of American Democracy allegedly made this rueful statement at a dinner at President's House: "I wish I was a despot that I might save the noble, the beautiful trees that are daily falling sacrifice to the cupidity of their owners, or the necessity of the poor...the unnecessary felling of a tree, perhaps the growth of centuries, seems to me a crime little short of murder."

While I approve of that attitude, it would be disingenuously inaccurate to gloss over Jefferson's employment of slave labor to produce his masterworks. A small army of slaves worked the land, made furniture, constructed the house, produced the nails used on the property, wove clothing, and, if some accounts are correct, provided sexual companionship.

All of this must have taken a heavy karmic toll. After Jefferson's death, many of his possessions were sold by his cash-strapped family, as were great portions of his lands. The orchards, vineyards, and flower beds fell into decay, and the great house slowly deteriorated.

It wasn't until the 1940s that restoration efforts began; and not until the 70s that the original plans and scope of the grounds started to once more take shape. Much of the reclamation work is still in process, and will continue with the aid of on-site archeological digs.

However, as 1993 represents the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth, a great struggle to recoup many of the household and personal items lost over the years has been successfully made. An enormous effort in authentic replantings has also occurred. If you think you might want to see the place, this is an opportune time.

A nonprofit organization, The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants (at Monticello, P. O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902) does the work. You can send for copies of their newsletter, "Twinleaf." Or call Monticello at (804) 295-8181 for more info. It's located about 2.75 hours out of D.C., and you'll need some form of private transportation to get out there.

\$8 admits you to the property, and you can ride a (free) shuttle bus up the mountain, or walk (make sure those calf muscles are in damn good shape). Plan to spend a few hours, and take the (free) garden tour. It's tremendously satisfying to see this gardening legacy restored.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

GLAAD/Atlanta The Atlanta chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation will be hosting the GLAAD/USA Conference May 14-16, 1993.

There will be a reception on Friday, May 14, from 7 to 9 PM at the Wyndham Hotel in Midtown. Pat Hussain, a Georgia resident and a member of the March On Washington Executive Committee, will be speaking as well as National GLAAD Representatives. There is no charge for the reception and all are encouraged to attend.

National Chapter representatives will then meet for two days of intensive meetings and workshops. For more information, please call (404) 605-7477.

GAPAC Bar Night Grab some extra money and head to your favorite watering hole Saturday night, May 15.

The occasion? GAPAC Bar Night at about 14 Atlanta-area lesbian and gay clubs. Event organizers hope to gain 150 to 200 new members for GAPAC, according to group vice chair, Megan Phillips.

"Our community is now able to flex our political muscle proudly and openly, but it takes money," said GAPAC Development Committee co-chair Randal Lautzenheiser. "We urge you to support us economically. Come out to Bar Night and take out a membership."

To join the organization, people need contribute as little as \$25. President's Club (\$1,000 membership) donations are also welcome, Lautzenheiser added.

For many years, GAPAC has released its slate of candidate's prior to elections. The group is Georgia's only registered political action committee focusing on gay and lesbian

concerns.

This winter, for the first time, GAPAC also employed a full-time lobbyist, Larry Pellegrini, while the Georgia legislature met.

Looking back over the session, Pellegrini said, "We were able to defeat or stall all gay-negative legislation."

With the session over, Pellegrini will continue lobbying at the city and county level throughout the year.

"Nothing happens for our community until the laws change and attitudes change," said Pellegrini. "Both of those are addressed whenever we're together in the same room with politicians."

To that end, Pellegrini has attended many functions, from Democratic party dinners to politicians' birthday parties. Some of them are free, but others are costly.

For that reason, Pellegrini also urges the lesbian/gay community to "send us a buck."

Look for GAPAC t-shirts and membership forms at bars, including Blake's, Gallus, The Pear Garden, Backstreet, the Eagle, Burkhart's and Phoenix.

The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee is looking for artists and gay-owned/friendly businesses and organizations to participate in PRIDE MARKET '93. This market will give you and your business or organization an opportunity to show your pride in our community while merchandising your art, crafts, products, and services during Atlanta's 1993 Pride Celebration taking place June 26 & 27.

