

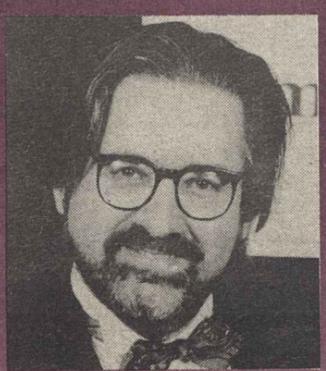
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VOICE

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AUGUST 19 - AUGUST 25 / 1993

Groening Out Loud



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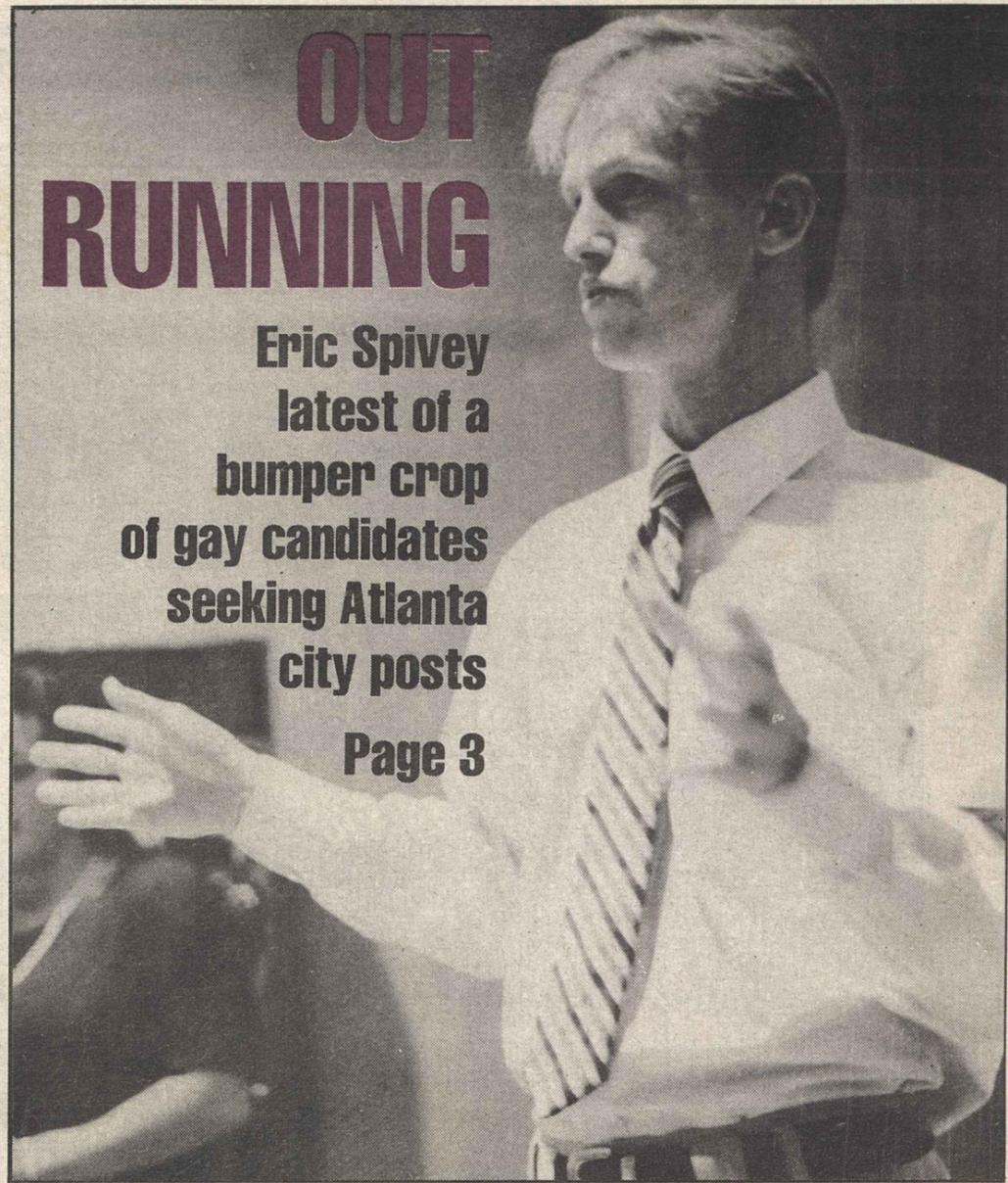
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Cobb Says Gays Go Away

County commission condemns homosexuality, which galvanizes Cobb's lesbian and gay community

by KC WILDMOON

Marietta—Georgia got its first taste of the bitter divisiveness created by the religious right's anti-gay campaign last week, as the Cobb County Commission passed a resolution condemning homosexuality.

The commissioners' action has galvanized gays and lesbians and human rights supporters in Cobb County, who showed up to rally against the resolution Saturday in the Marietta Square. About 400 people attended the rally, and, this Saturday, gays and lesbians from all over the Atlanta metro area are expected to show up for a "Queer Family Picnic."

The commission passed the measure, sponsored by Commissioner Gordon Wysong, by a 3-1 vote. Only Commissioner Bill Cooper, who said the resolution "smacks of an elitist mentality to label those we disagree with as pariahs," voted no.

However, Cooper introduced another resolution, which passed unanimously, that, while omitting the references to condemning "gay lifestyle units" contained in Wysong's resolution, said that Cobb County "vigorously supports" the "traditional family structure."

Wysong's resolution, which is not law and has no provisions for enforcement, gives as a "finding of fact" that "lifestyles advocated by the gay commu-

nity should not endorsed by government policy makers, because they are incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes."

In his comments at the meeting, Wysong cited the March On Washington's platform planks calling for lesbian/gay studies as an affront to the children of Cobb County, while condemning those who called him a bigot as "intolerant." He also said he feared the ramifications if the 1998 Gay Games are held in Atlanta.

"It is mind-boggling to imagine what events constitute 'Gay Games,'" he said.

Bolstering Wysong's rhetoric was state Rep. Billy McKinney, D-Atlanta, who was the first speaker during the public hearing. McKinney drew long and loud applause when he told the commissioners that "two men having sex is not a normal sex act. Two women having sex is not a normal sex act."

"I'm not a bigot," McKinney said. "I do believe that as this country degrades itself then at some point we've got to stand up and say what we consider to be family values."

Although the anti-gay rhetoric was deep last week, many gay and lesbian Cobb Countians are encouraged by what they see as the galvanizing effect the commissioners' actions are having on their numbers. Jon Greaves of the Cobb Citizens Coalition, a group formed to combat the anti-gay sentiment, said that the direct attack has brought Cobb County gays and lesbians out of the closet and into the commission chambers.

"Every time we get this exposure and Americans see us being attacked, we're winning," he said. "Despite all the negativity from some members of [the Cobb County] community, I feel good about it all."

The battle in Cobb now turns to another Wysong-authored resolution that would strip county funding for arts programs that violate "community standards."

Queer Family Picnic

To protest the actions of the Cobb County Commission, the Lesbian Avengers are sponsoring a "Queer Family Picnic" at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Marietta Square. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Partnership challenged

Anti-gay/lesbian forces bring sweeping challenge, not just to partnership but also non-discrimination protection.

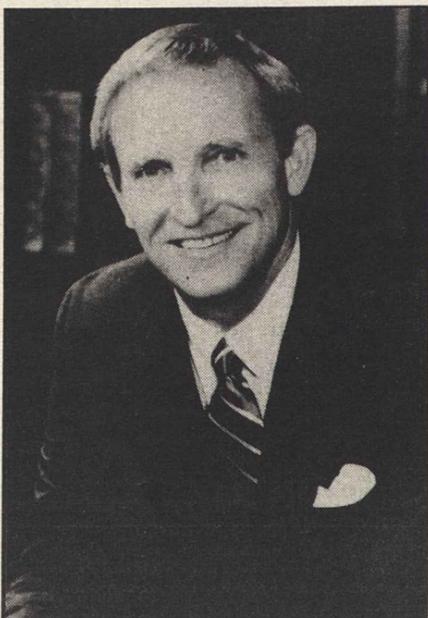
Atlanta—The city of Atlanta is being sued by a host of right-wing groups that contend its recently-passed domestic partnership ordinances, as well as protections against anti-gay/lesbian discrimination in the city charter, violate state law.

The suit was filed last week in Fulton County Superior Court by two city councilmen who voted against the partnership ordinances—Buddy Fowlkes and Jared Samples—as well as state Rep. Billy McKinney and three city employees. The plaintiffs are being represented by attorneys provided by Nancy Schaefer's Family Concerns, Inc., a right-wing Christian supremacist group, and the Southeastern Legal Foundation, which brings litigation on behalf of conservative causes.

The legal challenge to the domestic partnership legislation by anti-gay/lesbian rights forces was not unexpected. At an Aug. 2 meeting of the City Council, McKinney had said he would fight partnership in court, and, if that fails, devote his "full time" to fighting it in the General Assembly.

But few expected the attack on the city charter's anti-lesbian/gay discrimination clause, which has been on the books for about seven years.

However, GAPAC lobbyist Larry Pellegrini said it should not be that surprising,



Councilman Buddy Fowlkes of Buckhead is among those suing the city.

especially in light of the Cobb County Commission's recent vote condemning homosexuality, which was apparently triggered by the same Christian supremacist forces.

"They've divided Oregon, they've divided Colorado, and now they've marched into Georgia," he said.

Just hours after filing the suit, the plaintiffs' attorneys asked Superior Court Judge Joel Fryer for a temporary restraining order blocking the partnership ordinances from going into effect, claiming "immediate and ir-

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Pink Stampede

Atlanta's gays and lesbians seek city offices in record numbers

In the history of Georgia, no openly gay man or lesbian has ever been elected to public office.

But this November, the community will get the strongest chance yet to change that dismal political record.

In unprecedented numbers, gays and lesbians in Atlanta are running for the City Council. At least three candidates—Eric Spivey, Andy Loftis and Carolyn White—have already committed to running, and two other candidates, Sheila Best and Dale Warren, are considering races.

And David Payne, who served on the transition team for Mayor Maynard Jackson in 1989 when he returned to City Hall, is considering a race to succeed Jackson, who is not seeking re-election.

"I could do as good of a job or better than the people who have been doing it for the past 20 years," said Payne, who is exploring whether he can raise the millions it would likely take to run a competitive race. "And I just don't know yet if I want to spend all that time getting aggravated."

Loftis, of Morningside, who is the former chairman of the city's zoning board, became the first gay candidate in the race when he filed to run in District 6. This district, which contains part of Midtown, Virginia-Highland, Morningside and a number of other east side neighborhoods, is the district perhaps most hospitable to a gay candidate.

With his previous experience in city gov-

ernment, he is also arguably the most politically well-connected of the gay candidates. He also touts his experience as a businessman (he is an accountant for a large electrical contractor) as a plus.

"The city needs some business people down there," says Loftis, who has also made combating crime and neighborhood protection part of his campaign agenda. "Our neighborhoods need to be protected from developers as well as crime."

But Loftis may also face the toughest race of the gay candidates. The others are all considering races in two districts where there is no strong incumbent, but Loftis is trying to get to City Hall by defeating Councilwoman Mary Davis, who has benefited from strong lesbian/gay support in the past and was the author of the domestic partnership legislation. A third candidate in what is shaping up as one of the hottest City Council races is attorney Joe Kelly, who is also courting the gay/lesbian vote.

Last week, Eric Spivey, host of "Out In Atlanta," a lesbian/gay-oriented show on cable's People TV, announced that he was running in District 2.

"I think [gays and lesbians] contribute a lot more to the city than we get in return," said Spivey, who lives in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood.

District 2 is an oddly-shaped district that stretches from Inman Park to the Old

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

Cobb County Commission

Continued from page 1

A public hearing was held on the ordinance last week, and it is expected to come up for a vote on Aug. 24 after a second public hearing.

While a capacity crowd in the commission chambers was largely in support of the ordinance—supporters, including many children, wore yellow cards reading "support community standards" passed out by a woman who said she was doing so "for the commissioners"—testimony was divided.

"This ordinance goes against my religious faith," said Edna McKeown, a retired schoolteacher who worked for 25 years in the Cobb and Marietta school systems. "My religious faith demands that I respect the worth and dignity of all humankind. The hidden agenda here is to load our government with extremists out to divide us. I hate that more than anything. A community divided cannot stand."

Religious beliefs were indeed the topic of the day, with ordinance proponent after ordinance proponent citing biblical references and claiming that god opposes homosexuality.

"The homosexual lifestyle is not viable, is not an alternative for me, for God or the country," said Cobb housewife Elizabeth Walther. "We're here to stand up for righteousness in the eyes of God."

The arts ordinance came about because a Marietta couple complained about a Theatre in the Square production of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," a play about two heterosexual couples vacationing in a home on Fire Island. No gay characters appear in the play, although the heterosexuals do discuss the goings on of their gay neighbors. None of the Cobb Commissioners have seen the play.

Representatives from People for the American Way, the Georgia American Civil Liber-

ties Union, the Atlanta Theatre Coalition and the Georgia Citizens for the Arts held a press conference to condemn the resolution and warn that passing it would bring a legal challenge.

"This brings the far right's cultural war to Cobb County," said People for the American Way's Jill Bond, head of the progressive watchdog organization's Artsave project. "It forces the Cobb Arts Council to play the role of censor. It will not go without a challenge in the courts."

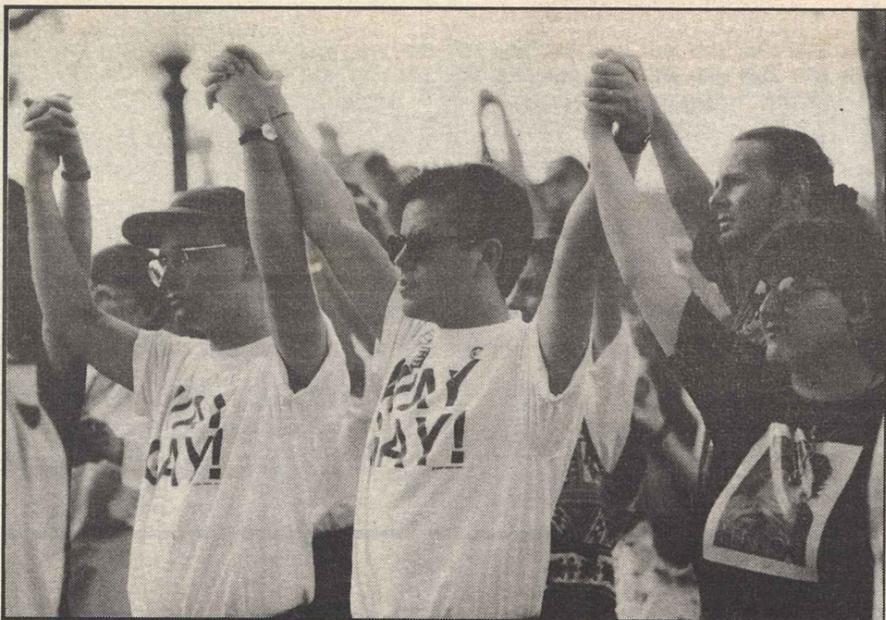
"The term 'family values' is now being used as a code phrase to divide people, to blame ills on a certain element," she continued. "[This legislation] sends a very negative message about Cobb."

In response to the threat of a lawsuit, Cobb Commission Chair Bill Byrne told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution late last week that the commissioners may just cut all county funding for the arts to avoid the censorship issue.

"We'll just take government out of the equation," he said.

News reports about the Cobb controversy were carried on CNN and in the New York Times last week, but Cobb Countians supporting the measures seemed unconcerned about the message being sent out about their home county. During her testimony, Elizabeth Walther said that she hoped the world was watching—to see "little old Cobb...standing up for itself."

County officials prepared for a large crowd to attend the proceedings, even stationing members of the Cobb Police's S.W.A.T. team on top of the parking garage next door to the commission building. S.W.A.T. team members also congregated near the restrooms inside the commission chambers.



Opponents of the antics of the Cobb County Commission raise hands in solidarity at a rally Saturday in Marietta.

But the numbers fell short of the predicted 3,000. A capacity crowd of 235 filled the Commission chambers, and some 30 people gathered outside the room watching on a monitor above the door. Officials had also run television monitors and speakers into nearby Marietta Square, where about 50 people watched, most of whom opposed the measure.

"I couldn't sleep last night because of it," said 15-year Cobb resident Patti Wilkerson. "They're going to set Cobb County—just as they begin to step forward—two steps back again."

Bo Ranney, a Marietta resident and Vanderbilt University student, said he came out because his minister urged the congregation to support the measures.

"My minister spent all day in his sermon on Sunday railing that we should support it,"

he said. "I don't believe him or his reasons. I mainly wanted to be here to be another side to the members of my church that I knew would be here."

While Cobb is the first county in Georgia to condemn homosexuality, it is not the first in the country to do so. Earlier this year, the county commission in Tennessee's Blount County, just south of Knoxville, passed a resolution urging the state's congressmen to oppose the proposed lesbian and gay civil rights bill on the basis that it "would provide the protection of the United States government... to an immoral and unacceptable lifestyle." The Blount resolution called for commissioners to seek the approval of other Tennessee governments, and it was passed by at least six county governments, including Knox County, home of Tennessee's third largest city, Knoxville.

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Thurmond aide lived in closet

Michael Boyle came to grips with being gay only after he discovered he had AIDS



Conservative Sen. Strom Thurmond attended the funeral of an aide who died of AIDS

Columbia, SC—For nine years, Michael Boyle lived a double life. A trusted aide to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, he shared the South Carolina Republican's conservative ideology and rural upbringing.

Boyle even lived with the Thurmond family for a time, caring for the senator's young children. But he kept his sexual orientation a secret, even after he learned he was ill with AIDS.

Finally, in 1991, he told Thurmond about his illness and that he was gay. From then on until his death, worked to teach people about AIDS.

"When he told me he had AIDS, I was just surprised and felt sorry for him," Thurmond told The [Columbia] State newspaper. "And I just hate to see a man of the qualities he had—he had ability, he was very courteous and capable—I just hate to see someone like that have AIDS and die from it."

Boyle died April 22 at the age of 30. At his funeral in Aiken, Thurmond sat in the second row, even though he had buried his 22-year-old daughter, Nancy Moore, just the week before.

Boyle knew he was gay from early on, but he also knew that in Aiken, he had to hide it if he wanted to fulfill his dream of politics and power. So he led a double life, dating pretty girls, winning academic awards, helping the Special Olympics in his hometown.

While attending the University of South Carolina at Aiken in the early 1980s, he would have his girlfriends home by 11 p.m. and then go across town to meet gay partners, some of whom he never knew. He also did not know then about AIDS.

In the fall of 1986, while working for Thurmond in Washington, Boyle noticed sores inside his mouth. A doctor told him he had thrush, a disease that results from a suppressed immune system. Tests confirmed Boyle had HIV.

"I was infected with HIV early in the epidemic not because I am a gay man, but because I engaged in high-risk behavior," Boyle said later. "I did not know that this activity would put me at risk for anything, much less cut short my life. I was 23 years old. I was going to live forever and make a great success of my life."

Boyle kept his disease secret for four years, even from David, his partner, whom he met on Christmas Day in 1988 at a gay bar in

Columbia. It took Boyle nearly two years to tell David the truth.

"I loved him. Whatever he was going to tell me didn't change things," said David, who asked that his full identity be kept secret. David still tests negative for the HIV virus, a fact he attributes to their caution during sex.

Boyle told friends that telling the truth about being gay and having AIDS to his family and to Thurmond, as well as acknowledging it to himself, gave him the push to make the most of his remaining life.

He plunged into volunteering for AIDS organizations and worked at the health center on the campus of George Mason University in Virginia, where he worked after leaving Thurmond's office. He also became a speaker for the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, one of the group's most compelling orators.

Boyle's politics also changed. He spoke out against cuts in AIDS education funding, and, after a lifetime as a Republican, Boyle even voted for Bill Clinton last November.

Thurmond's views began to bother him as well, "but before Michael came to terms with his homosexuality, he grew to love and respect Senator Thurmond. He also knew that Senator Thurmond is 90 years old. You don't change someone who's 90 years old," said Boyle's sister, Marie.

Thurmond now supports funding for AIDS research—something he opposed until his meeting with Michael, Marie Boyle notes.

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Man kills 4 while shouting against gays

Fayetteville, NC—An Army sergeant walked into an Italian restaurant with two shotguns and a rifle and shot 11 people, all the while shouting about "Clinton letting faggots in the military."

Four people died and seven were injured in the rampage by Kenneth Junior French, 22, at Luigi's Restaurant on Aug. 6. He was stationed at nearby Fort Bragg.

Dawn Gabriel, a waitress at the restaurant, told the Fayetteville Observer-Times the gunman shouted "I'll show you, Clinton." She said he appeared to be irrational and shot people at random, at one point shouting, "You think I'm not going to do this? I'll show you about gays in the military."

An off-duty police officer working at a grocery store across the street shot French in the leg through a restaurant window. The gunman went down but got back up and continued firing. After more police arrived, Lt. Bill Simons crawled through a rear door on his stomach and shot French again, disabling him.

French, who has refused to talk to police, has been charged with four counts of murder and six counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

French's mother says he had never voiced concern about gays in the military before his shooting spree. And French has told family members he does not understand what happened, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported.

"He keeps saying, 'Mama, I don't know why. I don't know why,'" Sandra French said. "I've never seen [French] lose his temper, not even when he's been drinking," said Sharon Burton, a close friend of the family.

French was home visiting last month and they talked about gays in the military, but French didn't get angry about it, Burton said. He just felt it was inappropriate for gays to serve and that they should not be overt about their sexual orientation.

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Serial Killer On The Loose in New York City? The discovery of the dismembered remains of a New York man in two different suburban locations has prompted fears that a serial killer may be targeting gay and bisexual men in the New York area. A volunteer firefighter discovered plastic bags containing parts of Michael Sakara's body near Stony Point, a week after the man's head and hands were found stuffed in a garbage can. Several other men have been killed in similar fashion in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and upstate New York. In an effort to increase community vigilance, the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project has joined forces with police.



