

S O U T H E R N

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

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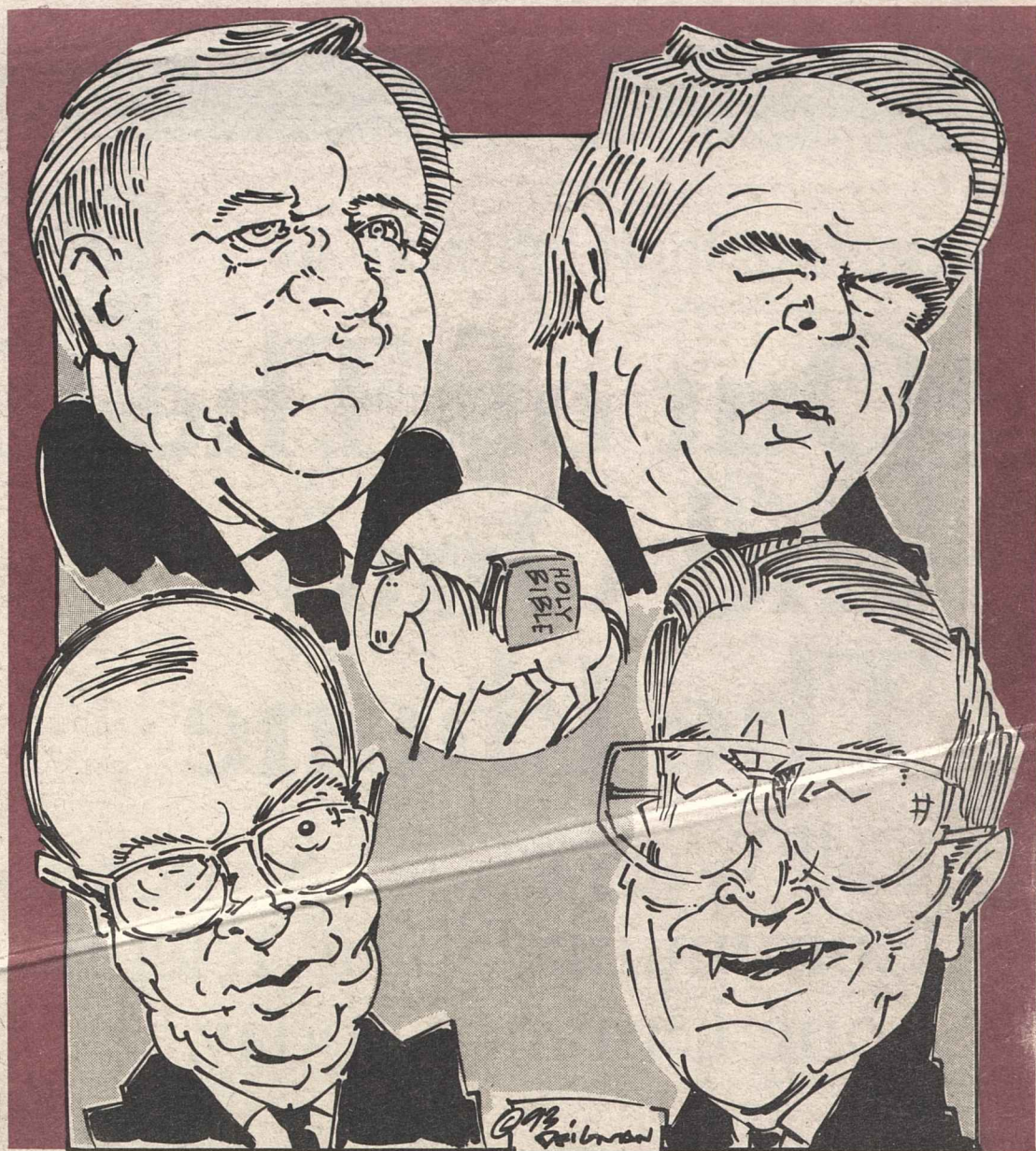
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FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Religious fervor, political savvy and media access can make for a potent combination—and a frightening one when you are the person at whom those forces are aimed. This week, and for the next three weeks, Southern Voice staff writer KC Wildmoon takes an in-depth look at four of the Christian right's most powerful leaders—Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, James Dobson and Don Wildmon. For the lesbian and gay community, they may be the Four Horsemen of our Apocalypse.

Pat Robertson: Father of the stealth campaign

by KC WILDMOON

Perfect government comes from God and is controlled by God. Short of that, the next best government is a limited democracy in which the people acknowledge rights given by God.

—Pat Robertson

Five years ago, the Christian Right was reeling. Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority was on the brink of dissolution, and Pat Robertson's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination had been skewered by Southern voters who pulled the lever for George Bush. And then there was that nasty Jim Bakker/PTL affair just a year earlier.

Televangelism, where the Christian Right drew most of its followers—and money—appeared sunk in the mire of its own greed. Moderates and progressives alike rejoiced at what they saw as the end of an assault from religious extremists bent on turning the country "back to God."

But it was a short lived respite. Just two years later, voters in San Diego County, California awoke on the morning after election day to learn they had installed a chilling new slate of public office holders. Sixty out of 90 low-level state and local posts had

been won by right-wing candidates who had not overtly advertised their extremist positions.

The stealth candidacy was born.

The man behind the stealth candidacy is none other than that former presidential candidate, the Rev. Pat Robertson, an ordained Southern Baptist minister and head of the multi-million dollar International Family Entertainment, Inc.

His company operates the Family Channel (formerly the Christian Broadcasting Network), which features "The 700 Club," as its touchstone. And it is from the soundstages of "The 700 Club" where Robertson espouses his vision of America—a conservative Christian nation, founded by conservative Christians for conservative Christians and ruled by conservative, God-inspired Christians.

Simply put, televangelist Pat Robertson believes in the divine right to rule. As he once told a "700 Club" audience, "individual Christians are the only ones [fit for government office] really, and Jewish people."

"Anyone whose mind and heart is not controlled by God Almighty is not qualified."

In 1988, Robertson sought the top honors for

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Anti-gay forces make push in black community

Group called Jacob's Well forms to help Christian supremacists in Atlanta elections

Atlanta— Saying that "MLK Jr. didn't die for the rights of gay men to sleep together," the Christian right is trying to join forces with conservative African Americans in Atlanta to influence city elections.

Southern Voice has obtained a copy of a letter being distributed by a group called Jacob's Well, which has been meeting regularly at Paschal's Hotel in southwest Atlanta. A list of people attending a recent meeting includes three City Council candidates, mayoral candidate Nancy Schaefer and Tom Perdue, who headed Republican U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell's campaign and was a top aide to former Democratic Gov. Joe Frank Harris.

The group's organizers claim Perdue, considered one of Georgia's top political strategists, is providing them with tactical advice. Attempts by Southern Voice to reach Perdue for comment were unsuccessful.

The announced aims of the group include building "a black/white coalition of evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics and conservative blacks" to run for election in 1993 and electing "candidates with character" to city posts.

Specifically targeted for defeat, the letter said, "are those who voted in favor of the infamous domestic partnership ordinance."

"It's not unexpected that they would be do-

ing that," said GAPAC lobbyist Larry Pellegrini. "The fundamentalists have been slowly changing their tactics. Instead of evangelizing and converting, they're seeking to infiltrate and subvert. And now they are trying to suck in the minority communities."

Jacob's Well is apparently patterned after the successful Christian Coalition-led campaign during this year's New York City school board elections that resulted in a large number of Christian supremacists gaining seats on that city's school board. The controversy in New York that initiated the effort was over the use of a curriculum in city schools that taught respect and understanding of lesbians and gay men.

"If it can happen in New York, it can happen here," the letter said.

But, said Pellegrini, Jacob's Well is taking the New York strategy one step further. In New York, "they emphasized the gay issue, and these guys [in Atlanta] are de-emphasizing that, at least on a public level."

Jacob's Well candidates are being urged to "simply be clear that they stand for morality, marriage, etc. and allow people to decide between clear choices as to various candidates' stand on homosexuality and other issues."

"Gay bashing doesn't win political campaigns," said the letter.

But at a recent meeting, in order to "gain some insight into the political and lifestyle concerns of the homosexuals," the group viewed and discussed "The Gay Agenda," a rabidly homophobic video distributed by the Christian right.

Jacob's Well organizers say they are concerned that the white community is buying the argument that the fight for lesbian and gay civil

Jacob's Well candidates are being urged to "simply be clear that they stand for morality, marriage, etc. and allow people to decide between clear choices as to various candidates' stand on homosexuality and other issues."

rights is similar to the African American struggles during the 1960s.

Tim Echols, who is listed as the group's "white community facilitator," wrote in the letter that "MLK Jr. didn't die for the rights of gay men to sleep together." Echols is also Nancy Schaefer's campaign manager in her run for mayor.

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ELECTION 93

by RICHARD SHUMATE

Filing to run for office is one thing. Raising enough money to be competitive is quite another hurdle.

The three openly gay/lesbian candidates for the Atlanta City Council are now facing that challenge. This Friday, an unprecedented fundraising event is being held to benefit all three—**Andy Loftis, Carolyn White and Eric Spivey.**

The organizer of the fundraiser, **Bill Atkinson**, says the message he wants to send by this event is not that gays and lesbians should automatically vote for gay and lesbian candidates on the basis of their sexual orientation. Rather, it is a chance for people in the community to meet the candidates, get to know them and find out if they are qualified.

The event is this Friday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. at 1030 Monroe Drive. That is in the building directly north of Piedmont Grove on the west side of Monroe. Admission is free, free parking is available at Piedmont Grove and food and drinks will be provided.

For those of you who might not want to attend because you back only some of the gay and lesbian candidates but not others, there is no admission charge at the door being split between the campaigns. Rather, everyone who attends will be able to make, or not make, individual contributions.

Speaking of campaign finance, the **Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund**, a national organization designed to channel campaign money to lesbians and gay men running for office, has apparently decided to sit out the Atlanta city elections.

Both Spivey and Loftis made requests for help to the fund, and both were turned down. White's request is still pending, but given what happened to the other candidates, "I'm not putting a lot of energy into it," she said.

Given the recent climate of anti-gay political activity in the city, "I can't believe there wasn't any attention given here," says Spivey. William Waybourn, the fund's director, says the group's policy is not to comment on why candidates are accepted or rejected in order not to provide any campaign fodder for their opponents.

Meanwhile, over in the race for mayor, the candidates are still navigating the mine field presented by the presence of one **Eldrin Bell. Michael Lomax**, you might recall, raised consternation among some gay politicians when he said he would keep Bell on as police chief if he was elected mayor. The other candidates, **Bill Campbell and Myrtle Davis**, politely tapdanced around the question.

But at a recent campaign appearance, Campbell, when asked what would be the first thing he would do as mayor, said he would sit down—with Bell—to talk about how to combat crime. The Lomax camp (which maintains that Lomax will keep a tight reign on Bell) viewed that as a tacit admission on Campbell's part that he, too, will not rid the city of Bell. But the Campbell camp insists that conclusion should not be drawn from that comment. Campbell will evaluate all his personnel once he takes office and then assess who stays and who goes, according to spokesperson Barbara Ingram.

The behind-the-scenes line percolating through the community is that neither Campbell nor Davis are fans of Eldrin Bell. However, neither seems to be willing to go on the record as saying so. Lomax supporters feel he is being unfairly singled out merely for being candid.

ARTISTS FIGHT BACK

Woodward and others mobilize against Cobb County's anti-arts move

Marietta—In their own unique, indomitable style, artists—targeted by the government and Christian right of Cobb County—are striking back.

Last week, acclaimed actress Joanne Woodward, who spent some of her formative years in Marietta, announced that she and husband Paul Newman would give up to \$20,000 to Theatre in the Square to replace funding removed by the Cobb County Commission. Woodward and Newman will match, dollar for dollar, money raised by the theater, "which will essentially restore the amount of money we expected to receive from Cobb County," said Palmer Wells, managing director of the theater.

"We hope to raise as much of it as we can from people in Cobb County. I think this is what Miss Woodward would prefer," he said. The theater has also received a \$10,000 grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

In the midst of the truckloads of art at the recent Arts Festival in Atlanta, perhaps the most popular work, with a Cobb County theme, came from a group called TABOO. On their first poster, a caption under the Mona Lisa read "This is art." A caption under the Big Chicken read, "This is art in Cobb County." A second poster showed how to put a KKK robe on the Big Chicken.

Michael Venezia, one of the four men who make up TABOO, said about 100 of the posters were put up around Piedmont Park at the beginning of the festival. At the end, "there wasn't one around."

"We wanted to do something to have fun and stir some excitement up," said Venezia.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

If good intentions are combined with stupidity, it is impossible to outthink them.



THIS IS ART.



THIS IS ART IN COBB COUNTY.

TABOO's commentary on Cobb County was a hit at the Arts Festival of Atlanta.

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Tennessee sodomy law under fire

Nashville, TN—Tennessee's law against gay sex acts is being challenged by six gay men and lesbians.

Attorney Abby Rubinfeld said her clients could lose their jobs, professional licenses and homes if they are prosecuted under the law.

Two of the six plaintiffs filed suit under assumed names because they feared the effects of stating publicly that they are gay, Rubinfeld said.

She noted that a similar "anti-sodomy" statute in Virginia was the principal reason cited by a Virginia judge earlier this month for taking a small boy away from his lesbian mother.

Assistant State Attorney General Perry Kraft asked Circuit Judge Walter Kurtz on Sept. 17 to dismiss the lawsuit, which challenges the constitutionality of a 1989 statute.

Kraft said Rubinfeld's clients lack "standing" to challenge the ban on private homosexual acts, since they have not been prosecuted under the law.

But Kurtz ruled that Rubinfeld and her clients may proceed with their lawsuit. He did not set a date for the case to be tried.

Rubinfeld said she is not aware of anyone being prosecuted for private, consensual homosexual acts in Tennessee since the state's old "crime against nature" statute was amended in 1989.

The old law made oral or anal sex by anyone a felony, punishable by five to 15 years imprisonment. The current law holds that oral or anal sex acts only by people of the same gender are misdemeanors, calling for a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail.

Kraft said judges should rule on the validity of criminal statutes "only if absolutely necessary." The courts should "defer to the legislature on these kinds of policy choices," he said.

Rubinfeld said after the hearing that she doesn't "think the state is going to come up with a valid reason to justify this statute."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NC activist Carter to be honored

New York City—Long time lesbian activist Mandy Carter has been chosen to receive the War Resisters League's 1993 Peace Award. The award will be presented at WRL's Annual Dinner on October 16, 1993.

Carter, a grass roots organizer in North Carolina for more than a quarter of a century, has been a public policy advocate for the Human Rights Campaign Fund since April 1992. One of the nation's foremost African-American lesbian activists, she is being honored for her service to the Peace Movement during the 1970s when she served on WRL's staff.

In 1990, Carter was Director of North Carolina Senate Vote '90, an independent political action committee supporting Harvey Gantt's bid to defeat conservative Senator Jesse Helms. She is also a member of Stonewall 25's National Steering Committee.

"As one of many African-American lesbian and gay activists who was politically born in the peace and justice movements of



Mandy Carter, a North Carolina lesbian activist, will be recognized for her contributions to the Peace Movement.

the 1960s and 70s, it is extremely gratifying to now be honored openly," Carter said.

Clemson nixes anti-bias clause

Clemson, SC—Clemson University's Faculty Senate has decided against putting a non-discrimination clause in the governing manual, even though it earlier passed a resolution endorsing lesbian and gay rights.

The Faculty Senate on Sept. 14 turned down putting the clause in the faculty bylaws, despite calls from supporters who wanted the clause to become a binding contract between administrators and faculty.

Last year, the faculty passed a resolution against discrimination based on "sexual or affectional preferences." But it was not included in the bylaws.

Opponents argued that placing the resolution in the affirmative action section of the bylaws might lead people to believe gay men

and lesbians would be legally accorded affirmative action status.

Veteran senate member Brenda Vandermay supported the change. "There are those who would have the perception that once you publish something like that, then people would start running from all corners and filing lawsuits and those kind of things," she said.

Several student government members urged the faculty to reject the amendment and applauded the proposal's defeat.

"I don't see how a state university can include in its bylaws a nondiscrimination policy against someone's sexual preference since homosexuality is against state laws," said student Dan Garrison.

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COMING EVENTS

Montgomery, Ala. The 7th Annual Alabama AIDS Symposium will be held in Montgomery October 6-8. This year's theme is "Partners In Action: Building A Network," and will feature a wide range of programs including home care issues, thriving with HIV and clinical and statistical updates. The Symposium, a project of the Alabama AIDS Network and coordinated by the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, is to coordinate information, education and services for those involved in AIDS policy development, professional and public education, prevention and patient care. Location: Civic Center, 303 Bibb St. For registration info call (205) 471-7322.

Spartanburg, S.C. Voters United for Equality and the South Carolina chapter of the National Organization for Women will hold a Natoinal Coming Out Day Rally in Spartanburg on October 9.

The rally will be held at Richardson Park on Main St., and will feature speakers and entertainment. Following the rally, a Celebratory Ball will be held at the Cheyenne Cattleman's Club on Asheville Highway.

The South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement is co-sponsoring the event. For information, call (803) 295-4317.

Lesbian Appointed To Peace Corps Post: President Clinton has appointed Judy Harrington, former campaign manager of Equal Protection of Colorado during that state's battle against the Amendment 2 ballot initiative, as associate director of the Peace Corps. Harrington's post does not require Senate confirmation, and she will be third in command at the Corps, following the director and deputy director. Harrington, 52, served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1965 to 1967.

MetLife Insures Gay Couple As Married: Metropolitan Life Insurance says it will honor the auto insurance policy of a gay couple that was mistakenly approved under its "married" classification, but it will not approve any further married classification policies for gay couples for the time being. Richard Berstein, vice president and general counsel with MetLife in Providence, RI, said an error was made by underwriters when the classification was approved. The married classification provides significant discounts to married couples.



Donna Redwing

GLAAD Launches National Organizing Effort: Lesbian activist Donna Redwing has been named GLAAD National Chapter Coordinator, as the lesbian/gay media watchdog group launches a nationwide organizing effort to counter the proliferation of anti-gay state and local initiatives. Redwing will be based at the organization's hub office, GLAAD/USA in New York. She was named "Woman of the Year" in 1992 by The Advocate, and served as executive director of the Lesbian Community Project in Portland, Oregon since 1990. "Donna's tremendous strength as a grassroots organizer will enable GLAAD to move even faster to expand our anti-defamation presence both locally and nationally," said GLAAD/USA co-chair Stephanie Farrington-Domingue.

Former AIDS Agency Chief Arrested, Charged With Theft: The former head of a Texas AIDS agency has been arrested on three

counts of felony theft, stemming from charges that he made unauthorized payment to himself from agency coffers. David Petty was fired from his position at the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas and subsequently arrested by Galveston police. An audit revealed thousands of dollars stolen from the agency, but Petty, who held the position since 1991, denies responsibility. "There is no basis for the charges," he said. "I'm surprised and confused. This is all news to me."

Poll Shows Coloradans Still Prefer Amendment 2: Anti-gay Amendment 2 still has the support of Colorado residents, a recent poll indicates. "There's been very little change since the election on this issue or on attitudes about homosexuality," said Paul Talmey, whose Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy, Inc. in Boulder conducted the poll for The Denver Post and KCNC-TV. Last week's poll of 359 people showed that 43 percent of Colorado adults would vote to repeal the amendment if they had the chance. Forty-eight percent said they would vote against repeal, and 9% were undecided. "We think support [of Amendment 2] is even stronger than that poll would indicate," said Colorado Springs car dealer Will Perkins, chair of Colorado for Family Values, which sponsored the amendment.

