

# VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

NOV 4 - NOV 10 / 1993

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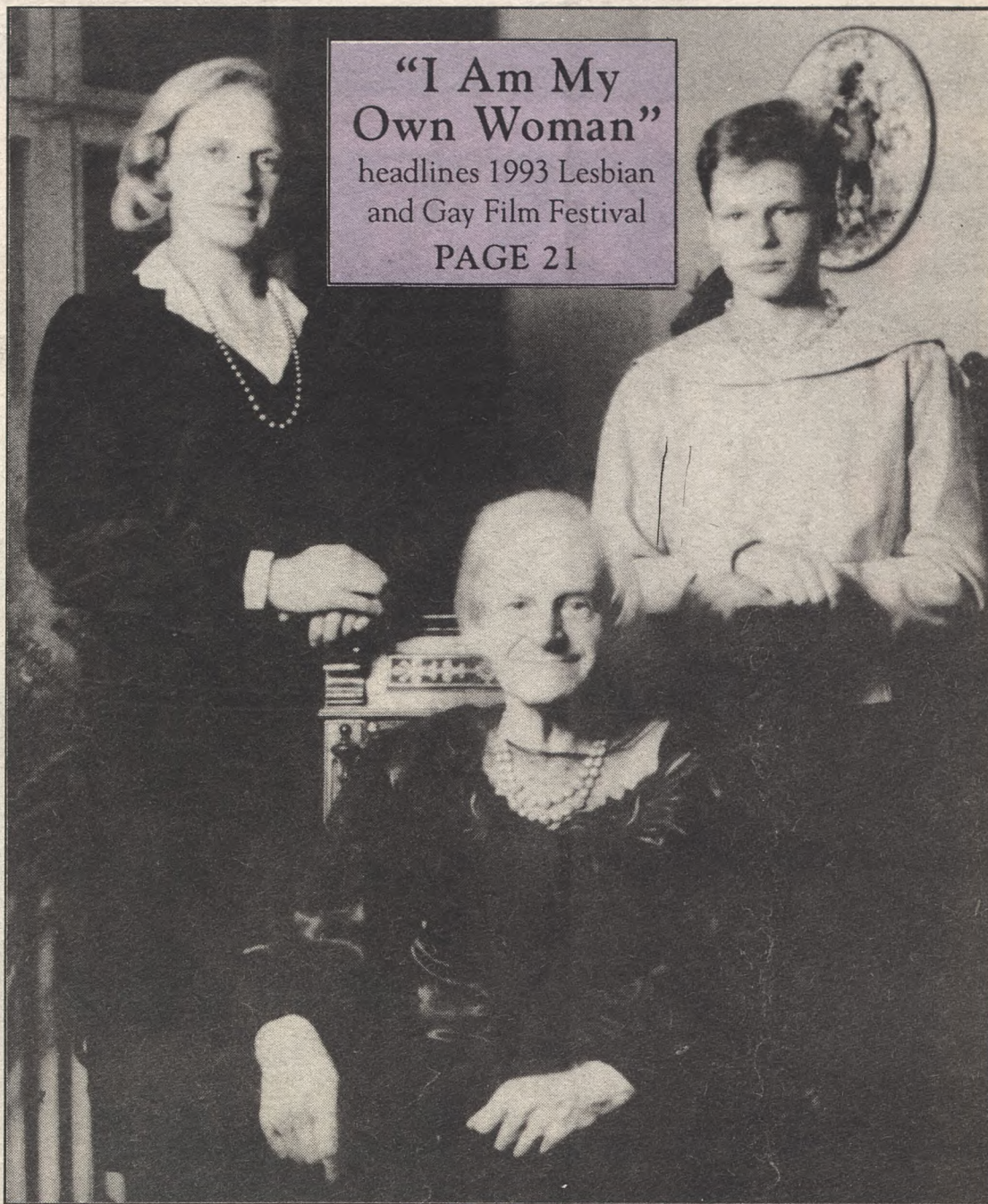
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## RECOVERING IDENTITY

*For lesbians and gay men, recovering from addiction requires dealing with the special circumstances surrounding their sexual identity*

by JAMES FITCH

Mollye Daughtry is sober and reserved behind her desk on the sixth floor of Decatur Hospital. She appears to have reached an enviable inner peace—a peace that comes naturally for many, but, for others, seems painfully distant.

As intake coordinator for Decatur Hospital's treatment programs for substance abuse and eating disorders, Daughtry is the first contact for someone who wanders in or calls for help. It's a job for which she's well-suited, having been through the hell of addiction, the 12 steps and, for the past five years, life in the light of recovery. Quietly she recounts the origin of her addiction—growing up as a lesbian in a small Southern town.

"Growing up with all the stigmas that surround homosexuality, there was a lot of struggle in my life," Daughtry says. "I had a lot of good things in place, [but] the alcohol, the drugs, the addiction was keeping me from getting to me. My sense of self was taken away...I spent so much of my life living in fear and letting things pass me by."

Recent studies focusing on the gay and lesbian population have shown that 25 to 35 percent appear to be alcoholic—a rate that is a third higher than that of the straight population. Of course, those figures are open to debate, as are the reasons why lesbians and gays have a higher substance abuse rate.

Having lived through addiction, Wade, who came to Decatur Hospital on the verge of death to get clean and sober, has a theory.

"I'm tired of reading in the paper 'God Hates Faggots.' When you're constantly reading about things like what's happening out in Marietta, there is a certain amount that affects you, even if you don't think it does. Not that it disturbed my very soul, but

what it did was to create a sense of 'I'm tired of fighting society.'"

"I'm a regular person who has a regular job. I do everything that the American dream has offered, and yet I'm hated for it. I think that adds to the attitude of powerlessness over certain situations, so you take power into your own hands—the power to get fucked up."

"I was told once—and I think this is a pretty good saying—anything that smells good, tastes good, or feels good that I do more than twice, I could be addicted to it," Wade says. "That's a very scary thought."

What began as casual drug and alcohol use in the carefree 60s and 70s moved into the go-go 80s, when Wade took on the responsibility of owning and running a business. For quite a while, that was manageable, as were the pressures of being gay in society. After all, Wade had been out for years and was quite proud of his sexuality. Then came AIDS.

"When my best friend died, that's really when the drugs went from usage to abusive," he says. "I started doing coke every day, as opposed to weekends."

In a 1988 study entitled "Alcoholism and Non-Acceptance of Gay Self: The Critical Link," Robert J. Kus explored the causes of alcoholism among gay American men. Surprisingly, his study suggested that bars, possibly the foremost magnet for gay social interaction, were totally unrelated to the cause of alcoholism in the men he studied.

What Kus did find was that none of the men saw being gay as a positive thing before sobriety. They drank before having sex with men to buffer guilt feelings. It wasn't until after they chose to live a life

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Despite record crowds, the Pride 1993 celebration still has a \$70,000 debt.

## IS PRIDE '94 IN DANGER?

*Debt and lawsuit from 1993 celebration could cause problems in staging next year's event*

by KC WILDMOON

Atlanta—Atlanta's 1994 Pride celebration may face serious trouble, months before the event is scheduled to take place, because of the financial woes left over from the 1993 celebration.

The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee still owes its T-shirt maker nearly \$70,000 dollars, and the amount is rising daily because of interest. Screenpeace, Inc., has filed a lawsuit in Fulton Superior Court over the delinquent payment, and the Pride board has reportedly been squabbling internally over who is responsible

for the debt and how best to erase it.

And now board members have a new fear—that the tremendous debt from 1993 will make some vendors reluctant to allow Pride 1994 to float its bills until after the event, when the bulk of Pride's money usually comes in. That could force cancellation of the event.

In July, when the Pride committee reported a debt of about \$50,000, it launched a campaign to erase the debt. But in four months, the "Circle of Friends" campaign has netted only about \$12,000, and some in the community, including some Pride board members, have complained that the organization's efforts have been weak and ineffective.

"The only thing we've done is run some ads asking for donations," said Richy Howard, who was named debt coordinator at a board meeting

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## Cobb Coalition on the offensive

*Despite setback on Galleria boycott, human rights group pushes on*

by KC WILDMOON

Marietta—While many lesbian and gay organizations complain of burnout and too few volunteers to do too-much work, the Cobb Citizens Coalition is on fire.

The organization, formed this summer in response to the Cobb County Commission's attacks on the arts and the lesbian/gay community, now has about 60 active members and nearly 200 names on its mailing list. And despite the recent reversal of a decision by the Georgia Society of Association Executives to pull its annual meeting from Cobb County, the boycott goes on.

"We had a setback with that reversal," said Noel Lytle, who is serving as co-chair of the organization with Lynn Patterson until elections

are held at a later date. "But that one association is not all of our boycott efforts."

The coalition called for a boycott of Cobb County's new Galleria Center after the Commission's votes in August to condemn the gay "lifestyle" and cut all county arts funding. The board of Georgia Society of Association Executives had voted to move its convention, scheduled for June of next year, from the center, but the group has reversed its decision after pressure from some members.

"The board met and decided it would be in the best interests of GSAE to go with the original plan," said Sharon Hunt, the society's director.

But the coalition has not let that decision slow its efforts. The organization just completed two videos—one an 18-minute overview of what happened in Cobb County this summer, to be used for educational purposes, and the second a 3 1/2-minute piece to be used to persuade business executives to honor the boycott.

"We feel like if they visually see [what hap-

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## Anti-right event set for Saturday

Atlanta—Several prominent human rights activists from around the country will be in Atlanta this weekend for a conference on how to fight the religious right.

The day-long workshop, "Righting the Wrongs of the Religious Right, Can We?" will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6.

National speakers will include Reverend Meg A. Riley, director of the Office of Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay Concerns for the Unitarian Universalist Association, Hans Johnson of People for the American Way and Loretta Ross, program director for the Center for Demo-

cratic Renewal.

Local speakers will include James and Cherry Spencer-Stark, co-chairs of Theatre in the Square in Marietta, Jon Greaves, former member of the Cobb County Human Relations Council, Diane Bronson, director of the Chestatee Regional Library in Gainesville, Ga., Hower Brewer, director of the Georgia Hemlock Society, Rev. Dan Aldredge, minister of the Thurman-Hamer-Ellington Unitarian Universalist Church in Decatur, and Bill Paul, professor at the University of Georgia's School of Art.

For more information, call (404) 427-1014.

## As anti-gay attacks intensify, Atlanta's P-FLAG picks up steam

Atlanta—From the Republican National Convention to the Cobb County Commission, increasingly public homophobia has galvanized increasing numbers of lesbians and gay men into action to protect, and sometimes demand, their civil liberties.

But as public attacks against lesbians and gay men have made headlines across the country, a formidable force has stood up in their defense—their parents, families and friends, in the form of P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians And Gays).

The Atlanta chapter of the national group has seen attendance at its monthly meetings rise from between nine and 15 people a year ago to between 35 and 75 this fall. And chapter president Judy Colbs attributes part of that rise to one pervasive attitude: "You don't mess with my kids."

"Recently we've had a lot of fallout from Cobb County," Colbs said. "A lot of the calls are from people who are all right with their kids being gay. They're just mad."

But the bulk of P-FLAG's work is still giving support and information to the parents of gay and lesbian children. One such parent, a Marietta dentist who asked to be anonymous because "my son's grandparents have not been outed," found out about the organization from a colleague when he asked for help last November after his 30-year-old son wrote with the news that he is gay.

"He asked me if I was looking for help for myself or my son, which I thought was a very good question," said the 57-year-old lifelong Baptist and member of the ultraconservative John Birch Society. "I said, 'For me.'"

Colbs provided him with reading material, and the name of another couple with a gay son. He describes the process as difficult, adding that

it entailed "reassessing my understanding of the commands of God."

"I came to grips with the fact as I saw it that this was God's creation, that He did not intend to create a number of people with the capacity to love someone of the same gender and then condemn them," he said.

"My older sister had a gay son who died of AIDS. My other sister and I thought her reaction to this was irrational because she was supportive and we were of the opinion that homosexuality was just evil. I've come around full circle."

He said he was "saddened" by the Cobb County Commission's action condemning homosexuality, an act he called attacking "a group that was not doing any harm. And for no good reason."

The dentist says that P-FLAG is an invaluable resource—for reading material, for talking to other parents and for the opportunity to meet other lesbians and gays.

A Macon couple began coming to meetings in Atlanta late this spring after their 22-year-old son came out to them. This couple, too, wanted to remain anonymous—not uncommon, said Colbs, among "new" parents.

"There's a truism we've learned," said the father. "When one's offspring comes out, often times the parents go in. We don't want to stay there forever, but that's where we are right now."

Despite being temporarily "in the closet," these parents are not inactive. They regularly attend meetings in Atlanta and are considering starting a chapter in Macon. They are dismayed by the prospects of anti-gay/lesbian activity like that in Cobb County coming to Bibb County and other middle and south Georgia areas.

"We don't want to sit on our hands, knowing that this would be coming to Macon," said the father. "We're not political activists, but we don't



Atlanta chapter president Judy Colbs

want to sit quietly while this goes on."

These two parents, both in their mid-40s, also give credit to P-FLAG for the support they needed to come to terms with their son's sexual orientation.