Steve Endean

HRCF Founder Endean Dead At 44: Steve Endean, founder of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, died Aug. 4 in his home in Washington, D.C. He had AIDS. In the early 1970s in Minnesota, Endean gained national attention as the leader of an unsuccessful effort to pass a statewide lesbian and gay civil rights bill. In 1978, Endean moved to Washington to become the first executive director and lobbyist for the Gay Rights National Lobby and later founded HRCF. In ill health, he retired from HRCF in 1991 and was writing his autobiography at the time of his death. U.S. Rep. Barney Frank called Endean "one of the bravest, toughest and most skilled fighters for human rights in our nation's history. I grieve at our loss." He is survived by his parents and a sister. A memorial service is planned for Aug. 28 in Washington.

Basketball Players Spurn Texas Because Of Lesbians: Some women basketball players have left the University of Texas, and some recruits have spurned the school, because of lesbians in the program, according to a copyright story in the Austin American-States-

man. The paper reported that star player Sheryl Swoopes, who led Texas Tech to a national championship last spring, is one the prospects who have backed out of the program because of the Lady Longhorn's reputation as a "dyke team." UT coach Jody Conradt defended her team, saying "The best team I ever had had diversity. When our society learns to embrace diversity, we'll be a lot better society."

Gay Brazilian Granted Asylum In U.S.: An immigration judge has granted a gay Brazilian man political asylum in the United States because he faces anti-gay persecution in his homeland. An attorney for Marcelo Tenorio hailed the ruling as groundbreaking protection for other foreign gays fearing persecution. Tenorio came to the United States in 1990, eight years after he was stabbed and badly beaten outside a Rio de Janeiro gay bar. He was arrested by Immigration and Naturalization Service authorities last year. The INS may appeal the ruling.

Seattle Station Jerks Falwell Off The Air: KTZZ-TV has begun monitoring Jerry Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour" and will refuse to air any of the fundamentalist minister's anti-gay programs. The station made the move after gay residents of Seattle complained and threatened public protests. "We're embarrassed, and we're sorry we put the gay community through this," said KTZZ general manager Wade Brewer. "I may not be able to guarantee that the show won't run, but I can guarantee I won't run any of the shows that attack gays." Falwell's show airs as a paid advertisement on KTZZ, and the station has a year-long contract with the anti-gay televangelist.

Bishops Call On Pope To Denounce Anti-Gay Bigotry: Four Roman Catholic bishops signed an open letter to Pope John Paul II urging him to speak out against anti-gay bigotry during his trip to Denver last week. The letter, signed also by thousands of individuals and organizations, was published as a paid ad in the Aug. 11 Denver Post, and includes many priests and nuns as well as the four bishops. The bishops were Juan Arzube of Los Angeles, Charles Buswell of Pueblo, Colo., John Fitzpatrick of Brownsville, Tex., and Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit. All of the bishops, except Bishop Gumbleton, are retired.

New Hampshire Man Commits Suicide After Arrest Hits Paper: A Barnstead man, arrested for indecent exposure at a rural rest stop during a police stake out, committed suicide July 28 after news of his arrest was reported in a local newspaper. Friends say Paul Eastman told them he had stopped to relieve himself in the woods. Seven men were arrested during the operation. Two were charged with sexual assault, two with simple assault and three with indecent exposure.

SF Committee Urges Removal Of Anti-Gay Human Rights Commissioner: A committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has asked Mayor Frank Jordan to remove Rev. Eugene Lumpkin from the city's Human Rights Commission. Lumpkin regularly preaches that homosexuality is "an abomination against God," but has promised to uphold the rights of lesbians and gays while on the commission. Jordan has previously said he would keep Lumpkin but did not immediately comment on the committee's vote.

Connecticut Court Upholds Conviction Of Lesbian Protestor: The state's appeals court has refused to overturn the conviction of a Kathleen Linares, who interrupted then-Gov. William A. O'Neill's State of the State address three years ago. Linares was arrested for disrupting the legislature after she and others chanted "gay rights, lesbian rights" for about two minutes and unfurled a banner during O'Neill's Feb. 9, 1990 speech. She pleaded no contest to interfering with a legislative process and appealed the prosecution on constitutional grounds, but the appeals court found that the conviction did not violate her free-speech rights.

Victory Fund Candidate Training To Be Held In Chicago: The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has announced that its first training institute for candidates and campaign managers will be held in Chicago on Oct. 1-3, 1993. The Fund will offer non-partisan training to gay and lesbian leaders who are seriously considering entering the electoral arena. "The training is a smart investment, to make sure that strong candidates from our community are prepared to run smart, professional, winning races," said fund executive director William Waybourn.

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I offer something different — something better. As a business executive and accountant, I bring a practical approach to City government. As a neighborhood activist and former chair of the Zoning Review Board, I bring a commitment to protecting and improving these wonderful neighborhoods that we call home.

I also bring my sexual orientation. Despite Atlanta's tremendous Gay and Lesbian population, we do not have one openly gay elected official in the state of Georgia. 1993 is the year we will change that. I bring the qualifications, experience and temperament to represent us proudly and to make a difference.

Over the next few weeks, I will be campaigning throughout the district. I will be knocking on doors, attending candidate forums, working the bars and seeking every opportunity available to meet with voters like you.

I look forward to meeting with you and to providing the effective representation you deserve on City Council.

Sincerely,

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Stonewall 25 coming together

Atlantans White and Alexander elected to executive board

Milwaukee, WI—Three Southerners, including a man and woman from metro Atlanta, have been elected to the executive board of the organization planning next year's Stonewall 25 celebration in New York.

Carolyn White and Hubert Alexander of Atlanta, along with North Carolina activist Mandy Carter, were selected by a steering committee to positions on the group's 10-member executive board at a recent meeting in Milwaukee.

White, an attorney whose office is in Decatur, helped organize Georgia's contingent to last April's March On Washington. Alexander, an AIDS activist, has been involved in organizing Atlanta's Lesbian and Gay Pride celebrations. Carter is a longtime peace and civil rights activist currently working for the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington.

"I'm very proud the South will be so well represented on the board, especially by such high caliber [people] like Hubert and Mandy," White said.

The selection of a permanent executive board was cited by many as the most significant development of the Milwaukee meeting.

"The quality of people chosen, the diversity they represent and the mix of professional and organizing skills make this a really strong committee," said Nicole Ramirez Murray, a Latino drag queen from San Diego who is one of three co-chairs. "I'm more confident than ever we can pull this off."

Franklin Fry of New York joins Ramirez Murray and San Francisco activist Pat Norman as co-chairs. Fry has worked for eight years with Heritage of Pride, which oversees New York City's Pride events. His knowledge of the complicated logistics in New York City made him, according to Ramirez Murray, "a very wise choice."

The executive committee conforms to a commitment made by Stonewall 25 that requires gender parity and 25 percent representation by people of color. But the diversity of the executive committee was not as evident in the regional delegations that fill out the entire national steering committee. In fact, only the Northeast region fulfilled its requirements for women and people of color.

Each region is assigned delegates according to population. The South has 12.

It was agreed that regions short of women and people of color should continue to do outreach in their areas to ensure better representation at future meetings—but not before some white men complained bitterly about the so-called "quota" system.

The steering committee also began approving preliminary plans for the June 26, 1994 march and rally, which Pat Norman described as "the greatest event in the history of our movement and the greatest human rights march the world has ever seen."

More than a million people are expected to attend Stonewall 25, an anniversary celebration of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, the pivotal event which helped launch the lesbian/gay liberation movement.

But Stonewall 25 also has a global emphasis, with the "International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People" a centerpiece of the event. The march on the U.N. will be followed by a rally in Central Park.

Some delegates joked that the recent March on Washington was merely a "dress rehearsal" for the massive turnout expected in New York next year. In addition to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and people from across the United States, Stonewall 25 will draw thousands of people from around the globe, in-



Carolyn White of Atlanta says the South is "well represented" on the board.

cluding those who will be attending the Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival and the annual conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

Representatives of Stonewall 25, the Gay Games and ILGA, along with legal experts, will work in advance to ensure that potential visas and immigration problems are minimized. But placing monitors at New York airports and other major entry points may be necessary as well.

The atmosphere at the Milwaukee meeting was lively and sometimes contentious throughout the weekend, but the delegates lapsed into a hushed state when detailed plans for the march and rally were presented.

"Suddenly, everything became much more concrete. Like, 'Wow, it's really going to happen,'" one delegate commented.

The minimal budget for all the events involved in Stonewall 25 is at least \$4-5 million. Plans call for the hiring of a development coordinator to oversee fundraising. The group agreed that Proud Enterprises of New York, a lesbian-owned business, would be the official merchandiser for Stonewall 25. A professional media consultant and other staff will be hired as money becomes available.

The march on the United Nations could draw as many as 1.5 million people, so contingency plans were made for several alternate routes which will ultimately converge at the Great Lawn in Central Park for the rally. Veterans of the Stonewall Rebellion will lead the march.

Line-up times will be staggered to reduce long waits and ease congestion in the formation areas. An "order of march" will be distributed in advance so contingents will know exactly when and where to gather.

The streets of New York will be festooned with rainbow flags and balloon arches. "Performance pockets" at intersections will supply marchers with entertainment, and speakers all along the route will provide a live feed from the rally and any vital information marchers may need.

The rally will begin at 3 p.m. and include speakers and entertainers of diverse cultural backgrounds. Medalists from the Gay Games may be featured. The stage at the south end of the Great Lawn will be bordered with banners and covered by huge arches of rainbow colors. Three large Sony screens will project the action on stage and other video images to the surrounding throng.

At 4 p.m., a moment of silence will be observed for those lost to AIDS. Skywriters will spell "We Remember" above the crowd, and doves will be released. The rally is set to end at 8:30 p.m., when an internationally-known star will perform. Joined by an orchestra and massed choir, the concert will end with a spectacular fireworks and laser finale.

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Terminally Ill

The wait for HIV treatment ends at Grady AIDS clinic

The opening of the hospital's new Infectious Disease Clinic will allow prompt treatment of those living with AIDS

by JAMES FITCH

When Grady Memorial Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic opened its doors to its first four AIDS patients in 1987, it was little more than a single office and a treatment room.

In the years since, the IDC, often the only option for people without access to private medical care, has been running to stand still in its attempt to serve the needs of those caught in the epidemic. To critics, chief among them ACT UP/Atlanta, the hospital's foresight was inadequate, failing to take into account the extreme demands that AIDS would eventually place on the hospital and clinic.

But now, Grady's IDC has, at long last, caught up. Last week, it moved to a new state-of-the-art facility on Ponce De Leon Avenue. The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority, which oversees Grady, spent more than \$3 million in renovating the three floors that house the offices for this multi-purpose HIV/AIDS patient facility, located in the old Presbyterian Center.

"This is exactly what we need to address this disease," says Tony Braswell, the IDC's administrative director. "We [now have] the most comprehensive program—I would say in the country but especially in the Southeast."

Patients at the IDC are now able to receive everything they need pertaining to their infections under one roof—from doctors to mental-health providers to social workers, from inhalation and IV therapy to prescription services. The facility also has full on-site dental services.

In addition to treating the patients' physical ailments, the IDC will also be able to offer an uplifting aesthetic experience. Gallery

owner Paul Apstein donated 140 pieces of custom-made art, worth \$40,000, to bring life and color to the clinic's walls.

"More people need to give back to their cities," Apstein said. "This city has been very good to me, and this is my way of doing something in return."

The new IDC facility employs more than 100 permanent staff members and currently serves a caseload of more than 4,000, includ-

ing men, women, children and adolescents. The new space is also conducive to research, something Grady has not been able to do effectively in the past.

Funded with \$3 million dollars of federal Ryan White funds each year, the facility provides care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. But Grady, in accordance with a Ryan White provision, is in the process of implementing a new payment schedule similar to an insurance plan. The amount charged will be based on how much money patients earn, minus any bills or payments.

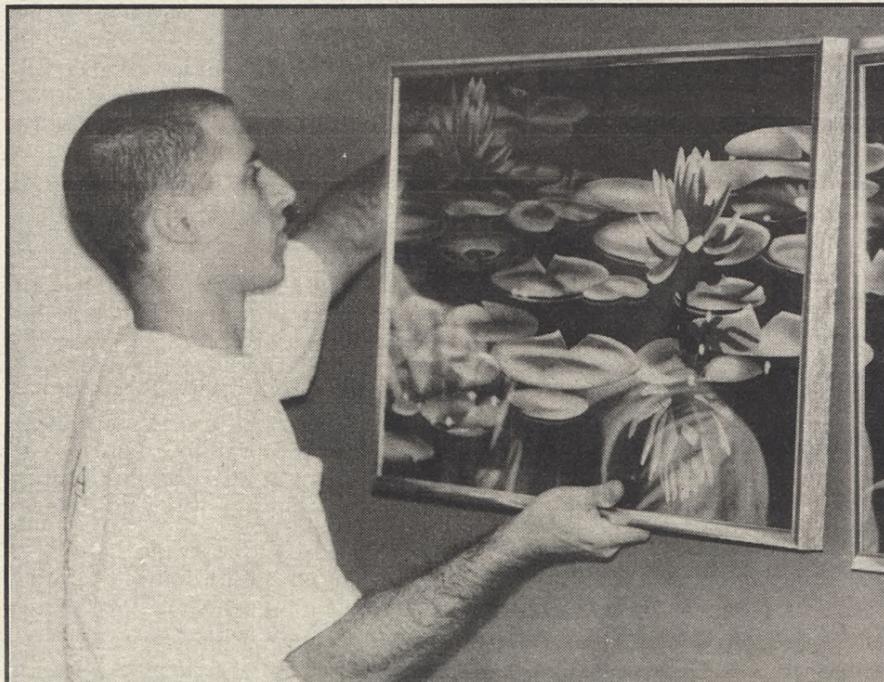
A patient who brings in twice poverty level or less will pay nothing, while one who earns three times the poverty level will pay five percent of his or her income. Braswell says that the most an IDC patient would ever pay under this plan is 10 percent.

"I firmly believe that people appreciate care more when they pay a little bit for it," he says. "And they participate in the care more, so I think it's a good thing for us. We have a huge bill over here. Anything our patients contribute is a great help. [But] we won't gouge anyone out of money."

One of Grady's most urgent and criticized problems has been its waiting-time periods for patients who are infected with HIV but not suffering an immediate illness. At one point in time, when the IDC was at its old location downtown, a patient who tested positive but had a T-cell count of 500 or more could have waited as long as six months to see a doctor.

While Braswell said that the IDC eventu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



More than \$40,000 worth of artwork, donated by gallery owner Paul Apstein, has been installed in the new IDC.

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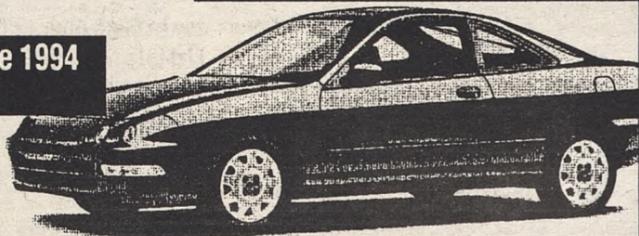
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And The Band Played On

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EDITORIAL

Elections a golden opportunity for lesbians and gays

Come November, when voters in the city of Atlanta go to the polls, they will see a great deal of pink on the ballot.

At least two, and perhaps four or more, openly lesbian and gay candidates will seek seats on the City Council. We may even see a gay mayoral candidate.

Why, it's practically enough to make Nancy Schaefer's power hairdo droop.

This year, voters are grumpy, angered by an ill-advised attempt by the City Council to raise its pay, by property tax reassessments and by all the constant bickering and infighting. And if the citizenry is miffed at the council, they are downright disgusted by the school board, whose televised meetings could be nominated for a comedy Emmy.

Traditionally, when voters are grumpy and/or disgusted, they are often more willing to consider outsiders as candidates. There is no major group in this city that has been as far outside the corridors of political power as gay

men and lesbians.

Arguably, we make up one of the largest voting blocks in the city. Yet, right here in what is supposed to be the South's gay/lesbian mecca, an openly gay person has never been elected to political office. This is all the more embarrassing when one considers that even North Carolina, where Jesse Helms was spawned, has an openly gay elected official.

So it is heartening to see Eric Spivey running for the City Council in the 2nd District (which, due to reapportionment, contains many more gay and lesbian voters than it did four years ago) and Andy Loftis running in the city's most lesbian/gay friendly district, the 6th, on the east side. Lesbian and gay candidates are also considering running in the 1st District, which contains Grant Park, and for some of the at-large seats.

Though pleased by this unprecedented interest, we believe there need to be even more lesbian/gay candidates—perhaps most notably in the 7th District, which contains the Buckhead and northeast Atlanta and is now represented by homophobe Buddy Fowlkes, and the 5th District, between Grant Park and Inman Park, where Davetta Johnson, who betrayed the community during the domestic partnership fight, is expected to seek another term. Though many of us don't have children, it would also be appropriate to run for the school board seats in light of the fact that we have to pay taxes to support the schools.

Also, the lesbian/gay community at large can't sit back and let the activists carry the load. We all owe our activists a debt of gratitude for sticking their necks on the line, time and time again. But, as the struggles of women and people of color have also proved, activists aren't always the people best able to reach out to a heterosexual majority not yet comfortable

with the notion of being represented by an openly gay person.

The name of the game here must be to win. Like it or not, most people who hold political office—in Atlanta, in Georgia and around the country—are professionals with a mainstream bent. Lesbians and gay men in our community who fit that profile also need to stand up and enter the arena of public service.

This is not to say that all gays and lesbians will, or should, automatically support a candidate just because he or she is gay. Indeed, the gay/lesbian vote in 6th District will probably be split because Loftis is facing off against Councilwoman Mary Davis, a longtime supporter of the community's issues, and Joe Kelly, a straight man who espouses support for a progressive agenda.

But we need to run, across the city and across the state and across the nation, because, as the gays in the military debacle proved, we can't always rely on our friends. We must have political power in our own right to ensure that our issues and viewpoints get the respect they deserve, and the only way to do that is to be politically visible.

As members of other minority groups have discovered, it takes a concerted effort to get a seat at the table. Many races will have to be lost before many can be won. There was a time when it surprised voters to see women or people of color on their ballots. But the more voters have seen these candidates, the more successful women and people of color have become at getting elected.

We can't win if we don't run. In the long run, the emergence of candidates who proudly and publicly proclaim their sexual orientation may be one of the most important steps the community can take toward liberation.

RICHARD SHUMATE

TAKE ACTION

The qualifying period to run in November's city elections in Atlanta is Sept. 13-15. The easiest way to qualify is to pay a fee (\$660 for City Council, \$3,000 for mayor), but there are other methods available to those who cannot afford the fee. If running for the City Council, you must run in the districts where you live. The city is divided into 12 districts, and each of those districts is then combined with one other district to create six "at large" districts. So each resident of the city can choose to run in either the specific district where they live or the larger "at-large" district. Candidates for mayor and City Council president run in the whole city.

More information about qualifying is available at the City Clerk's office, which is located in Suite 2700 at City Hall.

LETTERS

Woolard offended by her own comments about Nunn

I read with interest the interview with me regarding the "inside story" on the battle to end discrimination against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals in the military ["Front Line View," SoVo, July 29]. I want to clarify some possible misperceptions in the piece.

First, the article states that I did not meet directly with [U.S.] Sen. [Sam] Nunn on the military issue. I did, in fact, meet with the senator on a number of occasions, in addition to regular meetings with his staff.

Let the community waste too much precious time letting me know how insanely near-sighted my comments appeared relative to Sen. Nunn's motives of late, let me state firmly and unequivocally—Sen. Nunn is clearly, utterly,

homophobically challenged by us. He has controlled the direction of this ridiculous referendum on male fears of homosexuality from the outset. I need no convincing of this fact. My apologies to anyone who was as offended as I was by my stupendously naive musings and "fascination" with the political process.

For our community, this fight has been a remarkable effort—we can count more than a million letters, more than 1,000 congressional visits, thousands of phone calls and months of effort. As the dust settles, we can clearly see that it was not enough. We have to come back stronger and smarter from this experience.

We must build bigger and better political organizations, develop a grassroots network

that can outperform any opposition, create a proactive media campaign to tell America who we are and, as individuals, come out, come out, come out. We have to punish those who have betrayed us in the next election and relentlessly pursue those we can't defeat so that they feel no relief from this and other issues we care about.

We fought the bigots on this one—Sen. Nunn included—and we lost. Our challenge now is to come back stronger, more organized and united...and win.

Cathy Woolard
Washington D.C.

We shouldn't have to act straight

I have two big problems with Shelly Roberts' column ("Fashion Statements," SoVo, June 10). I agree with her that it is unfortunate and politically inconvenient that "fringe" groups are seen by the majority of Americans as being representative of the gay community. Extreme or radical appearances or actions put some people off, and seeing them as typical allows those people to maintain gays, and questions of gay rights, at an extreme psychological distance as something too weird, too strange and too foreign to relate to and take seriously.

However, she should remember that it is the straight media who focus almost exclusively on the relatively few drag queens, leather people and other "outrageous" individuals and exaggerate any deviation from the white heterosexual male pseudo-Christian standard into a sensationalistic caricature, then misrepresent that image as an accurate portrayal of all our lives.

Instead of blaming slanted coverage on those who were just out there representing themselves, let's hold the media responsible for their sensationalism, pandering to prejudice and just plain poor reporting.

We don't owe it to anyone to be heterosexual or act heterosexual, and we don't owe it to them to be "normal" or act "normal" either. We have a right to be and do as we please so long as we respect the rights of all others, [and] that includes a right to be different if we please. Black people have no moral obligation to act white in order to have rights. There's no reason why gay people should have to act straight to earn respect of our rights or why flaming queens and bull dykes shouldn't also have the same rights as everyone else.

Morgan Reid
Atlanta



When a lesbian's son marries into Pentecostal Methodists

I have met the enemy, and they are nice. My son married the daughter of Pentecostal Methodists. Naturally.

It all started with a surprise phone call, with the surprise buried in a normal conversation about new jobs and computers and general details of everyday life.

"So..." he stumbled after inquiring after the mango crop on the backyard tree and the well being of the five-toed cat he'd rescued from a dread-cold Boston winter and of whom he had granted custody after his departure in pursuit of advanced degrees. "So...I, uh, thought you ought to know that I, um, am getting...(truly breath-holding experience here)...uh...married."

"Really?" I responded brilliantly. "Who to?"

OK, so you can congratulate me. No. No. Not on my new daughter-in-law, or the two magazine-adorable instant grandchildren who came as a part of the package. (Wanna see some wallet-sized?) You can congratulate me on my *not* saying, "What gender are you marrying?"