Woman Fights Gay Couple's Attempt To Adopt Her Son: An Orcas Island, Washington woman is battling an attempt by two gay men to adopt her 3-year-old son, calling it "my worst nightmare come true. Megan Lucas, 22, has won a delay in a county Superior Court. State workers have approved the adoption bid by the gay men, from Seattle, to become the boy's parents, but Lucas says she relinquished custody under duress last year and now wants the boy back. "I was promised my child would go to a mother and a father," Lucas said. "The poor baby...needs to be back home where he belongs." Lucas is now married and has a 17-month-old daughter. A hearing on her request to revoke consent has not been scheduled.

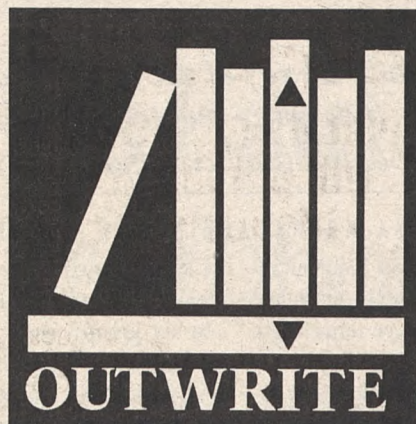
Appeals Court Hears Arguments In Steffan Case: A Federal appeals panel heard arguments last week in the case of Joseph Steffan, a midshipman forced to resign from the Naval Academy after he told a fellow midshipman that he is gay. In defending the ousting of Steffan, Clinton Administration attorneys argued that both the compromise regulations set to go into effect Oct. 1 and the old regulations in effect at the time of Steffan's resignation are constitutional, but the three member panel pointed to inconsistencies in both regulations, and appeared inclined to agree with Steffan. At issue is the difference between homosexual conduct and "thoughts in the head" about being gay.

Male Prostitute Dies After Father Ordered Hit On Him: A male prostitute whose father is charged with paying a hit man to shoot him has died after fighting for his life in a hospital for a month, the Italian news agency AGI reported. Giuseppe Mandanici, 33, shot in the stomach Aug. 18 while he solicited clients near Messina in northeastern Sicily, died Sept. 17. Vincenzo Mandanici, 58, reportedly ashamed of his transvestite son in this traditionally conservative region, is jailed on charges of paying a man \$700 to shoot him. The alleged trigger man, 18-year-old Massimiliano Calcedonio Maniscalco, was also arrested and has confessed, AGI reported.

Congress Allows Sodomy Law Repeal In DC: Sodomy between consenting adults is legal in the District of Columbia because Congress allowed the local law barring it to lapse last week. A repeal law passed by the DC Council and signed by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly in May had been subject to a 60 day review period, during which Congress could have overturned the measure. But without word of debate in the House or Senate, the review period ended Sept. 14. The repeal ends a 12-year battle by gay rights groups and civil libertarians, who called the law a violation of the constitutional right to privacy. Congress blocked an attempt by city officials to remove the statute 10 years ago.

Judge Strikes Down Law Invalidating Marriages Of AIDS Partners: A federal judge has voided a Utah law invalidating marriages of people with AIDS and permanently enjoined state officials from enforcing it. In his decision on Sept. 17, U.S. District Judge Aldon J. Anderson granted the request that the 1987 law be stricken as a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ruling also applies to people with HIV. The state requested that the law be stricken a month after two women filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging it.

ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN



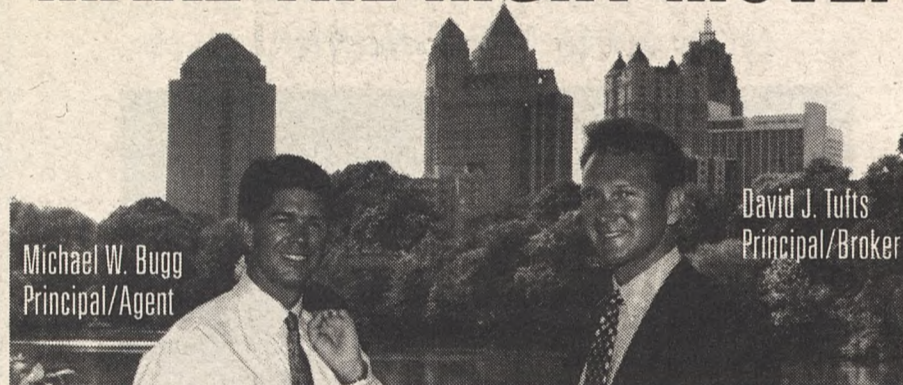
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Lurching forward, but still behind the Christian Right

Washington Blade survey of the state of lesbian/gay groups shows that while budgets are increasing, their pool of donors remains tiny.

by LISA KEEN/WASHINGTON BLADE

The gay/lesbian movement's political infrastructure lurched forward strongly during the past two years—but the operative term might well be "lurch."

While the big national political groups acquired more money to work with, they got it from a donor pool that hasn't grown nearly as fast and which represents barely one percent of the number of gay men and lesbians in the United States.

The six largest national gay political groups now have a combined budget of more than \$12 million, which is a 42 percent increase from figures reported in 1991 when the Washington Blade last conducted this biennial survey. The survey also shows that a number of other indicators are up significantly this year among the six largest groups—the number of names on mailing lists has more than tripled since 1991, the number of lobbyists has doubled and the number of full-time employees has increased by 42 percent.

But though the growth is vigorous, it is nowhere near the brisk rate in the two years following the 1987 gay/lesbian civil rights march, when the combined budgets grew 84 percent, or between 1989 and 1991, when they grew 50 percent.

And the Blade survey found other negative factors that could affect the lesbian/gay community's ability to progress. The executive directors of the top six groups have an average

of less than two years experience in their positions. The number of donors to the movement's top six groups, about 141,000, is still barely one percent of the estimated number of lesbians and gays in the country. And the number of people who are willing to have their names on the groups' mailing lists, 447,500, is just four percent of the gay/lesbian population.

The Blade expanded the scope of its survey this year, examining not just the six largest organizations but all national groups with budgets of \$100,000 or more. Fifteen groups—both political and non-political—fit this description. With the budgets of all 15 groups combined, the movement has \$14.9 million with which to work.

The largest of the national gay organizations, for the fourth survey in a row, was the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a Washington-based lobbying group with an affiliated political action committee that provides money to candidates for federal office. HRCF expects to spend about \$5.5 million this year.

The fastest growing major gay/lesbian group during the past two years was the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In 1991, the task force had a budget of \$1.3 million, which will rise to a projected \$3.3 million this year.

Two major national organizations have slipped out of sight since the last survey—the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and the National Gay Rights Advocates. The

latter closed its doors in May 1991. Calls attempting to reach NCBLG went unreturned.

Moving into the top six category this year was Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), and the youngest of the groups, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which gives money to gay candidates for public office.

Other findings in this year's survey include:

- The number of full-time employee equivalents for the six largest organizations is up from

The mailing list of just one of the more modest of the six right-wing groups, the American Family Association, is estimated at 425,000. It takes all six national gay groups to come up with a mailing list with that many names. "We are so outgunned it's incredible," says Victory Fund chief William Waybourn.

72 in 1991 to 102 today.

- The number of these employees serving as lobbyists is up from five in 1991 to 10 today. All but two of those work for the HRCF.

- The longest serving executive director among the top six organizations is Tim McFeeley, who has been at the helm of HRCF for four years. The next longest tenure belongs to the Victory Fund's William Waybourn (two

years and four months), followed by Liz Hendrickson at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (two years), Kevin Cathcart at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (one year) and Sandra Gillis at P-FLAG (since June 1993). The newest director is Peri Jude Radecic, who was recently named to head the NGLTF.

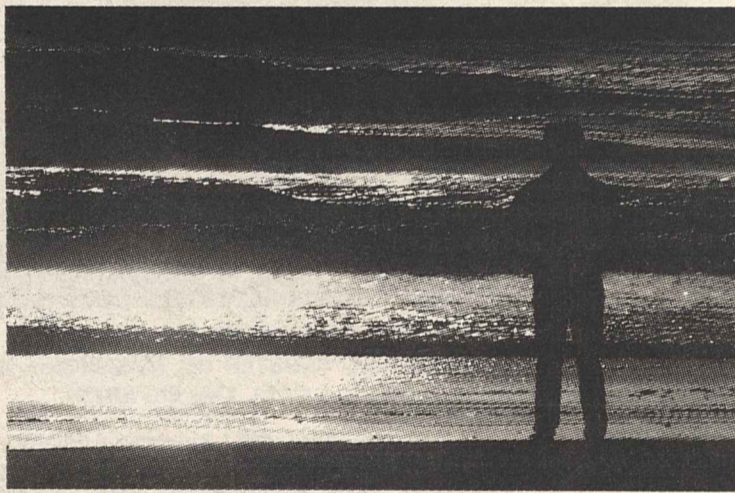
Where the numbers and statistics really pale is in comparison to the six largest religious right organizations. Their combined budget totals not \$12 million but \$213 million, according to information compiled by People for the American Way earlier this year. Their mailing lists contains the names of about 1.3 million, and that is believed to be a conservative estimate.

The mailing list of just one of the more modest of the six right-wing groups, the American Family Association, is estimated at 425,000. It takes all six national gay groups to come up with a mailing list with that many names. Ironically, these are the same right-wing organizations which have been frequently arguing in the public arena that they fighting uphill against a well-funded, well-organized lesbian/gay movement.

"We are so outgunned it's incredible," says Victory Fund chief William Waybourn. "They're far more sophisticated and effective. They're going to steamroll us if we're not careful."

Waybourn said his group interviewed 60 candidates, recommended 12 and six won in the 1992 election year. By comparison, the religious right, he said, fielded 500 candidates and 42 percent won. The Victory Fund, he noted, is getting ready to train its first 25 openly gay/lesbian candidates to run for office. The religious right has already trained 1,000.

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A look inside the Big Six gay and lesbian groups

Human Rights Campaign Fund

Headquarters: Washington D.C.
Annual budget: \$5.5 million
Number on mailing list: 325,000
Number of full-time employees: 36
Number of lobbyists: 9
Chairs: Steve Shellebarger, Columbus, Ohio, and Linda Blackmore, San Francisco
Mission/Image: Largest and wealthiest of the national lesbian/gay political groups. Founded in 1980 as a political action committee collecting money to give to candidates for Congress. Reorganized in 1989 into a political membership organization with its PAC as a subsidiary. Contributed \$713,000 to candidates during the last election cycle. Raises 41 percent of its money from black-tie dinners held around the country. That, along with its mainstream political tactics, contributes to HRCF's image as one of the more conservative gay/lesbian groups.

Top priorities for 1993: Gays/lesbians in the military, presidential nominees, women's health and AIDS, and the federal gay/lesbian civil rights bill.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
Annual budget: \$3.3 million
Number on mailing list: 65,000
Full-time employees: 24
Chairs: Elizabeth Birch of Santa Cruz, Calif., and Curtis Shepard of Los Angeles

Mission/Image: Founded in 1973 to work on behalf of gay/lesbian causes. One of the oldest groups in the movement and one of the first to use "gay" and "lesbian" in its name. Left-leaning political image, with appeal to people who have more time and energy to give than money. The bulk of its income (52 percent) comes from dues, contributions and direct mail responses from members.

Top priorities for 1993: Fighting right-wing organizations, helping organize the March on Washington, lesbians/gays in the military and lesbian health organizing.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Headquarters: New York City
Annual budget: \$1.8 million
Number on mailing list: 21,000
Full-time employees: 23 (8 attorneys)
Chairs: Harry Harkin Jr. of Atlanta and Elizabeth McNamara of New York City
Mission/Image: Oldest major lesbian/gay rights group, founded in 1972. Mission is to provide support for gay/lesbian and AIDS related litigation. Currently involved in 49 court cases. Has regional offices in Chicago and Los Angeles. Largest source of income is individual contributions (34 percent).

Top priorities for 1993: Referendum challenges, military policy, access to health care, marriage/domestic partnership/family law, employment/public accommodations.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
Annual budget: \$900,000
Number of chapters: 300
Full-time employees: 4
President: Mitzi Henderson of California
Mission/Image: Members are not lesbian or gay themselves but are the parents, relatives and friends of gays and lesbians. Through local chapters, P-FLAG sponsors workshops for parents dealing with lesbian/gay children and for lesbians and gay men who want to come out to their parents. Lobbies for gay rights measures.

Top priorities for 1993: Federal gay/lesbian civil rights bill and confronting anti-gay state and municipal initiatives.

Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

Headquarters: Washington D.C.
Annual budget: \$611,000
Number on mailing list: 4,500
Full-time employees: 5
Chairs: Joy Tomchin, New York City, and R. Scott Hitt, Los Angeles
Mission/Image: Raises money for openly les-

Behind the fundies

The combined budgets of the top six lesbian/gay groups pale in comparison to the budgets of the six largest Christian right groups.

Christian Broadcasting Network, \$106 million

Focus on the Family, \$77 million

BIG SIX GAY ORGANIZATIONS,*
 \$13 million

Christian Coalition, \$10 million

Concerned Women of America, \$10 million

American Family Association, \$7 million

American Center for Law and Justice, \$3 million

**includes the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.*
 Sources: Washington Blade and People for the American Way

bian and gay candidates seeking political office. Provides training for candidates. The newest of the Big Six groups, it was founded in 1991. Bulk of budget comes from individual contributions. **Top priorities for 1993:** Increase the number of qualified lesbian and gay elected and appointed officials at all levels of government. Build a national network of donors and members to accomplish that goal.

National Center for Lesbian Rights

Headquarters: San Francisco
Annual budget: \$425,000

Full-time employees: 6 attorneys
Chairs: Diane Sabin and Cynthia Goldstein, both of San Francisco
Mission/Image: Most specialized group among the Big Six; focus is on lesbian issues and family issues, including custody and domestic partnership. Through new Policy Project in New York, broadening its approach beyond litigation into policy work on lesbian issues.
Top priorities for 1993: Improving outreach and broadening its national case docket.

LISA KEEN/WASHINGTON BLADE

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N E X T W E E K

It's an art thing

A sneak peek at the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival in the next issue of Southern Voice.

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

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

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

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EDITORIAL

Time for leaders to listen and embrace change

Does a gay/lesbian rights movement really exist in America?

Sure, we have national organizations that lobby in the power corridors of Washington and others that take our arguments to the courts. We have community-based groups that work on local causes, and we have street activists that draw attention to injustice. But a strong, coordinated grassroots movement—effective and active not only in cities with large gay populations but also in small-town and rural America—doesn't exist.

And without some fundamental changes in the way national lesbian/gay political organizations operate, such a true movement may never exist.

We believe it should operate from the grassroots up, not from Washington down. The sun does not rise and set only within the Washington beltway. There are issues and fights that must be addressed all across the country.

Years of sending vast amounts of money to the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force have not brought us much closer to passing the federal gay/lesbian civil rights bill. As we found during the military ban debacle, that will only happen when our political influence ceases to be so geographically narrow—when all congressmen everywhere know that they will have to deal with active lesbian/gay groups in their constituencies.

But on the flip side, our movement should have a mechanism to strongly link local groups into a national force. As some activist groups have found, eschewing any form of national structure limits the ability to mobilize on na-

tional issues.

Our movement must do everything possible to support and encourage gay men and lesbians who desire to get involved in the political process, particularly those who want to run for office. We cannot allow opportunities for gays and lesbians to be elected go to waste just because some queer bureaucrat in Washington decided their candidacies weren't viable.

Our political organizations cannot be allowed to degenerate into bloated bureaucracies, better at raising money and putting functionaries on the payroll than in delivering results. They must produce, and the lesbian/gay press must do a better job of holding them accountable. And our leaders must be more interested in aggressively fighting for our rights than in being political insiders, seduced by the lure of power lunches with the bigwigs.

Our movement must also be open to new voices and insights, particularly from outside of the traditional centers of lesbian/gay political power. Ideas that would enrich and invigorate the cause of gay liberation are not exclusively the province of people in New York and San Francisco. They are not exclusively the province of Democrats or liberals. And they most certainly aren't the exclusive province of the leaders of our existing lesbian/gay groups.

For example, a new group calling itself Gay and Lesbian Americans recently took on the HRCF in a critical newspaper ad. It came forward with a platform that contains a number of worthwhile ideas about how the movement should be decentralized and restructured.

But because one of the organizers of the group is the controversial activist Michael Petrelis—who has a history of bad blood with the HRCF—these ideas are not getting the scrutiny they might otherwise receive.

That's unfortunate. At a time when critical decisions need to be made about where to take the movement, we don't believe any message should be dismissed simply because some people find the messenger abrasive and obnoxious. We're fighting for our lives—it is not a time to wallow in personal animosity.

The movement we envision will never happen if lesbians and gay men in leadership positions are guided by ego or the desire to protect their turf. Those leaders who don't realize this might turn around one night to find themselves dancing all alone at one of their black-tie galas.

There are some promising signs on the horizon. The HRCF, the largest and richest of the lesbian/gay organizations, says it will come up with a new agenda and strategy in mid-October. We hope the HRCF delivers on its promise that the new plan of attack will be bold and innovative. We hear rumors that some serious money people plan to get involved in a new grassroots movement. And though we generally don't believe that it is a good idea to create yet another gay/lesbian group, Petrelis and the Gay and Lesbian Americans have brought needed attention to the debate.

So will a gay/lesbian civil rights movement ever really exist in America? Only if we, and our leaders, can embrace change.

RICHARD SHUMATE

L E T T E R S

Come out to our families—they can be our strongest allies

The number of gay men and lesbians who have never discussed their gender preferences, sexually and affectionally, with their families is amazing. I have argued about this issue with many friends and acquaintances, and I have heard all kinds of excuses for not doing so [but] few legitimate reasons.

The gay and lesbian community will always be small [in] regard to the general population. To gain acceptance beyond tolerance, bridges must be built and allies must be made.

In this effort, there are no better choices than our families.

Just letting our families know we are gay or lesbian is not enough. Educating them and really communicating who we are is the beginning for the larger community to know and accept us. Rejection is a very real fear—but not an excuse. Those who cannot come out to their families do not fully believe in themselves. Only when we can stand up to our families and friends as whole human beings

can we expect and demand society to accept us.

Start educating your families now—and educate yourself in the process. If you need help to get started, contact Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) at 875-9440. Atlanta has a very informed and supportive chapter.

Gary R. Fischer
Atlanta

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



Where art thou, gay Democrats?

Where are the gay Democrats?

Atlanta is a Democratic city in a Democratic county in a Democratic state. Why is there no organized gay movement within the Democratic Party? Because of the flip-flopping Bill Clinton and the infamous Sam Nunn, one would think that there would be hundreds of gay Democrats protesting in front of Georgia Democratic headquarters or at least demanding meetings with party officials to let them know that if they don't support us, we won't support them.

Aren't we tired of being taken for granted on election day? I agree with a recent Southern Voice editorial that we need to demand results from Democrats in return for the millions of dollars and millions of votes we gave to the Clinton-Gore ticket last year.

Several newspaper articles have appeared about a group of gay Republicans in Atlanta working to educate their party. I think they have an almost impossible job to improve their party's anti-gay image, but at least they are trying.

Where are the gay Democrats?

Andrew Randolph
Atlanta

Straight men just afraid lesbians will find household secrets

Judi and I just put our house on the market. And as a result, I've discovered another vast, unknown secret of the universe—why perfectly normal, non-gay men are incredibly, amazingly, overwhelmingly *threatened* by mere lesbians.

No, no, Dr. Freud, with all due respect, it has nothing to do with missing certain appendages born to man, or with the apparently overwhelming fear that women might find out that they don't actually have to put up with smelly blokes who can't tell the dirty clothes hamper from a hole in the floor just to get some satisfying sex. All good reasons and true, I grant you. But *not*, I now understand, at the real heart of the matter.

About selling the house. It's a great market, see, what with interest rates hovering slightly below knee-sock level. There are still some German tourists willing to risk life, limb and the Miami International Airport to wave fistfuls of Deutchmarks at homeowners within walking distance of the beach. (Especially if said-same comes with ogling rights to nearby hotdog vendors in thong bikinis.)