"The first time we went, we were shell-shocked," said the mother. "And we left feeling better than we had in a month. The fact that we've not shared this with other family members made [the other P-FLAG members] that much more like family. And now I can understand where my son is coming from—since he couldn't share these things with us, other gay people served that place for him."

They were, said the father, "reasonably enlightened, but laboring long under misconceptions, like many other parents."

"We were accepting, but [homosexuality] was not the life or choice we would have selected for our son."

But by meeting other gay people who attend P-FLAG meetings—mostly younger gays whose parents have rejected them—these new P-FLAG members are learning new ways to look at their lesbian and gay children—and ways to help.

"I hope as we are involved longer we can make a difference," said the Macon mother. "If parents of gay children band together—we're a lot of taxpayers. We could be an enormous lobby."

Recently, and partly in response to anti-gay activities like Pat Buchanan's Republican Convention speech and Amendment 2 in Colorado, the national P-FLAG has made a few changes. In addition to providing support for the family members of lesbians and gay men as the focus of the group's efforts, they've added two facets to their mission statement—education of both family and friends and fighting legalized discrimination. And the name (although not the acronym) has changed—the word "families" has been added to show that there is more to family values than the religious right would have the world believe.

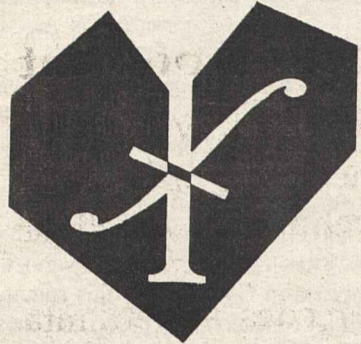
"Not everyone has to participate in those three [parts of the mission statement]," Colbs said. "You do what you can."

But plenty do. "They talk about that as going public," she said. "People are trying to hurt their kids, and they want to do something about it."

KC WILDMOON

*P-FLAG meets the third Sunday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Cliff Valley Way. Meetings will move to the new First Metropolitan Community Church off North Druid Hills Road in January. Smaller, mid-month meetings vary in times and locations. Call (404) 296-0830 or (404) 875-9440 for information.*

## A weekend spiritual journey for people living with AIDS.



November 19-21, 1993

This retreat weekend will be about the MAGIC and SPIRIT of the human heart, mind, and body. Music, drama, crafts, story telling, poetry and meditation, as well as nature walks, are among the activities available for participants.

Food will be provided by supporting congregations in the Interfaith AIDS network. Medical support will also be provided during the retreat.

This weekend is a unique opportunity for people living with HIV disease. The Calvin Center in Hampton, Georgia is a wonderful environment to "Celebrate Life" in a creative and invigorating way! We invite you to share in this experience.

Fee for the retreat will be seventy-five dollars. Please make checks payable to: Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network. Limited scholarships are available. For more information please call AIAN at 874-8686. Transportation is available.

Whether diagnosed with HIV yesterday or as a long-term survivor, people living with HIV/AIDS experience enormous changes which require new sources of strength and inspiration. Often times it's not easy to find the people and the places where this need is understood.

People living with HIV/AIDS sometimes choose to be alone rather than risk rejection, because there seems to be no hope for a genuine spiritual community.

Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network recognizes how important it is for persons with HIV/AIDS

- ♥ To take time to wonder and wander
- ♥ Alone and together
- ♥ In a peaceful country setting
- ♥ With compassionate companions
- ♥ In a communion as a human family

## Gay teacher defends diversity class

Chapel Hill, NC—A gay high school teacher is defending the lesbian/gay literature section of his literature class, after complaints that some of the materials were sexually graphic brought about the suspension of the section from his class.

David Bruton said he had no objection to the books being removed from the reading list for a class that includes the study of books by gay and lesbian authors.

"I think there are plenty of books to read that do not contain graphic sexual episodes," he said Oct. 19.

The titles offended the parent of a former student, who took the issue to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board. As a result, the multicultural literature course section on gays and lesbians has been suspended while the books are reviewed.

Vickie Seng, mother of Lindsay Little, the Chapel Hill High School junior who objected to the content of the books, said that she didn't like a number of books on the reading list.

"The curriculum on that reading list, some of it, is simply unsuitable for children under the age of 18," she said.

Little, who has since transferred to another high school, told reporters that she didn't "want to learn about something that's disgust-

ing."

Little asked to be removed from the class, and when the school refused, transferred.

Bruton said he hasn't made public statements before now because of a desire for privacy. But actions by critics angered him because it was clear "they were out to get me" because he is gay, Bruton said.

Bruton said he has been the target of graffiti on school property since some students discovered he was gay. His sexual orientation wasn't something he talked about in class, the 45-year-old Bruton said.

The teacher also said the literature program was part of a multicultural program in the school system that was implemented without instructions on how to handle it.

In his independent study course, Bruton decided to have seven topics for students to select from: native Americans, African-Americans, women and feminists, Jewish Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and gays and lesbians.

"The bibliography I gave them were suggestions as to places to start," he said. "If I were to ask the average 11th grader to name one Asian-American writer, other than Amy Tan, they probably wouldn't be able to do it."

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## Gay Marine goes back to work

Camp Lejeune, NC—A Marine placed on reserve after coming out of the closet said he was heartened by the welcome he received on his first day back on duty.

Sgt. Justin Elzie, 31, is the first service member to take advantage of a recent ruling by a federal judge that banned discrimination against gays in the military.

"People were like, 'Great to have you back and let's get the job done. That's what we Marines are here for,'" Elzie said. "The command was really good. They were really good about it. There were no negative comments. I'm just ecstatic."

Elzie received a supply administration job "that fits his rank and training," said Maj. Mark Hughes, a base spokesman. His previous job as a supply clerk was filled by someone else while Elzie was removed from active-duty status.

He came out on Jan. 29, the same day President Clinton said he planned to lift the military's ban on lesbians and gays. But after Clinton didn't follow through on the pledge, Elzie was removed from active duty and placed

on reserve status on Sept. 1.

Then on Sept. 30, a ruling by U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter Jr. of Los Angeles banned any policy that discriminates against gay men and lesbians in the military—a ruling Elzie used to get back in the Marine Corps. However, the question now is how long Elzie will be allowed to stay because last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court, acting on an emergency request from the Clinton administration, stayed Hatter's order until a full appeal can be heard.

"Somebody asked me today if I get kicked out again am I ever going to regret it. I said no. I'm glad about what I did and I'm really glad to be back to work," Elzie said.

Lanny Breuer, a Washington, D.C., attorney who represents Elzie, said the issue will eventually be resolved in the Supreme Court.

"I am confident that ultimately our view will prevail and the ban will be struck down as unconstitutional," Breuer said. "Everybody has a guarantee under the constitution to equal protection under the law."

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## Anti-gay forces target woman who defended gay paper

Fairfax, VA—Citizens objecting to the placement of the Washington Blade in Fairfax County libraries are going after the chairwoman of the library board.

Phylis Salak had defended the library board's decision to keep the Blade, a gay and lesbian newspaper, alongside other free publications, saying it was a First Amendment issue. County officials had said they might abolish the library board if it refused to remove the Blade, but they eventually backed down.

Salak had been appointed to the board by the Fairfax City Council as its representative. Her term on the board expires next year, and Blade opponents are now pressing the City Council to remove her.

The City Council decided recently to ask the attorney general's office to determine whether it is legal for Salak to be on the library board even though she is also the city's voter registrar.

"Can one person wear both hats?" said Karen Jo Gounaud of Springfield, who helped organize protests against the Blade. "It's not

an attempt to get Phylis out of the loop. But right now she has more authority than Fairfax City should have, and she's not answerable."

Salak, who is paid \$31,693 a year as registrar and \$50 a meeting as library board chairwoman, said she was surprised her dual roles were called into question.

"I do find it remarkable that we would be asking questions after seven years of doing both jobs," she said. "I feel frightened, but I have felt frightened throughout this entire issue."

Councilman Arnold L. Larsen Jr. initiated the request for a legal ruling after being contacted by Blade opponents. He said he thinks the paper should not be in the libraries, but he is not seeking retribution against Salak. He said his callers raised a legitimate legal question.

"She thinks I'm doing all this on purpose just to get her because I'm a Republican and she's a Democrat," Larsen said. "That's not true. I think she's done an excellent job in both positions."

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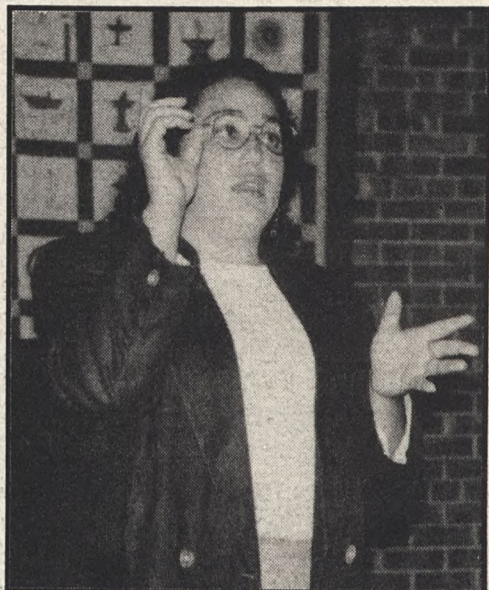
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**Supreme Court, At Clinton's Request, Restores Military Ban:**

The U.S. Supreme Court granted an emergency request from the Clinton administration staying an injunction against the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military and the president's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The injunction, issued by a Los Angeles judge, is now on hold while the case is appealed. In court papers, the administration's top lawyer, Solicitor General Drew Days III, said U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter "seriously erred" on Sept. 30 when he barred the Pentagon from enforcing the old ban or implementing the new policy. Hatter's injunction forced the military to stop discharge proceedings against 115 people. The Supreme Court's action temporarily limits application of Hatter's ruling to gay sailor Keith Meinhold, whose suit against the military was before Hatter when he issued the injunction.

**Texas Gets New Gay/Lesbian Lobbyist:** Texas' new lobbyist for gay and lesbian issues has been known for her vocal participation in protests on the front steps of the Capitol. But



**Vocal activist Dianne Hardy-Garcia is Texas' new lobbyist.**

when Dianne Hardy-Garcia moves her fight from the Capitol steps into its chambers as head of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus, she says her once radical approach—as part of ACT UP, the Lesbian Avengers, Queer Nation, and the Women's Action Coalition—will become more tempered. "I don't plan on being the lone lobbyist at the Capitol," she said. "I want us to be walking the halls and talking with people. When they begin to see us and understand us, ultimately we will win." Texas is one of three states—including Georgia—with a full time lobbyist on lesbian and gay issues.

**The Woes Of Lon Mabon:** Lon Mabon, founder and director of the anti-gay Oregon Citizens Alliance, is having his share of troubles these days. First, the OCA is set to go to trial on charges of libel, stemming from its mis-identifying of one

George Wickizer as a gay man during its 1991-2 campaign for Measure 9—a draconian version of Colorado's Amendment 2 that went so far as to demand that schools teach that homosexuality is a perversion on the level of bestiality. Then there is news that the OCA is saddled with a \$48,500 campaign debt, and is asking for contributions to eliminate the debt. And if that weren't enough, 400 protestors picketed an appearance by Mabon in Seattle on Oct. 25, chanting "Two, four, six, eight, Nazi hate won't make us straight." Mabon has been nonplussed by all this activity, and says that he considers the problems symptomatic of a sick society trying to force acceptance of hideous homosexuality onto god-fearing Christians.

**Schools Extend Domestic Partnership Benefits:** Yale University and the Minneapolis School System have extended domestic partnership benefits to the unmarried partners of their employees. Yale's new policy extends only to gay and lesbian couples, but the Minneapolis Board of Education voted to allow health care coverage for both same- and opposite-sex couples. Yale's decision came with a strong faculty recommendation. The Minneapolis change came along with a newly revamped health care package that is estimated to save the school district nearly \$10 million dollars over the next three years.

**Gay Man Wins Police Brutality Case:** The Chicago police department, listed by Amnesty International as one of the worst departments in the world for police brutality, has agreed to pay \$89,900 to Gerald Blake, a gay man beaten when police pulled him over for allegedly running a red light in 1985. Blake suffered a broken jaw and other facial fractures in the attack. Following the attack, he was taken to a hospital and given medication for pain, but was released to the officers, who held him at the police station for nine hours without giving him the prescribed medication.

**Cigarette Tax Money To Help Gay Students:** The administration of Massachusetts Governor William Weld, a Republican, plans to divert \$450,000 in cigarette tax money to programs aimed at stopping harassment of gay teenagers in school. The money will be used to implement recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, which have been adopted by the state Board of Education. The Education Department plans workshops for teachers around the state on the problem of harassment of gays in schools.

**Fundle Fiction:** Colorado for Family Values, the organization that sponsored the homophobic Amendment 2 in that state, has branched out into the world of literature, according to Denver's gay newspaper, "Out Front." CFV is planning to publish a futuristic novel called "Colorado 1998," which depicts the Hate State as run by an organization called Queer Sensitivity Services, Inc. In the book, a Christian family's four year old daughter is taken into the custody because QSS finds her family to be homophobic, and the mother is forced to watch lesbian pornography as part of a re-programming process. CFV director Kevin Tebedo called "Colorado 1998's" plot "entirely plausible." In your dreams, Tebedo.