I mean. Here is a man who got stood up during his high school prom, poor baby. Not before. During. So was it too much to hope that this boy might turn out in a manner that would do this active lesbian mother's heart proud? Was it beyond possibility that we could carry family banners, side-by-side, in the same Pride march? That he could indeed turn out to be a chip? After all, it is *genetic*, isn't it? Newsweek said so. And a mother can dream, can't she?

Guess not.

They make a nice couple. They seem to be a more than reasonable match. He's great with her kids. And they have about, I'd say, a 72 percent chance of beating the 2-out-of-every-3-end-in-divorce odds. Which is better than



Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

most. So what's the problem?

Like I said, her parents are Pentecostal Methodists.

I didn't even know that Methodists came in that flavor.

I thought that Methodists fell a whole lot closer to Unitarian and Congregationalist tree and that tolerance was in their teaching. Now, Southern Baptists, I could understand, being evangelical Elmer Gantrys and all. (Well, I thought so, until we got a Southern Baptist president and vice who said the G and L words in public, invoking the beginning of my religious confusion.) But Methodists...?

And we were now going to be *not-related* by marriage.

I stayed with them for the wedding weekend (Judi couldn't get away). And let me tell you, these people just didn't match my stereotype. Which I find damned inconvenient. And annoying.

They were charming.

Their house was like staying at the epicenter of a Hallmark card store explosion. Precious moments everywhere. Dolls and paintings with big eyes and ragamuffin outfits. Medium blues and cream color schemes abounding. And painted geese with ribbons and potpourri and teddy bears hanging out on towels and tissue and napkin holders, and, I'm really cynically sorry to have to say this, on the top of *homemade* four-tier wedding cake. June Cleaver isn't dead. She's still making gorgeous, teddy bear-topped wedding cakes at home. And her daughter just married my son.

Now I want to complain about this. I want to be snide and snotty and make derogatory remarks. But it's nearly impossible now. Unfortunately, I *like* these people. They are caring and considerate folks who raised four kids, have their own company, and, no, mom doesn't only stay at home coloring with the grandbabies. She runs the office.

Her house isn't immaculate (something I could never have forgiven), just adorable.

Her biases aren't mean-spirited, just well-intentioned, severely limiting and ignorant.

I think I am probably the first actually announced gay person they had ever met. And, mercifully, they didn't change the sheets and pillows behind me as I left any given room. But, you know me, I wasn't going to go meet the fate of my own future grandchildren by carrying my closet as extra baggage on a trip to rural Michigan to meet my not-in-laws. I made certain that the kids announced my identity. And figured we would all go from there. A little consciousness raising never hurt anyone, I figured.

Well, we talked. Endlessly. Sometimes about how it was much too quick, but we hoped for the best for our kids. And about how precious the matching mother and five-year-

old bridal veils were, and how nice the handmade silk flower boutonnieres and table sprays came out.

And, for about a quarter of an hour, we talked Leviticus.

I mean, what could they say? I brought the subject up. Didn't seem to me it needed to lay underneath everything. So I brought it up and let them ask me questions. And gave them surprising answers.

I told them our secrets, what homosexuals *really* do in the privacy of our own lives—pay the mortgage, mow the grass, send kids to college, clip coupons. You know, all the thrilling and fabulously decadent aspects of our profane and forbidden lifestyle. Like taking the dog to the vet.

For the entire weekend that I was there, I testified to the validity of my self by being it. A concerned parent. A capable potential grandparent to the people whose picture is in the dictionary under the term. A nice lady who had done a pretty good job with her own kid. And a generally interesting person who didn't have designs on anybody's wife but my own.

I made it impossible for them ever again to say to their church fellows, "Well, we've never met a homosexual, but we all *know* what a sad, lonely, impoverished, ungodly, empty life they lead."

Now they will have to say, whenever the word abomination comes up, "Well, gee, our son-in-law's mother..." And, over the course of the years, we will all exchange visits and amenities of being not-related by marriage. I will infiltrate their understanding with decent homosexual people who will make it clear that they aren't anybody's exceptions.

Next time, I'll bring Judi, if she can get away. That'll teach 'em. I know, it's a devious plot, but, hey, somebody's got to do it.

GUEST EDITORIAL

If being gay is a genetic deformity, then we want a telethon

By K.T. SLAUGHTER

With all of the hullabaloo over the Clinton decision ("Don't ask, don't tell, don't be so shocked"), I feel that an important news item was pushed to the back. Through extensive testing, researchers now believe that they have found genetic evidence that male homosexual-

ity can be traced to a dominant gene on the mother's side of the family. Unlike the Clinton decision, this came as an unexpected surprise.

See, I have a big problem with testing going on to see why I am what I am. (We can assume, as with most national studies, that these results should also apply to female ho-

mosexuals.) I think said testing implies that there's something wrong with me that needs to be figured out. Just exactly what are they planning to do with this isolated gene? Disarm it *in vitro*? Abort an unwanted faggot fetus? Figure out what gifts to suggest for the baby shower?

I guess this is a way to help us come out when we come out.

Or not come out at all.

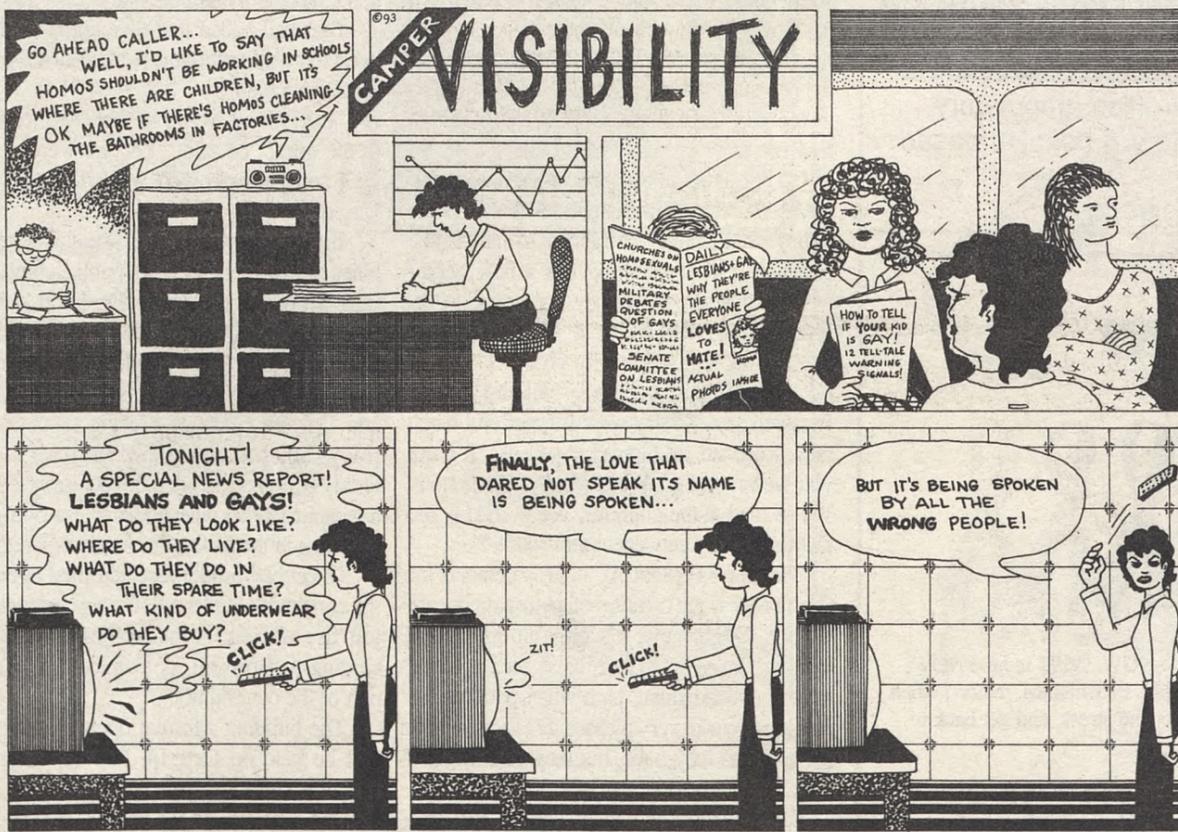
Maybe they've isolated this gene to identify an illness? I like the idea of me being considered "differently abled" because I'm homosexual. It is true that I do a couple of things differently because I'm a lesbian. I think that my family considers my pushy independent streak to be indicative of homosexuality. My queer friends assume said streak is because of my family. See how that works? Somebody has to be blamed.

So now that I'm differently abled (not physically challenged), I want certain inalienable rights that our government offers said groups. I would like tax breaks. I would like non-discrimination clauses. I would like scholarship offers based on my genetic deformity. I would like to be the "token" homosexual executive at IBM. I want to deliver mail with Benny on L.A. Law.

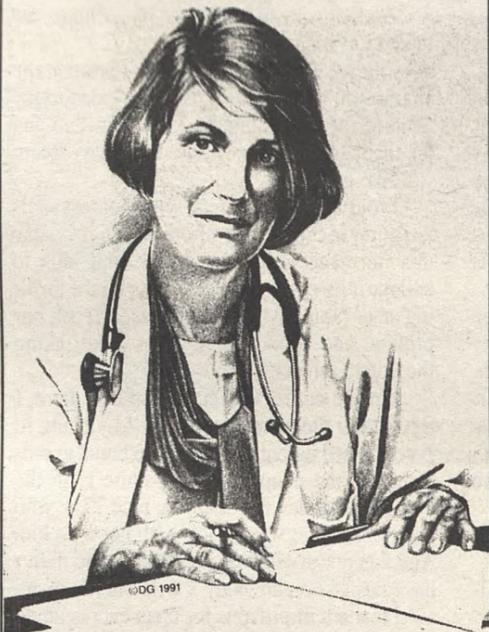
Well, wait a minute. Now that I've processed this in typical lesbian fashion, I guess that it's good that I know that gay men (and, by extension, lesbians) have a reason for being gay. Just the other night I was thinking that I would really like some validation for my homosexuality. That having passionately gratifying sex with women thing just isn't enough for me any more. I want a telethon. I need Michael Bolton to sing a touching song about the struggles of me and my people. I want to be rapidly promoted through the armed forces because that's how the government treats the differently abled.

I want to rise above my adversities and be somebody.

What parent wouldn't want that for their child?



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Condoms work against HIV

Atlanta—Latex condoms, if used properly, are close to 100 percent effective at blocking the HIV virus, according to the results of two new studies, the largest ever undertaken to determine the effectiveness of condoms.

European researchers studied people who were HIV-negative but regularly had sex with an infected partner. In the first study, none of 123 negative people who used condoms every time they had sex with an infected partner became infected over a two-year period. By contrast, 12 members of another group of 122 non-infected people who didn't use condoms consistently—10 percent—became infected.

In the second study, only three of 171 healthy Italians who used condoms for two years became infected despite having sex with an infected partner, about 2 percent. Eight of another 55 Italians—15 percent—didn't use condoms consistently and became infected.

"Condoms aren't 100 percent [effective] but they can be very, very close if used consistently," said Dr. Kay Stone of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. When they fail, it's usually because people handled them wrong or didn't use one every time they had sex, she said.

Armed with scientific proof, the CDC launched a renewed effort to persuade Americans to use condoms correctly when they have sex.

"Our first message is to avoid intercourse with an infected partner," said the CDC's Dr. Bert Peterson. "But for people who will take that risk...condoms can save your life.

"The biggest problem...is failure to take the condom out of the wrapper and use it. We need to shift our focus from the product, which is reliable, to the user."

Twelve years into the epidemic, CDC surveys show that just 28 percent of Americans think condoms are very effective against HIV. And many don't know how to use them. For instance, only 27 percent know that lubricating condoms with baby oil or petroleum jelly will dissolve them.

Conservatives have long insisted that condoms aren't safe. The debate raged anew last month when critics discovered Surgeon General-designate Joycelyn Elders didn't tell Arkansas residents that her state health office might have distributed some defective condoms. She said 95 percent of even the worst batch worked.

Condom critics are spreading myths, the CDC said.

Rare condom breaks are often traced to misuse, like applying oil-based lubricants instead of water-based ones, the CDC said. Also, people tear condoms with their fingernails, fail to note the expiration date, don't roll them on carefully and don't put them on early enough in intercourse.

HIV/AIDS activists, who have often blasted the CDC for not giving Americans more explicit safe-sex advice, welcomed the report. But they urged the CDC to aggressively educate Americans about proper condom use.

"Changing human behavior is one of the most difficult things there is," said David Kirby of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "You need to be explicit and to the point...and repeat the message over and over and over again."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grady AIDS clinic

Continued from page 7

ally got that wait down to two months, it will be eliminated at the new clinic. In fact, the facility is equipped with a well-patient program that will provide immediate service to those patients who only require a physical or some blood work. That program is scheduled to open the first week in October.

Jeff Graham of ACT UP/Atlanta said that the demands the group had for the Grady IDC in the past are definitely being met with the new facility.

"The clinic has always offered some of the best services in the country," Graham said. "They didn't have the facility to handle the caseload. I'm considering this a new beginning to evaluate how they are going to respond to the AIDS crisis."

"I think if it weren't for groups like ACT UP, we wouldn't be in this building today," Braswell says. "They were very careful when they protested [at Grady] to tell us, 'It's not you we're mad at. We're mad at the system. We're mad at the counties. We're mad at the fact that Grady can't get more space.'"

Graham says that ACT UP's demand for Grady now is the creation of an in-patient care facility. "Right now, it's only an out-patient facility," he says. "There have been a lot of reports of inadequate care when patients are admitted. We're very pleased that they've gotten as far as they have, but they've still got a long way to go."

Grady Hospital began looking for land two years ago to build a freestanding IDC,

away from the main hospital complex downtown. A variety of locations were thrown out as possible sites, including the old Sears building and the now-defunct "Great Mall of China." The valuable property at 341 Ponce De Leon was finally purchased from the Presbyterian Church for, according to Braswell, a lot less than it was worth. He commends the church for "making a great commitment to the AIDS crisis and the work Grady does."

Braswell added that the church's wish to keep the deal quiet and publicity-free placed Grady in a bind.

"Everything we do is supposed to be out in the open," he said. "Yet, we were dealing with some people who wanted to keep this very quiet."

It didn't stay quiet for long. And when plans for the center became public, some business people in the Ponce De Leon corridor objected loudly, maintaining that they didn't want any more social service facilities in the area. Some county commissioners in Fulton and DeKalb Counties—facing taxpayers already disturbed about how much tax money Grady uses—questioned the decision to build a separate facility when the main hospital complex was in the process of being expanded.

Once the hospital received final approval, the construction of the IDC was completed in just five months. A main objective now, according to Braswell, is to make the IDC "a part of the community."

The building's formal opening ceremony will be held on Oct. 14. Pop superstar and part-time Atlanta resident Elton John, who has lent his name to the project, is scheduled to attend.

Not-so-secret AIDS summit

*Activists force gathering
of top scientists into
the spotlight*

Madison, WI—A virtual “who’s who” of the American AIDS establishment, including many top scientists and President Clinton’s new AIDS czar, gathered for what was supposed to be a private summit meeting the last weekend in July.

But the activists had other ideas.

After a noisy demonstration by several ACT UP groups that drew unwanted publicity, several activists were let into the session, and the think tank agreed to issue a public statement summarizing its findings at the end of the weekend.

“None of the specific recommendations that came out of the meeting were that original or exciting,” said Mark Milano of ACT UP/New York, who was allowed to attend on the condition that he not speak on the first day of the summit. “ACT UP has been calling for these changes for years. But what was exciting, truly exciting, is that for the first time, a coalition of established researchers, pharmaceutical representatives, federal government officials and activists all agreed that the research process as it exists now is not working, that things simply cannot continue the way they are now if we have any hope of finding a cure for this disease any time soon.”

“The second important thing was getting all those groups to agree to work together to change [the system], to meet again to map out strategies to implement real change,” Milano said. “[These] are brilliant people who are unfortunately saddled and restrained by an oppressive system that does not foster objective, unbiased, rapid research. I have serious questions as to whether this group will challenge the status quo enough to call for the kinds of drastic changes that are really required. But it was fascinating to watch.”

Among those who attended the symposium were Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who oversees much of the government’s research on HIV/AIDS; Kristine Gebbie, President Clinton’s new AIDS policy coordinator; Dr. Robert Gallo, a scientist who helped identify HIV; and Dr. June Osborn, former chair of the National Commission on AIDS.

Also in attendance were Martin Delaney, head of San Francisco’s Project Inform, a clearinghouse for information on AIDS treatments; scientists from Harvard, Duke and other institutions; Larry Kramer, the writer and outspoken AIDS activist; and members of ACT UP/New York and ACT UP/Golden Gate.

The first day of the symposium was devoted to identifying critical research questions necessary to advance AIDS research. Intensified research was recommended in the areas of gene therapy, immune reconstitution and pathogenesis (the origin and development of HIV). Special programs to target emerging and innovative areas of research were also endorsed.

The group agreed that a rational strategy must be found to overcome the barriers facing complex drug trials, which often involve multiple compounds from both public and private sources. The development and standardization of tests to measure viral load was also recommended.

The second day was devoted to discuss-



AIDS czar Kristine Gebbie was among those meeting in Madison.

ing public policy and administrative changes necessary to facilitate progress in research. The need for greater collaboration and information sharing between all institutions, administrators and scientists involved in AIDS research was seen as the major imperative here, along with a greater infusion of funds from the private sector to “accelerate the pace of progress.”

The conferees proposed that the government offer incentives to pharmaceutical companies to assist more actively in research, a concept many ACT UP chapters oppose. They also called on Clinton and Congress to educate the American public to the urgency of the epidemic and the need for greater research.

“No amount of structural review or proposals for change will work without defining the structures for implementation and without the will and courage to carry out these changes,” the group concluded.

About 25 members of the Madison, Milwaukee and New York chapters of ACT UP demonstrated outside the meeting, demanding a massive new program, similar to the Manhattan Project, to find a cure for AIDS.

ACT UP’s model for such an effort is called “The McClintock Project to Cure AIDS” after Nobel-winning biogeneticist Barbara McClintock, who was once scorned by the scientific establishment.

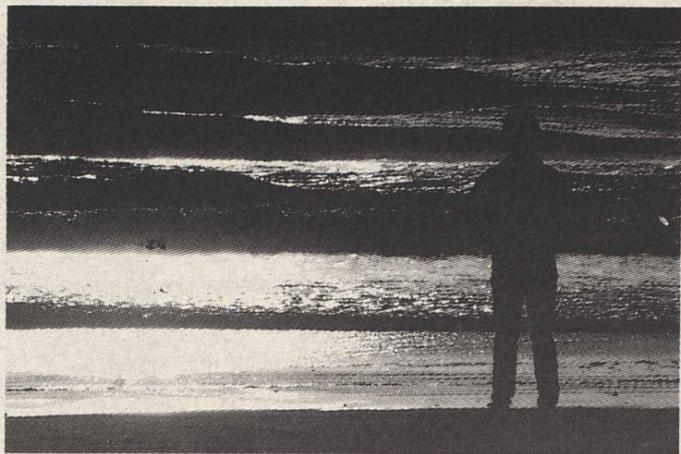
The McClintock Project would constitute a “second front” against AIDS and operate separately from the National Institutes of Health. The publicly funded project would incorporate different theories and approaches to HIV/AIDS and promote research that focuses on the actual development of the disease in affected individuals rather than test tube models.

Research within the McClintock Project would be conducted free from conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical firms and universities, and the project would be governed by a board of scientists and people with HIV/AIDS. Massive funding and intense research, similar to that which fueled the Manhattan Project would hopefully bring speedier treatment options and, ultimately, a cure.

Although Milano was given time on the agenda to raise ACT UP’s concerns, he was specifically instructed not to propose the McClintock Project. The idea, he said, was apparently “too radical for the group to consider, let alone adopt.”

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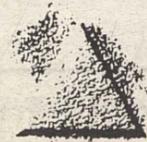
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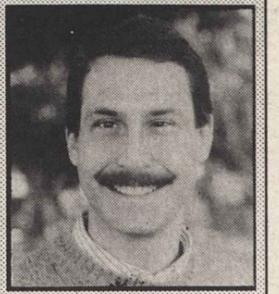
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AIDS

AT THE CROSSROADS

by Bruce Mirken



AIDS and Circuses

Sometimes covering AIDS is like writing for a small-town newspaper when the circus comes to town. But instead of an old-fashioned circus parade, what we get—at least once a year, it seems—is some lab or government agency making a dramatic-sounding announcement based on sketchy, preliminary data, usually from the test tube rather than actual patients. The media jumps all over it, cranking out snappy headlines and sound bites that send people's hopes soaring. Then, a few weeks or months or years later, we find out that those preliminary findings didn't pan out and that the frenzy of activity was for nothing—until the next circus comes to town.

The latest example of this discouraging cycle comes from Boston, where researchers at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital announced in February that they'd found what might well be HIV's "Achilles heel." A combination of three drugs, AZT and ddI plus either nevirapine or pyridinone, seemed able to shut down HIV replication completely, causing the virus to mutate in ways that left it unable to reproduce.

Right on cue, the media went nuts. The "breakthrough" made the front page of the New York Times and was blared nationwide by CNN and the networks. It was big news indeed.

With the publicity spotlight on, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases accelerated the start of a pending human trial and doubled its size—a process helped along by the fact that Dr. Martin Hirsch, in whose lab the discovery was made, is a prominent member of the government's AIDS Clinical Trials Group.

And people with HIV flocked to sign up in unbelievable numbers. According to Marty Majchrowicz, treatment advocate at AIDS Project Los Angeles, the trial site at the University of Southern California finally stopped taking names when they had 500 people waiting for 24 slots. People called from as far away as Australia. Majchrowicz, who got plenty of calls from unhappy PWAs desperate to get into the study, calls the whole process "a circus."

Now Dr. Hirsch, calling himself "embarrassed," admits there was an error in that first report which may invalidate the results. While knowledgeable people generally agree that the three-drug approach is still worth studying, reports of a miracle have—once again—proven greatly exaggerated.

We've been around this track a few too many times. Remember the first breathless reports about AZT? Compound Q? Dextran sulfate? And bursts of media hype are by no means limited to treatments. A year ago there was Dr. Sudhir Gupta's "mystery virus" that supposedly explained those "non-HIV AIDS" cases—until it turned out to be a mirage. And the year before we had twin frenzies. From the AIDS Conference in Florence came the "can-you-get-AIDS-from-deep-kissing?" hysteria, quickly

eclipsed by a wave of panic over HIV-infected health care workers. That, of course stemmed from extremely tenuous evidence involving Florida dentist Dr. David Acer, in what remains perhaps the most atrociously-reported AIDS story ever.