So we thought we would take advantage. For once in our lives, we actually had cash at the bottom of a market. We bought low. Do the words "sell high" ring a bell?

Unfortunately, though, no matter how much you've done to recover the house from untidy prior deed holders, there are always at least one or two more things you have to do to make it picture perfect for potential purchasers. (That's one of Roberts' Rules of the Universe.)

Now, if you who have followed my column, you know that I believe that I have become butch by default. Judi just out-femme's me, especially when it comes to housely things. And, since I left Whatsisname behind me in an



Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

Illinois divorce court, there's no convenient he-man to take over some of the necessary, but bulkier, tasks a house demands. Like pressure cleaning the roof. A big, strong, handsome job if ever there was one.

And that's where I made my all-important discovery of the secret we have been oh, so carefully protected from all these years.

Men's toys are more fun.

They're also more efficient. And a darn fine excuse to get out of doing boring chores like dishes, waxing floors or spending perfectly good weekend days in the company of annoying in-laws, while appearing to do hard, unpleasant work. Hah!

Now who, exactly, do you think would tell this secret? Nice suburban hetero-homemakers whose fortunes rest in the hands of burly

beasties? Na-uh. No way are you going to find Hilda Housefrau yanking the chain on the donkey engine, then climbing a ladder over her head to scrub the housetop with a boy's idea of the way-most-cool Hoover on the planet. John Wayne wouldn't let her. And besides, how else is she going to make the lug feel manly and appreciated so he'll stick around and keep contributing to the kids' Christmas club?

But *us*. Right. Lesbians don't keep hulks around for our own amusement. But our roofs still need power cleaning. So we're the ones most likely to discover that there really is something to the theory of "P-envy." Only the "P" stands for power tools. It's lesbians without husbands who could conceivably discover that belt sanders are slightly less complicated and dangerous than your average garbage disposal. And a thousand times more efficient than SOS.

No, soaking wet (which I certainly was), I probably couldn't qualify much past bantam weight for Golden Gloves. But there I stood, on the roof, aiming the first 1,500 pounds per square inch at tiles that, when I got through with them, couldn't have come cleaner if I'd been on my hands and knees with a brillo pad. What satisfaction. What a great way to get a tan. What an extraordinary way to get out of doing inside house drudge on a Sunday afternoon. What a guy thing.

Think about it. We only got the microwave because a bunch of guys were going to shoot each other to the moon on an excellent adventure, and they couldn't take a woman along to cook meals. "Hey," one of them had to have said, "Who's gonna cook while we're busy doing guy stuff?" And viola. Instant popcorn.

And how about self-cleaning ovens? Don't

you think they happened because some poor engineer dude had to take out the garbage *and* wrestle with the Easy-Off as a condition of getting laid regularly? I'm surprised he didn't invent self-carrying garbage.

Hey, what if straight guys were required to do all the housework for a minimum of five years. Before they could, oh, say, vote or buy a TransAm? You know what would happen, don't you? When you wanted to sell your house to some unsuspecting foreign visitor, which means you have to live in a place where even everything under the kitchen sink has to pass white glove muster, no problemo. A snap. To get a clean house, you'd just leave. Go to the front door, pull a really big lever till the house sealed, set a timer and head for the beach for a couple of hours to leer at the Oscar Mayer Maidens while the house did all its own dirty work.

Do you have any idea what you can accomplish with your own table saw and router? Do you know how little actual work goes into running a riding mower over dichondra? (Oh, sure, maybe a calorie or two burned having to change sides on your book tape, pour your own brewski or shout for your sweetie to fetch.) Let's not even mention chain saws.

So, it's not surprising that lesbians scare straight men. Our real threat is not now, nor has it ever been, about sex, as they keep trying to scare us into thinking. That's a ruse. What they're truly afraid of is that we'll spill the beans about what B and D really stands for—Black and Decker.

No wonder straight men are so threatened by lesbians. We do endanger their entire way of life.

Now that's enormous power.

LETTERS

AID Atlanta board member says he supports selection of Walk producers

It has been with great interest that I have read Richard Shumate's article and editorial concerning AIDS Walk Atlanta. [SoVo, Sept. 2 and Sept. 16] I commend Mr. Shumate for his insightful, seemingly balanced reporting of this year's production of the walk and express appreciation to Southern Voice for again being a generous sponsor of the walk.

Mr. Shumate correctly paraphrased a por-

tion of my conversation with him in which I stated that as a board member of AID Atlanta, I had initial concerns about the loss of meaningful volunteer opportunities if a paid production company were hired to produce the walk. What has been incorrectly construed is that I, and perhaps other board members, are not in support of Miller, Zeichik and Associates producing next month's walk. To the con-

trary, their hiring had the unanimous approval of the AID Atlanta Board of Directors.

I was privileged to serve as chairman of the 1992 From All Walks Of Life volunteer steering committee, which was a group of very dedicated and generous volunteers who, along with a small, overworked AID Atlanta staff, coordinated the great work of thousands of walkers which collectively comprised the

Southeast's largest AIDS fundraiser. Knowing that many volunteers felt that their contribution of time and talents was a very meaningful and often personal expression of their commitment to fight AIDS, I was clearly interested in how these individuals' commitments would be valued in light of a paid production company.

I satisfied these concerns through several meetings with Craig Miller, who is nationally respected for producing AIDS walks in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco that have raised tens of millions of dollars for AIDS organizations.

The decision to hire a production company in lieu of a volunteer-based effort was virtually necessitated by the tremendous success and inherent size of the event. As a veteran of both walks, I serve as a living witness to the stress and limits of both volunteers and staff. To insure the continued success of future walks, an experienced and skilled event production crew was almost imperative.

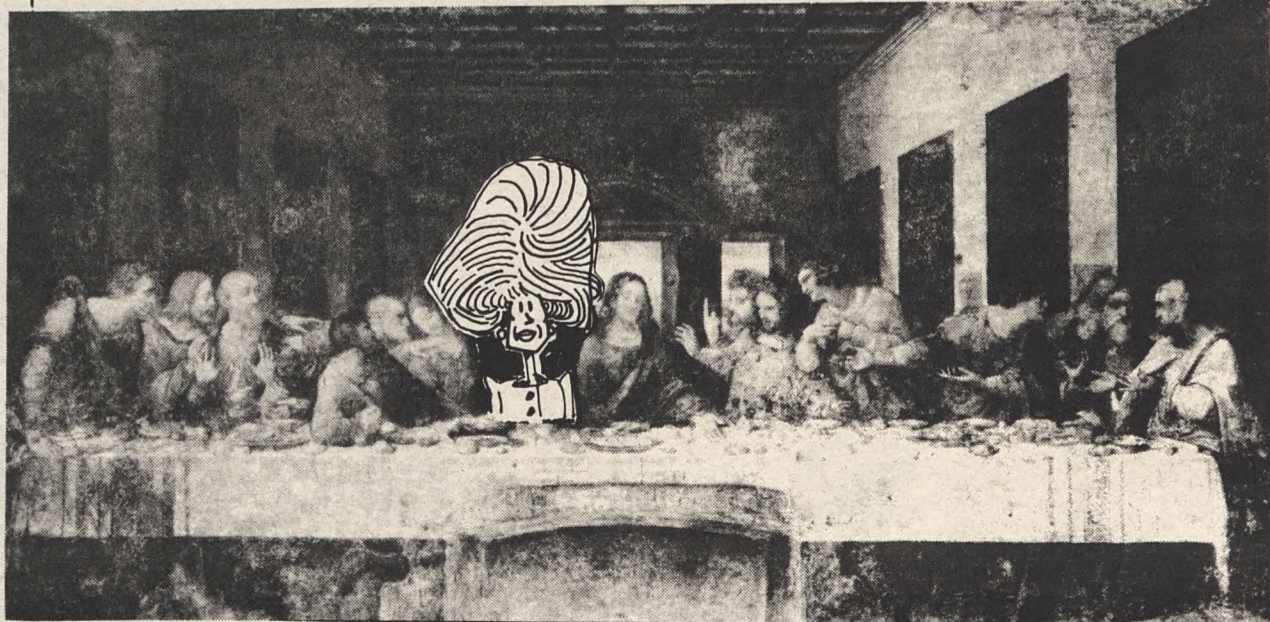
Regarding the public disclosure of the fee paid to Miller Zeichik, it is strongly believed that the release of this figure in abstract without an informed basis for comparison would only foster more rumors than have already surfaced. Further, the economics of producing a fundraiser of this magnitude do not equate or parallel those in general business and could easily be misunderstood. Suffice it once again to say that the services of Miller Zeichik are being obtained at a reasonable, if not bargain, price for the fine job they have done thus far.

I hope everyone will take the opportunity on October 17th to enjoy this event and bring thousands of friends (or at least their money) as we join together once again to support those in need. The more money we raise, the lower the percentage cost of the event.

Lewis M. Jeffries
Atlanta

MAYORAL CANDIDATE
NANCY SCHAEFFER
"DOES" LUNEH

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FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE: Robertson

Continued from page 1

himself, launching a campaign for the presidency that put the fear of God into front runner George Bush with surprisingly good showings in Iowa and Michigan early in the campaign. But then came Super Tuesday, when Bush soundly defeated the Virginian in what should have been his natural territory—the Bible Belt of his native South.

By the time the primary season was over, Robertson had amassed only 120 delegates to the Republican National Convention. The Freedom Council, a lobbying and political action group he formed to promote conservative issues, had been dissolved in the wake of an Internal Revenue Service investigation spurred by allegations that the group had misused its tax-exempt status to support Robertson's presidential campaign.

Humbly conceding defeat, he returned to the airwaves of the Christian Broadcasting Network, where he continued to trumpet "traditional family values," and to rake in the money his viewers willingly sent to support his efforts.

But Pat Robertson was not through with politics.

The Freedom Council's extensive grassroots mailing list, which had provided Robertson's campaign with supporters in every state and many local jurisdictions, became the basis for the Christian Coalition, a new grassroots organization with a new mandate—to build a Christian America from the ground up.

"The Christian community got it backwards in the 1980s," said the Christian Coalition's executive director Ralph Reed, a Toccoa na-

tive and graduate of the University of Georgia and Emory University. "We tried to charge Washington when we should have been focusing on the states. The real battles of concern to Christians are in neighborhoods, school boards, city councils and state legislatures."

It was the Christian Coalition, working through the California Pro-Life Council, that laid the foundation for electing two-thirds of the right wing candidates in San Diego County in 1990.

That strategy is spreading. The Coalition now has nearly 800 chapters in all 50 states (35 in Georgia) and boasts a membership of 350,000. In the metro area, Cobb, Fulton, Clayton and Gwinnett counties have chapters, and the coalition is trying to organize in DeKalb County. Athens-Clarke County also has a chapter.

The numbers are growing. The organization's goal is to double its membership to 700,000 by the end of 1993. The newest strategy to make that happen is to use the issues of abortion rights and lesbian/gay rights to drive a wedge between minority groups and attract African-American and Hispanic members.

And Pat Robertson is leading the charge.

I believe that during the next couple of years, there will be a fierce struggle between the militant leftists, secular humanists and atheists, who have dominated the power centers of American culture for the past 50 years, and the Evangelical Christians, pro-family Roman Catholics and their conservative allies. The radical left will lose its hold, and by the end of

this decade control of the major institutions of society will be firmly in the hands of those who share a pro-family, religious, traditional perspective.

—Pat Robertson

Marion Gordon "Pat" Robertson, born on March 22, 1930, comes by his political and religious backgrounds naturally.

By age 13, Robertson had discovered smoking, drinking and girls. "We would go off on the highway somewhere, park, and do what we could do... My mother never said anything about my being out until three o'clock in the morning."

He was just two when his father, A. Willis Robertson, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, beginning a political career that lasted until his re-election bid for the U.S. Senate failed in 1966. Robertson likes to joke that his first words were "Mama," "Daddy" and "constituent."

His mother, Gladys Churchill Robertson, was a devoutly religious woman who proudly

pointed to her genealogical lineage—including several U.S. presidents and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill—as evidence of her family's birthright of greatness.

"Her whole approach was to convince me that I was born for leadership, and that she would be disappointed with anything less," Robertson said.

He grew up in Lexington, Va., home of the Virginia Military Institute and the Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. But despite a strict upbringing in the political spotlight, Robertson developed what even his "authorized" biographer, John B. Donovan, called a marked "rambunctiousness." By age 13, he had discovered smoking, drinking and girls.

"We would go off on the highway somewhere, park, and do what we could do," Robertson told Donovan. "My mother never said anything about my being out until three o'clock in the morning. I would never have permitted even my own children to do anything like that."

Robertson's "rambunctiousness" caused him some problems when he was sent to a military school in Baltimore in the eighth grade. There, he frequently sneaked out of the strict school to head to a nearby racetrack. The military school venture lasted only that one year, and Robertson subsequently returned to Lexington.

After starting high school in his hometown, he finished his secondary education at another military school, McCallie in Chattanooga, Tenn. From there, he enrolled in Washington and Lee University, also in Lexington.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Blitz

Haute

Robertson

Continued from page 1

where he continued the party lifestyle he began in his early teens.

But in his authorized biography, Robertson recalls that he "never really felt at home" with the party crowd.

"I guess we change our standards to suit our lifestyles," he said, "and so I didn't feel there was any clash between my upbringing and my college lifestyle. I never questioned my lifestyle, but I had a sense of not belonging."

At Washington and Lee, Robertson joined the ROTC program and, upon graduation, the U.S. Marine Corps.

His service during the Korean War later would later cloud Robertson's bid for the Republican presidential nomination. A former Republican Congressman, Paul McCloskey, Jr., who served with the future preacher in Korea, claimed that Robertson had bragged that his father "had gotten him out of combat duty." Robertson vehemently denied the claim, as did his father.

The record shows that the future televangelist served as an assistant adjutant on the front lines, but he was never in combat.

After the war, Robertson entered law school at Yale University, where he developed a striking disdain for the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We would analyze cases of the Supreme Court and many times show the absurdity of what had been written," he said. "When we saw the fallacy in the court's reasoning, it was hard to understand why that body was superior to the president and superior to the Congress."

While at Yale, Robertson met Adelia "Dede" Elmer, a graduate nursing student at a

nearby college for women. Elmer and Robertson were married on Aug. 27, 1954. Ten weeks later, adding a special Robertson dimension to "family values," their first son was born.

According to Robertson's biographer, "they have always celebrated their wedding anniversary on Pat's birthday, March 22, because of the strong traditional views they later developed about marriage and family, in addition to

the desire to protect their children."

After a short stint in the corporate world, Robertson abruptly found religion and entered a seminary in New York City. The next few years were difficult for the Robertsons. They fought constantly and struggled to make ends meet. After graduation, the couple lived with another minister and his wife in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, where Robertson did his best to spread the Gospel for



little or no money.

He approached his ministry with a strength of conviction seriously lacking in his earlier life. God knew what was best, he believed, and he was determined to devote his life to God's work. He adopted a stridently conservative world view, repudiating his earlier "party lifestyle," and even going so far as to remove a Modigliani nude from his living room wall.

And then, a former schoolmate told Robertson about a dilapidated television station in Portsmouth, Va. "Would Pat be interested in claiming it for the Lord?" he asked.

Robertson was, and in 1959, he began what would become his life's work. He bought the station for a song, bluffing with the station's owner until he had negotiated the purchase, even though Robertson had only \$70 to his name at the time.

WYAH-TV went on the air on Oct. 1, 1961, and the Christian Broadcasting Network, now The Family Channel, was born, held together by rubber bands and, yes, prayers, for the first few years of its existence. In 1976, he became one of the first broadcasters to sign onto the burgeoning satellite technology in the television industry, and satellite transmission allowed "The 700 Club," and Robertson's views, to be aired around the world. Cable expanded the broadcasting empire even further.

How large is his reach? His company, which boasts millions of viewers, bills itself as the largest religious broadcasting network in the world. Though International Family Entertainment recently failed in a bid to buy the United Press International wire service, it did purchase London-based TVS Entertainment, which owns such television shows as "Hill Street Blues," "Mary Tyler Moore," and "St.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Kriedg

Throughout America, Nazi-revering extremists now openly wave the ugly banner of hate. But even worse, the mean spirit that drives these people has begun an insidious journey into the very fabric of our country. Into the minds and the hearts of decent Americans besieged by a declining economy, a burdensome government, a pop-culture gone mad.

If you find yourself increasingly intolerant — searching for that great scapegoat who's Black or White or Jewish or Catholic or native or immigrant or female or male or straight or gay or democrat or republican or rich or poor or whatever — stop. At least for a moment. And remember that hate — and its cruel mentor, blame — have never created a job. Never paid a bill. Never fed a child. Never nourished a nation. Indeed, remember, that in all of America there are few things more deserving of hate — than hate.

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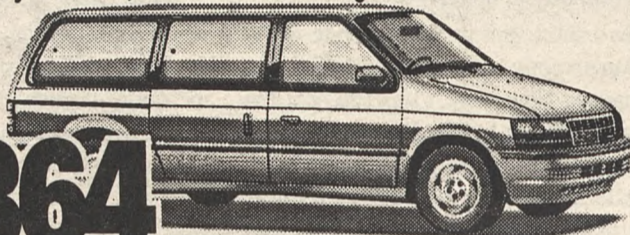
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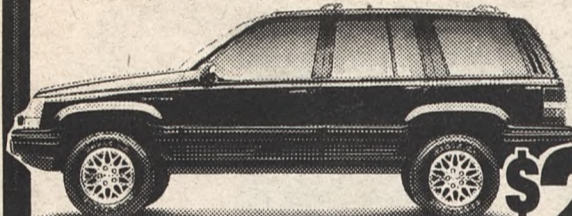


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Robertson: The Stealth Campaigner

Continued from page 12

Elsewhere."

Still, "The 700 Club" remains Robertson's mainstay. The network estimates that nearly 30 million people watch the show at least once per month.

I found something worthy of the dedication of my life wholeheartedly, forever, and no amount of stress would be too much in this endeavor. I found what I was looking for, and, out of that, I got back everything I wanted—the chance to start a number of businesses...the chance to go all over the world.

—Pat Robertson

Robertson began "The 700 Club" early in CBN's history as a Christian call-in television show. Early shows featured healing and prophecy. Robertson is a charismatic who speaks in tongues, although the charismatic overtones have been dramatically reduced since his presidential campaign.

With several transformations through the years, the show now has expanded to include news with a Christian emphasis, interviews with world leaders, and, as always, Robertson's almost folksy ruminations.

As with all the Christian right leaders, homosexuality is a common topic.

"When you see the rise of blatant open homosexuality and lesbianism, what you know is God has given a society up," he said on April 26, commenting on the March On Washington. "No amount of gay marches are going to make the word of God change. It's forever written in heaven. They can't change it on earth. They can have 50 million of them up there, and they still can't change God's immutable law."

And Robertson's viewers love such stuff. They write, they call, they send money. Their names go on mailing lists. And the mailing lists go to the Christian Coalition.

"They get voter rolls and church rolls, and they match those up," said Cathy Woolard of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington D.C. "And then they create a voter list of their own. They are putting together a nationwide infrastructure that imitates the Republican and Democratic parties and in many ways exceeds them."

That's how the Christian right candidates succeeded in San Diego County in 1990. Volunteers made phone calls and distributed literature, and, on the Sunday before the election, they put leaflets with a voters' guide on cars in every church in the area.

The end result—a county filled with Christian supremacist public officials.

The North Carolina Christian Coalition accomplished the same thing during U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms' 1990 re-election bid. Helms, trailing in the polls to former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, contacted Robertson, and Robertson set his forces in motion. On the Sunday before the election, 750,000 flyers supporting Helms were inserted into church bulletins and slipped onto cars in church parking lots. Helms won.

"The press had no idea what we were doing," bragged Judy Haynes, state director of the Christian Coalition in North Carolina. "And they still don't know what we did. But it worked."