**Parents Boycott School Over "Daddy's Roommate":** Parents who oppose placing a book that deals with a father's homosexuality in elementary school libraries are planning a one day boycott of Juneau, Alaska, schools. Merriam Beal, who helped form Parents for Responsible Education in response to the book, estimated that more than 100 students would be kept home from school on Nov. 1. "We're arranging day care for people who work and are used to having the kids in school for the day," Beal said in a telephone interview from a Juneau mall where she was collecting signatures for a petition to have the book removed from school libraries.

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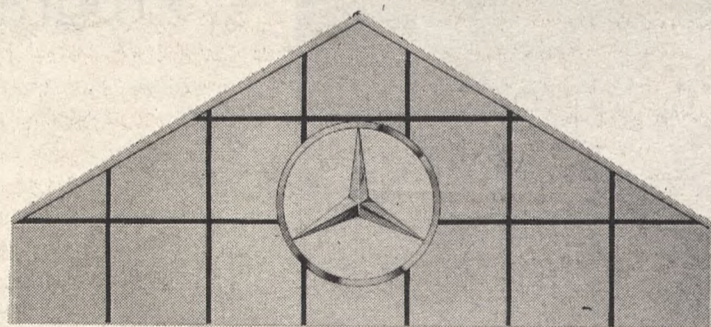
I bought my new Mercedes at Atlanta Classic Cars, and discovered they work very much the same way. They are in touch and make me feel good. With the excellent service I get, it's a feeling that's continued long after my purchase.

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# Myrtle Thanks Atlanta!

Dear Friends,  
This has been an exciting campaign, and I would like to thank my many gay and lesbian friends for their steadfast support, financial contributions and long hours of campaigning. Together we have been able to convey my vision of an Atlanta that works for all of its citizens.

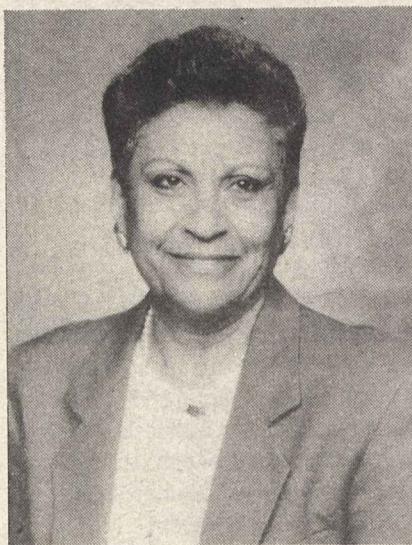
It's time to take pride in ourselves and in the city that we call home. As important as the election itself is the positive change it inspires in the people of Atlanta and their elected officials. So let's continue to work, to shake things up, and to improve where we see a need.

Again, thank you for the time, talent and energy you contribute to my campaign and to our fine city.

Sincerely,

*Myrtle Davis*  
Myrtle Davis

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"Myrtle was the only candidate unafraid to put her views on our issues in public, in writing, and on her stationery."

—Brian Rountree

"I trust her. She has the vision for change and the courage to make it happen."

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"Myrtle is consistent when speaking her position. She has a good central core of values."

—Don George, M.D.

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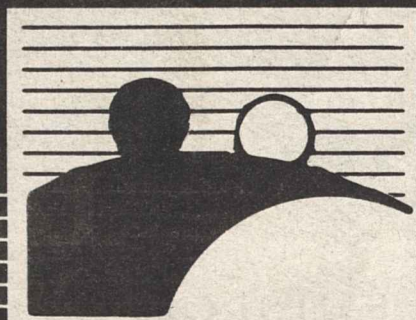
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# Common Steps

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## 'Lavender Screen' rates firms on gay/lesbian friendliness

Suppose you were planning to invest some money in the stock market. How would you find out which companies were lesbian- and gay-friendly?

Until very recently, you would be hard-pressed to obtain any answers to such "politically correct" questions, even from an astute and politically savvy investment counselor.

Just in the nick of time, there's the "Lavender Screen." It's the result of a groundbreaking and fairly comprehensive survey of corporate America's policies toward lesbian and gay employees.

Conducted by Progressive Asset Management, a brokerage firm in Oakland, California, that specializes in socially responsible investing, the first-of-its-kind study evaluated the employment policies of Fortune 1000 and Domini 400 companies with regard to lesbian and gay issues.

Surprisingly, the Lavender Screen findings indicated that an increasing number of the nation's most successful companies had or were developing positive policies toward lesbian and gay employees.

Corporations that have been identified as leaders in this movement toward wider acceptance and open recognition of their lesbian and gay employees are Microsoft, Harley Davidson, AT&T, Prudential Insurance, RJR Nabisco and Digital Equipment.

Within the growing debate over such issues as health care reform, domestic partners' benefits and the AIDS pandemic, Progressive wanted to enable all of its clients, according to investment specialist Howard Tharsing, "to

select investments based on a company's policies toward its gay and lesbian employees."

The Lavender Screen examined, reviewed and rated the policies of Fortune 500 industrial companies, Fortune 500 service companies, and companies in the Domini 400 social index in five major areas relevant to lesbian and gay employees. These included: 1) a written nondiscrimination policy, 2) benefits to domestic partners, 3) diversity training, 4) organized and recognized lesbian and gay employee groups and 5) support for employees with HIV/AIDS.

After exhaustive research, Lavender Screen has compiled a list of the best and worst companies regarding policies toward lesbian and gay employees.

Both lists include several companies that, prior to this survey, have been either recognized as progressive or targeted as regressive when it comes to lesbian and gay issues.

Approximately half of the companies evaluated still have no formal policy that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. What this means for lesbian and gay

employees working for these companies is that they could conceivably lose their jobs simply on the basis of their sexual orientation in the absence of a fair corporate policy and without state or federal civil rights protection.

Heading the Lavender Screen's list of regressive companies are Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores Inc., Target Stores (a unit of Dayton Hudson Corporation), K-Mart Corporation, Shell Oil and Anheuser Busch.

Failing to respond to the survey, such companies as Cracker Barrel were cited as being lesbian- and gay-regressive based upon their past performance. Lincoln Foodservice Products was put on the regressive list because AIDS medical coverage was reduced severely in 1991 after one of their employees contracted the disease, and American Home Products because it pulled television ads from programs that included lesbian and gay characters and themes.

Megacorporations such as Shell Oil, Anheuser Busch and Pepsico were identified, among others, as regressive because they "do not include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies for employees."

*Approximately half of the companies evaluated still have no formal policy that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. What this means for lesbian and gay employees working for these companies is that they could conceivably lose their jobs simply on the basis of their sexual orientation in the absence of a fair corporate policy and without state or federal civil rights protection.*

On the other hand, progressive companies such as Ben and Jerry's Homemade Inc., "offers domestic partner benefits for lesbian, gay and heterosexual partners as long as they've been together at least three months."

Additionally, Boston Globe, Harley Davidson, MCA/Universal, Oracle Systems Corporation, Sybase Inc., Viacom Inc., Warner Brothers, HBO, Borland International and Frame Technology provide employee benefits for same-sex partners.

Some companies on the Lavender Screen's progressive list have been recognized for their fight against the AIDS pandemic.

Wells Fargo, the first company to establish an AIDS awareness/training program for its employees, serves now as a national model program for other corporations. RJR Nabisco is an active member of the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS. Other companies that are proactive in AIDS education include Boston Globe, Digital Equipment, Microsoft and Marriott Corporation.

As the nation's leading socially responsible investment firm, Progressive Asset Management, in addition to the Lavender Screen, tracks corporate performance based upon other social criteria, including environmental responsibility, defense contracting, minority hiring and nuclear power.

For more information on Lavender Screen, write Progressive Asset Management, 1814 Franklin Street, 7th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. Or call (510) 834-3722 or (800) 786-2998.

THOM CARDWELL

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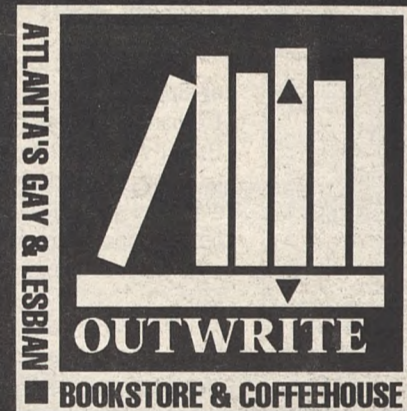
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NEXT WEEK

Drive for the Games

As the committee trying to bring the 1998 Gay Games to Atlanta heads to Washington to present its bid, Southern Voice looks at where the campaign stands.

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.

Mail your letters to: Southern Voice/Viewpoints P.O. Box 18215 Atlanta, Georgia 30316

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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court may lead where politicians refuse to go

After all the work and debate and angst of the past year—after all the letters and phone calls and telegrams and combative talk shows on the issue of lesbians and gays in the military—the final outcome will apparently be settled by the seven men and two women who make up the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter Jr. of Los Angeles (an African-American appointed to the federal bench by President Carter) forced the issue when he ruled that not only was the military's original prohibition on lesbians and gays illegal, but also that new "don't ask, don't tell" policies implemented by President Clinton and Congress don't pass muster. He issued a nationwide injunction that forced the Pentagon to put those restrictive policies on hold, and the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has so far backed him up.

The Clinton administration could have simply let the ruling stand until the appeals process was finished—in effect allowing the president to keep his campaign promise to lift the ban without actually having to overcome Sam Nunn and the other regressive politicians in favor of it. Instead, the administration last week chose to make an emergency request to the Supreme Court, asking that Hatter's injunction be stayed until a full appeal could be heard.

That the Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of this divisive issue really isn't a surprise. Traditionally, when the time has come to expand and redefine human rights and freedoms, American courts have been out in front of American political institutions.

The question, however, is whether the high court will take this opportunity to guarantee human rights—or rule against the lesbian/gay cause.

There are reasons to be pessimistic. The last time the court visited the issue of lesbian and gay rights in any major way, in the 1986 case *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, the justices narrowly refused to overturn Georgia's sodomy law, ruling that the right to privacy, as implied under the U.S. Constitution, did not prevent states from outlawing certain forms of sexual behavior.

Most of the justices on the Supreme Court were appointed by presidents Reagan and Bush, certainly no allies of the gay/lesbian cause. The *Hardwick* ruling, as well as the lack of any federal law or legal precedent protecting gays and lesbians and the traditional reluctance of federal courts to tell the military how to operate, will all be difficult hurdles to overcome.

However, working on the side of optimism is the fact that some of the Reagan/Bush conservative high court appointments (notably Anthony Kennedy, "confirmed bachelor" David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor) have demonstrated a tendency to be libertarian; that is, theirs is the kind of conservatism that holds that government should not meddle in people's private affairs. These were the three justices who teamed with liberals on the court to save women's basic reproductive rights (though they did support erosion of those rights). And since that ruling upholding *Roe vs. Wade*, liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has joined the court.

Also on the plus side, those arguing these cases, and possibly other lesbian/gay rights cases that will making their way through the federal judiciary, are using a new tactic. Instead of arguing as they did in *Hardwick* that the right of privacy (which is derived from interpretation of parts of the Constitution but

never explicitly stated) should prevent the government from regulating our lives, they are arguing that laws and regulations that single out lesbians and gay men for different treatment violate the equal protection provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

This is a stronger argument. While courts and judges may differ on whether a right of privacy exists and what it covers, there is no question that the Constitution explicitly guarantees equal protection to all. In the past, the Supreme Court has held that governments and their officials can make legal distinctions between groups of people only in very rare, narrowly defined instances—and only then when there is a compelling reason to do so.

This argument also has a wider reach. Here in Atlanta, lesbian attorney Robin Shahar can use it to argue that Attorney General Michael Bowers, who rescinded a job offer to her, illegally singled her out for reasons that had nothing to do with her job performance. Lesbians and gays in Colorado and Oregon can use it to argue against the legality of anti-lesbian/gay initiatives. People who have lost custody of their children solely because of their sexual orientation can use it to argue that, because there is no credible proof that having gay parents harms a child, custody decisions should not be based on that criteria.

If the court adopts this argument in the gays-in-the-military case, the victory could be monumental. And the final irony would be that the federal courts, packed for more than a decade by judges who would feel right at home at a Nancy Schaefer rally, turned out to be more instrumental to the cause of lesbian/gay liberation than all of the politicians that we as a community have courted and financed.

RICHARD SHUMATE

L E T T E R S

Cracker Barrel stock fight includes straight allies

I was pleased to read in the October 7 issue of Southern Voice about the Securities and Exchange Commission's ruling that Cracker Barrel will either have to go to federal court, or consider Carl Owens' proposal that the company's board of directors reflects its stockholders, including numerous gays and lesbians. Owens should be applauded for his efforts.