Each time the pattern is the same. Scientists announce a piece of preliminary or incomplete data and the media blow it wildly out of proportion, setting off a burst of popular hope or anxiety that eventually turns out to have little, if any, basis in fact.

There are a few lessons in all of this. First, researchers need to be more careful about how they present new data, particularly when the information is unconfirmed or preliminary. Mistakes can and will happen, but science-by-press-release has gotten way out of hand. Second, the mass media need to get a grip. Scientific announcements need to be approached with the same level of caution and skepticism as any other piece of unconfirmed information. These needless waves of unfounded hope or fear do real, sometimes irretrievable, harm.

But since neither researchers nor the media are going to change their ways anytime soon, we'd better watch out for ourselves. In that spirit, I offer a few suggestions.

Unless you are a test tube, test tube data means almost nothing. The artificially-simplified conditions of the laboratory bear little resemblance to what happens in actual human beings, and the history of AIDS is littered with drugs that have worked in the test tube but not in people. Lab results should be taken with the proverbial grain of salt until confirmed by human tests.

Also, look to see if the "discovery" being reported has been confirmed by more than one researcher. The rule of thumb in science is that nothing is considered proven until separate research teams, working independently, have confirmed it. Scientists, being human, goof occasionally, as the three-drug fiasco proves.

And when in doubt, don't trust the mass media. Few media outlets have medical reporters with enough background to cover AIDS intelligently, and the pressure to come up with clever sound bites and eye-catching headlines means that even those who know better often do violence to the complexities of this disease.

A good rule of thumb is to get information from as many sources as possible. A number of newsletters, like AIDS Treatment News and Treatment Issues (published by Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York) cover AIDS development with far more detail and accuracy than the mass media ever will. This latest "breakthrough" to bite the dust is yet another reason for people living with HIV and AIDS, and those who care about them, to become more aware, more skeptical and more educated.

And don't step in the elephant droppings once the circus train has left.

Bruce Mirken writes on HIV/AIDS issues for a number of publications, including Southern Voice. He lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

Pink stampede

Continued from page 3

Fourth Ward, then up to Midtown and down to Summerhill and the other neighborhoods around the new Olympic stadium. It is 60 percent African American, and is currently represented by Bill Campbell, who is giving up the seat to run for mayor. At least five people are running in a wide-open race.

But during reapportionment, the area of Midtown west of Piedmont and south of 10th Street, which has a number of high-rise apartment buildings with large concentrations of gay voters, was added to this district.

"We've identified the top 10 precincts, and we're going to work them like nobody's business," says Spivey, who, as an alternate delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention, garnered national media coverage speaking out for people who, like himself, are living with AIDS. On hand for his announcement were a number of long-time activists and gay/lesbian politicians, who have launched an effort to raise \$15,000 for this race.

"I like the fact that he's educated about all the issues, not just our own," said Lynn Pasqualetti, who is the campaign treasurer. And she noted that unlike some past lesbian/gay candidates, Spivey is not a controversial figure in the community.

"If we run an intelligent, articulate—not ugly—campaign, we'll come out ahead, regardless of how it turns out," she said.

White is running in District 1, which contains Grant Park, Ormewood Park and neighborhoods in southeast Atlanta because "I think

it is imperative that someone pledged to gay/lesbian interests be on the Atlanta council." There is no elected incumbent because Councilwoman Debbie McCarty gave up this seat to take a post as parks commissioner, and Greg Pridgen was appointed to take her place.

White, as well as Spivey, Loftis and Payne, all say they are committed to campaigns that talk about more than just gay/lesbian issues—avoiding "one issue" candidacies that are doomed to failure because they have no appeal to straight voters.

"I would not want anybody to vote for me just because I am gay. I want people to vote for me because I am the most qualified candidate," said Loftis.

In addition to the announced candidates, both Sheila Best and Dale Warren (who is David Payne's partner) are considering races in District 1 or perhaps the "at-large" district made up of Districts 1 and 2.

"I'm torn because I don't know if I have the time to run," said Best, who said that she is considering running not only because of the council's lack of attention to lesbian/gay issues but also because she doesn't think the council does a very good job solving the city's economic and social problems.

"I'm sick and tired of having to go to Ansley Mall to go grocery shopping," Best said, noting the lack of economic development in her southside neighborhood.

RICHARD SHUMATE

Partnership

Continued from page 3

reparable damage" would come to the plaintiffs if the ordinances were allowed to continue.

But Fryer, noting that the ordinance that provides benefits for the partners of city employees does not go into effect until Jan. 1, 1994, said he didn't see the emergency.

"What am I going to restrain at the moment? Restrain somebody from saying 'I am Sam's domestic partner and I want to be treated as a member of the family?'" said Fryer, who gave the attorneys two weeks to file briefs on the issue before he makes a final ruling on the restraining order.

Family Concerns attorney David Myers argued that the city's taxpayers were being harmed by the "money and the time the city has had to expend to do financial studies" on the ordinances, but Fryer noted those were normal procedures for the city.

"I'm sure we've got dozens and dozens and dozens of studies about bridges that haven't been built yet," Fryer said.

The lawsuit claims that the domestic partnership ordinances and the changes to the city charter that added sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause violate the state's Home Rule Act, which spells out what city governments may and may not do, as well as provisions in the Georgia Constitution on the same issue.

Citing a provision in Georgia's marriage code that says state law should promote marriage as the preferred option for the state's citizens, Myers said that banning discrimination against marital status was "one step less radical" than banning bias based on sexual orientation.

"To confer on unmarried persons the same benefits as married persons is to violate a public policy favoring marriage," he said.

An attorney for the city, Kendrick Smith, argued that while state law does prevent cities from taking "any action affecting the private or civil law governing private or civil relationships," the domestic partnership ordinances create a partnership, similar to a business partnership, and specifically refute any claim for a relationship similar to marriage.

And besides, said Smith, the Home Rule Act grants city governments "the authority to fix compensation of its employees."

"This ordinance recognizes that we all live in households, and we all have expenses... Someone who gets married can be paid for a wife and children, or a husband and children," he said, disclaiming the plaintiff's arguments that the ordinances create special rights. "Here we have one domestic partner."

Smith said after the hearing that he expects Fryer to make a ruling in early September. Fryer urged the attorneys to accept a stipulated order to expedite the case to the Georgia Supreme Court, but indicated he would be equally interested in hearing the case himself.

"It's an interesting question," he said. "And I like interesting questions."

Mayor Jackson signed the ordinance giving benefits to the partners of city employees—identical to the one he vetoed in June—shortly after the City Council approved it, faxing the signed bill from Beijing, China. An announcement that the mayor had signed the bill, however, was not made until Jackson returned from China last week.

The mayor had vetoed the ordinance the first time around because he said he wanted more information on how much it would cost the city. With his financial questions answered, he signed the second bill.

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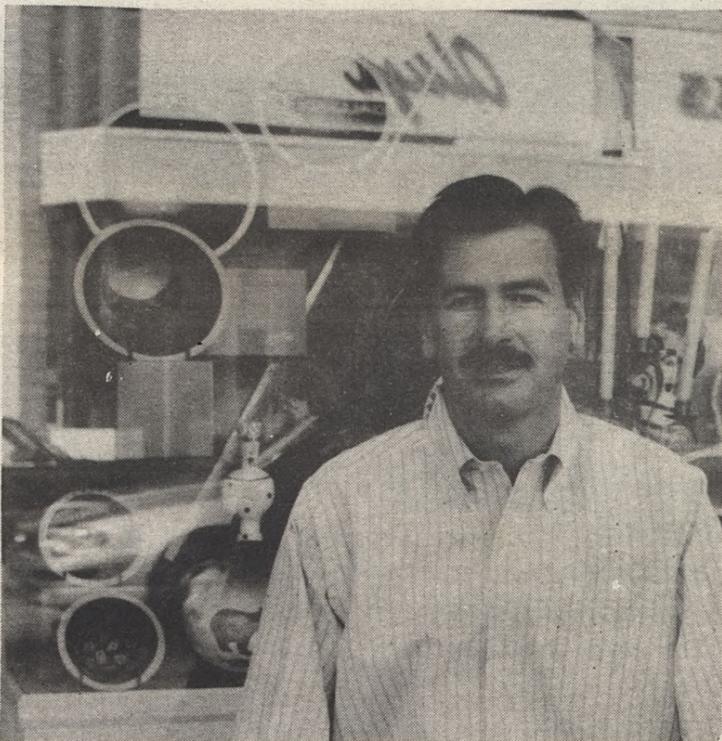
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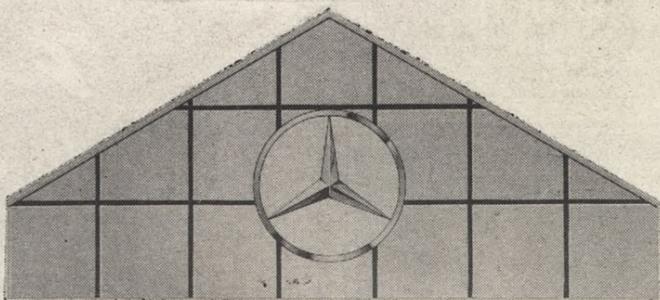
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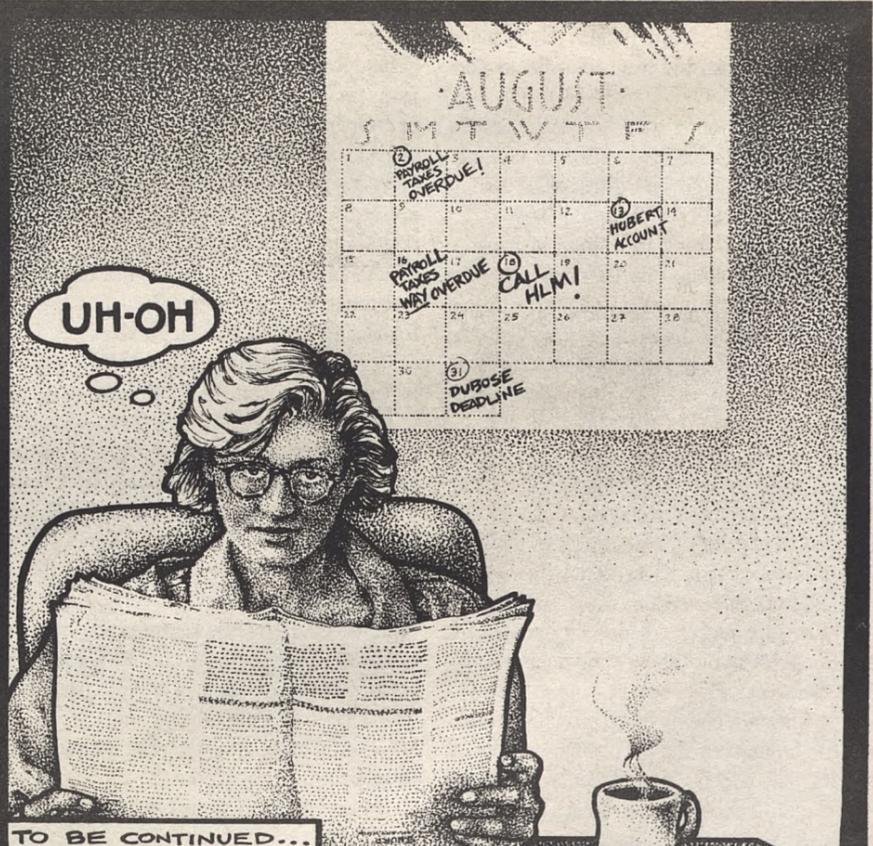
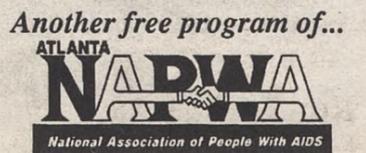
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Dr. Sparti, of Miami, Florida, is a reknowned HIV physician currently attending an HIV conference in Washington, D.C. She is engaging in state-of-the-art studies of treatments which may actually restore the damage of an HIV-infected immune system.

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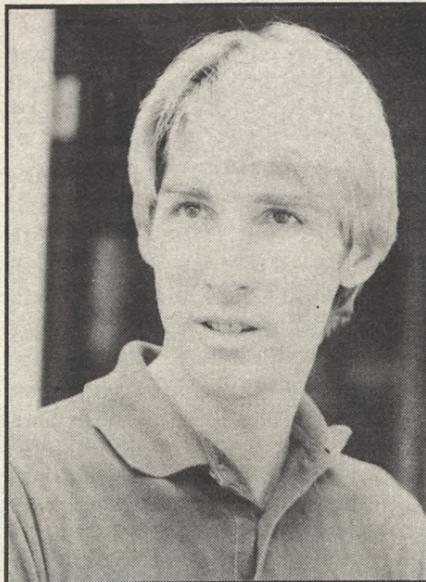
OBITUARIES

**Charles Morgan
Beauregard Poole**

Charles Morgan Beauregard Poole, 48, joined the angels on July 26, 1993, after an uncomplaining struggle with HIV, just after saying goodbye to his friend, David, of Savannah and Atlanta.

A true son of the South, Charles believed in all of the finest qualities that are brought to the senses in Atlanta. Always charming and positive, he also brightened the life of Glen, of Atlanta, who comforted Charles, as Charles had comforted so many others. While living in San Francisco, he worked at the luxuriant Conservatory of Flowers, and he was employed at Atlanta's Emory University. His co-workers admired and depended on his sunny outlook. Charles lived in San Francisco from 1976 to 1988, with two desertions to provide his "bed-side manner" to his parents during their final illnesses in North Carolina. In 1988 he decided that San Francisco had "too many Yankees," and fled to Atlanta with his five-star catfish and hush puppy recipes.

Starstruck since 1974, when he danced with Blythe Danner in the Richard Chamberlain movie made in Savannah, "F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Last of the Belles," Charles could go on about films. Trained in physical therapy in the Air Force, Charles eased the pain of many Atlantans. His flirtatious charm that alluded to Scarlett O'Hara eased strongly into Rhet Butler, as he held your head to adjust your neck, murmuring with deep resonance into your ear.



RINK PHOTO

Charles was best known for his complete tours of old and new Atlanta. He let you form your own opinions on the city's progress. He set an example of what a Southerner could be, with sensitivity toward others. Though his Midtown apartment was modest, there was the overwhelming feeling that you had just stepped into the Twelve Oaks Plantation of "Gone With the Wind," as you were complemented and handed an iced tea.

Closely resembling a young Randolph Scott, the Hollywood star, Charles loved Atlanta, and much of Atlanta loved and appreciated Charles. He will be missed.

**Roy L. Derryberry /
Dominique Sanchez**

Roy L. Derryberry, 35, who as Dominique Sanchez was one of the Midwest's most titled entertainers, passed from this life on Friday, July 16, 1993. Born in Nashville, Roy was a successful hairdresser and instructor, eventually moving to Springfield, Ill. for several years and finally to St. Louis, Mo. Roy started his career as a female impersonator as "Brandy Stephens" while still a teenager, placing as second runner up in the Miss Tennessee Pageant. In more recent years, Roy perfected his image and act, winning the titles of Illinois Entertainer of the Year 93, Miss St. Louis 93, Miss Michigan USA 93, Miss Capitol City (Springfield) 92 and Missouri Entertainer of the Year 92.

Roy was well known and loved by contestants and fans of all the major pageant systems. His mourners include Nancy Fuchs, Michael



CHUCK AND ROY

McKinley, Rick Frank, Bric Beyr and Danny Roble.

Jonathan Mark Loper

Jonathan Mark Loper, 31, died on July 18, 1993.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be..."

And "I am telling you," there is "a dream with your name on it."

From Andy Aycock, friend and care giver, with love.



To place an obituary

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

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So, you've done everything right. The garden is just perfect, even after the terrible heat and drought. You've worked hard, and now you've been rewarded with lush growth and an abundance of plant people.

Now what do you do with these waving stands of greenery? There are only three viable options—use them, give them away or preserve them.

Don't forget that herbs were the world's pharmacopeia and psychic healing source until quite recently. Say you need a little help with someone difficult. There's an old rhyme which goes "St. John's wort, vervain, rue and dill, / Rid this evil person of their evil will." Place a bundle of these under the place the person will walk, and you shouldn't have any more trouble.

And then there are loved ones you're concerned about. Traditionally, marjoram laid on a person's grave signified that their soul would find peace. And the Romans thought mums particularly suited for the dead because they last so long.

If you're not having problems in the psychic realm, I favor bestowing bouquets on people who might enjoy non-traditional combination offerings. Hence, when I went to interview Mickey Day a few weeks before his death, I brought him cut specimens of what I had on hand at the time—blackberry lilies, lantana and chrysanthemums, folded into a raft of purple ruffles basil.

Not only did the colors complement one another, but the smells were great too. He seemed genuinely touched that I would gift him something I personally grew, and he swore he would use the basil in the kitchen. I don't know if that came to pass, but it never hurts to bring a little color and pleasure into people's lives.

Plants are always good for visits (unless you're traveling by plane). Fresh garni are good, too. I like to look at what folks used to do for hints on this. For instance, how would you employ scented geraniums? As a garnish for fruit salads or platters, true. But you realize that old timers would put rose geraniums in the sugar bowl and in the apple jelly—the fragrance is absorbed into the sweetness.

And there are probably thousands of variations on herb butter. Basically, take a stick (I use margarine, of course, being vegetarian), soften and flatten and then cut in your herbs. Roll the finished product up into wax paper, stick in the freezer for a few hours and use as is.

Breads are similar. I like to split a loaf of Italian (not that horrible stuff at the supermarket), add olive oil, garlic, fresh basil, fresh oregano and garden tomato slices, stick in the microwave for 1-2 minutes...and it's a summer loaf, ready to wow the table. (Add marinated artichoke hearts if you like.)

Try lemon balm in iced tea, instead of mint. Lemon verbena works for fruit drinks and tea.

Herbs make refreshing bath additions. Some common ones include summer savory, rosemary and thyme. Tie them in cheesecloth or something equally porous but strong, or else you'll curse the residue once the water flows out.

But let's say that you've given of your bounty until friends stop inviting you to dinner parties because they've had enough bouquets or homemade pesto from you. What then?

Time to dry. And why dry? So you can make potpourri or herb vinegars or herb hams, honeys, cookies, cakes, fruits, punches, solstice wreaths, pest repellents, etc. You

can find many fascinating recipes and engrossing lore, for instance in Phyllis Shady's "The Pleasure of Herbs, A Month-by-Month Guide to Growing, Using, and Enjoying Herbs."

Are you game? Well then, with perennials, you generally harvest before the flowers open. Try to get the annuals before the flowers completely form. If it's too late, just know that some of the plant's energy has been diverted away from her internal oils, so she might not be as potent. On a dry morning after the dew has burned off, but before high noon, go out with a sharp bladed knife or shears. Cut perennials back by no more than 1/3 to 1/2. You can cull annuals down to the soil, or pull them up completely and cut the roots off. And I always thank the plant for her generous offering and don't cut more than I feel I will realistically use.

Pick out any dead, browned, or wilted leaves. Rinse them lightly to remove any impurities, and blot them dry with towels or paper.

Then, put them head first into paper bags, and tie the mouth shut—with yarn, string, rubber bands—on the stems. Hang them from the stem for a week or two in a relatively hot, dry place. Attics are good.

The bag prevents dust from settling on the leaves, and also keeps most of the volatile oils from evaporating. And those oils provide the scents and flavors which we desire from herbs. Which is why their final resting place after drying should be airtight and dark, to prevent evaporation.

How do you know when the herbs are dry? Shake the bag and listen for the telltale sound of dry rustling. Open the bag, and you should then be able to crumble the leaves in your hand. If not, they aren't dry enough and might mold.

If you're not satisfied, a few minutes in a barely warm (less than 100 degrees) oven on a cookie sheet should do the trick.

Once you've dried, you can fondly remember summer's heat as you smell your potpourri on the stove and turn up the thermostat this December.

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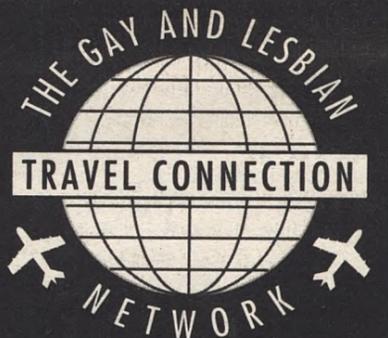
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Shirley Chancey and Marsha Mitchiner will be celebrating 18 years together on Aug. 20.

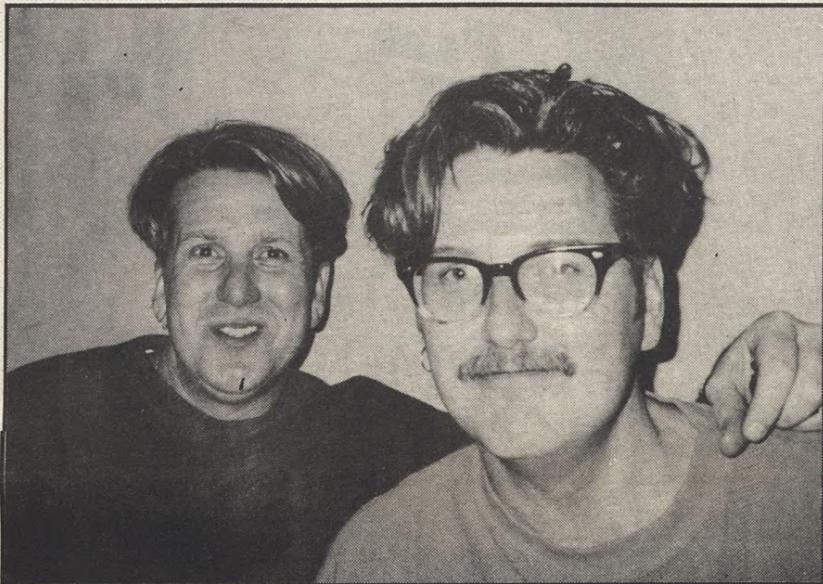
Robin Davidson and Michael Lynch of Atlanta celebrated their 16th anniversary on Aug. 16. They note that, coincidentally, this is the same day the Elvis died and that their relationship lives on in memory of the King. They celebrated on the beach in Destin, Fla.