Woolard says that what worked was simple grassroots politics, with a different philosophical bent.

"The goal, really, is that the Christian Coalition leadership understands that the way to control politics is to control precincts," she

said "If you take their rhetoric out, it's pure politics. They didn't make this up. There's nothing magic about it."

According to Woolard, who attended the coalition's national convention earlier this month, the group is striving to attract 10 to 15 "friendly" people in each precinct in the country (there are about 17,000 precincts) and increase its current \$12 million budget to between \$100 million and \$250 million.

But even that \$12 million figure—which does not include monies raised by individual chapters—is already enormous in comparison to the budgets of lesbian/gay groups fighting the coalition. It's about twice the annual budget of the HRCF and about the same as the budgets of the six largest gay/lesbian groups combined.

And the Christian Coalition isn't the only game in town. Other right wing groups, buoyed by the Coalition's success, are adopting its strategy of attacking quietly and without fanfare.

"Their twist on the media is that they don't want to get media until they win," said Woolard. "It's more than a stealth candidacy."

"When you see the rise of blatant open homosexuality and lesbianism, what you know is God has given a society up," Robertson said. "No amount of gay marches are going to make the word of God change."

It's a stealth political movement."

It is a movement, with Pat Robertson, fueled by his drive for leadership and conviction of beliefs, at its helm.

"We are probably right now the most effective political organization in America because people like you and me say, 'Hey, you're right! We've got a problem, and we've got to fix it!'" Robertson told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in March (he declined Southern Voice's request for an interview). "There's got to be a change in policies, a change in our thinking. There's got to be a clarion call to the people of this nation. This country is at risk."

"We have enough votes to run this country," Robertson has said. "And when the people say, 'We've had enough,' we're going to take over."

The challenge for progressives and moderates, of course, is to stop that from happening before it's too late.

"People should be scared off their butts to get involved," said Arthur Kropp, president of People for the American Way, a progressive organization that monitors the activities of the right. "Today is not a day for complacency. Either we're going to meet this challenge head on or we're going to be run over by it."

Pat Robertson and the Christian Coalition have mobilized hundreds of thousands of Americans who felt disenfranchised by their government.

Those who see America differently will have to do no less.

ARTISTS FIGHT BACK

Continued from page 3

The poster carried the phrase "No Copyright Whatsoever" in an attempt to encourage people to copy the poster and spread it around. It is now being turned into a T-shirt.

In a bit of irony, the real Big Chicken faced the wrecking ball last week because of structural problems. It will be rebuilt.

Last Friday, David Mendoza, director of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, came to Atlanta to meet with the Atlanta Theatre Coalition and the Cobb Citizens Coalition. The NCFE, a Seattle-based artists' group that fights censorship, is in the process of producing a video on what happened in Cobb County in order to educate artists facing similar attacks elsewhere and help them fight back.

"For the most part, [artists] aren't political animals," said Steven Johnson, office director for the NCFE. "We want to provide them with knowledge on how to deal with the political world."

Also, Atlanta's musicians' union has gone on record opposing the action of the Cobb commissioners. At the behest of one of its members, Ed Scruggs, union leaders unanimously passed a lengthy resolution "expressing extreme dis-



A challenge grant from Joanne Woodward will allow Theatre in the Square to recoup its funding.

pleasure" at the commissioners' actions is eliminating all county funding for the arts and passing an anti-gay/lesbian resolution.

RICHARD SHUMATE

Jacob's Well

Continued from page 3

A list of people who attended one recent Jacob's Well meeting, included in the letter obtained by Southern Voice, included Harold Morgan, former head of the city's parks and recreation department and candidate for Myrtle Davis' vacated District 17 City Council seat; Ari Casper-Silberman, who is running against incumbent Jared Samples, who voted against domestic partnership, in District 9; and Hiram Scott, running for the District 3 seat vacated by Thomas Cuffie, who is not seeking re-election.

Also on the list was Portia Scott, a former Republican candidate for Congress and the editor of the Atlanta Daily World, an African-American newspaper. Scott, however, says that while she was at the meeting, she is not a member or supporter of Jacob's Well.

"I went to the meeting as a reporter," she said. "I was asked to come to the meeting. I'm not endorsing any group. I can't do that as editor here at the Daily World."

Also listed as attending the meeting were Rev. Robert C. Weaver, identified as the "black community facilitator," Rev. Loris Sinanian, Peggy Sinanian, Dr. Jerry McHan, Terry McHan, Joe Carter and Eddie Cannon, an assistant to Schaefer at Family Concerns, Inc., an anti-lesbian/gay rights group.

The attempt to merge minority and traditionally white Christian right communities is a recent strategy. At this month's Christian Coalition conference, coalition leaders touted a survey that indicated African-American conservatives were a logical target for such coalitions.

Atlanta's first look at the new strategy came this past summer, as Schaefer stayed in the background during debate on the city's domestic partnership ordinances, allowing African-American state Rep. Billy McKinney to become spokesperson for the opposition. McKinney was also

the only African American to address the Cobb County Commission during hearings on the commission's proposal to cut arts funding to organizations that do not address "traditional family values."

"They do have the opportunity to make inroads into minority communities, which is a very different face than the religious right in the 80s," said Arthur Kropp, president of People for the American Way, a watchdog organization that monitors the right wing. "In the 90s, they are trying to bring minorities into their movement, and it is on the cultural issues. That's something that I am personally very concerned about."

Kropp added that such a strategy is clearly design to create division.

"You saw it in the military issue," he said. "The kind of broad based support that existed for, for instance, the civil rights restoration acts...that kind of coalition did not exist on the military issue. It is ultimately threatening to what progressive coalitions exist out there."

The existence of Jacob's Well raises the stakes for progressive candidates and voters in Atlanta. For GAPAC's Pellegrini, it means more people must get involved in the political process.

"If we don't continue to mobilize and education against these groups, it's going to send out a signal that substantial numbers of our community don't care," he said. "They'd rather take chances than fight a just battle. Too many of our community feel they're not directly discriminated against, and, until that happens, they don't perceive a role for themselves. But their situation could change tomorrow. That group of people needs to be doing something, and there are a hundred different ways they can."

KC WILDMOON

March video to premiere in Atlanta

The official March on Washington video will be premiered in Atlanta next week.

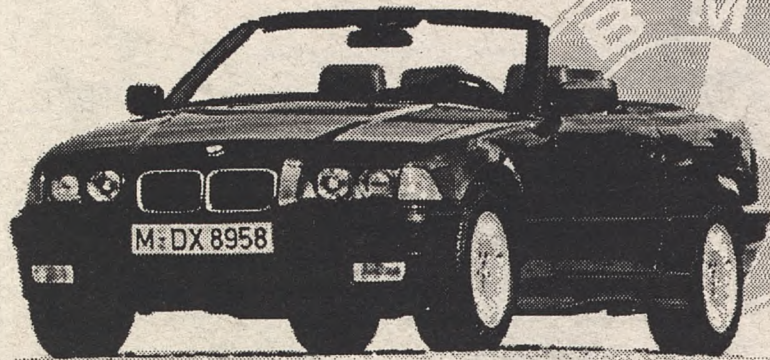
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Atlanta is sponsoring a showing of the video on Monday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Peachtree

Street branch of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. The library is located across from the Woodruff Arts Center.

The showing is free and open to the public.

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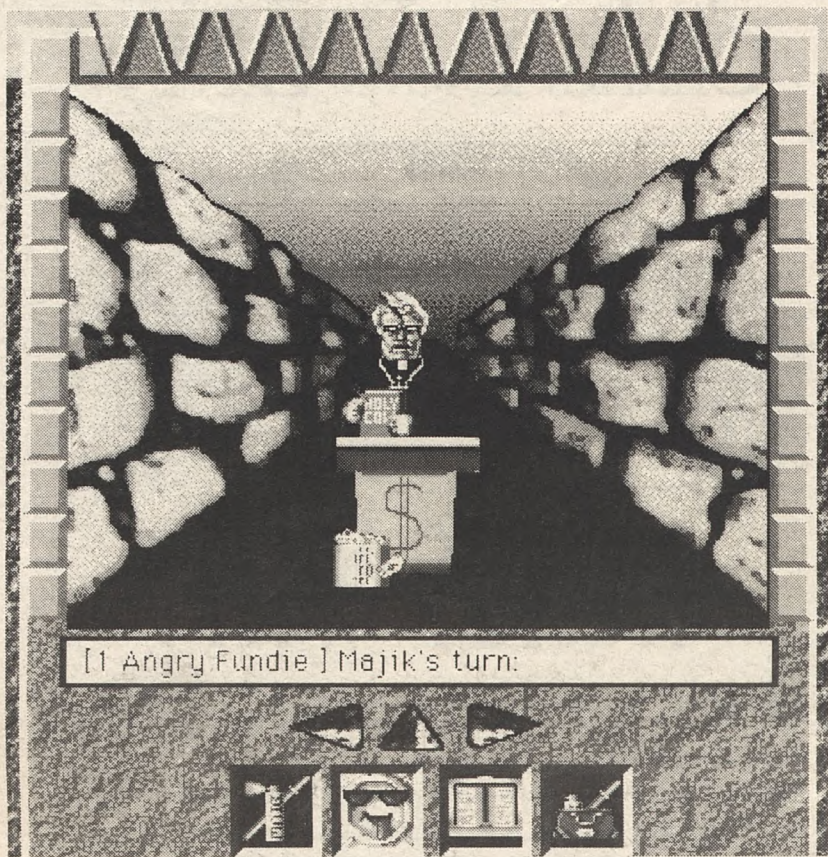
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Transgendered gather this weekend

Southern Comfort conference provides support and information for the gender dysphoric

From childhood on, people are molded and shaped to fit into society, and, unfortunately, gender dictates to a large part what roles they are supposed to play.

Little boys are supposed to play with guns and wear jeans. Little girls are supposed to play with dolls and wear dresses. As people grow older, they typically follow the appropriate path of activities and interests. Quickly, trends become the norm.

But for those who are gender dysphoric—transsexuals, cross dressers and other transgendered persons—fitting in and finding an acceptable place in society can seem a distant or even unattainable dream. This weekend, Atlanta will play host to Southern Comfort 1993, a comprehensive transgender conference with programs for cross dressers, transsexuals (pre and post op, male and female) and other transgendered individuals and their significant others.

Now in its third year, the conference, which runs from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, will present such notable guests as world renowned sex reassignment surgeon, Dr. Stanley Biber; Merissa Sherill Lynn, formerly with the International Foundation for Gender Education; Dr. Sheila Kirk, author; and Mariette Pathy Allen, photographer and author of "Transformations."

An educational conference, Southern Comfort is open to people with gender dysphoria and professionals. According to Jerry Montgomery, director of the Decatur-based Montgomery Institute, the emphasis is not only on education but to help individuals realize they're not alone in what they're going through.

"The conference offers support and guidance in helping people determine where they fit—and what is the best way to go about getting what they need," says Montgomery. "Approximately 1 in 100 people are seriously gender dysphoric. That's a lot of people. And there are many others who are confused about their gender."

The conference also addresses the needs of those individuals who have moved beyond this gender confusion and are looking for practical solutions to the concerns that arise daily in an often hostile world.

Started 15 years ago, the Montgomery Institute provides educational seminars and work-

shops to professionals who work with gender dysphoric clients and offers individual and group counseling, and support groups. The institute also maintains a nationwide listing of professionals as a resource for transgendered persons seeking the appropriate professional attention.

Southern Comfort began three years ago after several people in the community attended a transgender convention in Boston. Inspired by the event, they felt the time was right to organize a conference in the Southeast. With help from the International Foundation for Gender Education, Southern Comfort was born in August 1990.

The first conference, held in October 1991, was the largest first-time gender convention. In 1992, convention attendance doubled, and this year organizers are expecting an equally successful conference.

Programs for professionals will explore is-

"Approximately 1 in 100 people are seriously gender dysphoric. That's a lot of people. And there are many others who are confused about their gender."

—Jerry Montgomery,
Montgomery Institute

such as identifying specific needs of transgendered clients and how to fulfill those needs. Every aspect of transition will be addressed—the decision to make a transition or not, what to do once a decision is made either way, and what is needed after the transition is made.

"I would hope someone would get a better sense of who they are, where they're going, and a better appreciation of who they are" says Montgomery. "We want [gender dysphoric] individuals to realize they're not freaks or sinful or immoral. This is not a birth defect. They don't need to feel guilty or abnormal. There are others out there like them leading happy and normal lives. They can too."

The Montgomery Institute is handling local arrangements for the conference and will present programs for transsexuals. In addition, several organizations from throughout the Southeast will be responsible for different aspects of the conference. For more information, call (404) 603-9426.

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The Armory Falconettes show off their Nashville trophy.

Falconettes take Nashville title

Nashville, TN—The Armory Falconettes took the women's title at the Music City Sports Association's tournament in Nashville on Sept. 18-19.

Atlanta teams had a strong showing in the fourth annual tournament, which drew teams from all over the nation. The final games in all of the tournament's divisions featured teams from Atlanta, which came home with four trophies.

The Falconettes came from behind in two of their games and went undefeated to the finals against the Memphis Slammers. The Slammers appeared to be ready to win the tournament when they went ahead 4-1. But then the Falconettes went on a rampage and scored 10 runs in one inning. According to Donna Narducci, Falconettes scorekeeper, "The Falconettes played like championship team. Not one player was out of sync for this tournament." The Falconettes remained undefeated and went on to win the game 26-4.

After losing one game, the Crackers, also from Atlanta, dropped down into the loser's bracket but fought back and finished third.

The men's open division had several Atlanta teams competing, all with their eyes on the Virginia Outlaws, who recently won the Gay World Series in Philadelphia. The Outlaws played fabulous softball, knocking seven home runs over the fence in their first game.

In the finals, the Outlaws faced Atlanta's Armory Falcons, who had lost on Saturday to St. Louis but fought back on Sunday to defeat Shanahan's and make it to the finals. The Out-

laws won that game 10-5, dropping the Falcons took second. Shanahan's took third.

Teams that were eliminated from play on Saturday had the option to play in the Volunteer Annex on Sunday. One of those 16 teams was Atlanta's Ritz Sluggers, which won four straight games and defeated the St. Louis Meteors 14-0 in the finals to bring home the trophy in the Volunteer Annex.

Nashville will host the 1994 Gay World Series on Aug. 16-20, 1994. They expect 100 teams from the US and Canada with 1,700 participants. The Music City Sports Association has come under fire lately from Christian fundamentalists who are fighting to ban the series from their city, but the city's parks commission has vowed to let the tournament stand.

RICHY HOWARD

Hotlanta fall league begins

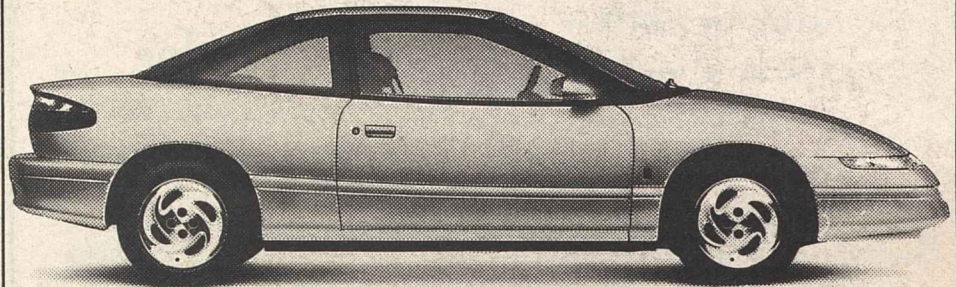
The Hotlanta Softball League's fall season began on Sunday, Sept. 26 as teams took the fields of Piedmont Park.

This league of six teams is geared more toward fun than competition. Teams were placed together through a drawing so that all teams were randomly picked. Every player on every team is required to play each Sunday, and every player on the roster has a turn at bat.

The league will play six Sundays through Nov. 7, skipping Oct. 17 for the AIDS Walk. If the fall league is a success, Hotlanta Softball League will make it an ongoing program.

RICHY HOWARD

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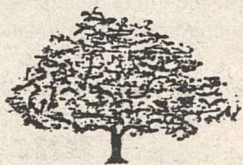
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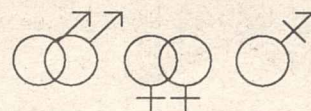
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Tipper says reform will provide security for people with AIDS

Washington, DC—The health care reforms that the Clinton administration is proposing will guarantee that people with AIDS "have the security of having their needs met," Tipper Gore told thousands of demonstrators Sept. 18.

And Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the nation's newly confirmed surgeon general, said she will use her office as a "bully pulpit" to send out the message of AIDS prevention and education.

In mist and spattering rain, several thousand demonstrators followed Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, as she led participants in Washington's annual AIDS Walk past the White House through the streets of the capital.

The fund-raising march is sponsored by the Whitman-Walker Clinic for research and treatment of AIDS.

"We will continue to walk until the last mile is reached and the cure is found," Mrs. Gore said. "This country is now going to provide health security for those who need it."

"All Americans will be protected for the first time," she said, adding that the Clinton health system will provide limits to the money that those suffering from AIDS and other chronic diseases have to pay for prescription drugs.

"In many ways, AIDS and other chronic diseases represent the ultimate test of a reformed health care system," Mrs. Gore said. "AIDS will be included in the Clinton administration's health security system."

Elders said her job as surgeon general is two-fold.

"First, we must do everything possible to help those who are afflicted with this disease. And secondly, we must realize that HIV prevention is our only cure," she said.

"I believe the only way to heal our nation is through education," she said. "AIDS is the enemy of all I believe in. It robs us of our best and our brightest."

And she said she will put prevention first and send that message across the nation "with the power of my bully pulpit."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIDS BRIEFS

BY BRUCE MIRKEN

PROMISING KS DRUG: One of the few pieces of unalloyed good news to come out of the AIDS Conference in Berlin was a series of encouraging reports about a new class of anti-cancer drugs known as "liposomal" drugs. These are versions of existing chemotherapy agents, chemically modified in a way that seems to direct the drug to the malignant cells and greatly reduce the effect on normal cells. If successful in overcoming the brutal side effects of conventional chemotherapy, liposomal technology could represent a major advance in treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma and eventually other types of cancers as well. The reports in Berlin, involving small numbers of KS patients, indicated significant effectiveness with relatively low rates of side effects.

Follow-up studies are proceeding, and after several months in the Los Angeles branch of the trial of liposomal doxorubicin (trade named Doxil), singer/activist/long-term AIDS survivor Michael Callen has become one of the drug's biggest boosters. Callen, who was diagnosed with KS of the lungs more than a year ago and who had stopped conventional chemotherapy when the nausea and fevers became unbearable, credits Doxil with keeping him alive long enough to finish recording a new album. He reports that the progression of his KS seems to have been stopped and that side effects have been mild and quite bearable.

While one apparent success story isn't nearly enough to prove a drug's value, the news on Doxil so far has been so consistently encouraging that treatment activists around the country have begun to press for an expanded access program to make liposomal treatments more widely available prior to formal FDA approval.

CAN NUTRITION KEEP YOU HEALTHY? Evidence continues to pile up regarding the importance of proper nutrition in HIV infection. Data from the San Francisco Men's Health Study, recently published in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, suggests a link between higher intake of vitamins and minerals and reduced risk of progressing to full-blown AIDS.

The researchers did detailed nutritional assessments on a group of 296 HIV-infected men, then followed them for six years. They report that "the hazard of AIDS decreased as consumption increased for all 11 micronutrients" studied. In other words, those who consumed greater amounts of vitamins and minerals (either in their diet or by way of nutritional supplements) were less likely to develop AIDS. The relationship was statistically significant for iron, vitamin E and riboflavin and nearly so for vitamin C, thiamine and niacin.

The researchers note that the design of the study leaves a number of questions unanswered. First, because the computer software used could not calculate the intake of certain nutrients, several potentially important ones, including vitamins B-12 and B-6, were not studied. Also, the study was not designed to determine a cause-and-effect relationship. The authors strongly encourage further research in this direction, noting that a causal relationship would have "important public health implications."