The article described the campaign as "encouraging lesbians and gays to buy a single share in Cracker Barrel in order to pressure the company's management to institute policies to combat anti-gay/lesbian discrimination." I happen to be straight, but I bought a share of Cracker Barrel stock from Carl Owens a year ago, when the National Organization for Women's newsletter encouraged lesbians, gays, and all supporters of equal rights to do so: Since then, I have encouraged many of my

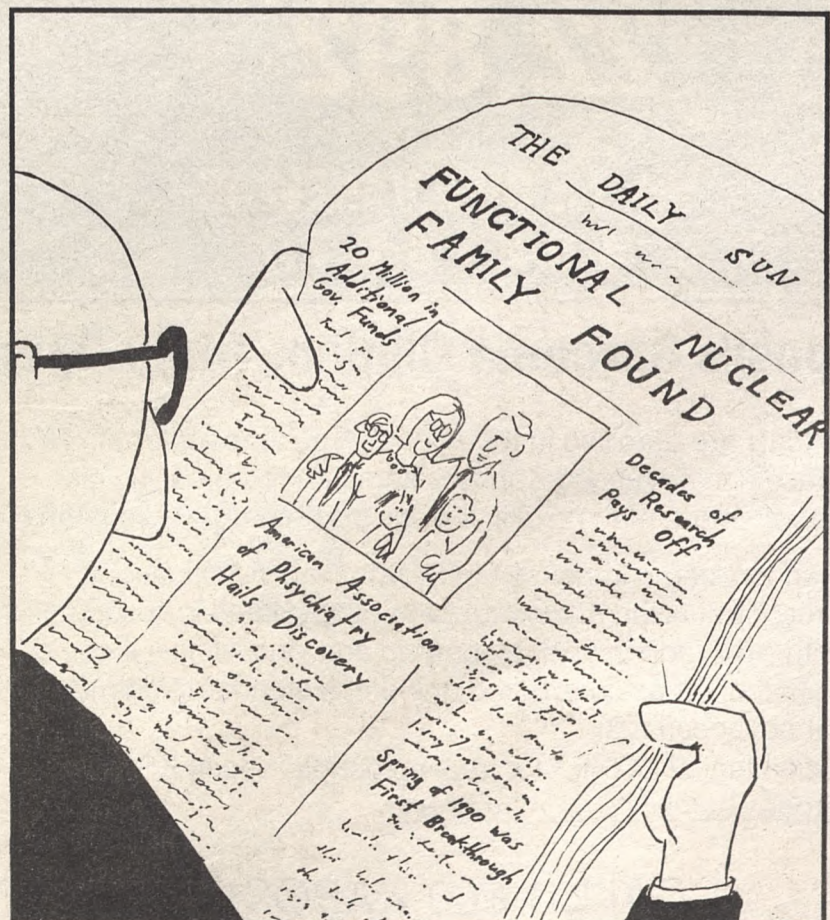
friends—both gay and straight—to buy Cracker Barrel shares, too. It seems to me that this specific campaign, and other efforts to achieve equal rights for all people regardless of their sexual orientation, should encourage and rec-

ognize involvement and support from anyone (gay or straight) who disagrees with anti-gay/lesbian discrimination.

Linda E. Saltzman Atlanta

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



Send us a letter

Southern Voice welcomes your point of view. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words and must include your name, address and daytime phone number. Names can be withheld on request, but anonymous letters are not accepted. We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission. Send letters to: Southern Voice, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta GA 30316. Or fax them to the attention of Richard Shumate at (404) 876-2709.



# The only measure is the love you leave behind

There are lots of New Age "oracles" that people use to glimpse the future or see reflections of their own hearts. Runes, Tarot, etc., work for me when I let them hint about what's going on in my life. Their randomly-accessed wisdom becomes a mirror for me to see my own truth.

My primary choice along these lines is I Ching, an ancient Chinese divination method. By throwing coins, I Ching answers questions by choosing one or two life situations among the 64 described by the Chinese millennia ago. The possible responses (called hexagrams) range from Danger to Grace, Creative Energy to Stagnation.

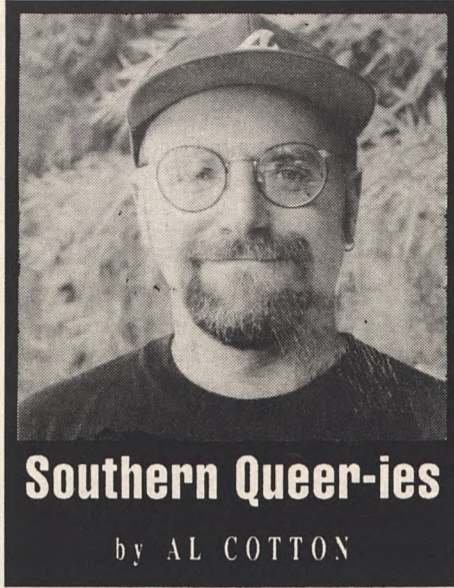
I Ching has produced some startlingly accurate results. Prior to marching in the first MLK Day parade, its answer to me was Gathering. On the trip where I went to decide about my first relationship, part of the message said "Choosing to marry brings good fortune." I have learned not to dismiss it lightly.

Today's issue is a trial at which I am supposed to testify. Eighteen months ago, I witnessed a friend's will a month before he died of AIDS—let's call him N. Now, his father is contesting the will, which leaves much of the estate to another gay man. Somehow, I know this is not going to be much fun.

I ask I Ching to comment. Its two responses—Temptation (one should beware involvement in intrigue, which was a lesson for me) and Family, which is my least favorite hexagram. I don't like it because it counsels family members to obediently play their assigned roles, which rebukes those who must find the courage to redefine their position in an abusive or smothering family.

It doesn't help my frame of mind that I just saw "The Joy Luck Club," reinforcing my skepticism about Chinese thoughts on family. The four women who play Mah Jongh every week have stories that run the gamut of family disaster, from abandoned and drowned babies to forced marriage and concubinage to abusive and adulterous husbands.

They all managed to get out of China, but that doesn't stop the brutality. Once over here, ancient attitudes toward women continue to perpetuate themselves in American disguises. One mother destroys her daughter's creativity when challenged about showing her daughter off too much. Another fears her daughter has no spirit, since hers was broken in China, and almost creates a self-fulfilling prophecy.



## Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

Is this the type of family I Ching espouses? The more I see, the less I consider the family, there or here, to be a civilized institution deserving of any veneration whatsoever. In America, under the banner of family values, we leave children in abusive homes to keep from breaking up "biological family units." We take happy children from lesbian and gay parents (and in Baby Jessica's case, straight adoptive parents) because other people are thought to have higher claims on them. How is this different from "The Joy Luck Club," where a daughter mutilates herself for the sake of her mother's health? How does it differ (except in scope) from a father subverting a son's wishes after he's died?

For the phrase "family values" to have meaning, it must come to represent institutions that value families as they exist, in all their diversity, instead of envisioning the one universal family archetype against which all others must be judged and found wanting. Ultimately, I thank I Ching for the warning about upcoming family karma, and head down to the Fulton County Justice Center.

As I wander the halls, I see someone I used to work with, an attorney (let's call him D) who gave me legal advice as my abusive relationship was ending. We engage in small talk for a while—I tell him about my new job, ask what's going on with him. He tells me about his one-year-old son's medical problems. His stomach isn't working, and they've had to put

a tube into his abdomen. He shows me his son's picture, head dwarfed by an adult's Braves cap. The smile is adorable, the eyes clear and lively. I don't get the sense that the prognosis is good.

D asks me what I'm doing here, and I tell him about this will contest, really just another in an ongoing contest of wills.

D's response is immediate—some people don't appreciate their families. "I would gladly accept my son being gay if that meant he could be healthy," he says.

I don't know how I kept from crying until I had ended the conversation and walked down the hall, but I did. And I want the name of angel that sent D down the hall at the exact right time for me to see him, because I can't imagine how I could have survived this week without hearing this story. While the spectacle of a father teaching his dead son one more lesson is played out before me, D gives me a priceless gift, a lesson learned from his own life at a vast cost. Here is someone who understands what it is that endangers a child and what makes him special.

Later in the week, taking psychic inventory, my mind alights on a song—a "Lullaby" that the Flirtations sing to every one of us:

*You can be anybody that you want to be  
You can love whoever you will  
You can travel any country where  
your heart leads  
And know I will love you still  
You can live by yourself, you can  
gather friends around  
You can choose one special one,  
And the only measure of your words  
and your deeds  
Is the love you leave behind when  
you're gone.*

From what I've seen, N passed the Flirtations' test; Daddy, on the other hand, will spend several more rounds on the karma wheel trying to make sense of this one. As for D, I want him to know that there are people who can leave behind more love in a year than other people have managed to create in 75.

My wish for D is that his child both gets better and turns out to be gay. He and his wife and child have become, in my mind, the family that I Ching speaks of. I have no doubt that they would be capable of appreciating so special a son.



## GLAAD News

by CARL LANGE

### Georgia Trend's Bigotry

In the October issue of the business magazine Georgia Trend, president and CEO Virgil R. Williams attacks lesbians and gays in a supremacist diatribe, "Stand Up for Morality." Williams applauds the Cobb County Commission's anti-gay resolution and equates the moral corruption of "traditional American values" with the acceptance of "gay" and "alternative lifestyles."

He patriotically attributes the successful rise of America to its Christian-centric founding and the "traditional family," yet, ironically, in the same breath, speaks of "tolerance and acceptance of those who had differing religious perspectives."

Williams needs to be told that moral values are not the sole property of white supremacist Christians and that gays and lesbians will not accept being used as scapegoats for problems facing society. Those traditions of tolerance and acceptance of diversity, in which he so reverently refers to, still apply today.

Write to Virgil R. Williams, president and CEO, Georgia Trend, 1770 Indian Trail Road, Norcross GA 30093. The telephone number is (404) 806-6700.

### Bad Vibes

"Homosexuals in Africa: Trick or Treat," aired on community radio WRFG, 89.3 FM, Fri., Oct. 29 from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. and Sat., Oct. 30 from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. The show has been billed as providing proof that homosexuality is a phenomenon of people of European descent and that gay and lesbian African-Americans don't naturally exist. Promotions for the show included Halloweenesque music with the statement "documented proof with panel," and a vampire reference to drinking blood and "you are my next victim." The historically homophobic producers of "Potential Vibes" and "Round Midnight," two black-centric music shows, aired this special.

WRFG's programming is diverse and includes several gay and lesbian shows. However, defamation by this group of African-Americans against gays, lesbians and Jews has reached intolerable levels. A lesbian announcer at the station has spoken to GLAAD about physical threats and fearing for her safety. The management of WRFG has ignored complaints and concerns.

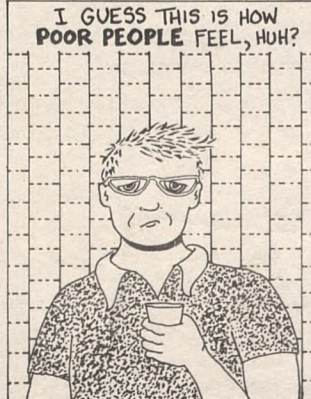
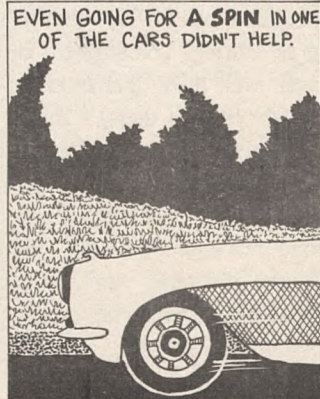
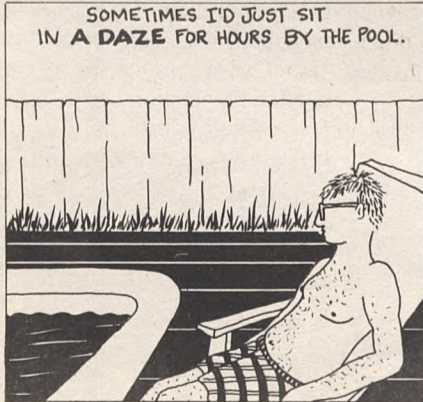
The announcers, management and board of WRFG needs to know that this behavior will no longer be tolerated. Screams of racism by bigoted African-Americans is no excuse for defamation.

Write to Paul Williams, chairperson, Board of Directors; W.S. Tkweme, chairperson, Program Committee; and Tom Davis, station manager; WRFG, 1083 Austin Ave, Atlanta, GA 30307 or phone (404) 523-3471. Call the station at (404) 523-8989 every time you hear defamation. Pay close attention to the show "Potential Vibes" on Fridays at 10:30 p.m. and "Round Midnight" on Saturdays at 11 p.m.

Upcoming events: Nov. 2, Volunteer Night; Nov. 4, Fund Raising Committee; Nov. 8, Monitoring and Response; Nov. 9 Volunteer Night, Nov. 15, Meet the Press.

For more information, or to report an instance of defamation, contact GLAAD/Atlanta at P.O. Box 55111, Atlanta GA 30308 or call (404) 605-7477. This column is a product of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Atlanta, Inc.

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## LONG TERM SURVIVING

DAVID STANLEY

### Keeping faith in the future

Last summer when Michael Jordan's father was murdered, local sports writer, Mark Bradley wrote, "It is, in many ways, a cruel world. It's also the only one we've got." He mentioned the violent deaths of several people who found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I agree with Bradley. It can be a cruel world, but the cruelty involves more than just violence. This cruel world also gives us starvation, illiteracy, breast cancer, lung cancer, diabetes, and AIDS. These are only a few examples.

Most people believe that I've survived eight years of AIDS because of my attitude. I shy away from that theory a bit, because I work so hard at many things to keep my health. AZT and alpha Interferon are extremely important to my surviving, so are exercise, vitamins, and an extra determination to keep my weight up.