Rick Bierley and Robin Barbaree are celebrating three wonderful, love-filled years on Aug. 19 and looking forward to many more happy years together. Rick wanted Occasions to wing an "I love you" Robin's way.

it was about time. They also commented that everyone they encountered at City Hall was very pleasant and cordial and that the entire experience was just wonderful.

TEMPORARY DEPARTURE

Shirley Banks called to let us know that Paul Williams will be leaving for New York City on Aug. 1 to attend General Theological Seminary to study for the priesthood. He'll come back to Atlanta after that and be ordained into the Episcopal Church. His friends at All Saints Episcopal Church and the Frontrunners will miss him dearly.



Robin Davidson and Michael Lynch say their relationship lives on in memory of Elvis.

BIRTHDAY

Happy belated birthday to Sedrick Gardner. From Callie and Even, who said, "We love you. You're a dear sweet friend."

DOMESTIC PARTNERS

Bob McNeir and Michael Clark became the ninth couple to sign up as domestic partners in the city of Atlanta on Aug. 9th.

Shirley Adams and Barbara Budd signed up on Aug. 6, which was also Shirley's 47th birthday. Shirley and Barbara have been together for 16 years, so they figured

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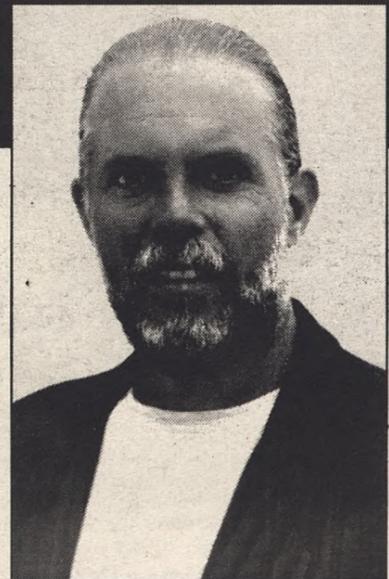
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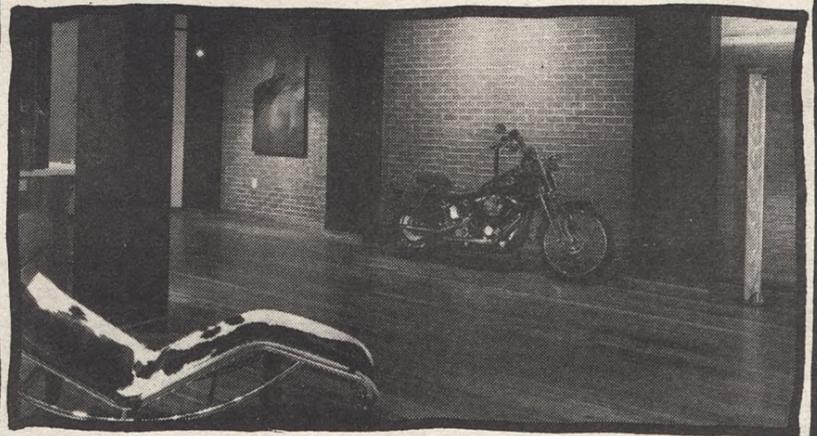
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OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

ALWAYS KEEP 'EM GROENING

The cartoonist who bought us those fez-zy lovers, Akbar and Jeff, and Marge Simpson, with her big-as-a-drag-queen hair, talks about his proud contributions to trash culture.

by BRENT HARTINGER

It's one thing to bite the hand that feeds you. It's another thing to viciously satirize that hand week after week—and still have the hand come back for more.

It's hard to believe, but that's exactly what cartoonist Matt Groening has been doing ever since 1990, when the creator of the fiercely iconoclastic and gay-friendly comic strip "Life in Hell" brought "The Simpsons" to life for the fledgling Fox network.

The result has been a merciless—and fiercely intelligent—parody of everything from the typical sitcom family to almost every aspect of American family life.

To Groening's surprise, the show hasn't just found a nice little niche—it has flourished, taking the mainstream by storm. One character from the show, Bart Simpson, even became a genuine media phenomenon, spawning dolls, T-shirts, a hit song and countless imitators.

As Groening puts it, "copyright infringement is the sincerest form of flattery."

"The whole thing about the Simpsons was it was an experiment. I talked with some other underground cartoonist types, and we talked about invading the mainstream. We wanted to see how far we could get our stuff. 'The Simpsons' has been this experiment."

The kicker, of course, is that all this success has come even though the show frequently makes blatant fun of the very American public that finds it so wonderful. The characters bicker, watch too much television and pursue pathetic and mostly dysfunctional lives. "One of the depressing things about being any kind of writer is realizing that at least part of your success is based on people not getting it," Groening says.

"I was quite content with the audience I was reaching with 'Life in Hell.' But with 'Life in Hell,' the audience was fairly educated, fairly young. They know how to read. With television, you reach people who don't know how to read or don't want to read. You reach everybody.

The idea of reaching people that you have absolutely nothing in common with is really fascinating to me—the guy in his trailer out in Montana jumping up and down in anger."

The wonderfully irreverent and equally insightful "Life in Hell" is a weekly strip about everything from one-eared bunnies to the difficulty of relationships. It is currently distributed to about 150 weekly, alternative or college newspapers and about 20 mainstream dailies (it runs on Fridays in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution).

Many gay readers appreciate "Life in Hell" because of Akbar and Jeff, two fez-topped identical little characters who sleep together, dress together and argue endlessly about their relationship.

"I say they're brothers or lovers or possibly both," Groening says with a laugh. "One of the reasons why I like to draw Akbar and Jeff is because they're identical, and I can't be accused of taking sides when I have arguments about relationships."

"I've always been fascinated with trash culture in all its forms," Groening says. "So the idea of taking something that's very rarely taken seriously and embracing the frivolous aspects of it—stupid-looking funny animals—and then trying to say some serious things from time to time is a lot of fun for me."

Groening isn't gay but says he doesn't particularly care when people mistakenly think he is. Besides, he adds, "The thing that makes me happiest is when I can entertain one group of people and annoy the hell out of another."

Still another reason why Groening draws Akbar and Jeff is because he enjoys the bemused reaction from anti-gay bigots who start to like the characters—and then realize they're probably gay. "They've gotten to like Akbar and Jeff, and then it slowly dawns on them that perhaps Akbar and Jeff are in a group that these people hate virulently," he says. "It makes me happy."

Though the gay-positive imagery hasn't been as overt on "The Simpsons," Groening has managed to sneak in a bit of it from time to time. When Homer was made a business executive by a weird twist of fate, his male assistant was, shall we say, devoted. And then there was the time Homer accidentally invented a drink called the "Flaming Moe."

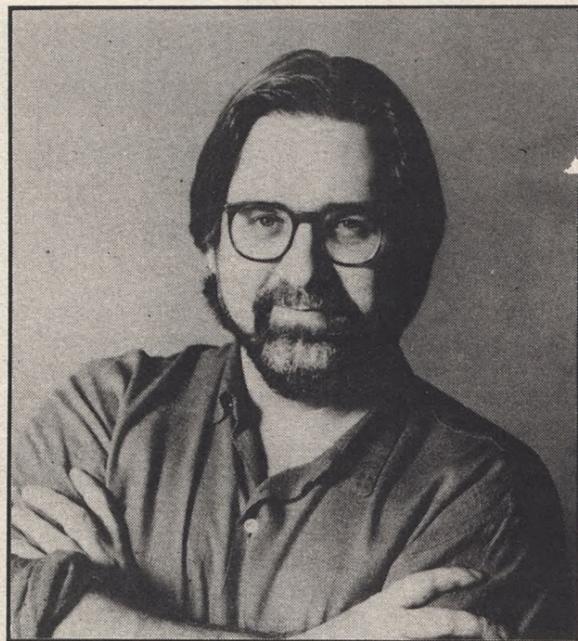
Of course, Groening has faced his share of opposition from those who would do away with both his television show and his comic strip. A school principal, for example, made headlines a few years ago when he banned students from wearing Bart Simpson T-shirts, saying the character was "anti-authority" and disruptive to the school. And "Life in Hell" has raised the hackles of some editors with its often openly anti-Republican sentiments.

"My whole stance politically is not anti-Republican," Groening maintains. "It's just taking to task the people who are in power—your leaders, your teachers, your clergymen. Political leaders and so forth don't necessarily have your best interests in mind. I've just been working for 12 years under Republicans, so I've been getting mad at them. One of the fun things about it too is that the Republicans can't stand to be laughed at. It really is the party of Elmer Fudd, and it's really fun to be Daffy Duck."

Groening won't deny that the enormous success of "The Simpsons" has opened more than a few doors for him. The show's consistently high ratings gives him the OK to push the envelope much, much further than other shows, and the success of the show has generated an increasing interest in his very unorthodox comic strip.

"In our culture, television is definitely some sort of magical endorsement," he says. "It makes the strip a lot safer for editors."

Still, the print media has been considerably more squeamish



Matt Groening says "the thing that makes me happiest is when I can entertain one group of people and annoy the hell out of another."

about controversial issues than is television. "Television thrives on shaking people up to get their attention," Groening says. "Newspaper editors seem to want to keep their readers sleepy and contented."

It doesn't help, Groening says, that jokes in a newspaper comic strip remain forever etched on newsprint. "If something annoys you in a newspaper, you can clip it out. You've got proof," he points out. "On television, it just sort of sails by until you get to another crass joke." It also helps, he says, that the network can call "The Simpsons" an "adult" show, but many people continue to think of comic strips as written mostly for children.

Groening is particularly proud that "The Simpsons" has so many layers of meaning that it can be enjoyed by so many different audiences. Some critics have praised the show as the best writing on television, but kids like it too.

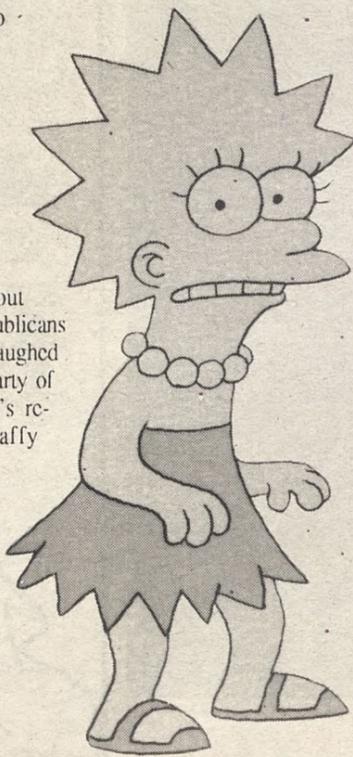
"I think about kids coming back in 15 years and watching the reruns after they've perhaps gotten an education and thinking, 'Oh, I get that reference to Louis Carroll or 'The Treasure of Sierra Madre' or 'Citizen Kane' or Tennessee Williams. I watch 'Bullwinkle' now and go, 'Oh, I get it.'"

Groening says his show proves that television doesn't just have to shoot for society's lowest common denominator.

"The mistake that a lot of people in television make is thinking that everybody has to get every joke, therefore you water things down and you make it so it doesn't confuse the lout sitting on the couch out there in TV land. My feeling is, you throw enough stuff at them, and it doesn't matter if they don't get everything."

In fact, Groening plans to go right on throwing everything but the kitchen sink at both his viewers and his readers. Someday the American public might wake up and realize they're the subject of his satire, but Groening doubts it.

"They'll never catch on," he says with just a touch of concern in his voice. "Otherwise, I'll be lynched."



MATT GROENING

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TINA McELROY ANSA. Tina returns to Charis Books and More to present her new novel "Ugly Ways," a funny and touching story about three Southern sisters who return to their home to bury their not-so-easily buried mother. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. 7:30 p.m. 419 Moreland Ave. 524-0304.

MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI. Considered to be the "opera of all operas," this production recounts the

escapades and eventual demise of the world's most infamous lover, the legendary Don Juan. Tonight, Aug 21 and 23. 8 p.m. Woodruff Arts Center. \$15-\$72. 892-2414.

E/R, PEACHTREE MEMORIAL. A slice of life comedy/drama set in the busy emergency room of the fictional Peachtree Memorial Hospital. See the flow of doctors, nurses and patients that parade through this modern urban M*A*S*H. Through Aug 22. Th-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 5 p.m. Onstage Atlanta. \$12-

\$15. 897-1802.

ATLANTA ENTREPRENEURS' CLUB. Network with the gay business community tonight. 7-9 p.m. 457-6347.

20 FRIDAY

COOL SOUNDS OF MIAMI. Dance to the exciting Latin rhythms of Stephanie Pettis & RIO. 10:30 p.m. Headliners. 261-4666.

TOSSED SALAD CONTEST. Do you make the world's most fabulous salad? If so, then this contest is for you. Cash prizes available and you can sell samples. This is being held in conjunction with the 1993 International Roots Festival. Arts Exchange, 750 Kalb St. SE. To enter 215-0467.

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN URBAN FOLK ART. Paper paintings that are painted, airbrushed, stenciled and collaged into a shimmering, iridescent color field by Vicki Bethel, and crocheted anthropological forms by Arthur Douglas Thayer are

21 SATURDAY

AEGIS GALA CELEBRATION. The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) is celebrating its third birthday with an open house and party. An open discussion and rap group with a licensed transgendered mental health professional follows the party. 2-6 p.m. Ramada Dunwoody Hotel, 1850 Cotillion Dr. 939-0244.

JANIS IAN w/special guest JOSHUA KADISON. Come spend a nostalgic evening with this popular folksinger. 8:30 p.m. Variety Playhouse, Little 5 Points. \$12. 521-1786.

HIV UPDATE. The syndicated cable TV show airs every Sat at 6 p.m. on Channel 12.

3922/288-2332.

40th ANNUAL ATLANTA ARTS FESTIVAL. Sept. 11-19.

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CELEBRATING GAY SPIRIT VISIONS. Sept. 16-19. Explore your nature with a group of men who love men on top of "The Mountain" in North Carolina through tribal rituals, workshops and presentations focusing on silence, vision and action. Authors Tom Spanbauer and Andrew Ramer will be present. \$195-\$225. (704) 526-5838, (404) 378-1227/ Al Cotton.

NEW WOMAN CONFERENCE. Sept 23-26. A three-day conference for new (post-operative) women and their male and female partners. A retreat held near San Francisco that combines communing with nature with the sharing of experience. P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick, ME 03908. (207) 676-5870.



ONGOING AND UPCOMING

WHY AM I GAY? STORIES OF COMING OUT IN AMERICA. Stay up late or set your VCRs for this documentary that "paints a moving and thought-provoking picture" of what we already know—what it's like to grow up gay. On Aug. 16, 22, 25 and 31, check listings.

LATE NITE SPECIAL. A very different original musical comedy revealing the story of a theater worker who encounters characters such as Clark Kent, Captian Kirk, Joan of Arc, Dorothy, Babe Ruth and Hamlet while working late at night. Through Aug 21. F & Sat 8 p.m. DramaTech Theater, Georgia Tech. \$6. 894-2745.

DAMN YANKEES. Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical salute to the boys of summer that tells the tale of how the devil and his vixen, Lola, bargain the dreams of an aging baseball fan for his soul. Through Aug 21. 8 p.m. Th-Sat., 2 p.m. Sat & Sun.

PHANTOM. Have a hauntingly romantic evening with an all-new

musical stage thriller from Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston. This production focuses on the classic love story about the Paris Opera House "phantom" and the beautiful opera singer who steals his heart. Through Aug 22. Tues-Sun 8 p.m., Sat & Sun 2 p.m. Fox Theater. \$11.50-\$32.50. 249-6400.

MATING HABITS OF THE URBAN MAMMAL. A new musical by Michael Leeds and Peggy Gordon that takes a comic and irreverent look at dating in the 90s: the bar scene, safe sex, commitment and working relationships. Through Aug 22. Th-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 7 p.m. Neighborhood Playhouse. \$12. 373-5311.

SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO. The play, best remembered for the movie adaptation "About Last Night," follows the lives and exploits of two bachelors, Dan and Bernie, and presents a harsh commentary on the male perception of sex and love. The female point of view comes through Deborah and Joan, two roommates. When

Dan and Deborah fall in love, their friends sound a voice of doom. Through Aug 28. Th-Sat 8 p.m. 14 th St. Playhouse. \$10. 881-6304.

THE CONDUCT OF LIFE. A unique and devastating play, written by Cuban-American Maria Irene Fomes, dealing with the psychology of a torturer as seen by three women in his life. Through Aug 28. Th-Sat 8 p.m. 7 Stages Backdoor Theater, Little 5 Points. \$7. 523-7647.

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN. This popular and highly successful musical comedy and good-time gospel celebration returns to Theatre in the Square. Through Sept 4. 8 p.m. T-Sat, 3 & 7 p.m. Sun. 11 Whitlock Ave, Marietta. \$15-\$25. 422-8369.

PFLAG CONVENTION. Sept. 3-6. Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians will be in fun-filled New Orleans networking, learning about gay and lesbian issues through a multitude of workshops and enjoying the scenery. Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Discounted hotel rates available. \$100 registration. (504) 523-

22 SUNDAY

QUEER FAMILY PICNIC ON THE SQUARE. Bring a covered dish and your family values to Cobb County for this family outing on the Marietta Square. 1 pm. 621-5016.

HEALING AND THE MIND w/BILL MOYERS. In this five-part series airing in its entirety today, Moyers travels across the country and around the world to investigate the burgeoning field of mind-body medicine, which many scientists feel may bring about a health care revolution. Programs are "The Mystery of Chi," traditional Chinese medicine's approach to healing; "The Mind-Body Connection," how thoughts, emotions and even personalities can affect health; "Healing from Within," two therapies that employ neither drugs nor surgery; "The Art of Healing," a model of medical care based on the idea that emotional states play an important role to people's vulnerability to disease and to their recovery; and "Wounded Healers," a visit to a California retreat designed to help people with cancer understand the experience. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. WGTV Channel 8.

23 MONDAY

EXPERIENCE BROADWAY & HOLLYWOOD. Cecil Welch and Tara Winds Band will close the Great Lawn summer concert series with a show full of



Broadway and movie themes, Sousa marches and symphonic melodies. 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Botanical Garden. \$17. 876-5858.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program. 10:30 p.m. and again, Wed. 5:30 p.m. 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.

24 TUESDAY

SURVIVING THE HURRICANE. Last August, Hurricane Andrew left 62 dead, 175,000 homeless and \$25 billion in property damage. This special looks at the aftermath of Andrew and also offers practical tips to help prepare for a hurricane. 10 p.m. WGTV Channel 8.

25 WEDNESDAY

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

JUDY GARLAND & LIZA MINNELLI. Taped in November 1964 at the London Palladium, this special features Diva Judy and her then 18-year-old daughter Liza. Songs include "Once in a Lifetime," "Over the Rainbow," "Who's Sorry Now," "Hello, Dolly" and "Happy Days are Here Again." Followed by specials with Frank Sinatra, 9 p.m., and Nat King Cole at 10 p.m. Starts 8 p.m. WGTV Channel 8.

Pictured:
ABOVE: The Atlanta Opera's rendition of the story of legendary lover "Don Giovanni" starts Thursday. Photo by Keiko Guest
LEFT: Robert Cuccioli is the "Phantom" at the Fox.
BELOW: Author Tina McElroy Ansa, coming to Charis Thursday.



Several months ago, just after RuPaul had released his "Supermodel" single onto the dance floors of America, he came to Atlanta for a club appearance and radio interviews. He also made an appearance at E.D.'s Gourmet Records in Ansley Square where he signed posters and 8-by-10 inch glossies for the 30 or so people who had come to see him.

Since then, "Supermodel" has ascended to the top of the Billboard magazine dance charts, and his recently released CD has spawned a second round of dance club favorites, including "Back to my Roots" and "House of Love." His flamboyant style and persona have catapulted him out of the shadows of obscurity and landed him in the company of such luminaries as Liz Taylor, Arsenio Hall, Spike Lee and Janet Jackson. Spike had RuPaul audition for the part of a gap-toothed prostitute in his upcoming movie, and Jackson is considering him as her opening act on her next tour.

But even with all this success, the huge turnout of fans at RuPaul's recent autograph session held at Turtle's Rhythm and Views in Buckhead was astounding. The aisles began to fill with spectators a full hour before the anticipated arrival of the star, and the line for autograph seekers wound snakelike through the store, out the door and down the block. According to Turtle's, the number of people exceeded 1,000.

RuPaul made his entrance from the rear of the store, wearing a figure hugging black dress, split on one side almost to the waist, displaying mile after mile of his right leg. His cocoa skin was artfully made up, and his platinum hair was piled high with tendrils hanging down onto his shoulders. Someone in the crowd yelled out, "Love your dress," to which Ru replied, "This old thing? I didn't have anything clean so I dug this out of the dirty clothes."

Fans ran the gamut of age and gender. Many young parents brought their children. One small girl of four or five stood before RuPaul's desk for an autograph. RuPaul said, "You sure are gorgeous. Are you a supermodel?" Without a second's hesitation, she responded "Yes," as if she were asked that every day.

This stop in Atlanta was RuPaul's last on a nationwide promotional tour. He will return soon, though, to record a

AFTER HOURS

D A N N Y R O B L E



Ru comes back to his Atlanta roots.

song with Elton John and Kiki Dee. While in town, RuPaul renewed old ties with many of the people who helped launch his career, including Dick Richards of Funtone Records. Dick and writer David Goldman treated RuPaul to the Tina Turner concert at Lakewood. Though the two did not meet in the hallway, both bronze beauties resided at the Ritz Carlton downtown.

When RuPaul signed with Tommy Boy Records, it left a spot open on the Funtone label. That spot has now been filed

by New York chanteuse **Phoebe Legere**. This glamorous diva will perform for the Copa crowd at Velvet on Thursday, Sept. 3.

Hopefully you took my advice and caught the Brady Bunch Live during its recent run at Center Stage. If not, you can look up Atlanta entertainer **Stephanie Daniels**, who not only caught the show but also managed to catch the attention of dad Mike Brady. Stephanie played tour guide to three of the actors who portrayed the male Bradys, taking them to several nightspots around town including Backstreet, Burkharts and Crazy Ray's. The tour she gave the Brady dad was, well, let's just say more private.