The study included other interesting findings as well. Cigarette smokers, for example, were more likely to develop AIDS, while no relationship was found between AIDS progression and use of either alcohol or recreational drugs.

EFFECTS OF DIFFERING VIRAL STRAINS: A group of Danish researchers has published a report that seems to confirm that some strains of HIV are more virulent than others. Of particular interest are strains referred to as syncytium inducing (SI) because of their ability to cause cells to clump together.

The Danish researchers followed 17 patients who had a negative HIV-antibody test followed by a confirmed positive test, and thus were able to analyze their virus population shortly after infection. The six whose initial mix of viruses included SI strains showed a considerably faster drop in CD4 cells, and four of the six developed full-blown AIDS compared to only one out of the remaining eleven.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "One scientist has said there may be a drug a week where researchers have rather urgently said in published articles that 'we believe this should be followed up on,' but it isn't followed up...What we were worried about before was the constricted drug pipeline, with ddI and ddC not being able to come out. The problem now is there is so little that's going in at the beginning of the pipeline—and it's so much more difficult to focus public attention on that."—John S. James, publisher/editor, AIDS Treatment News.

ARCA forum mixes hope, concern

Atlanta —The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) held its annual public forum Sept. 18, with a sense of optimism and a growing concern about the non-gay communities that are affected by HIV.

The optimism came from the longer survival rates, the growing number of prophylaxis drugs that prevent opportunistic infections and some promising reports about a few ongoing anti-HIV drug trials.

The growing concern for the non-gay communities was reflected in the new format of this year's forum. After the familiar auditorium lecture session, there followed three, one-hour breakout sessions, where there were five or six topics discussed in various meeting rooms. There was a session devoted to women and HIV and a session to discuss HIV in African/American community. These were in addition to sessions to discuss vaccines, pediatrics, opportunistic infection preventions and treatments, anti-retrovirals and clinical trials.

Dr. Terri Creogh, clinical director of ARCA, expressed the hope that breaking up into groups would allow individuals better access to subjects of their particular interests.

In the opening auditorium session, Dr. Melanie Thompson, an Atlanta internist, discussed what was learned at the Berlin Conference about currently approved anti-retroviral therapies. AZT remains the "meat and potatoes" of treatment, particularly early on in the infection, but there is still a debate about when to start AZT.

Evidence was presented that bone marrow toxicity is less when AZT is started early, when the patient is still fairly healthy. There is some evidence, also, that AZT effectiveness is longer when treatment is begun early. More data are being sought, still, to determine whether overall survival rates are improved with early treatment. That debate continues.

The "state of the art" treatment, according to Dr. Thompson, is to start AZT when the T4 cell count is between 200 and 500, with asymptomatic disease. Some patients will

benefit more than others, and there doesn't seem to be any method to predict which patient will benefit the most or least. Combining AZT with ddI was also shown to be more effective than using either drug alone.

Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, followed Dr. Thompson with a discussion of the basic research of the pathogenesis of HIV, and of current trials of both nucleoside and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors. 3Tc and D4T continue to move along in development. New studies have begun on drugs, such as Nevrapine, the "U" drugs U87201 and U90152, L697661 and R82913.

There is also some excitement in the protease inhibitors, gene therapy and immune modulators, such as interleukin-2. The Salk-HIV immunogen, however, is not standing up to scrutiny and appears to have little or no impact on HIV disease.

In one of the breakout sessions, Dr. Charles Henderson, an Atlanta oncologist, discussed HIV related cancers and their treatments. The best treatment of Kaposi's Sarcoma, he said, was early in the disease, before the cancer appears internally and before the T4 cell count drops below 200. While KS is now appearing less frequently, AIDS lymphoma is becoming more common. Dr. Henderson suggested a possible reason for more lymphomas might be the longer survival rates just give the cancer more time to develop. He did report, though, a 38 percent successful response to chemotherapy treatments.

In the clinical trials breakout session, participants expressed concern on how to educate heterosexual minorities and women with HIV on the availability of new drug trials. Many minorities can't or won't read available brochures and need verbal notification, perhaps from their churches. One heterosexual woman said that she subscribes to several gay men's publications to stay informed of the latest research.

DAVID STANLEY

Health chief ousted for PWA remarks

San Juan, Puerto Rico—Puerto Rico's top health official has been ousted for making "disparaging, insensible" remarks about AIDS patients.

In a recent television appearance, Health Secretary Enrique Vazquez Quintana said AIDS patients at a San Juan hospital who lacked their AZT doses did not need to take the medication.

"It does not make any difference since [AIDS patients] are going to die anyway," he said. Those comments spawned protests from HIV-positive patients, gay and lesbian organizations and health professionals. He was asked to resign by Gov. Pedro Rossello.

But on his way out the door, Vazquez Quintana implicated government officials in the planning of a hypocritical, money-centered AIDS policy. He said that the administration had ordered him to criticize and un-

dermine the work of the island's AIDS Institute for "purely political reasons."

The institute has ties to one of Rossello's political rivals, and the secretary says that played a role in the decision by the government to withdraw funds to the institute for a month, pending the completion of an audit. Fifteen patients died during a 30-day period, and the secretary was criticized for prompting their deaths because of the institute's lack of funds to provide them with AZT.

AIDS is the primary cause of death for women 24 to 40 years old on the island, according to government statistics. Statistics from the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control have repeatedly shown Puerto Rico among the top two areas in AIDS cases per capita in the nation, just behind Washington, D.C.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activist named to AmFAR board

New York City—The American Foundation For AIDS Research (AmFAR) has elected Mike Shriver, executive director of California's Mobilization Against AIDS, to its board of directors. Shriver is the second street activist to be named to the board, joining the Treatment Action Group's Peter Staley.

"We are delighted that Michael Shriver will be joining AmFAR's Board of Directors," said Dr. Mathilde Krim, AmFAR's

chairman of the board. "He adds one more activist's voice to the diverse mixture of expertise on our board. We are confident that Micheal's years of service to the HIV/AIDS community will prove invaluable as AmFAR confronts the epidemic's changing future."

Shriver, an openly gay man with HIV and a recovering addict, is also the youngest member of AmFAR's board.



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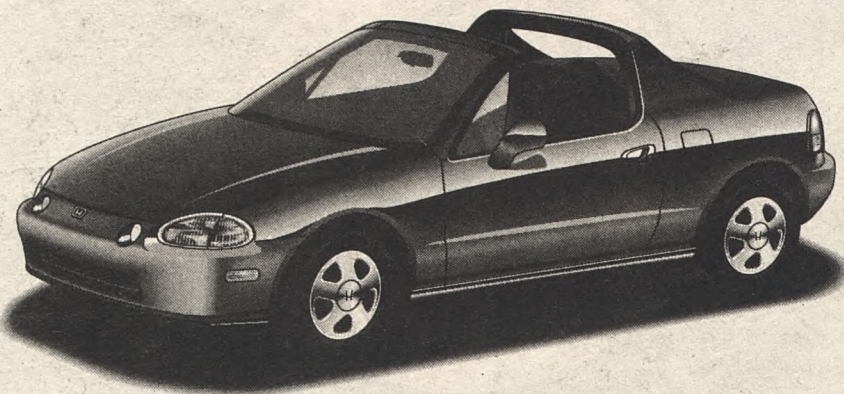
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Scott Gullede and George Knott celebrated their second anniversary on Aug. 31. The couple, who met at Backstreet through friends, traveled to Arizona for the special occasion. Scott and George live in gay-friendly DeKalb County.

BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Pasqualetti celebrated her birthday on Sept. 28 with her family—Laura, Sadie, Tasha and Daniel. She wouldn't tell her age, claiming she was much too busy to sit down and figure it out.

Joe De Rose and Mona Love wish a belated happy 33rd birthday to activist/lawyer Chip Rowan, director of the AIDS Legal Project. Chip hit the big 33 on Sept. 22.

Joe and Mona also wish a belated happy 26th birthday to activist/Emory instructor Aaron Taubon Sept. 21.

AID Atlanta pediatric coordinator Jack Schiffman celebrated a birthday on Sept. 29. Jack is also a wonderful writer, who recently moved to Atlanta from Columbus.

Happy birthday to Susan Phillips, who turned 44 on Sept. 23. She celebrated this milestone with a traditional trip to the beach with Nancy Wilkinson, her lover of 6 1/2 years, and their dogs Phoebe and Druscilla.

Some friends of Kayte Long called up to wish her a happy 39th birthday on Sept. 24.

Diego Sans will celebrate his birthday on Oct. 4 with his friend and lover Jon. As with many of the birthdays they've celebrated together in the past 17 years, Jon's plans for Diego's birthday are still not complete.



Lynn Pasqualetti celebrated an undesigned birthday recently.

NEW HOME

Congratulations to Mary Ruth and Allie on your new home. Their friend Mark called to tell us they made the big move from the 'burbs to intown living.

EMPLOYMENT

Happy belated employment anniversary to Greg Clough who celebrated 20 years of service with the state of Georgia on Sept. 10.

When you have Occasions, let us know. Write Southern Voice/Occasions PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316, call (404) 876-0789, or fax to (404) 876-2709. Please include a phone number for verification.

Public Notice

Hereforth let it be known that Robin C. Reid has relocated to 1725 Holy Cross, Rd., Loretto, KY 40037.

Ms. Reid encourages her Atlanta friends and business associates to contact her and continue their relationship.



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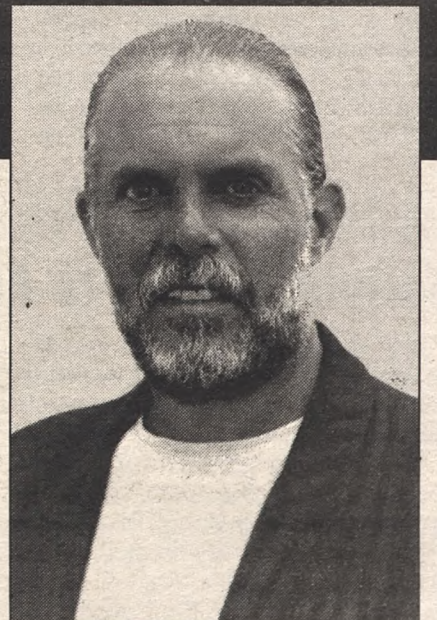
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OBITUARIES

Iris Ruskin



A message to Iris:
To Iris the person: You were a sweet, gentle, unassuming, real and strong-willed sister who loved to laugh and play and wear Batperson tennis shoes.

The photographer: Thank you for sharing your view of the world with us. Your images are a reflection of your path to the light and of your beautiful soul.

The animal lover: You loved and respected the many animals that were drawn to you. You showed how to love and appreciate animals. As a volunteer at the Atlanta Humane Society's annual "Pictures with Santa" event, you gave of your time and energy to help critters.

The gardener: Your organized jungle was a lush and fertile testimony to your love of life and growing things.

The rebel: You always did things in your own special way, an unconventional way that was you. You were definitely one of a kind.

The partner: You were very gentle, loving, supportive and kind as a partner and lover. You shared yourself while still being real, honest and open. What a gift you were and still are.

The family member: You came to love and accept your family and were a gift of healing to them. They reflected that love and acceptance back to you and your friends.

The lesbian spokeswoman: Your open lifestyle and your unusual car (covered with 35 bumper stickers on all topics of social activism) made a statement to the world of your pride in, and acceptance of, yourself.

Thank you Iris: What a fun gift you were to the world. Thanks for being you and sharing your life with us. We'll miss you.

The photographs of Iris Ruskin, who died recently at age 49, will appear at the Atlanta Photographers' Gallery on Bennett St. in October and the Southeastern Center for the Arts on Cliff Valley Way in November. There is a scholarship in Iris' name at the SCA, 633-1990.

Editor's note: Due to an error by our printer, the photographs in the obituaries for Russel Nieke and John Mark Hess were switched in the Sept. 23 issue. Here are the correct obituaries. Southern Voice apologizes for the error.

Russel Nieke

Russel Nieke, 32, passed away fearlessly in Goshen, N.Y. due to AIDS-related complications. Russel loved life and lived many years here with his lover, Gary, an Atlanta native who passed earlier this year.

Russel is survived by his loving mother, Irene; his father, George; his brother, Roger; his grandmother, Leona; and uncles, aunts and cousins. He will be deeply missed by all of his friends and extended family here in Atlanta.

Russel, we thank you for the courage and the precious moments shared with us at Reggie's.

Love, Brandon, Kevin, Charlotte, Betsy, Kay, John A., John D., Mel, Tanya, GiGi, AJ, John P., Jason, Cary and the rest of the Reggie's crew.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Project Open Hand.



John Mark Hess

John Mark Hess, 40, died Aug. 8 after an inspirational struggle with AIDS.

Mark was born January 31, 1953 in Illinois, the son of the late Mary Alice Hughes Hess and the late Robert Royce Hess. Surviving are his companion, Claud Gray, and his devoted brother, James Clark Hess.

After moving to Atlanta in 1979, Mark took a position with Abstein Gallery and was gallery director when he left in 1989. He was a central figure in the visual arts community, working on many private and corporate art collections throughout the metropolitan Atlanta area.

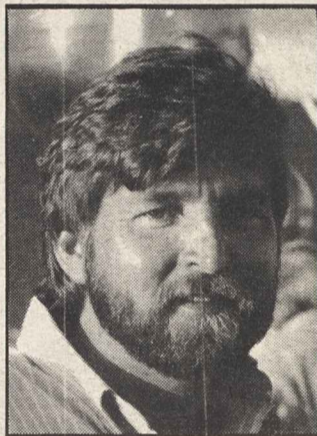
Mark will best be remembered for his lust of life, unsurpassed cheery disposition, romanticized story telling, dreams of the North Carolina coast, childlike anticipation of Halloween and Christmas and the love of his 13-year companion, Claud Gray.

A memorial service was held Aug. 12 in

Winn Park, a place in which he found comfort.

Those wishing to celebrate his memory can send donations to Pets Are Loving Support (PALS) at 1438 W. Peachtree, Suite 176, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

"Mark, you are once again with Mary, and even though you will be missed by your many friends and family, we know you are content as you gather shells and starfish in the break of the waves."



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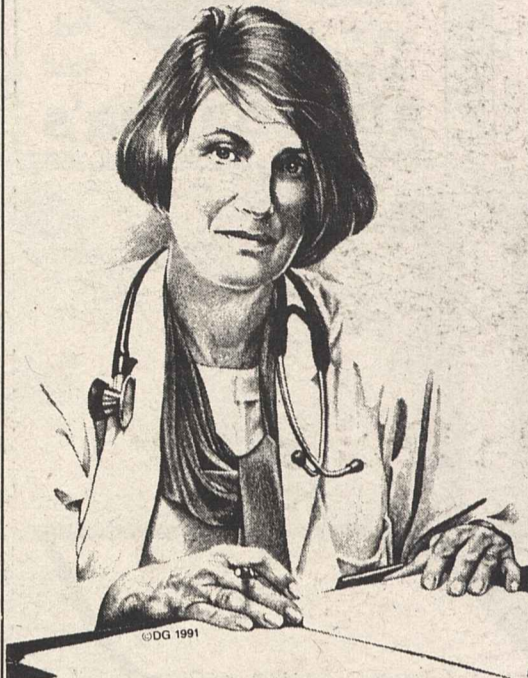
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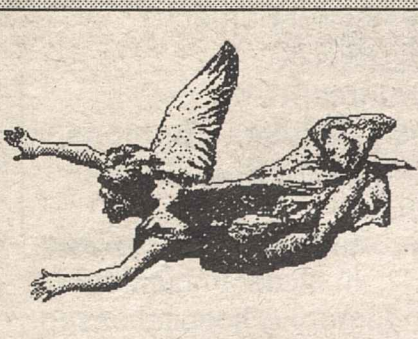
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OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

Giselle

Guest artist Olivier Munoz stars in the Atlanta Ballet's interpretation of the timeless, sizzling story of eternal love

by BRIAN COCHRAN

This year, when the curtain goes up on the opening production of the Atlanta Ballet, the spotlight will be on the encore pairing of prima ballerina Maniya Barredo and principal guest artist Olivier Munoz.

Their first performance together, in last year's "Swan Lake," was, to say the least, incendiary. The two created such passion on stage in that production that "Giselle," considered to be one of the most sensual dance works of all time, should sizzle.

Barredo, an Atlanta treasure for many years, has one of the most coveted roles in all of ballet as the title character, which, as artistic director Robert Barnett puts it, "many ballerinas have built entire careers upon playing." He says "Giselle" is "one of the classical pieces in the repertoire tradition of the ballet."

Munoz, who is gay, has to create the illusion of great passion between Barredo and himself, which makes his performance (as Albrecht, Giselle's great love) all the more intriguing. "Ballet dancers have to be actors, too," he notes. "In fact, I trained as an actor while studying dance in England."



Prima ballerina Maniya Barredo plays the title role.

As for the sparks that fly between himself and Barredo, he says, "the chemistry between us is based upon mutual appreciation for each other's work and our training, which was very similar."

"We have to be, and are, totally open to each other and our translations of the ballet."

Munoz was born in Lyon, France and studied at The Conservatory in Lyon and at the International Ballet School Rosella Hightower in Cannes. He came to the United States in 1986 after accepting a position as a principal dancer with the Cleveland Ballet. His other credits include being a principal dancer with the Northern Ballet Theater in Manchester, England and the London Festival Ballet. He has danced all the major leading roles in the classical repertoire, as well as several contemporary roles.

Munoz says he has never experienced difficulties with being a dancer who is out and proud. His philosophy is based upon honesty. "You must be truthful to yourself. Why hide it? Hiding it from other people is like hiding it from yourself."

He also believes in giving back to the community and recently appeared in an AIDS benefit performance in Ohio that featured members of ballet companies from across the state. "Now, more than ever, it is important to give of yourself as much as possible," he says.