But my attitude is important too, and much of it comes from my firm and un-wavering faith in my religion.

Which religion?

That's hard to describe. I was raised in the liberal wing of the Southern Baptist Church, which allows you to believe whatever makes you the most comfortable, as long as you believe in Jesus and your beliefs are inspired by the Bible.

My beliefs still coincide with these old Southern Baptist teachings, as taught to me by my masterful grandmother many years ago. But during my long (?) life, I have also been inspired by the teachings of Buddha, the spirituality of Hinduism, and by my own meditation sessions, where I have discovered explanations for many important events in my life as well as promises for what will follow.

When you sum up my beliefs, they cannot be categorized neatly into the beliefs of any one, organized religion. That is how it should be. I believe that every individual has the responsibility to research their spiritual origins and destinations, and to go with whatever gives them the greatest strengths.

What is absolutely correct and true for me is not automatically correct and true for anyone else.

Many gays and lesbians were raised in conservative churches. These churches condemned them and told them that they were something horrible (which they knew they

were not) instead of offering them support and strength. Because of this, many of us have simply abandoned religion, and in the process given up one of the basic strengths of human existence. That is one of the reasons why we have such a high rate of suicide and alcoholism. This is also one of the reasons so many who are infected with HIV give up so easily.

One of the important things my religion has given me is the strength to give up fear. I know, without doubt, that I will live on after I exhaust this body. I know that. I have also learned that every time I have experienced either physical pain or the pain of losing someone I loved, that pain has ended. Pain is not forever-it always ends. If my death, whenever it comes, involves pain and suffering, I know that pain will end.

If you know that pain will always end,

and that life will always continue, what's to fear? In my mind, there is absolutely nothing to fear. That's a good thing, because fear can kill you. Some people simply frighten themselves to death. Short of that, fear clouds your thinking so that you aren't making your best decisions.

It is not for me to tell anyone what to believe. I am not evangelical, nor do I have any desires in that direction. But I do want to encourage everyone facing a tough situation, and especially

*Many gays and lesbians were raised in conservative churches. These churches condemned them and told them that they were something horrible (which they knew they were not) instead of offering them support and strength.*

*Because of this, many of us have simply abandoned religion, and in the process given up one of the basic strengths of human existence.*

*That is one of the reasons why we have such a high rate of suicide and alcoholism.*

*This is also one of the reasons so many who are infected with HIV give up so easily.*

those with AIDS, to explore their spiritual and religious beliefs. Not only can these systems give someone the strength to fight, but they can also add much to the quality of our lives.

Don't feel bound by old doctrines. It's OK to study Buddhism and Hinduism. It's OK to consider Moses and Paul to have been homophobic assholes. It's OK to pray and meditate, and to ask for direction. It's OK, as long as it brings you strength and peace. It's your well being that is important; what others believe doesn't matter. Whatever faith you can derive-whether from new doctrines or old-is OK.

So to Mark Bradley, I would say this: You are wrong that this is the only world we've got. There is another world in our future and it will be one that is not cruel.

I look forward to seeing it.

## Chlorine targeted as cancer cause

*Environmentalists and industry at odds  
over the seriousness of the threat*

Washington, DC—Aided by former congresswoman Bella Abzug, herself a breast cancer survivor, environmentalists started a campaign in late October to discourage the use of chemicals made from chlorine as a precaution against the disease.

"Studies have found that women with the highest amounts of these chemicals in their body have breast cancer risks four to 10 times higher than women with lower levels," said Joe Thornton, who wrote a report on the chemicals for the environmental group Greenpeace.

If future studies confirm those numbers, he said, "organochlorines would be among the strongest risk factors for breast cancer ever identified."

Joe Walker, associate director of the Chlorine Chemistry Council, said the industry group is reviewing the report.

"Because breast cancer is such a frightening illness that touches literally all of our lives," he said, "the last thing we want is for women to be alarmed by preliminary findings from selective studies."

He said groups like Greenpeace fail to acknowledge that many applications of chlorine chemistry replaced products less environmentally acceptable. "There is much more to learn," Walker said. "Studies to date are inconclusive; that's why ongoing research is critical."

Greenpeace and women's groups demanded that organochlorines—chlorine-based chemicals—be phased out worldwide. Many commonly used items, including clear plastic wrap, pesticides and paper, are made with organochlorines.

"We want prevention," said Abzug, who heads the Women's Environment Development Organization. "You cannot get prevention unless there is a basic commitment to research, to funding, to a consciousness that doesn't seem to exist in the cancer agencies in the government or out of government."

"We intend to create that change," she said. "We intend to involve the millions of Americans who care about this—and most people do—into a mighty effort to organize in every community possible."

Dr. Susan Sieber, deputy director of the division of Cancer Etiology at the National Cancer Institute, said the idea that all chlo-

rine-based chemicals should be banned "is nonsense, based on data currently available."

She said two small studies in the last year contain intriguing findings about the role of chlorine-based chemicals but "they certainly are not definitive evidence that there is a link with breast cancer." The cancer institute is doing such a study, she said.

Abzug said her cancer was caught early and she is well. But breast cancer, she said, is so prevalent that "there isn't a place or a family that hasn't been affected by it... We have to conduct a crusade and that's what we intend to do."

Thornton conceded there is no definitive scientific proof that organochlorines are behind an increase in breast cancer. But, he said, proof isn't necessary.

"If proof is defined as evidence, beyond any doubt, of a cause-effect link between individual chemicals and the disease...the answer is no," he said. "We need not wait for proof before protecting women's health. If we were to wait for proof, we would be treating women as guinea pigs and we would be treating chemical industries as if they had the rights of people."

Thornton said there is no need for chlorine pollution. "Alternatives are available now for all major uses of chlorine, including chlorine-based plastics, pesticides, solvents, including incineration and the chlorine bleaching of paper."

In the United States alone, 50,000 women die from breast cancer each year, said the 66-page Greenpeace study, printed on 100 percent chlorine-free paper.

It said the buildup of such chlorine-based chemicals as dioxin, PCB and DDT has contaminated the air, water and food chain across the planet in the last half-century and accumulated in people's bodies.

Thousands of organochlorines are formed as accidental by-products, including the bleaching of pulp, disinfection of waste water and incineration of waste containing chlorinate materials, the report said.

Thornton said a handful of the suspect chemicals already are subject to bans or severe restrictions but thousands of others still are being used freely.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Error found in breast cancer study

Chicago—Researchers who reported in July that family history appeared to play a slightly smaller role in breast cancer than previously believed now say they erred.

The researchers had said heredity appears to account for only one in 40 cases of breast cancer, or 2.5 percent of the total.

The team has now corrected that to 6 percent, or about one in 16 cases. That is more in line with other findings.

"We took the wrong number and multiplied it by the wrong number. It's basically that simple," said Dr. Graham A. Colditz, a co-author and associate professor at Harvard Medical School, in a telephone interview.

The difference does not change the conclusion that family history explains only a small proportion of breast cancers, and the causes of the rest are unknown, he said.

Researchers, led by Dr. Martha Slattery of the University of Utah School of Medicine, found that even distant relatives with breast cancer confer a slightly higher risk upon women in their families.

Women with a cousin or great-grandmother with breast cancer were 1.35 times more likely to get it than women who had no relatives with the malignancy, the Utah researchers found.

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**Breakthrough in understanding KS**

*Unusual bacteria found in gay men may spur development of the cancer affecting blood vessels*

One of the abiding mysteries of the AIDS epidemic centers on the question of why gay people with AIDS tend to develop Kaposi's Sarcoma at rates far higher than other high-risk groups, such as IV drug users. Now, a study by the National Institutes of Health and the New Jersey Medical School adds a clue which could lead to a solution to this puzzle.

The study, reported in the October issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, showed that gay men with AIDS exhibit an unusually high incidence of a rare bacteria, *Mycoplasma penetrans*, but that IV drug users do not show high infection rates of the pathogen.

Researchers knew from previous studies that about 40 percent of people with KS carried antibodies to *Mycoplasma penetrans*, while only 0.3 percent of non-AIDS patients showed evidence of infection by the bacteria. This indicates, researchers say, that the AIDS patients probably had been sexually infected with the *Mycoplasma*, while the non-AIDS patients had not.

The study evaluated the blood of four groups of volunteers: 149 gay men with full-blown AIDS; 49 HIV-positive gay men; 308 individuals who had used illicit IV drugs; and 165 hemophiliacs.

Nearly 60 percent of the gay AIDS patients who had developed KS showed antibodies to the *Mycoplasma*, but only 26 percent of those without KS showed evidence of *Mycoplasma* infection.

The researchers also noted that of AIDS patients with *Mycoplasma* antibodies, only 51 percent have gone on to develop KS.

The study also showed extremely low *Mycoplasma* infection rates among hemophiliacs and IV drug users, groups which do not post high rates of KS development.

Scientists stress that the results are preliminary and do not establish *Mycoplasma penetrans* as a cause or co-factor in the development of KS.

At the same time, researchers expressed satisfaction with the results and said the study would guide future research into the question.

Previous attempts to determine whether other factors—Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, nitrate inhalants, herpes or human papilloma virus—might play a role in the development of KS showed that none of the listed factors showed statistically significant correlations to the development of KS in gay AIDS patients.

DALLAS VOICE

**Chiles says AIDS "everybody's business"**

*Lake Buena Vista, FL*—Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles called on business leaders Oct. 21 to put their power toward the fight against AIDS to stem not only a human tragedy but an economic one.

"Fighting AIDS is everybody's business," Chiles told 300 attending a forum on the virus as part of a statewide economic summit. "If we ignore the problem, it's not going to go away."

Florida, which ranks behind only California and New York with 33,000 cumulative AIDS cases, is expected to have 170,000 cases by the turn of the century, according to the Centers for Disease Control and state health department estimates.

Most of the victims are in the 20-to-49-year-old age group that makes up the bulk of the state's workforce. And with the average medical cost for an AIDS case at more than \$100,000, Chiles said business has a vested interest in fighting the disease

with its only known cure—education and prevention.

"AIDS is one of the principal business challenges of the '90s. How we address it in the workplace may be the measure of many of us," said Lee Smith, a former Levi Strauss International president who chairs the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS.

"I'm very troubled HIV is sapping the productivity of workplaces around the nation due in large part to the discrimination that surrounds it and the confusion about how it is transmitted," Smith said.

Smith and officials from the CDC encouraged each business to develop a written AIDS policy based on scientific and medical truths, and one that can head off employment discrimination against those with AIDS by making it clear such behavior violates federal law.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**AIDS may devastate Australian natives**

*Adelaide, Australia*—Australia's aborigines risk being devastated by AIDS because of the ceremonial sharing of blood and a general lack of safe sex practices, a state inquiry found.

The report by South Australian Parliament's Social Development Committee said some aborigines had died from acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and that HIV was spreading swiftly.

Alcohol abuse and "the absence of cul-

tural sanctions against multiple sexual partners" among aborigines also led to unsafe sex and the ultimate spread of AIDS, the report said.

AIDS is spreading among the aborigines partly because of the ceremonial practice of "blood letting," it said. In many rituals, aborigines cut themselves with a stick or rock, and risk spreading the AIDS virus by sharing the object.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Patrol group helps keep gays safe in Pennsylvania town

Wilkes-Barre, PA—Condoms. Pepper mace. Homemade nightstick.

First aid kit.

Gemini is packed up and ready to pedal.

He flicks his still-smoldering Newport into the street and swings a long leg over his customized mountain bike. It's 10 p.m. and the Nightwatch patrol has officially begun.

Typically joined by a half-dozen other Nightwatch members, Gemini's patrol resembles a gay version of "The Lost Boys"—a largely secret organization whose members refuse to publicly reveal their identities.

Instead, they use "handles"—Gemini, Little Caesar, K.T, Rex, Ford and Chevy.

In reality, Gemini is a 26-year-old cook from Wilkes-Barre who dons a dark hooded sweatshirt three nights a week to safeguard area streets frequented by gays—and gay bashers.

The goal of the seven-month-old Nightwatch is to deter violence against gays and lesbians via a foot, bike and car patrol presence. The group's acronym is I.R.C.T., which stands for Identify, Report, Comfort and Testify.

"We want to see justice brought to people who hurt us, and if someone's hurt, we'll care for them," explains Gemini, a tall, lanky blonde with a choir boy face.

Most of the assaults, says Gemini, are verbal—people yelling "fag" or "queer" from passing car windows. Gemini estimates 25 times a month, a gay man or woman is harassed. Physical assaults, he admits, are few. The last one he recalls took place in Nesbitt Park this summer, when two men picked a fight with a gay man.

"We're not vigilantes," Gemini insists. "We're having a good time, and we're doing a good thing at the same time."

A few critics in the gay community say the group is making fools of themselves. "But for the most part, people give us a lot of support," Gemini insists. "A lot of people say thank you."

The six current members of Nightwatch range in age from 21 to 53. They include a waitress, nurse's aid and computer operator.

It's a loose organization, sustained through word of mouth over the Citizen's Band radio and conversations in local gay bars. One member—Blue Eyes—is a straight woman, drawn to the group after catching their CB chatter.

Nightwatch is a take-off from a group that operated in Philadelphia between 1990 and 1992. Supported by gay businesses, members escorted men and women from gay bars in the center city. The group eventually disbanded because of lack of financial support, according to Rita Odessa, of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

Gemini joined that group when he lived in Philadelphia. Seven months ago, he heard about the local Nightwatch and joined up.