You can find Stephanie at Weekends on Spring Street each Saturday where she enjoys the mix of people, including suburban teens who come to enjoy the 18 and over policy of the Madhouse Night, which is a "techno rave" type thing. Friday night is Bellissima Girl Bar, Sunday is Lovelight, a hip-hop night, and Monday is more youth-gone-mad with Adrenaline.

Coming up on Wednesday, Aug. 25, Georgia Public Television Channel 8 will present a rare night of music focusing on some of the most legendary voices of our time. Starting at 8 p.m. with the combined voices of "Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli at the Palladium" then continuing at 9 p.m. with "Frank Sinatra: The Voice of Our Time" and concluding with "The Incomparable Nat King Cole." The Judy and Liza show, taped in 1964, features the mother-daughter pair singing alone and together when Liza was a mere 18 years old.

Coming up at the Ariel Gallery at the TULA complex on Bennett Street is an exhibit of new urban folk art which will feature the work of paper painter **Vicki Bethel** and fiber sculptor **Arthur Douglas Theyer**. Bethel creates her work by painting, stamping, air brushing and stenciling a large sheet of paper. Next, she cuts the sheet into long strips, then reassembles and collages them. The resulting painting shimmers with iridescent color. Theyer's pieces are described as "crocheted anthropological forms; raw and cartoon like with intense color." The opening reception will be on Friday, Aug. 20 from 6-9 p.m. The exhibit will run through Oct. 5.

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Janis Ian seeks honesty with her gifts and her life

What do Chet Atkins, Etta James and Vanilla Fudge have in common? They are all fans of Janis Ian and have recorded her songs.

Yet Ian has never recorded a song that wasn't written by her because "I've just never found one that felt right for me." That dozens of artists of as many styles of music have recorded her songs is considered by Ian to be "very flattering, I think it's a great compliment." However, though Muzak versions of "At Seventeen" may be heard in restaurants and elevators, no other singer has dared record Ian's poignant signature song.

Earlier this year, the 42-year-old singer, who has lived and recorded in conservative Nashville for several years, came out as a lesbian.

Janis Ian will perform at Variety Playhouse, Aug. 21 at 8:30 p.m. Special guest Joshua Kadison opens.

"People in the music community in Nashville already knew my work and had heard that I was gay," said Ian in an interview with Southern Voice. "At first they seemed to be checking me out. I'm a lot of people's first Jew down here, not to mention their first gay person. They respect my work and have warmed to me in such a way that their attitude seems to be one of 'Well, she might be queer but she's *our* queer.' Since they knew me, I also managed to avoid a lot of politicking."

In fact, Ian and Minnie Pearl worked together on several AIDS benefits before Minnie had a stroke. "Many people, especially Chet Atkins, have gone out of their way to let me know I'm accepted. I tell new writers to just go out humbly and write great songs and they will accept you."

Perhaps the acceptance by the people in Nashville's recording industry had as much to do with her attitude as theirs.

"Some people may wrongly tend to view Nashville and the South as backward people who talk funny—the Beverly Hillbillies. I came here seeing it as the home of William

Faulkner and Tennessee Williams. People are proud of their towns. I respected that and was willing to learn."



Her new album is Janis Ian's first in 11 years.

Looking back, Ian says she realizes that coming out was easier for her than for her lover, Pat, who works in the archives at Vanderbilt University. She was used to a more private life and here Ian was, "coming out publicly all over television."

"People do react differently here. In L.A. no one pays much attention to two women holding hands. Here, they'll stare but not say anything, as opposed to New York where they may just walk up and bash your skull."

She fell in love, endured a brief, abusive marriage, then, in 1988, while her divorce was being finalized, she discovered that her former accountant hadn't paid her taxes in seven years. The IRS wanted her in jail but satisfied themselves with her house and savings. She sold off everything but her clothes, records and three guitars to pay off the debt, then moved from Los Angeles to Nashville.

"I was in Target one day when a woman approached me and said 'You're Janis, aren't you?' I answered that I was and she looked at me and said 'We like you at our house,' and then walked away."

"I think that just goes to prove that at the end of the day people have more to be concerned with—like whether or not there's going to be a tax hike—than who I'm living with."

Ian is touring now to promote her new album, "Breaking the Silence," an appropriate title for an artist who has broken the silence on taboo subjects from the start of her career and still doesn't shy away from what needs to be shared.

Her controversial first record was banned from radio because of its theme of interracial teenage romance. Leonard Bernstein, who believed her "a marvelous creature," featured her on his television show, and "Society's Child" became a Top 10 hit.

An American star at 15, Ian was an international success throughout the 1970s, nominated for eight Grammys and winning two. But in 1982, she surprisingly walked away from a lucrative recording contract to spend time rediscovering herself as a writer. Ian also spent four years studying theater with such legendary teachers as Stella Adler, Jose Quintero and Chao Shao Lin of the Peking Opera Company.

Her new album, produced by Ian and Jeff Balding, uses a minimum of modern technological enhancements. Her guitar is so perfectly pure and masterful in technique, style and phrasing that the listener is affected emotionally by the playing as well as the words.

JENNIFER PERRY

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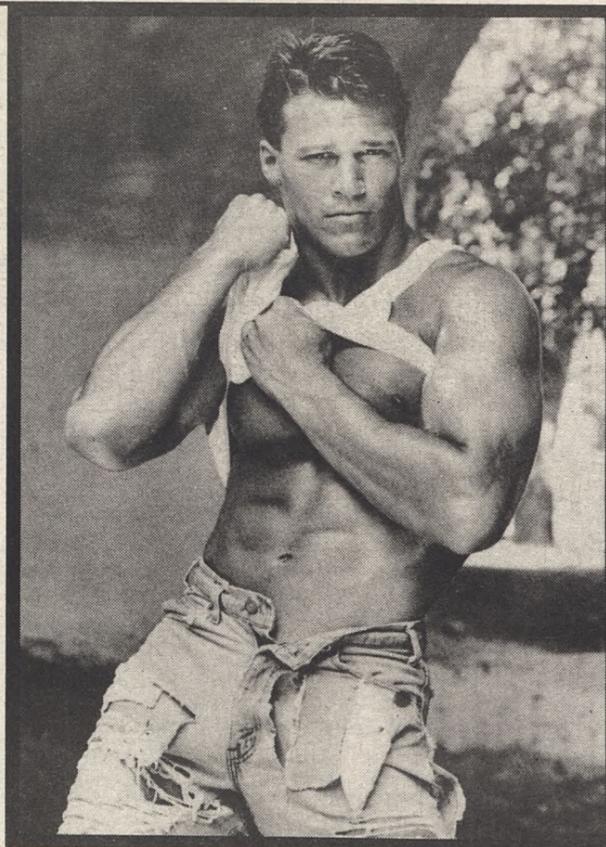
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24 OUT & ABOUT

BOOKS

SCISSORS, PAPER, ROCK

The pride Southerners felt in the past toward Southern writers was legion. The Faulkners and Penn Warrens and Welty's and O'Connors were evidence that the region, while perhaps backwards in some ways, had wisdom to offer the rest of the country. Now, with the South more or less accepted into the United States and pretty much spent as a distinctive source of fiction, the next source of creative force in writing is the gay and lesbian community, especially with regard to AIDS literature.

Standing at the confluence of these two traditions is Fenton Johnson, a native Kentuckian whose new novel, "Scissors, Paper, Rock," straddles traditions brilliantly as it tells the story of the Hardin family and their next door neighbor, Miss Camilla Perkins.

The gay character is Raphael, the youngest of seven children of Tom and Rose Ella Hardin, residents of Strang Knob, Kentucky. Raphael was one of the two children to leave for California as soon as escape was possible. Because the stories are not told chronologically, we see Raphael return home to Kentucky twice—first to die, then to tell his family he has AIDS ("For the first time in Rose Ella's memory, Raphael came home from San Francisco without a friend," the title story begins.) We also see him leaving home, a delicately-rendered coming out story on his cross-country trip to Berkeley to attend college.

As was often noted about in Southern literature, there is much death in "Scissors." In addition to the deaths of Raphael and his parents, we see his older brother Clark die in Vietnam and a nephew nearly killed in a car accident. Death is many things in Johnson's book—a surprise, a release, a no-show, a

lottery, an unavoidable fact. It also represents an opportunity to accept responsibilities, as Raphael takes up his sister-in-law's suggestion that he "let the shit hit the fan" and tell his nephews about AIDS:

They talked into the night. Raphael told them what he knew, a reservoir of information gleaned by simple fact of living with and amid the illness. They told him what they had heard, a mixture of myth and rumor and lies. Little of this they believed—"scare tactics," Michael said willingly. But what were they to believe? They plied Raphael with questions until his head thickened. In their questions, in their ignorance, he understood how out of fear he had evaded his responsibility to them. He, after all, knew more than anyone here. Any number of times he might have chosen to speak; instead he had held his tongue and contributed another brick to the great wall of silence.

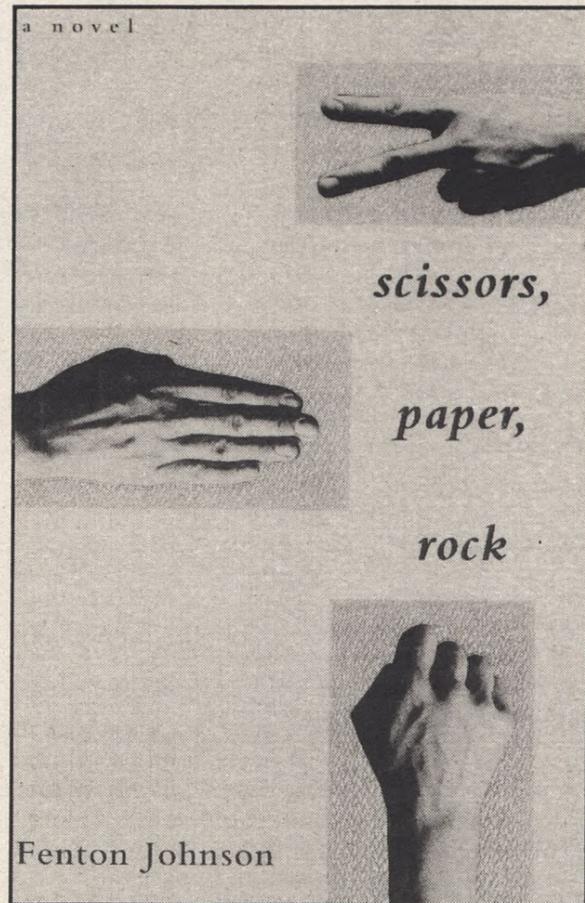
Tonight he released to the clouds the breath of his stories.

But this book is not just Raphael's story. The father's silence, his mother's busy-ness, his brother's alcoholism, his sister's road-not-taken relationship—they all fill this book with a richness of family life that is part of the best of Southern literature. And the next-door-neighbor, Miss Camilla, a Northerner with secrets, is a presence that broods over the novel until the last story, "Miss Camilla Speaks." She sums up the novel well:

A young man dying; his father dying; a old maid school-teacher who lives next door, dying. The two men who have brought this woman as close to love as she will come in this life; the woman who tried, in her pale way, to bring these men together.

Johnson's technique (pioneered by Faulkner and Welty) of using inter-related short stories to tell the story is effective in giving family events history and context. This non-chronological aspect allows us to see the results of events before we actually see how they started, bringing a sense of both fate and memory to the unfolding events. Fate and memory—perhaps those are the words that unite the Southern writers of two generations ago and a gay man writing today.

Ultimately, it is the presence of a family with a story that makes "Scissors, Paper, Rock" such a powerfully engaging



novel. Scene after scene continues to resonate—Raphael making love to a friend left behind in Kentucky in the apple orchard, Miss Camilla's story about her mother's picture, the chillingly painful three-page story, "Where Do We Come From, What Are We, Where Are We Going," where either father or son, or perhaps both, are dying.

"Scissors, Paper, Rock" is well worth your time.
AL COTTON

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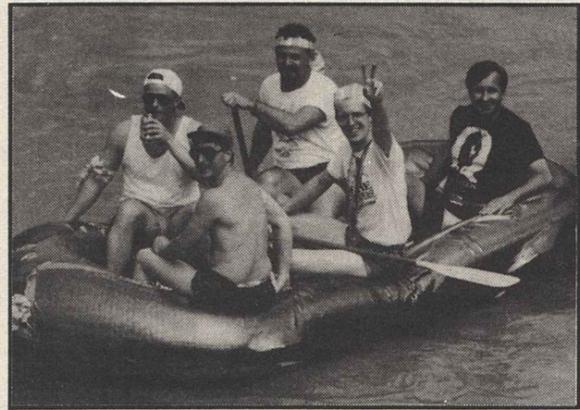
Cruising and Cumming: Dish wonders what Billy McKinney, Nancy Schaefer and other (homo)sexaphobes think about the recent erotic ramblings of the Georgia Department of Transportation. First, there came word that the little card which allows you to go flying through the toll gates on GA 400 (without getting arrested) is called the Georgia Cruise Card. There may be some homo precedent to this particular little item. We seem to remember that Cruise magazine (that was the predecessor to ETC for those of you who haven't been around so long as Dish) offered some sort of an ID or discount card called the Cruise Card. Then there's the matter of the huge sign over I-85 that says "Buckhead Cumming." Now we know that there are gobs and gobs of ejaculatory ecstasy flying around in the near north reaches of our city, but no more, we think, than in other neighborhoods. It seems that if the state government is going to make such proclamations for one neighborhood, it should do so for all. Contact your state representatives and demand ecstatic equality for your neck of the woods.

Party Pooper: Speaking of ecstasy, we understand from reading the newsletter of the local chapter of Integrity that Atlanta's queer Episcopalians had some excitement during their Pride Eucharist. Seems that the holy smoke got a bit billowy and set off the smoke alarms at All Saints Church. (Dish wishes we had been there. We just love ritual—were we Christian, we'd be Catholic despite all the bullshit) When the fire trucks arrived, one of the All Saints staff members asked the men in blue if the congregation could go for a whirl on their big red truck. The unfortunate reply? "I don't think so, Father." Dish suspects that none of Atlanta's homo fire queens would have refused such a festive request. Especially on Pride weekend.

Lobbying on the River: Dish wandered, camera in hand, to the muddy Chattahoochee to watch the luscious assortment of men with muscles a few weeks ago. Then who to our wondering eyes should appear but GAPAC lobbyist Larry Pellegrini wearing a Queer Nation T-shirt and looking a bit like a pleased potentate as he was driven down the river by four sturdy men. Find any legislators on the river, Larry?

Dish

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



Dish wonders just who Larry Pellegrini (far right) was lobbying down by the riverside.

Dishing in the AJ/C: The big paper on Marietta St. ran at least two stories about Hotlanta's weekend events. Demonstrating a new level of inclusivity, the Atlanta Journal/Constitution interviewed glamour goddess Raven and asked who she was supposed to be. Raven's reported reply? "I'm a fucking goddess, what does it look like?" The AJ/C deleted the F-word, of course, but we still think this is pretty progressive reportage.

Diversity Reigns?: Speaking of PC, check the latest issue of Out for one of the most arresting journalistic juxtapositions we've seen since the last meteor shower. Pages 64-67 feature a tough-ass profile of PETA emissary Dan Matthews, who has orchestrated some of that organization's most visible and visceral public actions in the defense of lives of animals that reside

below humans on the food chain. Immediately following the article is an eight-page fashion spread that features at least seven items made of leather—the most egregious example of gratuitous mammal murder being a utility apron (from Donna Karan) made from the skin of Bambi's mother (worn by a very tasty looking model, we must admit). Dish is reminded of Lynn Lavner's line, "We in the gay community say we celebrate our diversity. What we really mean is, I celebrate my diversity, but your diversity makes me a little nervous." We wonder if this is what Out's editors had in mind or whether they just plain missed the irony of their page layout.

Yeah, Sure: Readers of Creative Loafing a few weeks ago were treated to the first quarterly insert promoting WGST radio. The cover story is about Sean Hannity and has the little punk declaring, "I'm no homophobic neo-Nazi." Now Dish wonders why the Seanster would make such a statement...and why WGST would promote its number one homophobe by denying his appeal to other fans of Rush, Ralph and other right-wing talkjock crazies? The one interesting thing that we do learn from the article is that poor Sean was fired from a Santa Barbara talk station, supposedly for telling a lesbian who had conceived a child by artificial insemination that he felt sorry for the kid. We somehow doubt that the story is quite that simple or that his language was quite so mild, but we don't doubt for a minute that this stoked Hannity's fundamentalist fires to new and vindictive heights. Last time Dish mentioned Sean in this space, he invited us to come on his show and do battle. Don't bother this time, brother. Dish don't play that game.

Glitz Alert: Got an extra five grand sitting around gathering dust? Wanna jet off to L.A. next month? Well, you and nine friends can be ten of only 800 guests at an intimate solo dinner concert that Elton J. has planned for September 23 in La-La land. Your bucks will benefit Elton's AIDS Foundation (which has given some substantial bucks to Project Open Hand), and you'll get to rub elbows with god-only-knows how many rich-and-famous folks. And Dish would be tickled pink to join you if you've got an extra chair at your table. Call us.

August 19 - August 25, 1993

Thursday is the big day. Uranus and Neptune are conjunct (lined up at the same degree), and there is a great deal of astrological speculation as to the overall and specific effect of this event. It definitely indicates change with an unexpected twist, cherished illusions falling down around our ears and even our sense of the time changing.

ARIES, as the sun moves into Virgo, you may experience an unexpected urge to begin taking better care of yourself. Try regular meals, good fresh food, more quality personal time and maybe even nutritional supplements for optimum health. **TAURUS**, as the sun illuminates your fifth house of creativity, fun, play and passion, you may find this an ideal time to express the more childlike side of your personality. If you are always responsible and dependable, then give it a rest and have fun. **GEMINI**, the sun is now illuminating your fourth house of home, family ties and the emotional environment you have created for yourself. Take a good look around at home and notice what is going on. Some things may need to change. Others may be perfect. **CANCER**, with Venus still in your first house, you should be feeling much more appreciative of yourself and able to discern which activities, people or things are good for you and which

STARSIGNS

aren't. A better life often comes down to very subtle choices. Happy Birthday, **LEO**. How has your birthday month been? Are you enjoying your life, or are you overwhelmed with too many activities and responsibilities? If you are seriously covered up, then you need to take immediate action to get out from under. Happy Birthday, dear **VIRGO**. The sun moves into your sun sign on Sunday, Aug. 22, beginning your solar year. It's time to celebrate. Roll out the red carpet for yourself and do the things you enjoy the most with the people you love the most. **LIBRA**, Mars and Jupiter, a potentially explosive combination, are moving closer together in your own very personal first house. So, do your best to clear out anything that could be emotionally combustible or explosive. Only you know for sure. **SCORPIO**, how about "out of the frying pan and into the....?" When you are very intuitive and aware of the world of feelings and emo-

tions, it is sometimes difficult to decide which way to jump. Have faith in your good karma and life itself. **SAGITTARIUS**, how is life treating you? If you feel unappreciated or overlooked as others dash by trying to put meaning into their lives, just remember that you may know something they don't. Love and commitment work miracles. **CAPRICORN**, well, buckle your seat belt. Uranus and Neptune are getting together for another world conference in your first house. You may be used to their get-togethers by now, but other folks may react to this intensification, so be patient. **AQUARIUS**, life can be just a bowl of cherries, for sure, but sometimes it seems to take a lot of effort. If you are feeling discouraged, do something that will give you a different perspective on life and lighten things up for you a little bit. **PISCES**, busy, busy, busy. Life can be so busy with very little time to really enjoy it. So, take a stand for fun and laughter in your life. Don't let the day slip by without moments of pleasure and enjoyment. You'll find everything feels better.

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.

Dykes To Watch Out For

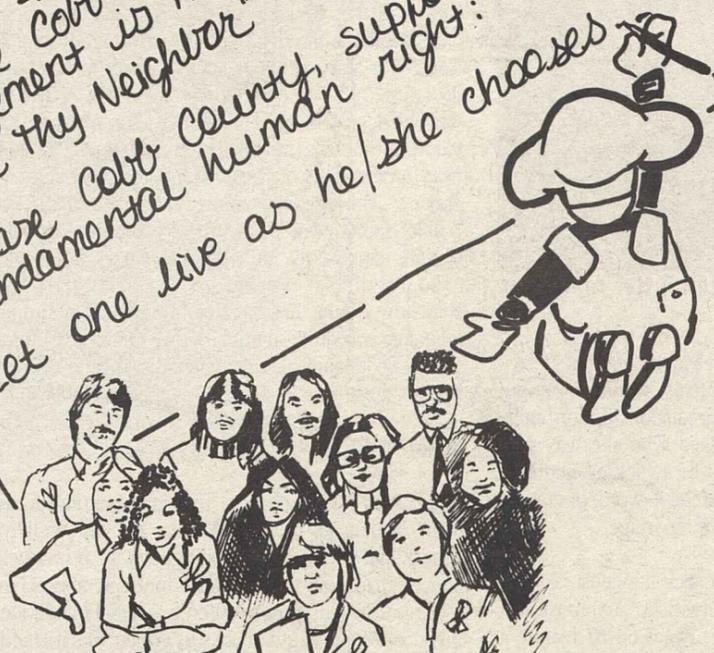
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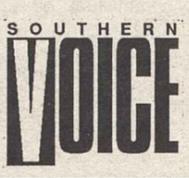
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Critical acclaim and the success of a restaurant frequently go hand-in-hand, but sometimes they seem to be inversely proportional. Capo's is the classic example of the latter dictum; there's not a critic in town (myself included) who can stand the place, but it still stays packed with happy customers, day in and day out. I fully understand the appeal of the *place*. It's the food that gives me hives.

That said, you can probably guess how I feel about **Cowtippers** (1600 Piedmont Rd. 874-3751)? OK, OK, not as grumpy as I do about Capo's, but I sure do wish that I liked the food better.

Cowtippers is the latest venture of the folks who brought you the wildly-popular Einstein's and Cafe Mythology. Don't get me wrong—there's much to admire here. The somewhat cavernous and honestly rustic interior of this ex-Hickory House feels just right for a casual steakhouse. Despite the restaurant's overly precious name, there's little country kitsch in evidence, and what there is is pleasantly kinky, not cloying.

Like Einstein's there's a big deck that is amazingly peaceful despite its location directly on Piedmont. The staff is chipper and attentive; team service makes sure that food gets to the table with a minimum of delay and refills are plentiful.