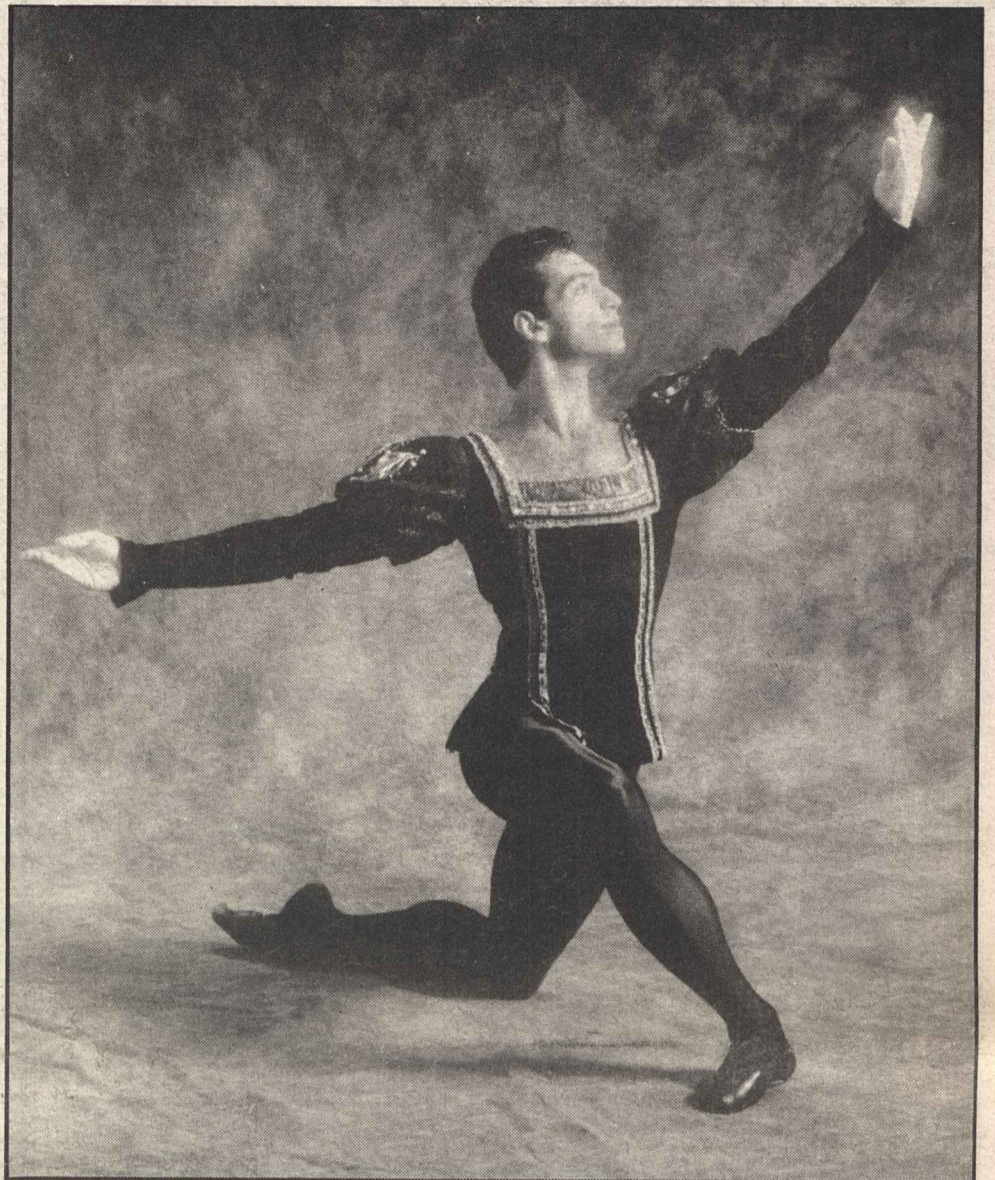
Munoz' more recent projects include a film, "Acts of Love," for WTTW-TV in Chicago, which will be seen on PBS next fall. He also has a spot in a Guess jeans' commercial.

How does a ballet such as "Giselle" that is more than 150 years old manage to still draw audiences and maintain its vitality? Munoz credits the technical skills and stylistic innovation of modern dancers with the continued success of the work.

"Since dancers have better training and facilities now than they did then, we can create an interpretation of the piece that is up to modern standards of skill, grace and movement."

As an audience favorite, the ballet is truly amazing. It combines elements of drama, dance and music, making it a total theatrical experience.

"Giselle" is the story of a romantic triangle that is reminiscent of recent films such as "Heart and Souls" and "Ghost."



Munoz says he hasn't experienced difficulties with being a gay dancer who is out. "You must be truthful to yourself. Why hide it? Hiding it from other people is like hiding it from yourself."

When the young lovers Giselle and Albrecht are separated by death, their devotion to each other transcends all earthly experience. Mary Bear, executive director of the Atlanta Ballet, calls the piece "the quintessential romantic ballet."

The fascination with stories of the supernatural in the mid-19th Century (which seems to have been revived in the late-20th Century) inspired choreographers Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot and composer Adolphe Adam to create the ballet.

One of these stories was of the Willis, maidens who were betrothed but died before their wedding days. The story went that they rose from their graves at midnight and danced passionately and with despair. Their beautiful dance was also fatal to the young men who saw it, who were compelled to dance to their own deaths. In "Giselle," Albrecht and his rival, Hilarion, fight for their lives in the shadowy underworld of

the Willis, whose queen holds Giselle's spirit captive.

"Giselle" opens the 64th season of the Atlanta Ballet, the nation's oldest ballet company. Other events on this year's ballet calendar include "A Balanchine Festival" in November; "The Nutcracker" in December; "Intermezzo" in February and "Carmina Burana" in late April.

Giselle

runs from Sept. 30-Oct. 2, and Oct. 7-9 at the Atlanta Civic Center auditorium. Performances are at 8 p.m. Matinee performances will be held October 2, 3 and 9 at 2 p.m. For ticket information, call 817-8700.

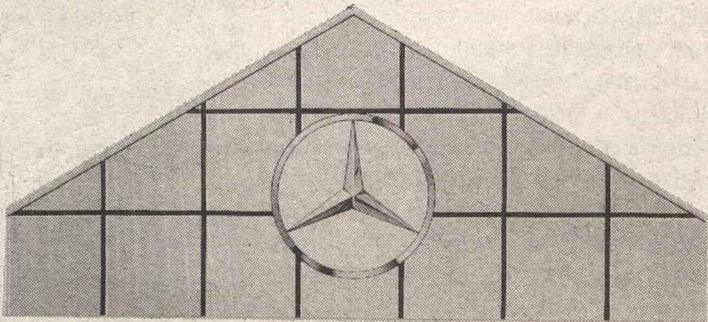
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AND THE BAND PLAYED ON. Randy Shilts' best selling book about the early years of AIDS airs on HBO tonight. 8:00 pm.

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THE GREAT SOUTHERN HOME SHOW. This year's show offers a wide variety of home and garden products, services and ideas. Everything from free gutter systems to decorative concrete surfacing patterns, but the spotlight this year is on kitchens and baths. Today and Sat., 11 am-9 pm, Sunday at Noon until 6 pm. North Atlanta Trade Center. 279-9899 for ore info.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION. Horizon Theatre opens its 10th anniversary season with this brilliant Broadway hit comedy about a charming stranger, Paul, who manipulates an affluent Manhattan couple to take him into their cozy world. Unraveling the mystery of Paul, which includes the discovery that he is gay, changes everyone involved. Thurs.-Sun., through Nov. 14. Horizon Theatre. 584-7450.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Yoel Levi leads the ASO and pianist Peter Jablonski who performs Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Tonight and tomorrow night at 8:00 pm. Symphony Hall. 8992-2414.

medieval, Renaissance and modern British culture with a variety of activities for all ages, benefits Jerusalem House and several other non-profit groups this year. Food, music, crafts and more. Today through Sun. Noon to 10 pm on Sat., and Noon to 8 pm on Sun. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Rd. 634-3336 for more info.

UNBOUND. Heitzo and company present this dance performance that blends able-bodied and physically-challenged dancers in an exploration that invites us to rethink our personal limitations and our relationships with one another. 8:00 pm. Pace Academy Fine Arts Center Theatre. 966 W. Paces Ferry Rd. 892-5853 for more info.

ART AT THE EDGE: RAY SMITH. This exhibit at the High, which features a new cycle of paintings by Ray Smith, is held in conjunction with "Mexican Tapestry," a celebration of Mexican culture presented by Atlanta's Cultural Olympiad. Smith, who was raised in central Mexico, draws upon Mexican tales, popular culture and the rich legacy of Mexican modern art in his work. Runs through Jan. 2. High Museum of Art. 892-HIGH.

Franklin Abbott will read from and sign his third book "Boyhood: Growing Up Male," an anthology on the roots of masculinity with an emphasis on healing for men. Contributors Matt Montgomery and Rakesh Ratti will also attend. 7:30 pm. Charis Books & More. 524-0304.

SPRUILL CENTER GALLERY GRAND OPENING. This new cultural facility brings exceptional, high quality art exhibits to the Perimeter Center area, and the restored folk-victorian farmhouse and the exhibit within preserves a piece of rural Atlanta history. Opening exhibits are: The Southern Landscape and Works in Wood. The grand opening is from 1-5 pm today. 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd. 394-3447.



Joe Kelly who is running for City Council in the 6th district.

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.

Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring st. 873-3391.

BEOWULF. Theatrical Outfit presents this original adaptation of the oldest surviving literary work in the English language, dating back to 1000 A.D. in written form. The play will be staged with audience members seated at long banquet-style tables while the story unfolds around them. Runs through Oct. 31. Theatrical Outfit, 1012 Peachtree St. 872-0665.

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.

O N G O I

FALSETTOS. Through Oct. 3. The Tony-winning musical about real family values is almost completely sold out. Call for tix today. 8:00 pm Alliance Theatre. 892-2414.

BODY POLITIC. Through Oct. 9. The premiere of Atlanta playwright Steve Murray's two one-act plays. Issues of sexual orientation are addressed in "Gloaming" and stalking is examined in "Material." 7 Stages Back Door Theatre. 892-2414.

T BONE 'N WEASEL. Through Oct. 16, Fri.-Sun. Southern Fried Productions opens its new season with this comedy about two ex-cons set on the back roads of South Carolina. Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. 3001 Mercer Univ. Dr. 378-8646.

MATING HABITS OF THE URBAN MAMMAL. Through Oct. 17. Due to popular demand, this new comical musical has been held over again at The Discovery Arena at Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. Performances are Thurs through Sun. 373-5311 or TicketMaster at 817-8700.

A FEW GOOD MEN. Through Oct. 23, Thurs.-Sun. Neighborhood

N G A N

Playhouse presents the Atlanta premiere of the military courtroom drama about two Marines charged with murder and the fierce code of honor which compelled them. Neighborhood Playhouse. 430 W. Trinity Place, Decatur. 373-5311.

UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY: THE HILL-THOMAS HEARINGS. Through Oct. 24, Thurs.-Sun. 7 Stages Theatre opens its new season with this bold and insightful play taken from actual manuscripts of Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court confirmation hearings. 7 Stages. 1105 Euclid Ave. 523-7647.

THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING. Through Oct. 30. Embattled Theatre in the Square opens its 12th season with a new musical treatment of Carson McCuller's poignant story of a young girl coming of age in rural Georgia. Support Theatre in the Square which has lost all funding from Cobb County. See this play! 11 Whitlock Ave. in Marietta. 422-8369.

SILO X: A HAUNTED HOUSE. Thurs thru Sun nights in Sept. and Oct.

2 SATURDAY

1993 OLDE ENGLISH FESTIVAL. This annual event which celebrates

3 SUNDAY

BOYHOOD: GROWING UP MALE. Atlanta poet and psychotherapist

Atlanta's biggest and best haunted house, spanning the length of three football fields, Silo X features lasers and extensive sound and lighting systems. Totally ghoulish. Perimeter Mall. 645-7900.

ANNIE LEBOVITZ: PHOTOGRAPHS 1970-1990. Through Nov. 28. The work of one of the most exceptional portraitists of her generation is on exhibit at the High Museum of Art. Her provocative photographs of celebrities have been seen in Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, Time, etc. This retrospective of her work includes 125 photos from early assignments to current portraiture. High Museum of Art.

ATLANTA GAY AND LESBIAN ARTS FESTIVAL. Oct. 7-11. This 2nd annual event will feature an artists market, music, visual arts, performance pieces and more. This year's feature artist is Anita Loomis performing "Money, Sex, Love, Art and Public Transportation" on Oct. 9 & 10 at SAME's OutProud Theatre.

OUTWRITE '93. October 8-10. The 4th annual

4 MONDAY

METROPOLITAN OPERA COSTUME EXHIBIT. Festa Italiana Culture Center and Nalley Lexus present this exhibit of historic opera costumes and supporting photographs from the archives of the New York Metropolitan Opera. The exhibit will be held at Saks Fifth Avenue at Phipps Plaza and is free to the public. Runs through Oct. 15. 988-8085 for more info.

A SIMPLE MATTER OF JUSTICE. GLAAD/Atlanta presents this showing of the official 1993 March on Washington video. 7:00 pm. Peachtree Branch Library, across from the High Museum. Free. 605-7477 for more info. A must see whether you did or did not go.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program featuring interviews, news, arts & entertainment and more. 10:30 p.m. and again, Wed. 5:30 p.m. Cable Ch. 12. This week's special guest is

5 TUESDAY

ORLANDO. Based on the novel by Virginia Woolf and starring Quentin Crisp as Queen Elizabeth, this must see movie is still in town. Lefont Garden Hills Cinema. 2835 Peachtree Rde. 266-2202.

6 WEDNESDAY

ATTEMPTS AT FLYING OR THIS STRANGE LONGING FOR DRACULA. The Center for Puppetry Arts presents this daring avant-garde piece for adults, a highly erotic and sensual story of a deteriorating relationship between a woman and a man. Tonight through Oct. 9 at 8:00 pm.

Pictured:
BELOW: A scene from "Attempts At Flying Or This Strange Longing For Dracula" opening Oct. 6 at the Center For Puppetry Arts.
LEFT: Judith DeWitt and David Sampson perform in "Unbound" on Oct. 2. Photo by Heitzo
ABOVE: Fernando Corera in "Barbiere di Siviglia," part of the NY Metropolitan Opera Exhibit opening Oct. 4 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Photo Sedge Le Blang



24 OUT & ABOUT

Dallas sports festival will kick off Columbus weekend

Dallas, TX—Next weekend may be the right time to hit the Big D, as gay and lesbian sports enthusiasts will descend on Dallas for a major warm-up to Gay Games 94.

The four-day Team Dallas Sports and Cultural Festival will be held Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 8-11, and will feature 10 sports competitions, an arts festival and music and theater performances.

"We hope the festival will become as successful as the Seattle Sports Festival," says Tom Faucett, Team Dallas president. "We are planning it as a warm-up event for the Gay Games in 1994, bringing in people from all over the world.

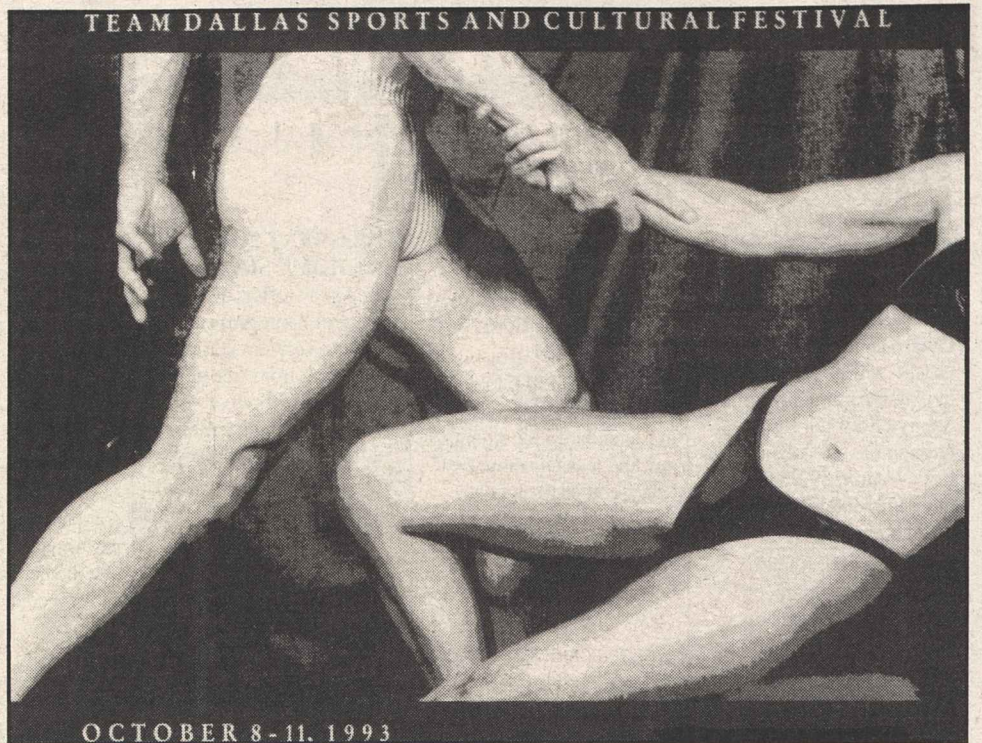
Current sports scheduled include bowling, billiards, darts, golf, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball and 5K and 10K runs. Both of

those runs will also feature rollerblade divisions.

Also, Encore, an ensemble from the acclaimed Turtle Creek Chorale, and Standing Room Only, a jazz ensemble from The Women's Chorus of Dallas, will host a joint concert on Saturday. On Friday and Saturday, Moonstruck Theatre will present the musical comedy "Lovers."

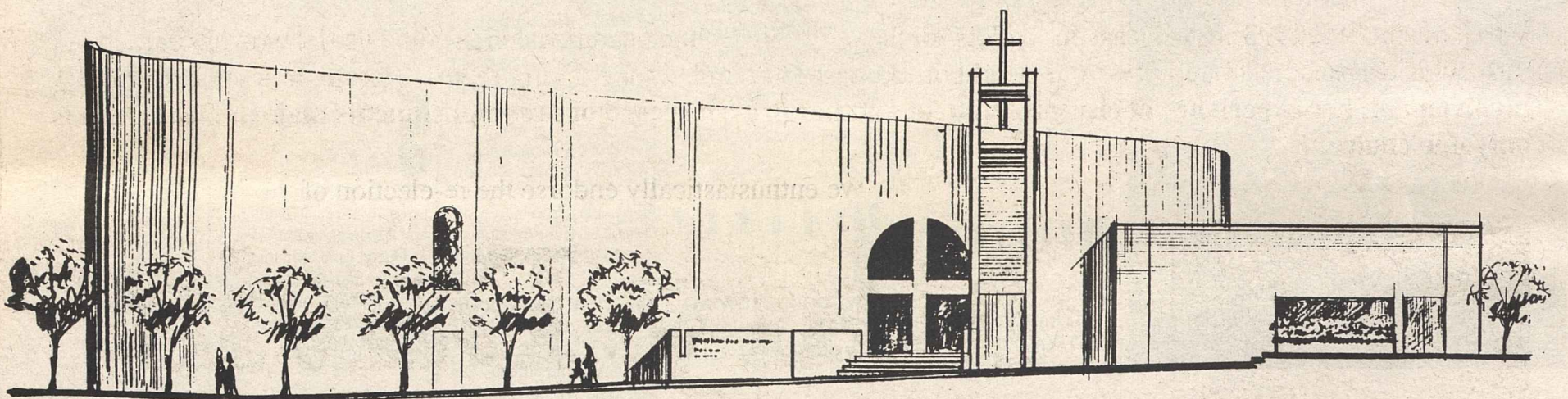
The event is being held at the same time as the State Fair of Texas, the nation's largest, and the annual Texas-Oklahoma football game.

For more information, call (214) 521-5342, extension 800. Team Dallas has selected a gay-owned travel agency, Travel Source, to handle travel arrangements. The number is (800) 374-7771.



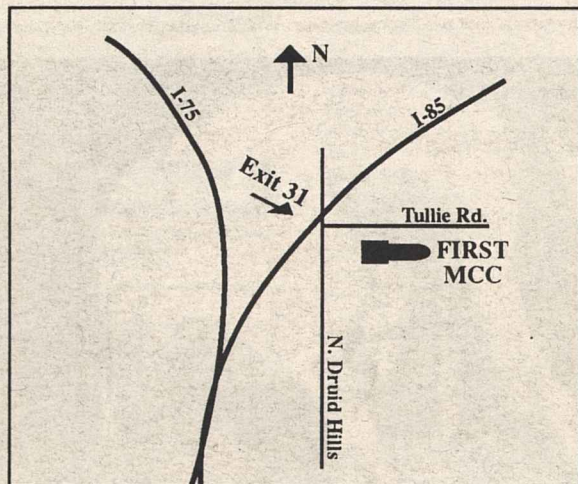
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Come, worship with us and share our vision.

Ormewood Park opens its doors this weekend

Far removed from the land of Cobb County, where ignorance and intolerance currently prevail, lies a community called Ormewood Park, filled with residents imbued with the modern notion that "loving thy neighbor" is the key to sound living.