The goal is to report more crimes against

gays and lesbians and to act as a deterrent to more violence. Gemini considers the men and women who report such crimes "heroes."

"They're ready to admit, 'this is who I am.'"

According to the Philadelphia Task Force, assaults on gay men and lesbians are common. In 1991, the group conducted a survey of 2,400 gay men and lesbians in Pennsylvania—excluding Philadelphia and five surrounding counties—and found that of those reporting, one in every 10 women and one in every four men were victims of anti-gay violence.

A lesbian, says Odessa, is seven times more likely to be a victim of violent crime than the average U.S. female.

"It's a pretty big problem," agrees Wilkes-Barre's Victims Resource Center director Carol Lavery. "A substantial problem." Next year, the center will begin tracking the numbers of hate crimes reported.

"Everyone knows someone it's happened to," says Lavery. "But they don't feel they can use the system." For that reason, Lavery supports the anti-discrimination laws being adopted in many communities. "It will send out a clear message that you can't discriminate because it's illegal."

Wilkes-Barre Sgt. Paul Murphy says he's heard about Nightwatch, but has not met with any of its members. Murphy, who coordinates the city's crime watch program, says he approves—if the group stops short of vigilantism.

"As long as they follow proper procedures and help people in their community and don't take matters into their own hands," says Murphy.

This summer while on patrol, Gemini reported the stabbing in the hand of a homeless man to city police. Police, he says, were polite and quick to respond.

"They're not bad police," he says. "But I don't think they'd take something like gay bashing as serious as a liquor store getting robbed. That's big news."

Nightwatch member Ford intervened in a fight last week, when he saw two males assaulting another man—a straight man. Ford was knocked down and bruised. The two men got away.

Communicating over CBs and hand-held walkie-talkies, the group usually gathers early in the evening outside McDonald's on their bikes and in souped-up cars and four-wheel drives.

They talk, smoke, chatter over the CB—and ride.

"It may seem weird to go around with a hood on my head," admits Gemini. "But I just don't want to be noticed."

With that, Gemini mounts his bike and pedals into the night.

On patrol.

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## Is Pride '94 in Danger?

Continued from page 3

on Oct. 26, when the board decided to initiate a more aggressive drive to erase the debt.

Howard said that the board already has several fundraising events planned, including a night at the Actor's Express production of "Looking for a City" on Nov. 18 and tentative plans for a Maria Christianson concert put together by Out magazine and Atlantic Records, probably in December. Other events are in the planning stages.

"I'm going to be really cracking the whip and getting things done," said Howard.

In its suit, Screenpeace said the Pride committee contracted with the company to make more than 15,000 T-shirts at a cost of \$69,400. The committee agreed to pay \$10,000 before the event, with the rest of the money by July 1, and to pay 15 percent annual interest on the unpaid balance. At the time its suit was filed, Screenpeace had received only one \$5,000 payment. The interest is adding about \$27 a day to

the debt.

In addition to suing the Pride Committee, which has no money or assets at this point, Screenpeace included Pride co-chairs Skip Marklein and Paul Stone as defendants in the suit in an attempt to go after their personal assets.

The Pride committee reports less than \$34,000 worth of Pride '93 merchandise was sold, creating much of the debt.

"We're going to have to reevaluate how we deal with merchandise," said Marklein. "Obviously, we can't set all our hopes on merchandise."

According to Marklein, the committee agreed to purchase 15,000 T-shirts based on the fact that shirts sold out in 1992 and projections of a larger number of participants.

"It was a realistic expectation that with 125,000 people in the park, we would sell 8,000

*In addition to suing the Pride Committee, which has no money or assets at this point, Screenpeace included Pride co-chairs Skip Marklein and Paul Stone as defendants in the suit in an attempt to go after their personal assets.*

T-shirts," Marklein said, adding that Pride merchandise sales were not the only ones to fall short of goals. "Everybody fell short. It was just something we couldn't have foreseen."

Other fundraising efforts fell short as well

last year. In 1992, fundraisers at local bars prior to the event netted \$8,000, compared with \$75 in 1993. And corporate sponsorships also fell—from \$22,000 in 1992 to \$7,000 in 1993.

Marklein attributes the problems up to inexperienced board members.

"When we came on last year, we were new," she said. "There were 11 people who didn't know what to do. This year we will know the pitfalls."

"We're volunteers," she added. "We made mistakes, but we had a hell of a party too. I'm not ashamed of the job I did."

"I have every confidence in the world that with the fundraisers we're planning, we can end up getting all of [the money to repay the debt], or a major portion of it, or all of it plus some. Pride next year will be bigger and better."

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## Gingrich draws fire for supporting congressmen who won't hire gays

*John Lewis and Cynthia McKinney among colleagues who denounced Marietta congressman's comments.*

Washington D.C.—The backlash against a group of Oklahoma congressmen who said they wouldn't hire gays and lesbians on their staffs has created a rift among Georgia's congressional delegation.

After Marietta Republican U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich told the Washington Times that a congressman shouldn't be forced to hire gays or lesbians if it was "against his religion," U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Atlanta, and U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Lithonia, joined 14 of their colleagues in sending a letter to Gingrich saying they were "extremely disappointed" in his position.

"Your statement is simply that one should not criticize others if they have a religious basis for discriminating. If in fact you mean to say that there are some religious objections that are better than others, we would be interested in what scriptural text or religious institution you would have us look to in discriminating between religious bases for discriminating," the letter said.

The controversy started on Oct. 3, when the Tulsa World asked all of Oklahoma's congressmen and senators whether they would hire lesbians or gays. While both of the state's senators and three of its congressmen said they had no problem hiring gays or lesbians, three others—Republicans Jim Inhofe and Ernest Istook and Democrat Bill Brewster—said they would not. Inhofe said hiring an

*"If a member of Congress stated he wouldn't hire a black person or a Jew in his office, there would be proceedings under way today to censure them," said Gregory King, spokesman for Human Rights Campaign Fund.*

openly gay person for his staff would be "disruptive in terms of unit cohesion."

House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Washington, then added fuel to the fire when he said that while he deplored discrimination, he didn't believe House rules could be changed to protect gays and lesbians from employment discrimination.

"Whether it's a person who does not hire someone because of gender, or religion, or race or sexual orientation, I do not approve in any way such a decision," Foley said. "But how you require individual members of Congress to hire specific individuals, other than those they say they have confidence in and wish to employ, is a difficult problem."

Under House rules, members cannot make job decisions based on a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. Sexual orientation is not mentioned. Federal civil rights laws do not forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation, although legislation has

been introduced that would add that category. However, those laws do not apply to Congress, although Foley has said he supports an effort to review whether they should. The District of Columbia has enacted legislation forbidding discrimination against gays and lesbians, but it also does not apply to members of Congress.

Foley said that members of Congress, by the nature of their jobs, need freedom in hiring that would be intolerable elsewhere. For example, liberal Democrats should not be forced to hire conservative Republicans.

"I don't know how you can set up standards other than serving at the pleasure of the member," Foley said.

Foley's statement drew fire from national gay/lesbian groups.

"If a member of Congress stated he wouldn't hire a black person or a Jew in his office, there would be proceedings under way today to censure them," said Gregory King, spokesman for Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Gingrich, in a story about the controversy and openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank's denunciation of the Oklahoma congressmen's comments, was quoted as saying, "How can



**U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney joined Rep. John Lewis and 14 other congressmen in sending a letter expressing "extreme" disappointment in Gingrich's position.**

Barney Frank suggest that we impose on a member of Congress a standard which that member of Congress may regard as against his religion?"

Gingrich, whose district consists of the northern suburbs of Atlanta, is in line to become the next Republican leader of the House.

"For a member of the Republican leadership to make such a statement seems to us to encourage behavior in members of the House which contrasts with our ideals of fair treatment," said the letter from Lewis, McKinney and the 14 members of Congress.

As the controversy intensified, Istook defended his position, saying it was not based not on prejudice but on a desire to employ people who shared his political ideology.

"If Barney Frank and some other people don't like it, well, I'm not about to kneel to the false god of political correctness," he said.

RICHARD SHUMATE  
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## Recovering Identity

Continued from page 1

of sobriety that they could accept being gay as a positive aspect of themselves.

Gay men and lesbians who seek recovery can find hurdles that heterosexuals don't have to overcome. Patients have checked into programs only to be advised by health care professionals not to come out in group therapy or not to admit to being HIV positive. Even today, it's not unheard of for a gay person to seek help for addiction and be directed by a therapist to seek more therapy to figure out how not to be gay.

In a recent article, Sherry McHenry and Jackie Johnson of Atlanta Psychotherapy Associates looked at "Homophobia in the Therapist and Gay or Lesbian Client." They found that both straight and gay therapists have negative biases and lack realistic education regarding gays and lesbians. They suggest that "the therapist of the 1990s faces a growing political and consciousness-raising movement among 22 million American gays and lesbians. ... If therapists are to meet the growing challenges, then they must become aware of personal biases in working with gay and lesbian clients and be educated about empirically unfounded theories and practices."

"I think that for gay folks, there's a real need to address our sexual orientation because the whole idea of recovery is to learn to love yourself," says Daughtry. "For me, being gay is

a big component of who I am. If I can't be that and be OK with that, the odds are I'm not going to stay sober very long."

To meet the special needs of its lesbian and gay clients, Decatur Hospital recently introduced Common Steps, the first program in the metro Atlanta area specifically designed to treat gays and lesbians who are substance abusers and those with eating disorders.

Common Steps is actually a program within a program. Its participants are part of Decatur Hospital's regular substance abuse and eating disorders treatment programs. Once a day, however, they meet separately to address their special needs. The idea is to provide a place for gay men and lesbians to feel comfortable coming out when in session with the entire treatment community. The program is not intended to out people by any means, but it encourages them to be themselves in mixed company.

One of the program's therapists is Marilyn Hughes, herself a lesbian in recovery. "[Before treatment] I had never really dealt with my sexuality," she says. "And it's a big part of my using history, my addiction. Once I was able to grapple with my sexuality, I could move on and start developing a positive identity."

"Treatment is about creating a community of people and then allowing the milieu interactions to take place between patients," says Hughes. "We have had incredible things happen. We have a lot of different kinds of people coming in here... people from the Georgia mountains come here. Their commonality is

that they're addicted to something. They find out that they have a lot in common, regardless of what walk of life they're coming from."

An ingredient of the 12-step program to which the hospital adheres is honesty, which Common Steps is designed to foster.

"It's pretty hard to be rigorously honest if you're in a heterosexual marriage and you know you're gay or lesbian," Hughes says. "You're keeping a secret and living a lie, which is all a part of addiction."

The idea for Common Steps grew out of last summer's Southeastern Conference on Drugs and Alcohol held in Athens. Much to Mollye Daughtry's surprise, a major theme of discussion at the conference was how to be proactive in helping the gay and lesbian community.

"[What I came back from the conference with] was that we [at Decatur Hospital] needed to come out to the community," Daughtry says. "People that have treatment in place, for

financial and political reasons, are not willing to take that risk with treatment centers, so we really put it out there. The essence of recovery to me [is] that recovery be all inclusive, that we live and let live—you know, all the old clichés that are used within the 12-step program."

In August—headed for a rafting retreat in a van with the new program director Claudia Crenshaw and the rest

of the staff—Daughtry popped the question: "Have you ever thought about starting a program that invites the gay and lesbian community here?" she asked Crenshaw.

Hughes was in the van. "I had not come out to [Claudia] at all yet," Hughes says. "I thought, 'Oh my God, Mollye—I can't believe you just said that.' But Claudia just got really excited about it and said, 'This sounds like something we could do.'"

Another facet of the special problems facing lesbians and gays in treatment is the effect that a person's coming out has on the entire group, which is usually rife with bias. One thing the staff does to combat this is to distribute a questionnaire entitled "Heterocentrism" to all clients, straight and gay. The list of 14 questions begins with "What do you think caused your heterosexuality?" and ends with "How did you react to the American Psychiatric Association's decision to no longer list heterosexuality as a pathology?"

"I think I've always believed that heterosexuals really hate me," said a recent patient in Decatur's treatment program. "I was encouraged to come out to my group—and I came out to a group of 10 heterosexuals. The amount of love and support that I got was just incredible. I really believe that people going through treatment need to deal with their sexuality. I think that's a very important part."

"Generally [heterosexuals] are very supportive," Hughes says. "[Having gays and lesbians come out] also brings up that there might be people in the group who have not identified themselves as gay or lesbian, that have been

*"I think that for gay folks, there's a real need to address our sexual orientation because the whole idea of recovery is to learn to love yourself," says Mollye Daughtry. "For me, being gay is a big component of who I am. If I can't be that and be OK with that, the odds are I'm not going to stay sober very long."*

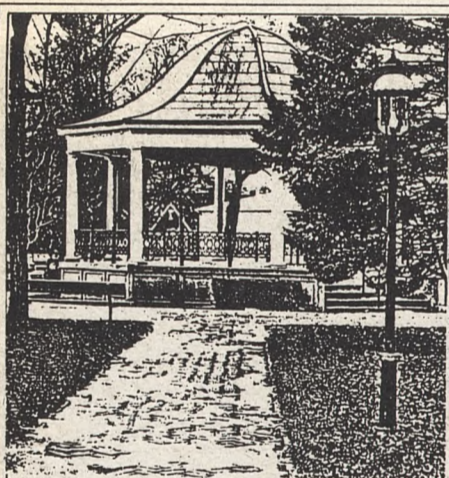
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Mollye Daughtry found that unless she could accept her sexual orientation, "the odds are I'm not going to stay sober very long."

keeping it a secret, and may at some point during their treatment say, 'You have the courage to do that, so I'm going to do that.' Or it triggers the disclosure of other secrets that people are keeping. It's a very powerful experience to have someone do that—for them and for the group."