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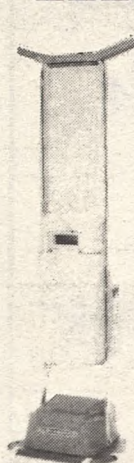
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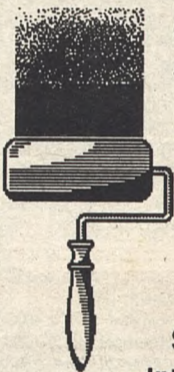
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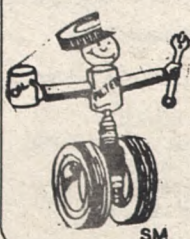
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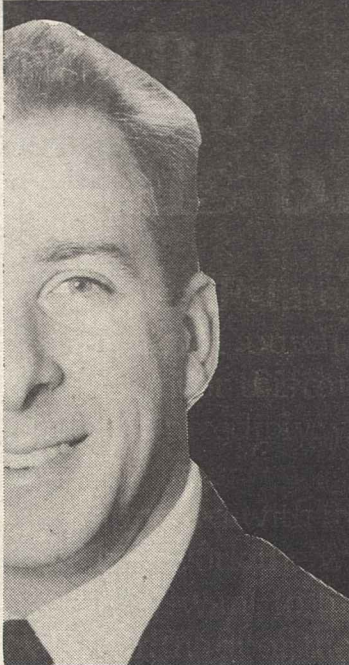
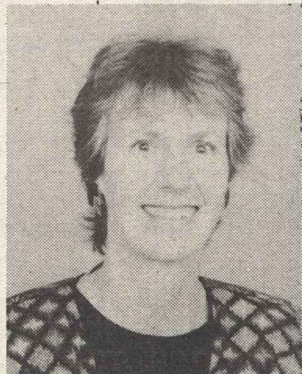
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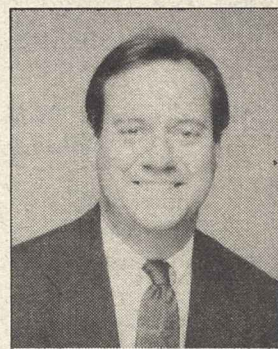
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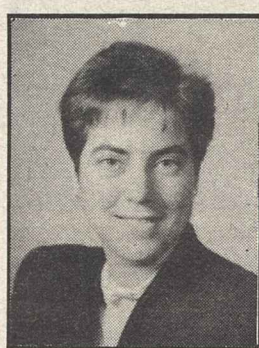
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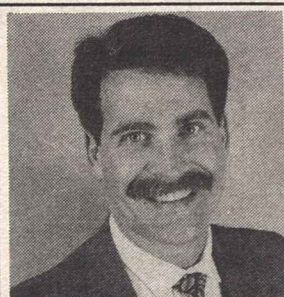
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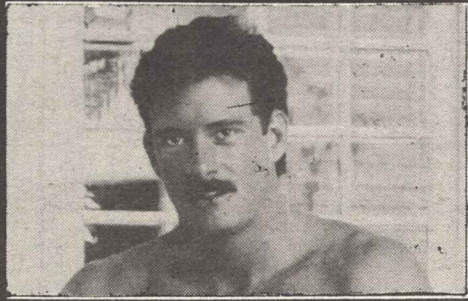
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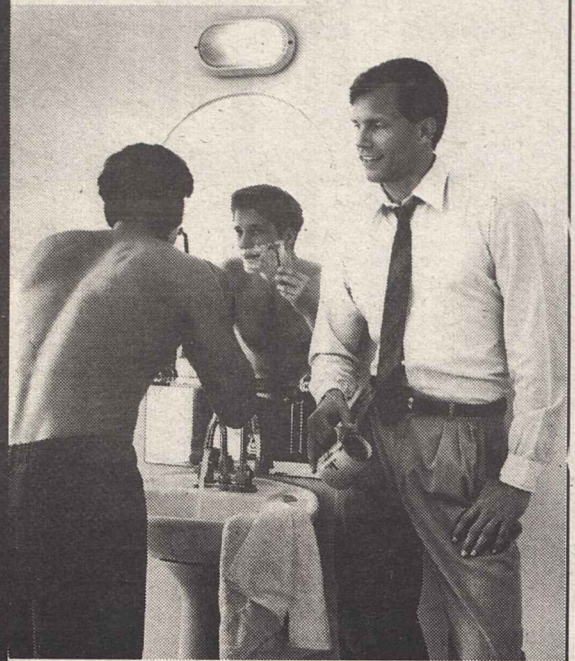
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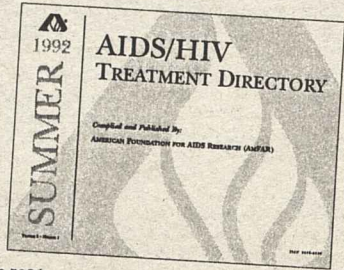
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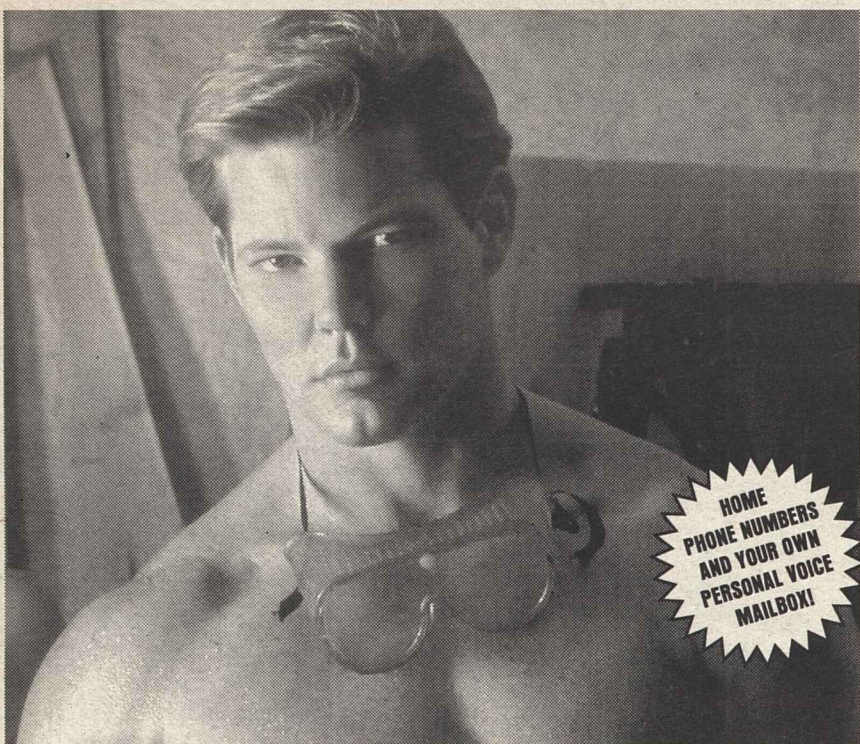
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