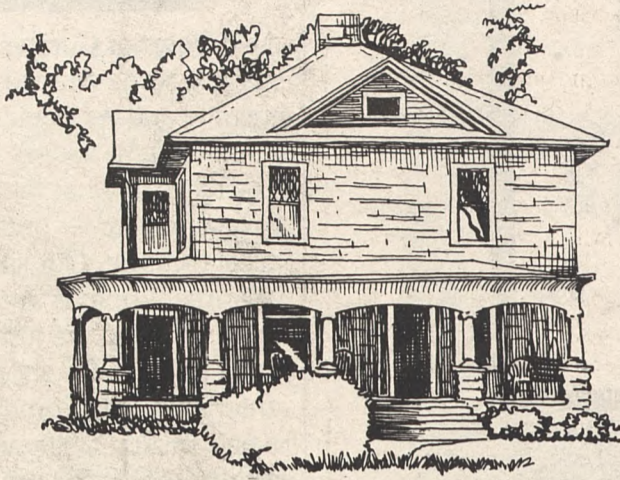
"The most unique thing about Ormewood," says two-year resident Karen Foster, "is the mixture of gays, straights, blacks, whites, artists, musicians, etc., and how well we all get along."

Ormewood Park Tour of Bungalows is Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 2 and 3. To get to Ormewood Park, take I-20 Moreland Avenue and go south.

(SAND), a neighborhood organization responsible for community restoration and beautification.

The sixth annual Tour of Bungalows, to be held this weekend, Oct. 2 and 3, will showcase eight houses and two gardens. Six of the eight houses are original bungalows built during the early 1900s by soldiers returning home from World War I. All

One way the residents in the southeast Atlanta neighborhood—one of Atlanta's earliest subdivisions, annexed by the city in 1922—have attracted such a diverse mixture is through their annual Tour of Bungalows and Street Festival, which includes a tour of homes, an arts and crafts show, live music and a pet parade. The festival is organized and facilitated by South Atlantans for Neighborhood Development



Bob Jenkins' house on Delaware Avenue, built in 1913, is one of the stops on this weekend's Tour of Bungalows.

of the houses on tour have been restored by Ormewood residents in recent years.

"The main focus of the tour is to attract people to our neighborhood and show them something that they might not know is there," said Foster, vice president of SAND. Tickets for the tour may be purchased for \$5 in advance or \$8 on the day of the event. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used for further

beautification and the public safety of Ormewood Park, according to Foster.

The festival art show, featuring a handful of local artists, will take place Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. at the Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church on the corner of Woodland and Delaware avenues.

The second annual Pet Parade, which will tour the streets of Ormewood Park, begins Saturday at 11 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for the most creatively dressed pets.

"Everything our committee is doing for the festival, including the Pet Parade, is designed to give non-residents the opportunity to taste the flavor of Ormewood Park," said Mike Reeder, coordinator of the parade. Non-residents with pets are invited to participate in the parade. No pre-registration is required.

Four to six local bands will be performing both days of the outdoor festival. Admittance to the outdoor festival; the art show and the Pet Parade is free of charge for residents and non-residents alike.

One of the major misconceptions about Ormewood Park, according to Foster, is that it has an unusually high crime rate. "There's nothing that happens in our neighborhood that doesn't happen in the city or even in the suburbs," she said. In an attempt to combat crime, members of SAND participate in a neighborhood area patrol and active neighborhood watches. Through community efforts, say organizers, the committee has managed to reduce crime by more than 30 percent.

For more information, contact Karen Foster at 624-1070.

AMY FRASER

On November 2, 1993 we will cast our ballots for the only City Council candidate in the 6th District who has earned our trust with her steadfast support of our neighborhoods and the individuals living there. Her history of community involvement, her experience in city government and her proven record of accomplishments make it clear there is only one choice.

We enthusiastically endorse the re-election of



Mary Davis

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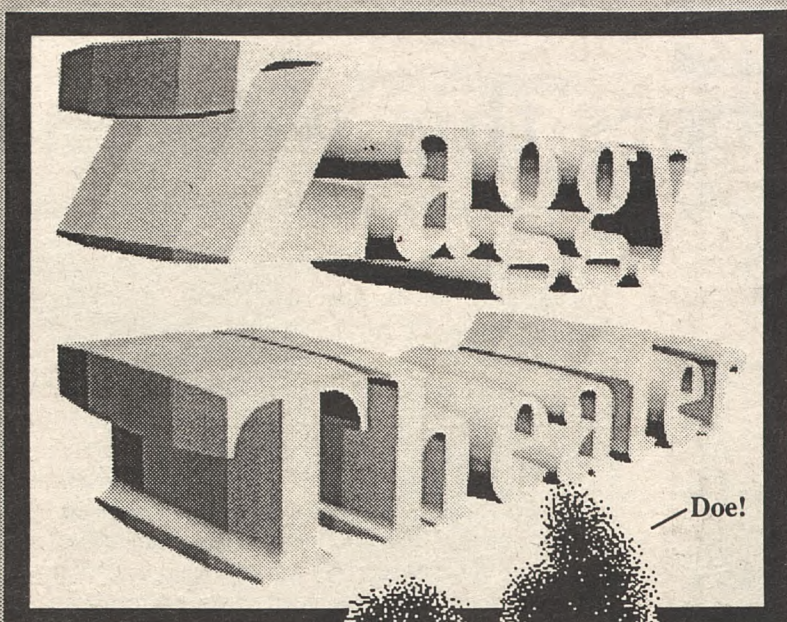
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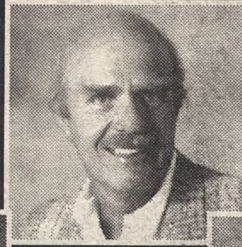
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THEATER

A FEW GOOD MEN

If you like men in uniforms, then "A Few Good Men" will certainly have its appeal. And if you like a good old-fashioned melodrama dressed up like a courtroom drama, then "A Few Good Men" should appeal to you as well.

But it takes a lot more than a few good-looking men in uniform to make for a good show. Fortunately, those elements are present and accounted for in Neighborhood Playhouse's production.

A Few Good Men runs through Oct. 23 at the Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur. Call 373-5311.

For those of you who have yet to see the Tom Cruise/Jack Nicholson movie of the same name, "A Few Good Men," penned by Aaron Sorkin, is the story of a naval investigation of a murder at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba in 1986. On one side, we have the investigating, crusading defense lawyers—Daniel A. Kaffee (Robert Pralgo), Joanne Galloway (Nicole Golden) and Sam Weinberg (Tony Foresta). In the middle, we have the defendants (who do admit to the killing) Cpl. Harold W. Dawson (Damon Poser) and Pfc. Loudon Downey (Dan Beeson). They are Marines who most definitely believe in following orders.

And on the villain side of the issue is Col. Nathan Jessup (Jack Winnick), a hard-nosed Marine who sees nothing wrong in teaching a defenseless private a lesson. In the course of the two-and-one-half hours of "A Few Good Men," we see the villains act like heroes, the heroes act like asses and the defendants play pawns in a game they simply do not understand.

Sorkin's script is clearly a good old-fashioned one, gussied up with quick cuts and cinematic style. But when the real crux of the play begins, we are simply watching a courtroom drama.



Robert Pralgo (left) and Jack Winnick in a scene from "A Few Good Men," the theatrical version of the recent hit movie, now playing in Decatur.

Kaffee, the good-looking, square-jawed, flawed, fallible and funny defense attorney, and Galloway, the quick-witted, fast-on-her-feet crusading lawyer, have the best scenes together. Their natural antipathy, which, of course, turns to mutual respect and understanding, makes their scenes together crackle with excitement and humor. Col. Jessup makes a natural villain. We very much want to boo and hiss him for what he did, but he's so dense he never understands what he did was wrong. Melodrama all the way.

Neighborhood Playhouse does an able job with the material.

Director Tom Palmer has tried to keep the action moving swiftly, though that is not always possible with Mario D. Cieri's large, cumbersome, steeply-raked set. Since this play uses quick scenes and lightning-fast flashbacks—we actually see the events surrounding the murder of Private Santiago (Nic Garcia)—swift changes are essential, though not always possible. Fortunately, the lightning design by Lanford J. Potts is so good it hides some of these problems.

Palmer is more comfortable directing the small scenes than he is with the group efforts, in which he seems to have done little more than act as a traffic cop. But this play works best in its little scenes, despite a denouement occurring in a crowded courtroom (especially crowded when you consider the audience doubles as the unseen jury).

As Daniel Kaffee, Robert Pralgo seems to have studied well at the Tom Cruise School of Acting. That's to say he looks and sounds good, but I really missed seeing any depth to this character. Since he must carry the brunt of the show, it leaves us with the feeling this production is slightly hollow in the middle. Pralgo has all the surface characterization correct, but we need to see more of the inner character.

Joanne Galloway, as portrayed by Nicole Golden, is a whiny, complaining dilettante who really doesn't rally much sympathy from the audience. Like Pralgo, Golden has all the surface things right. The audience just needed more reason to like her.

Jack Winnick is one-dimensional as Col. Jessup, but he's given the worst writing by Sorkin in the first place. He's mean and cruel, and the playwright clearly hates the character. So it's no surprise Winnick is forced to do his best Snidely Whiplash imitation here. The character is purely evil, and Winnick's performance matches the writing. But he does attack the character with the most gusto of anyone on stage.

The rest of the cast is all good but a bit stiff (hey, they're all military—it's to be expected they'd be stolid), with notable standouts being Tony Foresta as Sam Wienberg and Simon "Sy" Gaskill as Capt. Markinson, a principled Marine whose efforts save the day.

"A Few Good Men" at Neighborhood Playhouse is a tidy production, filled with some very good performances and some exciting action. It's still basically a courtroom piece, but it makes for good drama in Decatur.

MICHAEL KAPE

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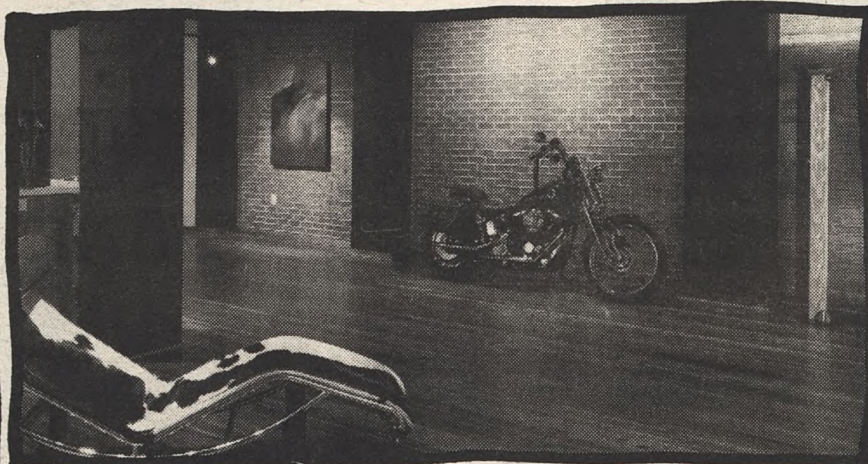
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Another round of funnery in the nunnery

*Sisters of Mt. Saint Helen's School
are back in "Nunsense II"*

When we last saw those five lovable nuns from Mt. Saint Helen's School, in the first "Nunsense," they had just struck it rich (accidentally) with the Publishers' Clearinghouse Sweepstakes.

Nunsense II, The Second Coming
Onstage Atlanta,
420 Courtland St.
Thursdays through
Saturdays, 8 p.m.
and 5 p.m. on
Sundays.
Call 897-1802.

Now, in "Nunsense II, The Second Coming," two Franciscans are threatening to take the money—and Sister Mary Amnesia along with it. But these five singing and dancing nuns have the day saved, literally, from a *deus ex machina* (a

god riding in to solve the prob-

lem) in the form of a falling bird house. All right, so it's not much on plot. But it's an excuse for Dan Goggin to write more music and lyrics about these five hysterical sisters. You don't have to be Catholic to get the jokes. You didn't even have to see the first "Nunsense," because the audience gets a 45-second review.

The show starts with some bingo games (what else?) and touches on all the cliches you'd ever expect to hear about nuns. But at no time does it mock them. In fact, "Nunsense II" celebrates their sincerest piety. The author clearly loves his characters, and he's allowed us to look more deeply into their motivations. As a result, we can grow to love these sisters as well.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that this is such an immensely talented cast. Monica Smith as Sister Mary Amnesia is prop-



This time around, the sisters are trying to keep their sweepstakes winnings from two pesky Franciscans.

erly out of it. She's definitely "one sandwich shy of a picnic" and lovably daffy. Nancy Nail plays Sister Mary Leo as a saintly novice who would like nothing more than to be the first prima ballerina nun. She plays Mary Leo in a sincerely winning manner. Victoria Baumann's Sister Robert Anne is tough, she's lively, and she has a wonderfully clear soprano. Sister Mary Hubert is played by Lorna Howley, and she's hysterically hilarious as the number two nun. She's full of twinkling wit and panache, and the actress seems to relish every moment she is on stage.

Last year, in "Assassins" at Georgia Tech, Peg Shelton took the worst role in the musical—Sarah Jane Moore—and stole the show (which was a feat in that production which featured a lot of good performances). In "Nunsense II," Peg Shelton once again steals the show, this time as the lead nun—Reverend Mother Sister Mary Regina. Shelton has a terrific belting singing voice, and her comic timing is impeccable. She's stern, she's funny, she's big (both physically and emotionally), and she is the glue that holds this production together.

Director Alice Heffernan-Sneed has had a great deal of fun with "Nunsense II." She has infused it with so much humor and light-heartedness it never fails to entertain. Yet, she has managed to delve deeply into the individual characterizations of these five nuns, and she has brought forth a clear understanding for each particular motivation.

Choreographer Jeff McKerley (whose work was last confined to the limited spaces allowed in Neighborhood's "Mating Habits") has wisely conjured up dances for five nuns who never break character. No, there are no wildly intricate choreographed moves in "Nunsense II." He has these nuns move like nuns "putting on a show" would move. There are no false steps, but there are plenty of clever moves. His choreography is a highlight.

There are so many funny and touching bits in "Nunsense II," it would be difficult to list them all here. But be on the lookout for the "Padre Polka" (a feminist nun tract on the pope), "Habit Humor" (you'd be surprised what you can do with *that* costume), and the Rev. Mother acting as a carnival barker hawking items from the Catholic Guide to Gift Giving (beware of flying pasta).

The play's charming cast, humorous script and all-around winning attitude makes it one of Onstage Atlanta's best shows.

MICHAEL KAPE

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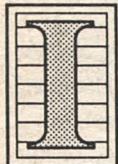
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MARIA HELENA DOLAN



recently ran across an old acquaintance. He asked what I was doing, politically, these days. I replied, "I write a column for Southern Voice."

"Ah, yes," he interrupted. "You write about plants. That doesn't seem on the same level as making speeches denouncing Jesse Helms or anything."

Au contraire, mi hermano. I consider what I do here to be at least as radical as my stirring speechifyin' because, herein, I am getting to the root of the problem (The English word 'radical' derives from the Latin word *radix*, or root, of course).

Within this admittedly small space, I assist in the ground-work of making clear the interconnectedness of life. When Western culture rediscovers certain truths which *should* be self-evident, but have been obscured, then a radical paradigm shift can take place. And within that shift lie the seeds for the elimination of oppression—be it radical, sexual, species or whatever—because this uprighting of perspective, if you will, shall make clear where we all are within the cosmic dance and how our thoughts and actions affect everything else within life's web.

With this knowledge always in the back of my mind, I enjoy bursts of enlightenment wherever they may be found. And the Atlanta Botanical Garden provided one such flam-beaux last Sunday, when it hosted Mark Plotkin's lecture and slide show.

Plotkin is an ethnobotanist. He travels to the jungles of South and Central America and studies the plant life by learning from the indigenous peoples who intimately know the nuances of the flora therein.

He calls himself a "shaman's apprentice" because he studies with the most knowledgeable plant people he can find (His book detailing the past 15 years of this activity is titled "Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice").

It is humbling work for a guy with credentials from Yale and Harvard. Plotkin discovered that "the guys in penis strings

THIS OLD HOE

EARTHSHAKIN' OBSERVATIONS

and breech cloths are better chemists than we are." They know how to heal and how to kill, as well as how to take the poisons out of things.

For example, cassava is the most important food of the rain forest people. Mark describes how the women push the poison out, using a press arrangement. Once it is extricated, the plant material can be used as flour for bread, a mash and a base for a fermented beer.

In fact, when asked what is the hardest thing in ethnobotanical research, he unhesitatingly answers—cassava beer. People ask if it's the heat, the humidity, the insects or the political corruption. "I always reply that I'm from Louisiana, so I'm used to those things. But you have to drink that beer all down."

As might be expected, he is quite concerned about the destruction not only of rain forest but of the peoples of the rain forest. Plotkin emphasized several times how missionaries are changing the ways of the people and how that results in a loss of knowledge and culture.

He cites the fate of the Venezuelan Macuxi. They were given shotguns in exchange for their knowledge of curare. The guns, of course, fall apart in the jungle's humidity, and their economy has deteriorated. They no longer know which plants to use for the curare, nor do they remember how to make blow guns. Instead, they are reduced to hunting with crude clubs, bows and arrows. "Cultures are disappearing faster than the animals," he says.

To combat this, the Shaman's Apprentice program has translated a collection of indigenous plant lore into one tribe's native tongue. So now they have two books—the Bible, which the missionaries have provided for at least a generation, and this plant-medicine handbook. "This validates their own cul-

ture in their own eyes." It encourages the young to apprentice themselves, instead of wandering off—which inevitably means that the vast body of knowledge would die off with the elders.

Yes, Plotkin gives anecdotal accounts of cures he and other Westerners have found from the shamans, when all Western medicine had failed with chronic ailments (deep fungal skin infections, chronic tendon injuries, etc.).

He also describes how his backing group, Conservation International, has had a hand in the formation of a company called Shaman Pharmaceuticals. Their mission is to develop medicines from rain forest plants and transfer some of the profits back to the tribes.

Two new anti-virals are now in human clinical trials, including one for Zovirex-resistant herpes.

By the way, anti-cancer and anti-HIV exploration is going on in Surinam, with a percentage to go to the peoples, not just the pharmaceutical companies (this is being negotiated by Conservation International).

Medicines, however, are not the only gift of the forest. As Plotkin puts it, "You can wear a button that *does* save the rain forest, as opposed to wearing one that *says* 'Save the Rain Forest.'" It's made from "vegetable ivory," or tagua. In Japan, they've recently discovered that tagua is both absorptive and abrasive for use with nuclear wastes. So demand for it should rise.

As consumers and as people of conscience, we can do something to help tip the balance back to the sustainable and the sane. "I don't think it's too late. I believe [environmental] problems are caused by people, and they can be solved by people. You have to get involved with *local* institutions. Think globally and act locally. *Nothing* is worse than doing nothing; everyone can do something," Plotkin says.

I ask if he believes the prophecy of Brazil's Yannomani tribe—that if they disappear, all life on the planet will die. Plotkin doesn't want to be tied down. However, he allows that "If we destroy the rain forests, there will be extreme climactic consequences."

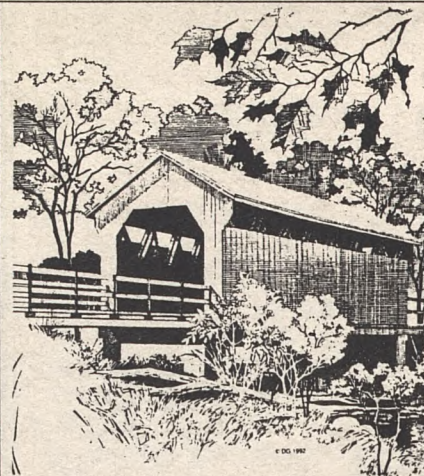
He underscores again and again that "it's not too late to make a difference."



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Soft Porn: Has Rich's finally admitted that homos are an important part of its metro market? The full page ad that the "all about the South" store ran for Calvin Klein undies a couple of weeks ago makes us think so. Now one could say that buffed and pumped torsos in revealingly tight shorts could also appeal to women who wished their men looked like this (or even to narcissistic straight men). But it's difficult to imagine that many folks in either of those markets would also be on the lookout for the "no charge" Marky Mark poster that comes with any Calvin Klein purchase. Personally, Dish thinks that buying any Calvin product (or worshiping at the shrine of Marky M.) is naught but service to our oppressors.