But not everyone agrees that these special programs for gays and lesbians, a growing trend among mainstream hospitals and treatment centers, are worthwhile.

David DuBois, chief operating officer for the Pride Institute in Minnesota, the nation's only accredited treatment center exclusively for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, is critical of programs, such as Decatur Hospital's, that offer treatment "tracks" to gays and lesbians. He cites several reasons why track programs typically don't work—many hospitals don't give the kind of commitment it requires to sustain a track program, they lack adequate staff support and they usually do not provide an environment in which gays or lesbians feel entirely safe and comfortable, an acknowledged prerequisite to effective treatment.

"A track just means that you have special programming, like 'Gay 101,' or whatever, where you pull the gay people out of the mainstream program," DuBois says. "It's kind of hard to go to a mainstream program and talk to all the rednecks that are in your group about being gay and about your relationships."

When reminded that Decatur Hospital's program intends to combat homophobia within both the gay and straight clients through "common steps," he replies: "Then gay people spend their treatment educating other patients. It makes perfect sense to go to treatment where you're the norm."

DuBois points to one program in Texas where, under the same roof with a lesbian/gay "track," the hospital also offers programs specifically designed for Jehovah's Witnesses and fundamentalist Christians—all of which share the same nurses and mental health technicians.

"How safe an environment could that be for a lesbian or gay man to go to treatment there?" DuBois says. "These people think that there's money to be made in gay-specialized treatment. Throughout the 1980s they would have developed cocaine tracks, or women's programs. Now everybody thinks they're going to make money off the gay community. That's how gays are being ripped off and raped. If I sound angry, I am."

The National Lesbian and Gay Health

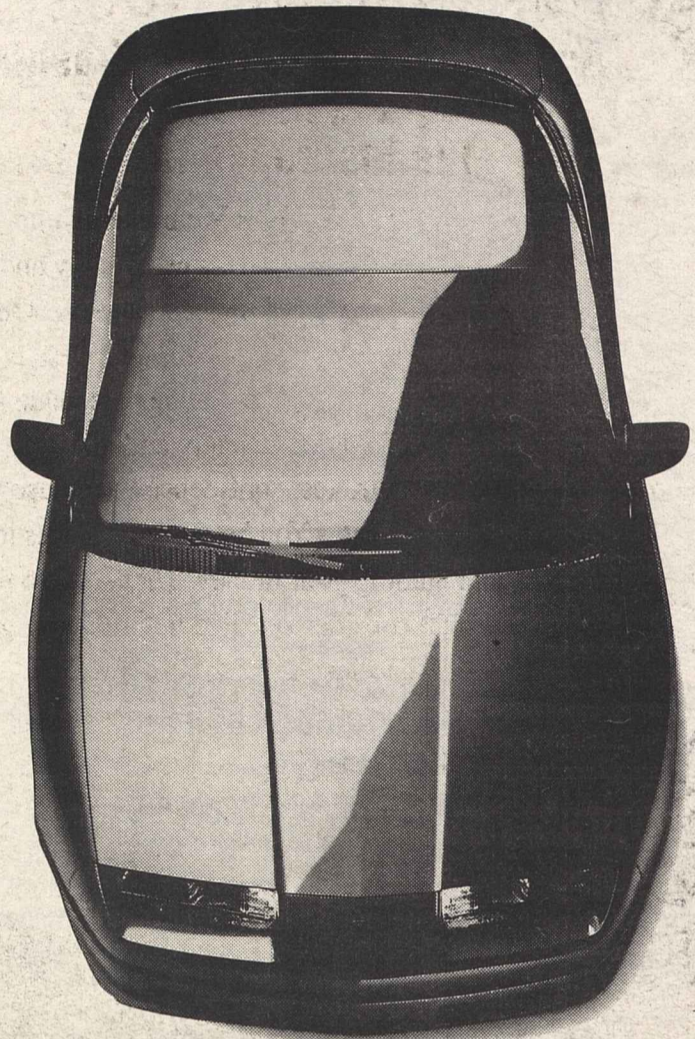
Foundation, sponsored by George Washington University, is currently at work developing some standards which will delineate what constitutes a "gay program." In the meantime, gays and lesbians should thoroughly investigate programs and ask questions.

### Questions to ask

The Pride Institute compiled this list of questions to ask when shopping for a treatment center. You have the right to know this information.

1. Is this facility accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations?
2. Is this a lesbian/gay treatment center or just a "gay track" or sideline program at a "straight" hospital?
3. What do you mean by "gay program"? Will I be housed with gay people and be in all gay groups, or will all the groups be mixed together depending on the number of patients in the "gay program"? If in mixed groups, how can the group members' prejudices be handled? Will I be able to speak about the most intimate parts of my life?
4. How many gay patients are in your facility today?
5. Is this a psychiatric hospital or a drug and alcohol treatment center? Will I be locked up? Will I have to commit myself to this institution?
6. How long has this "gay program" been in business? What is your success rate? Ask to see an independent outcome study.
7. How much will this hospital charge my insurance company? Will I have any benefits for continuing therapy after I am discharged?
8. Will my counselor be a lesbian or gay? What is her/his education background/years of experience?
9. Has this hospital, or its parent company, been charged with, or investigated for any fraudulent or deceptive practices?

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OCCASIONS

**BIRTHDAYS**

Congrats are in order for Little 5 Points landmark Charis Books and More, set to celebrate 19 years with a party at the store from 1-6 p.m. on Nov. 6.

A belated happy birthday to David Caron, who celebrated his 38th birthday on Halloween.

Brian Mobley celebrated 38 years on Nov. 3. Brian got a slew of small gifts he'd always wanted from partner Chris Duncan, along with a flash of gold for color.



Lene Reutter just wanted to say hi to an old friend.

**NOT QUITE AN OCCASION**

A few issues back, we ran an occasion from Carmin Laurens to her parter Jessie Ormer. That occasion was read way over in Darmstadt, Germany by Lene Reutter, who met Carmin in California in 1991. Lene wanted to send her congrats to Carmin and Jessie, and tell Carmin how much she misses her.

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.

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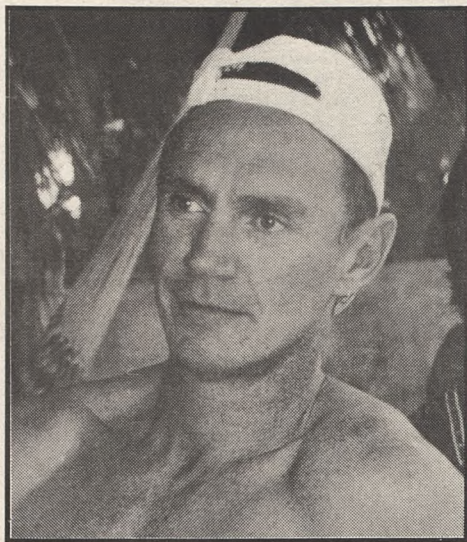
Supported by the loving care of his friends and family, J. Robert (Bob) Izzi departed this life from AIDS complications on June 25, 1993.

Born on Nov. 10, 1947 in Rhode Island, Bob grew up in St. Petersburg, Fla. He attended Kentucky Southern College and the University of South Florida before moving to Atlanta in the early 1970s to complete his degree at Georgia State University. He worked for a number of

years for the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services, but Bob is best known to the Atlanta community as manager and part-owner of Muscle Systems and as bartender at Bulldogs, a popular Atlanta nightspot.

Bob's service to his community was evident throughout his life from the attainment of his rank as a Eagle Scout to his work and commitment as co-founder and creator of Art Care, the annual art auction that benefits Atlanta AIDS organizations. In the words of his father, "Bob was a happy and energetic person who accepted service to others willingly and naturally. His peers felt and showed genuine appreciation and affection."

Bob will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the community he served.



**Krystina Maureen Marince**

We acknowledge with regret the passing of a dear friend, Krystina Marince. She brought us joy, understanding and inspiration. She shared her hurt and rage with us. She will be missed.

—Ann and Judith

**To place an obituary**

Southern Voice publishes obituaries of members of the gay and lesbian community as both news and a community service, free of charge.

To report a death call 876-0789 or write:

Southern Voice, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306  
Please include a name and phone number for verification.

**Cobb Coalition**

Continued from page 3

pened], it's more effective than letters," Lytle said. "And one of the more effective things about it is a Cobb County resident saying [at one of the August commission meetings] 'this is not Atlanta, this is not DeKalb County, this is not America, this is Cobb County.' And the next scene is demonstrators with signs like 'Out of the Closet and into the Grave' and 'Praise God for AIDS.'

"When you see images like that, we think it will have a powerful effect on these decision makers."

Even the recent move of one of the coalition's original organizers, Jon Greaves, from Cobb County has not been a detrimental factor to the group.

"We've asked Jon to continue his activity with us," Lytle said, noting that Cobb residency is not a requirement for membership in the coalition. "Everyone is welcome, regardless of sexual orientation or geographic location. We are concentrating on Cobb—that's a big population

base—and perhaps we can generate support statewide to help neutralize what our opponents are doing."

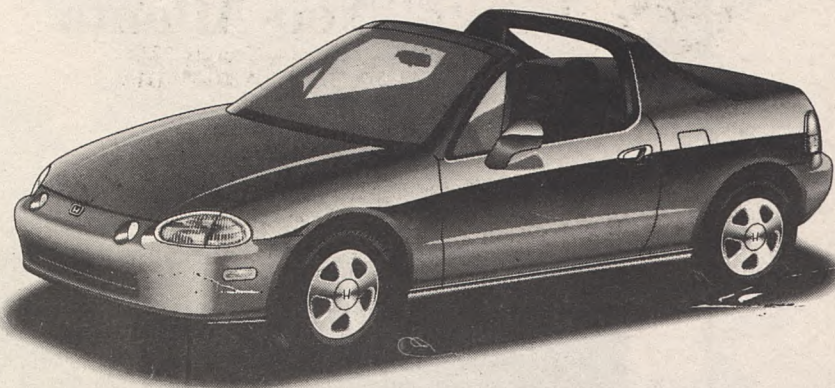
To accomplish that end, the coalition has a wide range of activities. In addition to the videos, the group recently inaugurated a newsletter to keeps its members informed and is working on a series of educational pamphlets to counteract the misinformation spread by the religious right.

An arts outreach committee is offering volunteer assistance to Cobb arts groups affected by the commission's decision to cut all arts funding, a church outreach committee is preparing mailings to ministers and pastors and a political outreach committee is preparing position papers refuting myths perpetuated by the conservative Christians.

The group's next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Nov. 18 at Paisano's Italian Restaurant (Windy Hill and Powers Ferry roads).

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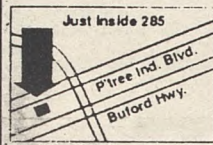
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# OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE



The 1993 Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Film Festival features an international selection of films and videos



"Salut Victor"

by DEBBIE FRAKER

The air is getting nippy—a time for a renewal of indoor pleasures. And among those pleasures will be the fifth annual installment of the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

This year's festival, presented by SAME and Southern Voice and sponsored by Maddix Deluxe, has many treats and a few surprises in store for viewers. Count among the treats this year's new location. To better accommodate movie goers, all screenings will be at the Plaza Theatre, at the intersection of Ponce

de Leon and North Highland avenues.

Those people who have felt the frustration of having to stand up, or being turned away, for lack of space will particularly appreciate the new venue. The festival is using both of the Plaza's screening rooms, so viewing options are doubled. Also, to reduce the possibility that viewers might miss that one film they just have to see, many of the programs are repeated.

Another exciting switch in this year's festival is the number of entertaining features, reflecting the fact that, around the world, gay and lesbian film and video makers are responding to viewers' desires for entertainment along with documentary and art films. Opening night will include a variety of what viewers can expect.

"I Am My Own Woman," a German film with English subtitles, is about the prominent German transvestite, Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. Though a subtitled film might not be what many viewers would expect for an opening night feature, this film is perfect for what seems to be the

overall theme of this festival—optimism in the face of struggle.