I even like the menu's straightforward offerings. Appetizers include traditional offerings like nachos and chips and dip as well as boiled shrimp and cheese-stuffed, deep-fried jalapenos. Sides are basic steakhouse—slaw, potatoes, mushrooms, chili, and the aforementioned Brunswick stew. Five steaks, ribs, chops, chicken, fish and shrimp round out the entrees. Prices are moderate—\$12.95 for a 12-ounce ribeye with salad and side.

So why am I whining?

Well, of the dozen or so items that we sampled (I took a friend who recently started eating meat again after a 10-year hiatus to veggieville and another who is an unrepentant carnivore), not one item got three thumbs up.

Durango dip, melted cheese with salsa added, was as close as we got to being universally happy. Smooth, mild and spicy at once, the dip and crisp chips were easy to eat, if not particularly exciting.

A Caesar salad was more assertive in flavor, nicely oily and generous of portion. It's available as a starter or in an entree-sized serving scattered with chicken, tenderloin or shrimp.

Where my real grump attack comes to the fore is when the meat hits the table.

Ribs (advertised as "baby") are just shy of huge, tough and unevenly cooked. That's a shame, because the sauce that covers them is rich, smooth and nicely-balanced.

A boneless 12-ounce ribeye is exceptionally well trimmed, tender and seems to be tasty were it not cooked almost well, when it was ordered medium.

Similarly, two 8-ounce center cut pork chops are well trimmed and exceptionally tender. Unlike the steak, they're cooked just right and bits of char add nicely to the flavor. Great, but why have they been marinated in some strange brew that gives them a slightly sour taste? And why are they accompanied by a small container of unadulterated orange marmalade?

The same lack of deftness with spicing shows up in a side of creamed spinach that's overwhelmed by nutmeg. A bowl of apple cobbler earned one thumb up and two yawns, long on cinnamon and fresh apple flavor. It is decent but probably not worth the calories.

Cowtippers appears to be doing a decent business and many of the folks around us appeared to be perfectly happy. If you like meat and appreciate the feel of Einstein's, you'll probably think the place is just fine.

Me? I'll save my pennies and take my yearly cholesterol infusion at Chops.



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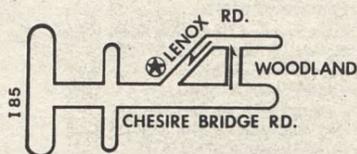
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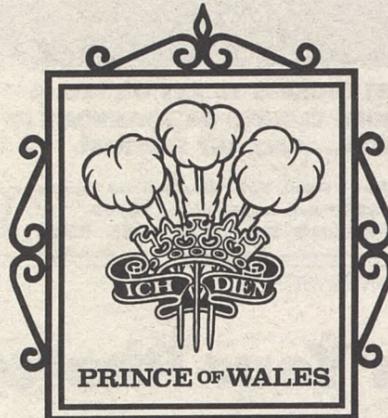


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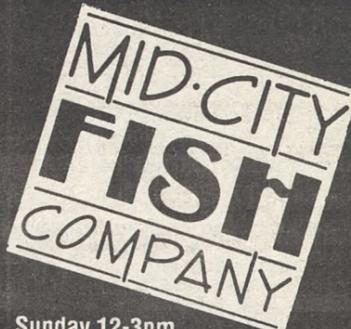
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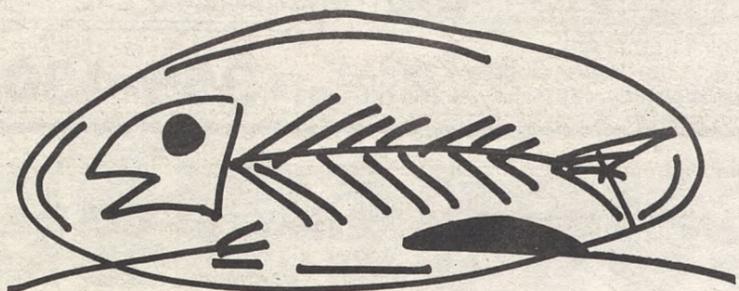
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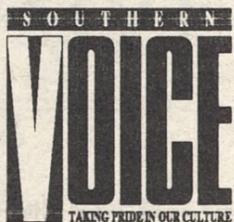
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- AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
- AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—872-2246
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- AIDS SUPPORT—Jewish Family Services—888-6400, #76
- Atlanta Buyers Club—874-4845, or POB 77003, Atl, 30357.
- Atlanta Lesbian AIDS Project—250-8177
- Childkind—936-9655
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- Grady Mem. Hospital Infectious Disease Program—35 Butler St., SE, POB 26113, Atl., GA 30335-3801, (404) 616-2440
- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—876-0105
- National Assn of People With AIDS/Atlanta—874-7926
- The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
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- ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
- ACT UP—874-6782 (O)
- Atlanta Greens, Green Party USA, Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Queer Caucus—368-7137
- Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
- Dykes & Faggots Bash Back—P.O. Box 14531, Atlanta 30324, voice mail 908-5369
- Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—605-7477
- Gay Republicans—Republicans for Individual Freedoms, 2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
- Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atl. 30312
- Georgia Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—(404) 662-4199 or POB 5282, Atlanta 30307
- GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
- Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field Committee, 231-5751
- LEGAL—605-7476
- Lesbian Avengers—621-5016
- National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
- National Organization for Women—875-0176
- Neighbors Network—257-5550
- Queer Nation—605-7396
- Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324, 239-1679
- Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
- STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

National

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- Lambda Legal Defense Fund—666 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, NY 10012, (212) 995-8585
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force—1517 U. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 332-6483
- Old Lesbians Organizing for Change—OLOC, PO Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098
- Stonewall 25/Internat'l March—662-6753

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- Georgia Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
- HomeGirls—622-0105
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- Nat'l Gay Pilots Assoc.—PO Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542, (703) 660-3852
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- Gay Spirit Visions—378-7224
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- Luring Lesbians (fishing club)—932-5236
- Mountain Catalyst—POB 199; Demorest, GA 30535
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- Wilderness Network of GA—SASE, POB 55156, Atlanta 30308
- Women's Outdoor Network—624-3418
- Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
- TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
- Underwater Escapes—289-0696

Service/Support/Social

- About Crossdressing—Janet, 624-3770
- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
- Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—223-3718
- American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (eve)
- Asians & Friends—Atlanta—876-0090
- Athens Lesbian Information—LSG, POB 7864, Athens, 30604
- Atlanta Corporal Punishment Club—Box 11863, Atlanta 30355
- Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
- Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
- Atlanta Lambda Community Center—POB 15180, Atlanta 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
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- Hospitality Atlanta—627-0520
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- Parents, Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chattanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
- Queer Youth—P.O. Box 54032, Atlanta 30308; 605-7396
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- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
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- Survivors of Incest Anonymous—239-8018
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- Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
- Women of Wisdom—289-8819, POB 8871, Atlanta 30306.
- Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
- Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
- Zami—908-3356

Students/Alumni

- Agnes Scott Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance—Box 501, Decatur 30030; 373-1632
- Bi, Lesbian & Gay Student Union of West Ga. College—706-834-3569
- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
- Gay & Lesbian Student Alliance-Clayton St. College—471-4567
- Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Comm. College 423-6246
- Georgia Tech Gay Alumni Group—POB 50291, GA Tech Sta., Atlanta 30332; 873-2263
- Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union of the Univ. of Ga.—POB 2438 Athens 30612-0438 or call 404/549-9368
- S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—248-9307
- Univ. of Ala. Lesbian/Gay Alumni Assoc.—284-3479

OUTLINES

MARY MILANO

Age: 41
How Long in Atlanta: Five years
Relationship Status: 14-year committed open relationship
Last Book Read: "The Precious Present" by Spencer Johnson
Pet Peeve: Making my own mistakes and observing my faults.



A Chicago native, Mary Milano communicates with warmth, charm and an unhurried delivery that redefines "gracious." Often her speech is punctuated by a soft laugh and the shake of her dangling earrings. To speak with her is to be at ease. That's why to find out that for years she was in corporate sales, in the land of the abrasive and pushy, otherwise known as Los Angeles, is a bit of a shocker.

"Well, my husband (Atlanta character actor Judson Zaughn) and I decided that Los Angeles was just about the worst place for us to live. We were both caught up in the rat race, he acting and I making a good living selling good ethical products, but these sales weren't benefiting any cause or anything other than myself or the company I was working for."

After an escape from L.A. about five years ago, Mary and her husband made a short stand in Alabama, to which, with a chuckle, she offers no comment. Finally settling on Atlanta, she comments, was easy. "It's a great place to live, a lot of opportunity and there was a good deal of character actor work for [my] husband."

But when she first got here, she didn't know what she was going to do. "I wanted to leave Los Angeles totally behind, so I kind of fell back on what I did in my college days (she was an art major) and began modeling." In what could only be called networking at its best, Mary found out about Project Open Hand from an artist she modeled for frequently, Lee Bomhoff.

"So I started to work for them, and it was like my eyes were opened to all these AIDS-service organizations that had a never-ending need for funding and, because of this, couldn't concentrate their full efforts on their primary mission. And it was like this light bulb went off in my head that all the experience I had with corporate sales could be put to use in a unique format to benefit charities and organizations."

What Mary does draws from her experience in corporate sales, crossing it with a bit of entrepreneurship and a good dose of charitable contributions. It is called Buycotting, versus the better-known term boycotting. Mary explains it this way:

"When we take out money away from specific products, we're not really sure it's going to

a better place than where we took it away from. When we boycott, we know a specific percentage will go to a cause or merchant and then we know our money is really powerful." Many lesbians and gays are aware of a simple example of boycotting through the long-distance telephone calling service, known as "Community Spirit." But Mary takes the concept one step further.

"I don't deliver the toothpaste to your door. I connect clients with the company as a marketer. I make clients aware of the companies that are offering an opportunity to guarantee the charitable percentage." Is she a salesperson focusing on the mundane products we'd rather not think about? "Sure. But there is money to be made in the mundane, and you better believe that church organizations and other groups are doing this. It's a whole different feeling when I've connected a client to a provider, and every time I make a sale, I know I'm making something for an AIDS services organization."

On the down-to-earth level, AIDS²O, the name of her charitable trust, offers a calling card for anyone in the area. A percentage goes to the new Atlanta Lambda Community Center. "The best thing about this whole process is the insurance that the percentage will definitely go to those organizations who need it."

Mary is as concise about her business as she is about her sexuality, though she credits her husband to the discovery of her own bisexuality. "Judson is very special about this. I had actually been the one denying it for years." Despite their busy schedule, they maintain a ritual of a long dinner with wine almost every evening, "in order to keep in touch and renew the relationship."

Through her contact with the lesbian and gay community in Atlanta and her first Pride march with Judson and her friend, painter Lee Bomhoff, Mary has now become aware of what she calls, "something wonderful." And her marriage remains strong with her husband because, she says, "we understand [that] no one person fulfills all your needs, be it sexual, social or emotional."

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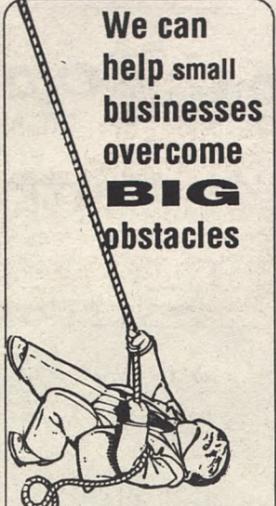
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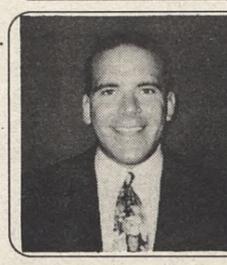
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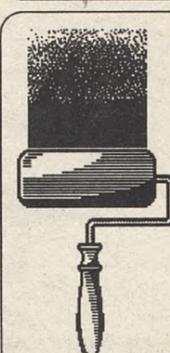
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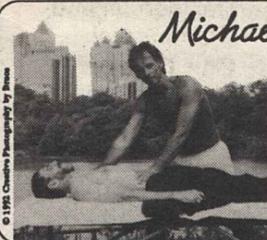
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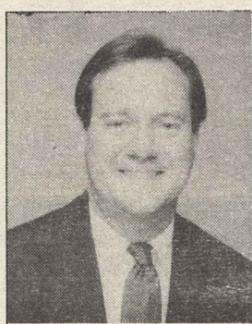
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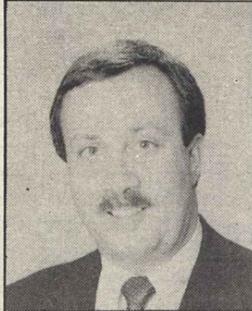
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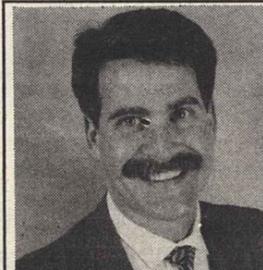
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Publications

LOTTERY PLAYERS!

Learn how to increase your odds of winning! Twelve success strategies: \$3. WTC, Dept. L4, Box 612, Austell, GA 30001. (6.26)

Real Estate

FOR RENT

Furnished efficiency, Druid Hills near Emory, \$400/mo. All utilities included. 876-1665. (6.26)

1 BR house with bonus rooms. L5P/Inman Park area. \$600/mo. Avail 9/1. 688-7475. (6.27)

VA-HI CARRIAGE HOUSE

1 BR, very private, fireplace, fenced yard - pets considered with deposit, near Emory. \$595. Call 872-5594. (6.26)

Buckhead/Midtown - 1 BR apartment in modern home. Separate entrance, fireplace, quiet. \$575. Includes all utilities plus HBO. Ideal for 1 person - 876-3430. (6.26)

FOR SALE

SECLUDED GRANT PARK COTTAGE!! Newly renovated, 5 BR, 3 BA, lesbian/gay-friendly Gravel Road, (McKay's neighbor). Motivated \$119,000 Northside Realty 233-2244 Roy Otwell 816-6633. (6.26)

BUCKHEAD NEAR GOV'S

RARE FIND - Priv. elegant updated ranch on 2/3 ac. hilltop lot; 2,000 sq. ft., 2 BR, 2 BA plus sep. entry bonus room/ba; large LR, DR, foyer; cheerful French Country eat-in kitchen; cozy den w/plc & wet bar opening to terrace, fenced woods & gardens. Affordable prestige at \$267 K. Owner/broker 404-231-9295. (6.26)

GRANT PARK - Recent Victorian excel-

lent Condition 3 BR, 2.5 BA, Full Basement, Garage, Corner Lot, and much more. \$119,900. John Barrentine, R.S. Owen & Company 231-3335. (6.27)

Decatur: Bright two bedroom, LR, DR, Den, Fireplace, Hardwood Flrs, Large Back Yard, \$33,000. Mary Frye, Coldwell Banker 252-4908. (6.28)

SHERWOOD FOREST

Ranch home. Sunlight, pool, spa, deck, creek, 1/4 acre and deep woods! \$227,500! Need I say more? Daniel Ross: 607-7363. R.S. Owen & Co. Realtors (6.26)

JEFFERSON PARK

Established neighborhood. Virginia-Highland style/details, half the price! Brick 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central heat/air, built-in bookcases, arched doorways, 2000 square feet, kitchen with eat-in area, formal dining room. Screened front porch, basement, deck, fenced back, detached garage, partially finished attic. \$78,900. 559-0840. (6.26)

GRANT PARK

Classic Victorian, odd location, Great Deal! Perfect inside, 3 BR, wood floors, new roof. Asking \$67,000, will negotiate. Owner 589-1881. (6.27)

Sherwood Forest Indoor/Outdoor blend as one through wall of windows/doors. Screened porch, deck, privacy fence, 4 BR, 2 BA. \$295,000. Peg Walker 231-3815. HN Rltrs. (6.26)

Stone Mountain townhouse, 2 BR, 3 BA w/office. 2 car garage, 80's, fenced yard. Must see. 292-3125. Possible owner finance. (6.26)

Roommates

Lesbian housemate wanted to share 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA home on wooded lot off 85/285. Large home has den w/fireplace, A/C, W/D and cable. No pets. \$350 includes utilities. Call Shelly, 493-3966. (6.30)

Lesbian housemate to share home near DeKalb Farmer's Market. 2 rooms + private bath, \$390 includes utilities. A \$300 space may become available soon. 299-7881, Susan. (6.27)

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GWM to share spacious condo Woodland Hills. Own bedroom with bath. Mature and responsible only. \$450 includes utilities. 325-3459. (6.27)

Female Housemates wanted for great 3 BR Candler Park home. Rent \$275/mo., deposit \$275. Available Sept. 1. Non-smoking indoor environment. 373-6216. (6.26)

3rd Roommate Wanted GWM - Furnished bedroom, \$225 per month + 1/2 util. Sutton Place. Avail. Sept. 1st, call John 321-5791. (6.27)

MIDTOWN, Liberal WM seeks WM/F to share a residential art studio. 2 BR, 1 BA. Applicant should have use of studio. 843-2452 Brian. (6.27)

Avondale - GWF seeking roommate for 2 BR, 2 BA condo. Serious inquiries only. 469-3542 - page 388-6642. (6.29)

Wanted GF or GM to share large 4 BR, 2 BA home. Fenced yard. Stone Mtn/Decatur area. Rent \$350 + 1/2 util. Please call 987-9832. (6.27)

EMORY-VA-HIGHLAND

GWM seeks responsible, neat, non-smoking roommate to share furnished home, W/D, maid, A/C, garden. 2 Private spaces, 2 room & bath \$450. 1 room/bath \$300 + 1/3 util. Serious, no drugs or pets. 377-6914. (6.26)

GWM needed to share 2 homes: Unique large 5 BR, 4 BA. Tri-level, Lakeview, steamroom, jacuzzi, gym, private entrance; Just off I-85/I-285 NE; Also enjoy secluded Chatt. River cabin. Share utilities. \$425. 934-7013: Chuck. (6.28)

Services

SLIP COVERS - Professionally tailored slip covers made by experienced upholsterer. 892-2795. Hunter. (6.26)

NATIONWIDE BEEPERS

\$32.50/mo. LOCAL PAGING low as \$6.95/mo. Performance Cellular and Paging. "We help the Community Communicate." 1-800-297-BEEP. (6.26)

Travel

SWIFTWATERS WOMANSPACE Riverfront Camping or Bed & Breakfast with in-room HOT TUB. In scenic mountain forest - one hour north. Now building CABINS. (706) 864-3229 (6.32)

LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 rooms, 100 acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, peace & privacy, Highlands Inn, Box 118 SV, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. (6.35)

Volunteers

The Living AIDS Memorial Park needs volunteers. Normal business hours. Light clerical, filing and Word Perfect. Call Rick at 876-0105

Voice Connection

WOMEN

GWF, 40, Professional - self-confident, feminine non-smoker, lover of life, humor, the arts, nature and stimulating conversation seeks same (38-42) for friendship and possibly more. No dykes, butch or co-dependents! 1623

GBF looking for a GBF (feminine). No bi or Bitchy (over 30) please. 1635

GWF, 24, new to Atlanta. Looking for friends and more who like laughter, movies, music, romance, trying new things, conversation, candlelight and commitment. Race, age unimportant. No drugs, no smokers. 1628

GBF, full figure, 32, fem, new to Atlanta seeks GBF, DDF, for friendship and possible relationship. 1629

GWF, 34, pleasingly plump, seeks a nice, respectable, down to earth romantic working GWF 35+. No drugs, booze or bar flies, smokers welcomed. PO Box 2361, Lilburn, GA 30226. (6.29)

GWF, 40, professional keeps yuppie tendencies somewhat in check with feminist, humanist, humorous outlook. Seeks generous heart, quality mind, playful soul, pampered body, verbal and emotional feast for creative, gentle relationship. 1599

GWF - Enjoys 2-stepping, outdoors, all animals. Am emotionally healthy, playful, kind, considerate, and honest. Seeking same, 35-40. Friendship possible relationship. 1604

Baby linebacker seeking exquisite blonde for lovingly healing from the life we're given, and passionately embracing the life we make. 1603

Desired: Wise, lovely, genteel woman. Feeling and success oriented. Appreciates life's finer offerings, reveres its simpler pleasures. You are fit GWF 37-44, passionate, positive, with wit and imagination, also seeking to share the wonder, warmth, and adventure. You remember how to question authority and are occasionally up for throwing caution to the wind. Eclectic interests. Value fun, intimacy and autonomy. If meeting a woman with the above qualities appeals to you, write back! (Don't respond if you're having an identity crisis, a drug abuser, in recovery.) PO Box 2053, Decatur, GA 30031. (6.27)

GWF - Artistic, mature (40), smoker, professional seeks companion to experience NY-Atlanta exchange of ideas, travel & loving relationship - Send Photo POB 723442, Smyrna, GA 31139. (6.27)

Wonderful, intelligent GWF looking for that special lady, 30-40's, who has sense of humor, honesty, loyalty and is financially secure. 1594

GWF, 30, cute and petite, seeks feminine GWF 25-35 for friendship, possibly more. No addicts, butches or plumps. 1592

ATLANTA Bi-FEMALE - BiWf, 26, 5'4", 125#, blonde, nude dancer. Seeks Bi-Female 18-35. Live-in Possible. No men, couples or heavies. Write: Andrea, P.O. Box 2257, Forest Park, GA 30051. 1572

BiBF, 20, seeks friend/companion/etc., any race, 18-25. Likes: music, theatre, movies. Intelligent, affectionate, sincere, non-smoker. 1569

GWF - 36, accomplished, thoughtful, deliberate, practical, healthy, musical, kind, good looking, opinionated seeks similar women for friendship and fun. 1551

GWF, new to Atlanta, looking for white water dykes. Let's go paddle! 1568

Romantic, intelligent, attractive GWF, 34, seeks witty GWF to share love and laughter. Professional, athletic, opinionated. Intrigued? You should be!! 1566

Seeking love, friendship or whatever develops. GWF, 34, attractive, professional, fun, intelligent, witty, athletic. Too good to be true! 1565

Seeking intelligent GWF 32-42 active in the gay community in volunteer/work with AIDS related programs. GWF interested in friendship. 1547

Good looking GBF, 26, desires a GBF 28+ who is shapely, intelligent and sincere. 1550

GWF looking for special GWF 30-40. Integrity, intelligent, monogamous. Enjoys galleries, music, theatre, books, having fun. No drugs, alcohol abuse. 1556

GWF seeks GWF feminine for friendship or possibly more. Must love children and being pampered. No drugs. 1528