Hard Porn: Poor Jeff Stryker (whose real name, by the way is a rather prosaic Charles Paeyton). Seems that porn's Mr. Butch (and big) is suing the two companies who market replicas of his schlong because he says they are not paying him royalties. The entrepreneur folks say they have paid La Stryker some \$200,000 for the right to sell replicas of his parts and that Jeff should cool it. The judge hearing the case wants to dismiss it because it is so bizarre. Well, maybe so, but Dish knows lots of folks who have derived great pleasure from their Stryker dildoes, and we believe that the man deserves to receive full payment of the royalties due him.

Corn Porn: Finally in this week's round-up of male flesh stories, there is this silliness from a recent issue of "The Advocate." Seems that porn prince Ryan Idol (whose nom d'birth we do not know) is marketing a line of clothes called (what else?) Idolware. A cologne called Idolthoughts is also available, but we haven't heard whether the fragrance is fine or funky. No word about whether an erotic massage workshop called Idolhands might be in the offing, but we think it's a devilishly good idea.

Dish

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



Rich's, all about the bod

Send in the Troops?: Every homo's fave police chief Eldrin Bell is making no secret of the fact that he intends to have a battalion or so of tanks on stand-by for the Olympics—this of course assuming that Chief Puff-Puss is still employed as top cop in '96. This tidbit sets us to wondering exactly what sort of trouble Eldrin expects. Somalian terrorists? Phalanxes of fundies from Cobb County infuriated by the athletes skimpy attire? Or several hundred thousand angry fags and dykes who want the state's oppressive sodomy law repealed? The possibility of the last scenario received some discussion amongst activists a couple of years ago. We liked the idea then. We like it even better now that it appears to have rattled Eldrin's gilded cage.

Stop the Clock: Dish sleeps better at night knowing that the cockpit clock from the plane that bore Patsy Cline to her death is finally resting in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Every night at 6:20 (when the plane crashed and that clock stopped), we stop whatever we're doing and sing the chorus to "Sweet Dreams." We hope you'll try doing the same. Believe us, it draws quite a crowd in the grocery checkout line.

It's Baaaack: Regular readers may remember that we mentioned a stamp show with the rather provocative name of BUTTPEX a couple of months ago. Well, the folks who gave you that treasure are now offering a philatelic extravaganza called COCOPEX, which we wish was an exhibit of pectorals covered with chocolate syrup but we fear is naught more than a stamp show. On the off chance that there actually might be some kinda kinky fun going on at this event (the person who names them surely cannot be without a sense of humor), we were going to tell you where and when the event was being held. But once again, the press release arrived too late to allow us to inform you of this garden of potential pleasures.

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 6, 1993

Sept. 30 is a harvest moon. Time to gather in the crops, make love and celebrate everything that's wonderful in your life. Fall is traditionally a time for reaping what we have sown and enjoying the fruits of our labors of the past nine months. So take advantage of this wonder-full moon.

ARIES, your seventh house of close personal relationships and partnerships is certainly busy this week with the sun and expansive Jupiter in residence. Just ride the waves of energy, and don't try to push ahead. Go with the flow and relax. **TAURUS**, your seventh house is also very active with the arrival of Mercury and Mars, so be prepared for some new and perhaps unexpected energies or people to come whizzing into your life. Also look for new developments in old situations or conditions. **GEMINI**, Mercury and Mars are now in your sixth house of physical well-being and the way you handle responsibility. If you tend to take on more than your share of the load, then you need to learn how to say "I just can't take on one more thing."

CANCER, with Mercury and Mars in your fifth house of fun, passion and creative expression. You definitely need to find a simple, but specific, way to expressing your creative energy. Following all your creativity into work won't work. Have some

STARSIGNS

fun. **LEO**, if you have gone into achievement overkill and have set amazing but impossible goals for yourself, then maybe you should re-evaluate and ease back a little bit. It is very important to stay flexible and keep your sense of humor in touchy situations. **VIRGO**, Venus in your first house of self-awareness and personal temperament may assist your perspective on life in general. Take advantage of all this wonderful, harmonious energy circulating around your and enjoy the grace and charm of Venus.

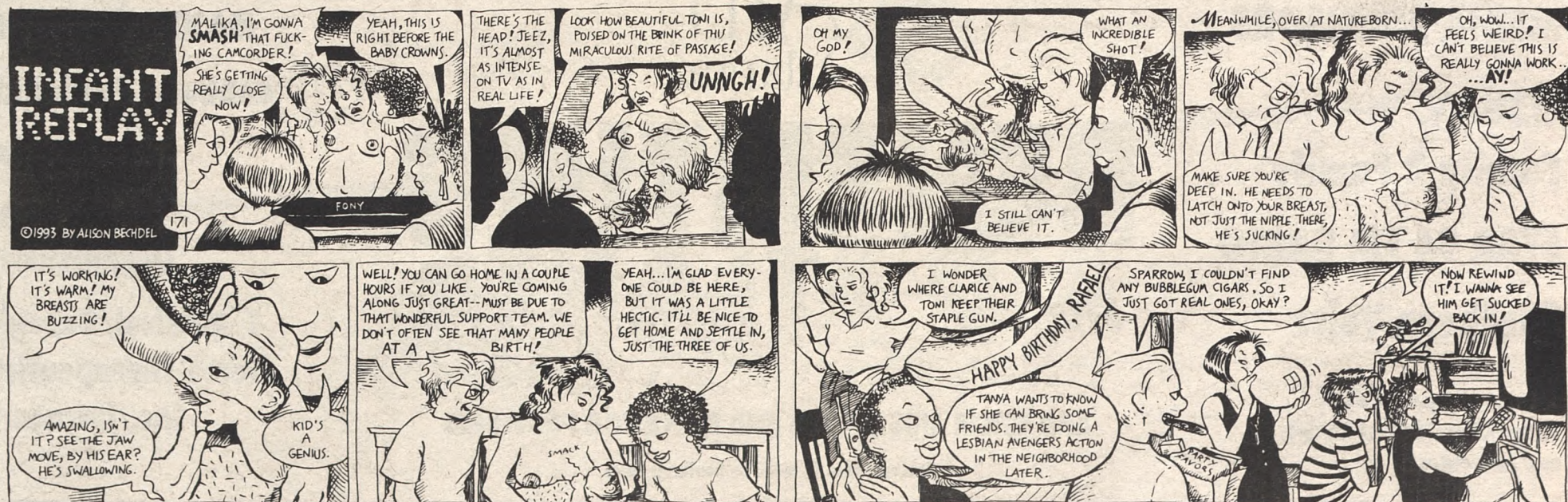
Happy birthday, **LIBRA**. Are you having a wonderful time, celebrating your life and doing all the things you love to do? You may want to include a massage, as well as time to soak up all the natural beauty of the season. Also, recharge your batteries. **SCORPIO**, this could be a very busy month for you with Mercury and Mars in your first house of physical activity and self-awareness. Lots of mental and physical energy is circulating and needs

expression, so be sure to exercise regularly. **SAGITTARIUS**, with Mercury and Mars in your 12th house of dreams, visions and the collective unconscious, you may need to put more effort into keeping your feet on the ground and your attention just below cloud level. Stay focused and present.

CAPRICORN, we are approaching another Uranus/Neptune conjunction, the last of three in your sign, on Oct. 24. Hopefully, you have been taking really good care of yourself, with plenty of rest and good food, so you'll be ready for new energy. **AQUARIUS**, if you have a case of the blues or a chronic attack of the worries, you can always blame dear ol' Saturn roving through your first house. But, better still, get an inoculation of good humor from a funny, upbeat movie or book. **PISCES**, Venus in your seventh house of intimate relationships and partnerships could bring more love, romance and beauty into your life, so be aware of the people who are floating through your daily activities. Reach out a little beyond your shyness.

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.

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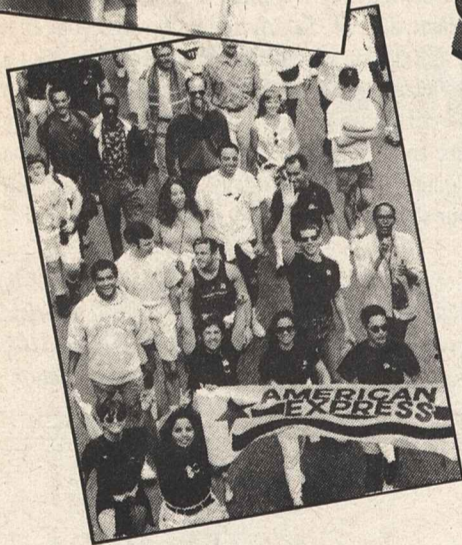
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An Open Letter to the Community About this Year's AIDS Walk Atlanta

Dear Friends,

Our third annual AIDS Walk Atlanta will be held in Piedmont Park on Sunday, October 17th. As always, Atlanta's Gay and Lesbian Community is the driving force behind this massive AIDS fundraiser. In order to maximize the success of this essential event, we have made some important strides forward in organizing the Walk. We want to take every opportunity to explain to the community the changes we have made.

Last year we paid salaries to individual fundraisers to help us produce the event. This year, for a modest fee, we have hired Miller, Zeichik and Associates to serve that function. They are a group of dedicated AIDS activists who created the very first AIDS Walk nine years ago and have raised more than \$60 million for AIDS organizations throughout the country. Their outstanding track record at keeping expenses down while maximizing public support for AIDS fundraising is what made us decide to invite them to work with us.

That decision is already paying big dividends for people with AIDS in Atlanta. This year's AIDS Walk is going to be more successful than ever.

We are committed to doing everything possible to keep expenses to a minimum. Last year's net income from our AIDS Walk ran just under 75 cents on the dollar. That's an impressive result by fundraising standards. But net income from the AIDS Walks that Miller, Zeichik and Associates have been producing in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco have been even higher than ours, ranging from 75 cents to 87 cents on the dollar.

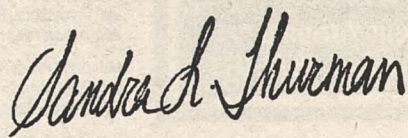
To help keep costs down further, AIDS Walk Atlanta is offering even more volunteer opportunities than before. If you would like to volunteer either before the event, or on the day of the event, please call our AIDS Walk office at 876-WALK.

Proceeds from this year's AIDS Walk will go primarily to AID Atlanta and Project Open Hand. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will be distributed to other Atlanta AIDS-specific organizations by the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation. The Foundation has great expertise in grant making and was selected to ensure that the broadest spectrum of community needs are met. Please be assured that the vast majority of AIDS Walk funds will be used to serve people with HIV and AIDS in the Gay and Lesbian Community, where the epidemic has taken its most devastating toll.

We wish that fundraising events like AIDS Walk Atlanta were not necessary. We wish that our government would meet its obligation to adequately fund AIDS programs.

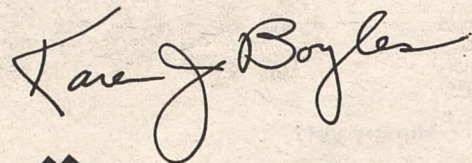
But wishes alone will not help our brothers and sisters with AIDS—**action will**. Please register today for AIDS Walk Atlanta and then ask your friends and neighbors to sponsor you. Walking these ten kilometers will be among the most important steps we can take together for the health of our community.

Sincerely,



AID
Atlanta

Sandra Thurman
Executive Director
AID Atlanta



Karen Boyles
Executive Director
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How To Participate

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Walk Against AIDS

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EAT

by GEORGE BRIA

Maybe because my Italian name made him think of pasta sauce, a phone caller asked me what I knew about sun-dried tomatoes. Trendy nowadays, these evoke images of flavor sensations intensifying under hot Neapolitan skies.

Regrettably, I knew nothing about them except for having seen them mentioned on menus and in recipes. But the query got me interested. I did some research and then dried several varieties of tomatoes from my garden.

The conclusions: Drying is a good way to concentrate that vine-ripened taste, but if you can't count on successive days of heat and low humidity, the experts advise you to try something besides Old Sol.

Fortunately for the many of us who garden in humid areas, the kitchen oven or, better still, a dehydrator, will dry the fruit faster and with less fuss than the sun. In a dehydrator, I dried tomato slices in eight to 12 hours, something that would have taken three or four days in the sun.

Is there an ideal tomato for drying? I sliced up and dried medium-sized fruit, Italian plum tomatoes, Yellow Pear and tiny currant tomatoes. I liked the resulting taste of the Yellow Pear best, no doubt because that's my favorite tomato to begin with. But they all had good flavor.

Whether you do it with the sun or another means, dehydration is one of man's oldest ways to preserve food. Meat, fish and many other fruits and vegetables besides tomatoes are processed that way. Taking the water out prevents bacteria, yeasts and molds from causing spoilage. Nature itself preserves seeds by drying them as they mature.

A gardener enjoys vegetables at their peak in flavor and nutritional content—and that's the time to dry them, too. Don't work with any inferior produce. A cardinal rule is that food has to taste good fresh to be good dried.

Gardeners are likely to grow many more tomatoes than needed for daily use in season. Most of mine go to make pasta sauce for storing in the freezer. Drying some of them offers another option—concentrated flavor and a different texture, such as that of raisins or prunes. You can add dried tomatoes to a winter salad for a flashback hint of that good summer flavor. Or you can rehydrate them in soups, stews and casseroles. I like them on a cracker with cream cheese or a slice of mozzarella.

For my debut into tomato drying, I bought a small electric dehydrator at a nearby hardware store for \$80. The process is simplicity itself—fan-driven hot air circulates over the food and dries it. An adjustable thermostat sets the temperature, which should be 135 degrees.

To prepare the tomatoes, wash them and remove the stems and then cut them into slices. Bear in mind that the thinner they are, the faster they'll dry. After six hours or so in the dehydrator, pick some up and inspect them. They should feel leathery when thoroughly dried. It usually takes up to 12 hours to do it.

If you want to use an oven, rather than buy a dehydrator, you'll have to have one available for extended periods. You preheat it to 140 degrees, put in a tray of tomato slices and leave the door ajar for air circulation. Then you turn over the slices once an hour until they acquire that leathery feel. It should take about a half day or so.

Going the sunlight route may sound natural and easy, but it's really quite demanding. Assuming you've got the hot, dry climate, you wrap the trays of tomato slices (or other produce) in cheesecloth to keep out bugs and birds and place them on a picnic table or rooftop for three or four days. You turn over the slices once a day. Then, at sundown, you bring the trays indoors to protect them from dew and overnight humidity.



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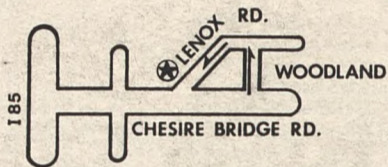
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OUTLINE

S. FAYBELL MA-HEE

Age: 21
How Long in Atlanta: 3 years
Relationship Status: recently divorced

Last Book Read: "The Temple of My Familiar" by Alice Walker

Major Concern: African-American women in this city who don't own their sexuality



Faybell Ma-Hee is a very busy woman these days. Besides her recent arrest (Ma-Hee was one of the Pear Garden Six arrested for soliciting petition signatures supporting domestic partnership legislation), she is a member of several boards of directors—Coalition of African Descent, Atlanta Lambda Community Center, Iris Publications and the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival. She is also the treasurer of Pride '94 and is working with Stonewall 25.

"This [activism] is something my mama, Joan Garner, started," says Ma-Hee. She met Garner at a women's performance project at SAME. "She called me one day and said 'are you ready for some community activism?' And here [it is], not even six months later."

But that's not all. Ma-Hee has two shows coming up. Her profession and real love is theater directing. In October, as part of the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Arts Festival, Ma-Hee is directing "One in Ten: Coming Out Stories," a collection of coming out stories adapted to dance and performance. The dance is choreographed by Jim Chappelleaux, who also co-wrote the monologues with Ma-Hee. The festival opens Oct. 8.

On Oct. 28, Ma-Hee opens "Current Events" and "Souls on Fire" at SAME. They are two one-act plays that will play back to back. "Current Events," written by Shirlene Holmes, is a one-woman show about contemporary women's response to social violence. "Souls on Fire" is a collaborative effort by Ma-Hee and three young gay African-American poets. It is about the politics of being African-American and gay in America.

Ma-Hee has been doing theater in Atlanta since she moved here from New York three years ago. In fact, she started performing when she was two years old. "I started out doing gospel music," she explains. "I'm the child of two musicians. There was no way I was going to escape performing." She grew up in the south Bronx learning her trade. "It was either have a career at fourteen, or have a kid," she

says.

"I moved to Atlanta against my will," says Ma-Hee. She came from New York with her family. "I was going to stay in New York, but I realized I'd be homeless." Once in Atlanta she started a women's theater group that she calls Silver Fingers Productions (you'll understand the name when you see her hands).

"This is our second producing year," she says. "We spent a year in workshops before we started producing." One of Ma-Hee's goals with the group is to promote communication between lesbians and straight women. "We strive for sexuality parity," she says. "I'm really glad to say that we've been very successful at that. It's been an interesting catalyst."

Her other attempt at a theater project in Atlanta was not as successful. When she first moved to Atlanta, her focus was on AIDS education for teens. For a summer, she taught for Georgia State's Upward Bound program and "ran into [a bureaucracy] around the issues that the kids wanted to address."

"They were censored," says Ma-Hee. She remembers being told that "this is the Bible Belt—you can't do that."

"I decided to start a women's theater, instead," she says.

After October, Ma-Hee's next project is the National Lesbian and Gay Black Arts Festival, of which she is the national chair. Whether it will be a part of the National Black Arts Festival or just held at the same time is still up in the air.

"We don't want any money from them," she says. "But we do want it included in the program." Regardless of the degree of support received from the National Black Arts Festival, Ma-Hee is very excited about the National Lesbian and Gay Black Arts Festival.

"It's going to be a weekend of lesbian and gay African-American professional performances." The festival opens the last weekend of July, 1994.

DEBBIE FRAKER

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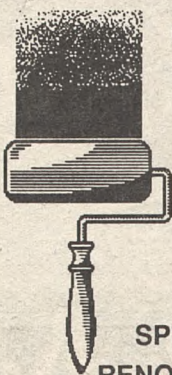
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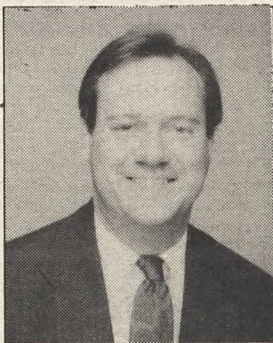
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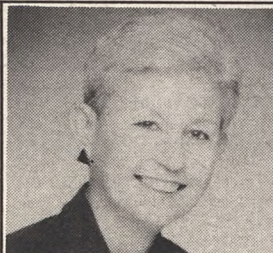


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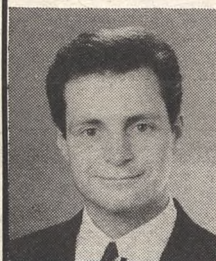
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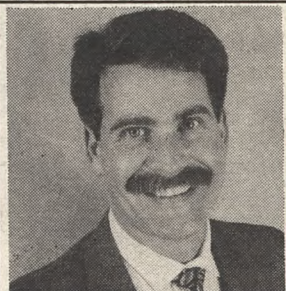
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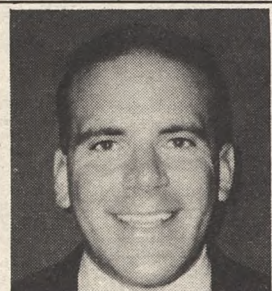


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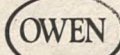
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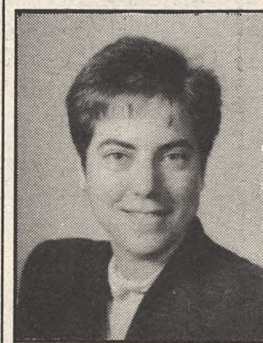


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