GWF feminine, attractive, professional, VERY discreet seeks same GWF or BiWF 24-35 for friendship. Preferably Columbus, Auburn area - Confidential. 1526

GWF, 23, 5'2", slim, good sense of humor, positive, motivated, has own life, seeking attractive, secure woman who enjoys local music, outdoors, arts, romance. No butch, no druggies, no psychos. 1525

GWF seeks GWF 35-55, average size, for friendship and possibly more. No drugs. 1523

Wonderful intelligent GWF looking for special lady 30-40s who has sense of humor, honesty and loyalty for relationship. 1521

BiBF, 41, auto erotic, discreet Mom, closet butch, first timer. Lonely for intelligent open minded bi/GF for friendship & mutual interest. 1495

GWF, 40's, seeks serious animal lover, vegetarian, non-smoker who has trouble with grown people who believe in supernatural beings. 1497

GBF in search of other gay females for friendship, possibly more. A good sense of humor is the only requirement. 1499

Warm, cute, full-figured GBF seeks intelligent, warm, fun female for quality friendship. Variety of interests, good times w/ good friends. Be positive, honest, caring and drug-free. 1488

GBF, attractive, very feminine, seeks fun-loving, aggressive GF for friendship, possible relationship. 1462

Cute fem GBF, 20, seeks aggressive GF for friendship and perhaps more. Age and race not important. 1477

Do you like movies, conversation, fun, and sex? So do I. If you are interested in participating in all of the above (or at least three out of four not excluding the fourth), take a chance and call. I'm GWF, late 30's, 5'6", slender, attractive. You're 30-45, my height or under, witty, interested in life. 1481

GBF, aggressive, looking for a friendship. Seeking intelligent, career-minded, honest woman, not butch, between 20-30, no drugs. 1461

GBF seeks that special someone between 18-27 for friendship, possible relationship. 1455

DWF, 20s, Bi, curious, happy, funny, intelligent, artistic, drug-free, non-bar personality seeks companion & entry level exercise partner. 1446

Attractive, athletic GBF (30) seeks athletic GWF for that special kinda relationship. Take a chance and call. Please fems-only! 1424

20 aggressive GBF enjoys music, sports, and having a good time. Seeks GBF 18-27 for friendship, possible relationship. 1421

GWF, 25, fem, pleasing plump with daughter, seeking GF for friendship, maybe more. Enjoy music, movies and more. No drugs. 1419

Single 30 year old male seeks lesbian for marriage of mutual convenience. 1420

GWF seeks same age 31-40 emotionally healthy, feminine, communicative, affectionate, thoughtful, no drugs, smokers, for friendship, possible relationship. Hopeless? 1413

GBF, 18, petite, lipstick lesbian, seeks GBF 18-21 for friendship, maybe more. 1416

Seriously GBF seeking...A black woman who is feminine, bitchy, petite and willing to bow down to me. 1409

GWF, attractive, 34, seeks same for dinner, dancing, movies, music, outdoors, indoors, art, theatre, etc. Humorous, witty, intelligent a must. 1383

GBF 2 kids seems feminine, likes to be controlling. Seeks extremely feminine BF who wants a serious relationship. No chubbies. 1382

Single female seeking other females for friendship and possible relationship. 18-25. No butches. 1381

MEN

GWM 35, 5'8", 160 lb, br/br, g-look, masc, muscular, clean cut, adventurous, laid back, non-pretentious, honest, romantic, considerate, seeks same in secure energetic GWM 35-45. 1625

Versatile GWM, 35, seeks neighborhood BM for close and convenient fun; Lakewood and adjacent areas. 1626

YOU: Loving, masculine, FIT, articulate, 35+, imperfect, safe, handsome. ME: Loving, masculine, GETTING FIT, athletic #250, 38, GWM, fallible, safe, handsome. 1637

GBM, 27, Professional, relationship-oriented, community-involved, ISO GM, 25-35, for cheap movie date. Write: KCC, POB 1334, Atlanta, GA 30301-1334 or call 1638

Slender GWM, 36, artist/architect, seeks brainy GBM engaged in creative labor. Serious, sensitive, sensuous if drunk, head full of ideas, I seek Black friend/lover equally self-challenged. Coffee? 1639

Wanna wrestle? GWM, 6 ft., 185, blonde/blue, 45, good shape, seeks others interested in wrestling, safe fun. 1640

Leather Dad sks same/younger 4 sensory deprivation, intense S&M, B&D, wax, hoods; gags, assplay. Versatile, sane, mutual. 1641

Are you out there? GWM, 20s seeks GAM to hang with, maybe more. Please be honest and caring. 1627

GBM, 29, seeks GWM 25-35 to share quiet evenings together, movies, dining out, friendship, possibly more. 1630

GWM, masculine, healthy, 61, ALA farmer, seeks discreet older trim white/oriental male for fun, friendship & more. 1631

GWM, 47, 6'6", 210, sandy/blue, seeking gay Black, Hispanic, Native-American or Oriental male for serious friendship / romance / relationship. 1632

GBM, 5'10", 190#, 21, seeks Teddy Bear type BM 190+, 25+, looks not important. Intelligence a must. Not into bars. 1633

Blue eyed top, boyish 38, playful, mustache, seeks safe bottom boyfriend. Photo & telephone to; POB 13162, Atl., GA 30324. (6.29)

VOICE CONNECTION TO PLACE FREE AD TO RESPOND 1-900-370-4099 CALL NOW (\$1.50 per minute. Must be 18 or over. Touch tone phones only.)

GBM, 28, dominant, masculine endowed top seeks GWM for french service. Must be discreet, passive and experienced. 1601

Romantic, assertive, spiritual, handsome GBM, 5'10", 160 lbs., 39 years, with hazel eyes seeks person possessing great emotional depth to chase rainbows with for a lifetime. Any race. 1602

GWM, HIV+, 34, seeks men for dining, movies, possible intimacy. 1600

Black male seeks a masculine black male with a touch of New York flavor for adventurous fun. 1598

Attractive professional GBM Top, 35, good condition, masculine, affectionate, seeks GWM Bottom (same attributes) for friendship/possible relationship. You 29-40. POB 371847, Decatur, GA 30037. 1596

GWM nudist, 40, 5'11", 185 lbs, muscular build, relocating to Atlanta mid-August, seeking GWM/GWC for fun in the sun and friendship. Professional, clean-cut, healthy, versatile enjoys sensual massages, videos, french, dancing and hot times. 1597

Back-to-the-land survivor dares rugged outdoorsman to join him and crafts in rustic, peaceful, secluded northeast Georgia retreat. 1589

GWM, 39, 5'7", 140 lbs., brn/hzl, beard, versatile, daytime playmate interested in safe anal, oral ball action seeks GWM 30's-45 with similar interests. 1595

GWM, 30, 6'2", looking for college graduate, masculine, thin, GBM 22-30 to share in building the good life, must be spontaneous and possess a sense of humor. 1593

GWM, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs, clean-cut, youthful looks, slim muscular body, seeking hard bodied muscular males into showing off, J/O, body-worship. 1591

USA-born, raised in West Africa GWM, 30s, seriously seeking GBM (5'10"taller) for friend/relationship. Benjamin, POB 21675, Long Beach, California 90801-4675. (6.27)

Fairly Humid WM, 6'3", 185 lbs., 43, HIV-, non-bar, seeks similarly heated "blue-collar" guy, 30-40, for hassle-free "Dog Day Afternoon" Popsicle Breaks! 1590

GWM 35, 5'9", 160, beard, masculine seeks older in-shape GBM stud for discreet encounters. 1588

Nice guy, 55, 160 lbs, safe HIV neg. masculine, endowed top desires friendship (relationship?) with slim white male under 40. 1587

GBM SEEKS GM BODY BUILDER - Me: 29, attractive, masculine, "Charles Atlas Before" likes Kahill Gibran, Joe Campbell, volunteering, movies, traveling. You: secure, masculine, GM race unimportant. Goal: friendship possible relationship with physical and spiritual growth. 1543

After living seven years scared this very healthy HIV+ attractive, masculine GWM 5'9", Bi/Bi, 189, wishes to relax, love, and move on with life again. Desire attractive GWM 30-40+. 1573

GWM, 33, 5'8", 220 seeks to date a nice clean respectful romantic hard worker. I'm the same, no time for games. PO Box 7161 Chestnut Mtn., GA 30502. (6.26)

Masculine GWM, 26, 5'10", 155#, blond/brown, seeks good looking Butch top to 45 (sane, sexy, safe) for intense manly encounters. 1567

GWM, 35, 5'7", 135 lbs. Br/Br/Beard, seeks Bottom GWM, 25-40 for monogamous relationship. Box 956222, Duluth, GA 30136. (6.26)

I very fine looking, body, mind, sould, circa 35 young looking masculine man seeks similar for one on one. Negative. 1571

Attractive GWM, 30, 5'5", 132, Brn/bm, hairy, seeking tall, handsome, sincere, non-smoking GWM for husband, 30-40ish. 1318

GWM master seeks cute young slave boy. You light S&M, bondage, housework, personal services for room, nice wardrobe, travel, transportation. 1560

GWM Daddy needs pretty young boy to dress in leather & other cute/sexy outfits & go out and party. 1561

GWM, mid-40's, Healthy HIV+, seeks stable young GWM for hot massage, high erotic states, extended cuddle sessions and possible relationship. 1559

Masculine WM, 41, brn/grn, in shape, stable, professional seeks masculine, healthy, safe non-smoker WM. 1558

GWM, 36, Healthy HIV+ seeks other GWMs who are relationship oriented. I'm slim, great cook, attractive, romantic, love to cuddle. 1557

GWM photographer seeks 18 to 25 y.o. GWM to model nude to tuxedo, no experience needed, develop portfolio, travel. 1562

NEED A SPANKING? Skillfully administered by GWM, 38, 5'10", HAIRY, 170#, to guys 18-40. Discretion assured, limits respected. Beginners OK. 1555

GWM 35+ prof. 6'3" seeks same to 40. Respond if you seek simple life of love. Tennis, hairy, masc. sought. 1554

GWM Young looking/acting 40, 5'7", br/bl, muscular, attractive, sexy, sincere, outdoors, varied interests, fun, HIV-. Seeks similar. 1552

Handsome, blond/moustache, slim, 40, 5'8", masculine, blue collar, non-bar, negative, seeks WM, moustache, handsome, rimming, romantic, relationship, 35-45. 1549

Relocate to Chicago? Italian guy 39, 5'6", 145#, seeks masculine hairy southern accented GWM 35-45 for permanent relationship. Into affection, stability, safe oral sex no anal. 1548

GWM mature professional seeks good looking, sincere and mature young man (20s) for travel, shopping, spoiling, possible relationship, no drugs, prefer non-smoker. 1563

Big Brother, Big Bottom, Carolina GWM, 50, 6'3", 250, ISO younger GWM, attractive Top. Trim and smooth A+. Will travel. 1546

GWM seeks attractive young GWM for dining out, travel, movies, cuddling, relationship, sincere only. 1564

America's #1 GAY DATELINE. All lifestyles. In Your Area. 1-900-860-1333 \$2.50/minute. CCI BOCA, Florida. 18+. (6.29)

SIZZLING HUNKS LIVE!! 1-800-284-2739. \$3.50/minute. Wild Gay Party Line \$2.00/minute or 1-900-745-0833. 18+. (6.29)

BM, 27, 6'1", 255, HIV pos., discreet, masculine, independent, affectionate, versatile; but I prefer to be bottom, NO Games. 1527

GWM seeks gay Jewish male 23-27 for friendship, possible relationship. 1529

You: nice looking, tall, glasses, light-skinned at Bulldogs on 6/20. You left during show. Please call again. 1518

GBM, attractive, hairy, versatile, top & bottom, seeks other black males for discreet encounters. 1522

Sexy, hairy leatherboy, 33, 5'8" 150 br/br HIV seeks hairy, affectionate, non-smoking, intelligent, kinky, horny, top/daddy to 45. 1519

GWM, 30, healthy HIV+, financially stable, enjoy country music, dance, outdoors & more. Seeking same/older friendship/relationship. Facial hair a +. 1520

French Active GWM, 32, 5'10", 135#, blk/brn, must. Lay back, relax and enjoy. Str/G/Bi WMs needed to fulfill constant cravings. 1524

BM, 20, 140 lbs, 5'7" attractive, and new to the scene seeks mature male 20-25 for friendship/relationship. 1517

BiWm - 5'11", 165 lbs, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, very good looking, muscular, clean-cut fraternity stud, seeks other extremely good looking, muscular guys. 1504

Clean-cut GWM, 31, 5'11", 175# seeks athletic GWM 25-35. Interests: 99X, weightlifting. Prefer non-smoker and the smoother the better. 1515

GWM, handsome, HIV-, desires someone to date; enjoys the mountains, hikes, reading, serious conversation, Comedy Central, 60s TV, long kisses. Weary of tactile deprivation. 1501

GWM, 31, 5'9", 175, Bi/bl looking for someone with a sense of romance and a desire for love. Call me. 1491

GWM, 38, 6', 155, HIV+, looking for someone to spend time with and see what happens. 1490

Relationship wanted. Cute GWM 25, 5'3", 130#, red/brn hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, versatile. Your are 18-30, slim build, sincere. 1498

Monogamous and quality relationship wanted. Affectionate, honest and spiritual Japanese GM, 41, HIV negative, seeks warm hearted GWM. Into exercise, nature walk and healthy food. Ready to settle down with someone special in Atlanta. Like cuddling. Prefer around my age. 1502

Black man seeks masculine black man for friendship and etc. 1496

GWM COUPLE, 32 & 38 seek versatile GWM for fun and games. Us: Both 5'9", 185#, bl/bl and br/gr. Love lots of body contact. 1500

GWM, 30, 6'1", 170, brn/brn. Seeks WM 25-45 y/o professional for friendship, possibly more. Hairy/muscular preferred. 1503

Kissing, Screwing, Cuddling - my three favorite things!!! 38 year old nice guy, brown/blue, mustache, romantic, safe top. 1489

Teddy Bear seeks companion 35-50 for good times, happy times, quiet times. I am sincere, sophisticated and funny! Bearded, 6'1", 240 lbs, 47 years old. 1492

GWM, 6'2", 170 lbs, 55 attractive, healthy, clean cut, educated, ISO masculine male relationship. No smokers/alcohol/drugs. 1493

Blond/green, 5'8", 150, 40, moustache, masculine, non-bar. Likes wolves, nature, ghost stories, calm moustached, 35-45, masc. white. 1494

Masculine GWM, 32, 6', 185, blond/mous-

PERSONALS

tache, attractive, stable, easy-going professional seeks similar non-bar type, non-smoking, GWM, 28-42 for relationship. ☎ 1485

Young looking GWM passive, endowed, wants spankings and/or safe S/M (HIV+). ☎ 1484

GWM, 35, 5'9", 160, beard, balding, masculine, versital, seek 35-40s GBM or GWM for fun, friendship and more. ☎ 1486

GWM, 26, 5'11", 170 lbs. Tired of bar scene and games. Looking for Mr. Right between 30-40 years old. ☎ 1483

Spanish GM 40, 5'9, 160, sincere, passionate bottom seeks dominant masculine, sincere, honest top B/M well-endowed for committed relationship. ☎ 1463

GBM, 29, college business grad, professional, blue-suit type, church goer, community involved, seeks brother for more than physical. ☎ 1475

GWM, 29, 6'4", 195, tall, dark, handsome, healthy, HIV neg., romantic, masculine, artistic, not into bars, loves outdoors, serious replies. ☎ 1482

GWM, 34, 5'8", 160 lbs. G-look, masc, muscular, gymfly, laid back, non pretentious, honest, affectionate, romantic seeks same in secure GWM 35-45. ☎ 1476

Handsome, passionate, 35, 6'1", 175, healthy WM looking for summer sizzle and workout partner, Jazz lover. ☎ 1480

GWM, 32, 5'10", 135#, blk/brn, very French active, ISO laid back, dominant, verbal, WMs to help fulfill my constant cravings. ☎ 1478

GWM, 28, 6', 180 lbs, brn/grn, healthy, HIV+, considered attractive with a variety of interests, seeking someone similar. ☎ 1479

Submissive WM, 30, 5'10", 165, attractive & fit, seeks training from strict dominant. I'm a novice, but eager to learn! ☎ 1460

GWM, 29, Br/Br, 5'8" 150 lbs. Interests: spirituality, sci-fi and fun. Seeks 19-35, HIV- into same for friendship and more. ☎ 1457

White collar Asian male, 29, 5'10", seeks guy 20-35 for friendship. You like massage when watching TV. ☎ 1454

WM, 31, 5'8", prof., attr, fit, smooth. HIV-

, rel. oriented. Seeks WM 30-45, prof., attr., tall, hairy. ☎ 1453

GWM, 55, wise, artsy, affectionate, seeks Top down to earth same for relationship. ☎ 1450

GWM, 30, handsome, athletic, HIV+ but healthy, seeks masculine GBM, 25-40 for friendship and more. I live out-of-town and visit Atlanta often. ☎ 1451

Black Male, 23, very masculine, athletic, tall, healthy, in good shape, with varied interests, seeks Black Male with similar qualities. ☎ 1425

Successful GWM, 40s, masculine, professional. Seeks very attractive wholesome WM under 24 for relationship / work / school. ☎ 1456

GWM, 35, 5'8", 130 lbs. Brown/blue seeks WM top for monogamous relationship. No bar flies. Love to cuddle. ☎ 1448

GWM, 5'11", brn/brn, 200# prof. seeks young smooth slim bottom GWM for fun times. ☎ 1445

GBM, 5'10", 200 lbs, average looks, occasional drag, 22 seeks BM 190+, 25+, for friend, looks not important. Not into bars. ☎ 1444

GWM, 32, 5'9", brown hair, brown eyes, masculine, attractive seeks GWM 18-39 for friendship, companionship. ☎ 1422

GWM, 6', 175, smooth, professional, attractive, HIV- seeks discreet younger, submissive, HIV- playmate interested in safe fist action, WS, or spanking. Novice welcome. ☎ 1449

Black Prince-where RU? I: gwm, 36, 260#, handsome, masculine, N2 fitness. You: athletic, confident, masc., trim. Please hurry, buddy. ☎ 1412

GWM, 36, healthy, HIV, 5'11", 180, good-looking, muscular, seeks top. You: GWM, masculine, 32-45, good shape. ☎ 1411

GWM, 29, 5'7", 160, br/br. Masculine, intelligent, affectionate top seeks masculine, intelligent, affectionate bottom to share life and love. ☎ 1415

Attractive, masculine BM, 30, seeking well endowed masculine BM for no strings fun. ☎ 1418

African American, Hispanic and Anglo athletes. Handsome, muscular GWM looking for sparring partners. Semi experienced

boxer. But can be easy and sexy. ☎ 1387

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GWMC seeks young (18-25), goodlooking GWM for house boy / slave. Private room / bath in exchange for house work / personal services. Call for details. ☎ 1388

GWM, 37, 5'6", 160#, blk/grn, hairy, moustache, healthy, non-smoker, professional, NW area. Seeking similar GWM, 35-40's for possible relationship. ☎ 1407

TV/TS

W/M Sissyboy. Tall, thin, sexy, love high heels and mini-skirts. Not a drag queen. Wish to entertain the right gentleman. Charlotte. ☎ 1624

WM, 30, enjoys beng female passable, seeks man who wants a submissive girl to obey and please. ☎ 1634

Texas WM, 39, 5'11", 175# seeks feminine passable Transsexual (pre-op) or Transvestite 21-45 for long lasting relationship / friendship. ☎ 1553

46, BiWM, 6'1", clean, safe, smooth, bottom, love others into CD, TV/TS, feminine things, can satisfy demanding top. ☎ 1410

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BISEXUAL

SBM married, 54, great shape, seeks mature shapely BiBF (30-50) for ver discreet safe encounters. ☎ 1570

30's BiWM, 6', dark hair and eyes, Francophile, seeks BiWF whose interests include literature, language(s), Scrabble. Chamber music OK. ☎ 1487

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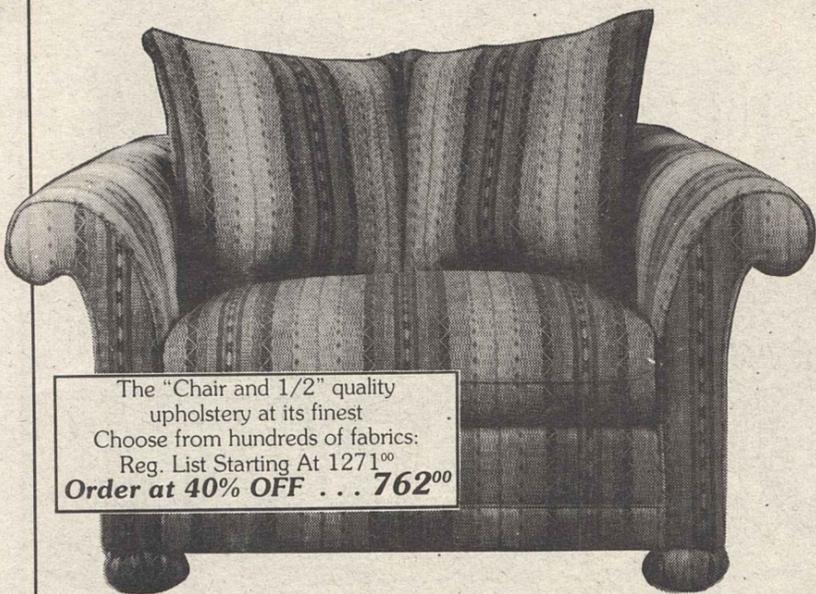
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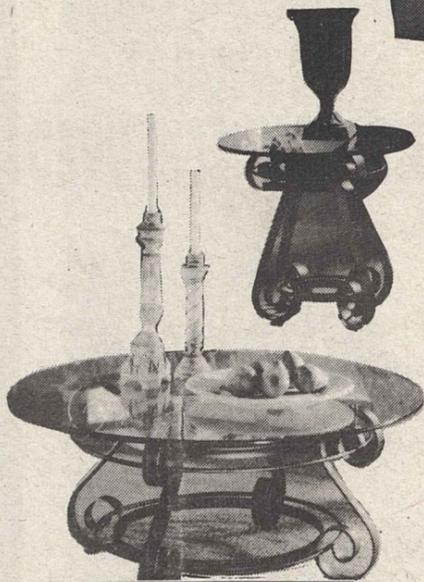


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