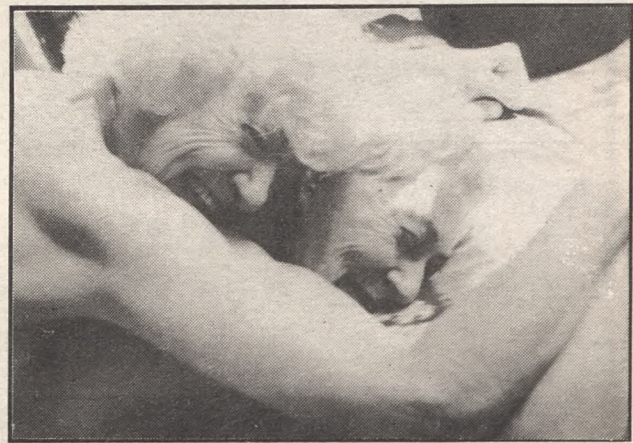
As a young boy, Charlotte learns from her lesbian aunt to accept her transvestism and her sexuality. But Charlotte's aunt is one of few influences in her young life encouraging her to feel good about herself. Her violent father is abusive to his wife and to young Charlotte. As an adolescent, Charlotte learns about hate from Nazis and about fear from her friends and neighbors and the Nazis. But she learns about beauty in antique shops. Charlotte develops an early appreciation for turn-of-the-century antiques and eventually establishes the only private museum in what used to be East Germany, where she lives today.

In this docudrama by Rosa von Praunheim, the real adult Charlotte von Mahlsdorf interacts on screen with younger versions of herself, getting a chance to comment on events of her own life. The self-reflexive nature of von Mahlsdorf's interactions with her younger, less experienced "self" add an interesting dimension to the story, and in no way detract from the film's entertainment value. Despite her childhood, World War II and the restrictive environment of post-war East Germany, von Mahlsdorf not only survived but thrived with her optimism in tact.

In addition to "I Am My Own Woman," the long list of  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

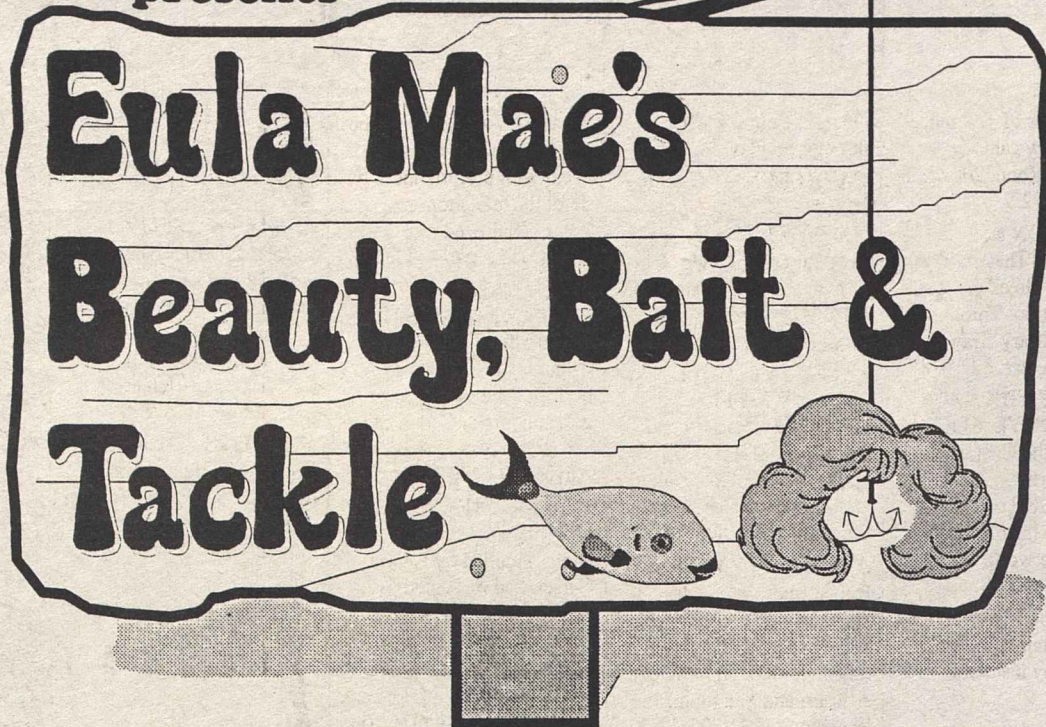


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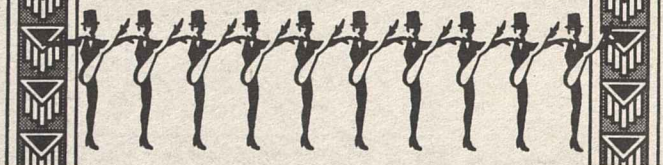


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C A L I F O R N I A D A R

4 THURSDAY

**WOMAN FORUM.** Atlanta's original women's radio program, still going strong. 6-7 pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.  
**GAY GRAFITTI.** Tonight: the Religious Right & the African American Community, and Homophobia in the Black Community. Panel discussion with members of AALGA & GLAAD. 7-8 pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.  
**ANTHONY D'AUGELLI.** Penn State professor lectures on "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth: Creating

Communities of Tolerance" on the Emory campus, White Hall Room 206. 7:30 pm. 727-0272.  
**AGAMENON & ELECTRA.** Theatre Emory stages both Greek plays on one production. Through Nov. 20 at Mary Gray Munroe Theater. 727-6187.  
**VOICE OF THE TURTLEDOVE.** Through Nov. 13 at the Center for Puppetry Arts. PUPPETSOUF of Seattle presents the history and future of the world. 873-3391.  
**INDOOR SUPER FAIR.** A real live fair complete with midway inside the

Georgia Dome. Today through Sunday.  
**CATHLEEN ROUNTREE.** Author of "On Women Turning 50: Celebrating Mid-Life Discoveries" reads from the book at Charis Books at More. 7:30 pm. 524-0304.  
**PETER KITCHELL AND JOHNNY MYERS.** Abstracts by Kitchell and wildlife by Myers on display at BurnNoff Gallery at Clear Creek Center through Dec. 4. 875-3475.  
**ATLANTA SYMPHONY.** Robert Shaw conducts "Stabat Mater," three versions by Verdi, Szymanowski, and Poulenc. Also Fri and Sat. 8 pm. Symphony Hall. 892-2414.  
**BALLANCHINE FESTIVAL.** The Atlanta Ballet presents a tribute to choreographer George Ballanchine. 8 pm today thru Sat. 2 pm matinees Sat and Sun. Atlanta Civic Center. 892-3303.  
**TOUCHABLES 1993.** Unusual art exhibit encourages visitors to feel the art. Through Dec. 16. Georgia Tech Westbrook Galler. Reception today 2:30-4pm. 992-6175.

Business Volunteers for the Arts presents this annual event with performances by 27 of the city's top arts groups, followed by a post-performance gala at One Peachtree Center. 586-8536.  
**ELLIS MARSALIS.** The Institute for Southern Cultures presents a performance by the jazz great at 8pm at Center Stage Theatre as part of Arts Alive. 249-6400.  
**WATER DREAMS.** A multi-media piece choreographed by Cherie Carson and presented by Dance Force at the Northside YMCA Swimming Pool. 7:30 and 9:00. 892-8232.  
**DOCTOR FAUSTUS.** The Shakespear Tavern presents Christopher Marlowe's tale of a man who sells his soul to the devil. Thurs-Sat until Dec. 5. Also Wed. Nov. 24, with no performance on Nov. 25. 874-5299.  
**MAD MEN, LIARS, & POETS.** Theatre Gael presents traditional stories and music of the British Isles. Also tomorrow, and Nov. 10 & 11. 8pm. 14th St. Playhouse. 876-9762.  
**TALLEY'S FOLLY.** Southern Fried Productions opens this heartwarming family values tale today. Fri & Sat at 8 p, Sun at 2 pm, thru Dec. 4. Mercer Fine Arts Auditorium. 378-8646.

6 SATURDAY

**ANGELA MOTTER.** Local songwriter, singer & guitarist plays a benefit for the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta at 8pm at the E-Cong in Candler Park. Richard Bicknell opens. 378-5570.  
**CHARIS IS 19!** Charis Books & More celebrates her 19th birthday today with a 10% off party from 1-6 pm. 524-0304.

7 SUNDAY

**TWO TRAINS RUNNING.** Special performance of the Alliance Theatre offering with audio description for the visually impaired provided by Special Audiences. 2:30 pm at the Alliance. 584-7450.  
**LES CHANTEUSES AFRICAINES.** The musical and literary voices of African women, with host Alicia Banks, who offers a unique perspective that includes the lesbian point of view. 1-4am. WRFG, 89.3 FM.



9 TUESDAY

**AIDS, BLOOD AND POLITICS.** In association with "The Health Quarterly," "Frontline" investigates the 10 year history of AIDS and the blood supply. 10 pm on GPTV Channel 8.

**CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE.** Billed as the nation's largest gathering of gay and lesbian activists, this year's do takes place today through Sunday in Durham, NC. Featured speakers include Mab Segrest, Dr. Marjorie Hill and Dr. Franklin Kameny. It's aimed at activists and organizing, but who knows? You might just have some fun too! Contact NGLTF, 1734 14th Street NW, Wash., DC 20009; 202/332-6483

10 WEDNESDAY

**WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT.** The Atlanta Symphony presents Windham Hill recording artists Nightnoise, Liz Story and Alex de Grassi in the fifth annual concert at Symphony Hall. 8pm. 898-1182.

**CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GUALT.** One of the first two black students to integrate the University of Georgia will sign her book, "In My Place," at Oxford's Pharr Road location at 7 pm. Hunter-Gualt was also the first black woman to anchor a national newscast, joining the MacNeil/Lehrer Report in 1978. 262-3333.

**POSITIVE LIVING.** This locally produced show about people living with AIDS airs twice every week on 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.



5 FRIDAY

**ARTS ALIVE.** The Chamber of Commerce

8 MONDAY

**STILL AIN'T SATISFIED.** Music and interviews from a lesbian perspective. Cool music for any queer or interested other. 7-9pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

**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.

O N G O I N G A N D

**NUNSENSE II, THE SECOND COMING.** Through Nov. 6. This musical comedy sequence to Nunsense has been held over. The play features the same five hysterically funny nuns, now smitten with the theatre bug and ready to put on a thank you program for all the people who supported them in their first benefit. Onstage Atlanta. 420 Courtland St. 897-1802.

**CURRENT EVENTS & SOULS ON FIRE.** Through Nov. 14. OutProud Theatre presents two plays from the African American perspective by Shirlene Homes and Terrence Jackson respectively. Sondra Barrie stars in Current Events, the story of four women from different backgrounds and how they respond to the violent situations in which they find themselves. Souls On Fire focuses on being African American and gay in America and is woven together by a capella music. OutProud Theatre, TULA Galleries, 75 Bennett St. 609-9590 for info and reservations.

**TWO TRAINS RUNNING.** Through Nov. 14. Kenny Leon directs this latest work by Pulitzer Prize-winner August Wilson, an ongoing chronicle of the lives of 20th century African

Americans. Set in the tumultuous 60's, this play turns a sensitive ear to the quiet echoes of mighty changes in commonplace lives. Alliance Theatre. 892-2414.

**PILL HILL.** Through Nov. 21. Jomandi Productions opens its 15th anniversary season with this provocative drama about the frustrations of six black males spanning 10 years, beginning in the early 1970s. 14th St. Playhouse. 873-1099.

**SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION.** Through Nov. 28. 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. 584-7450.

**ANNIE LEBOVITZ: PHOTOGRAPHS 1970-1990.** Through Nov. 28. The work of one of the most exceptional portraitists of her generation is on exhibit starting today 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.

**EULA MAE'S BEAUTY, BAIT AND TACKLE:** Through Dec. 11. This hilarious local production by Frank Blocker and Chuck Richards is packed with wacky characters based on the author's families and friends. You know what they say about truth being stranger (and funnier) than fiction. Weds-Sat. with Sat & Sun matinees. 14th Street Playhouse. 355-8057 for reservations.

**AN AMERICAN SAMPLER: QUILTS IN THE HIGH MUSEUM OF ART.** Through Dec. 31. A superb selection of home-spun and hand-style quilts goes on exhibit today at the newly renovated High Museum of Folk Art and Photography Galleries in the Georgia-Pacific Center. Free. 892-HIGH for more info.

**ART AT THE EDGE: RAY SMITH.** Through Jan. 2. 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. High Museum of Art. 892-HIGH.

**DOUBLE TAKES: A NEW LOOK AT THE HIGH.** Through Jan. 2. The High Museum of Art marks its 10th anniversary of its award-winning building with a major exhibition celebrating the breadth and variety of its permanent collections. Double Takes places seemingly unrelated works from every major collecting area side-by-side to illustrate the recurrence of key themes in art of every medium and genre from different periods and parts of the world. 892-HIGH.

**THE 5TH ANNUAL ATLANTA LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL.** Nov. 12-21. SAME and Southern Voice present the best darn l/g film festival to ever hit Atlanta. 10 days of feature length and short films on 2 screens. Politics, sex, history, AIDS, multiculturalism and more are covered in these U.S., Canadian and international films. Highlights include "Forbidden Love" and "Sex Is." Lefont Plaza Theatre. See article on page 21 for the juicy details.

**THE NUTCRACKER.** Tickets are now on sale for the Atlanta Ballet's annual classic, set to run Dec. 3-26. 817-8700.

PICTURED:  
 ABOVE: Local favorite Angela Motter plays the E Congregation on Nov. 6. Photo by David Rams.  
 LEFT: The Atlanta Ballet celebrates the choreography of George Ballanchine Nov. 4-7.  
 BELOW: The Winter Solstice Concert features Nightnoise, Liz Story and Alex de Grassi on Nov. 10. Photo by Kevin Laubacher.



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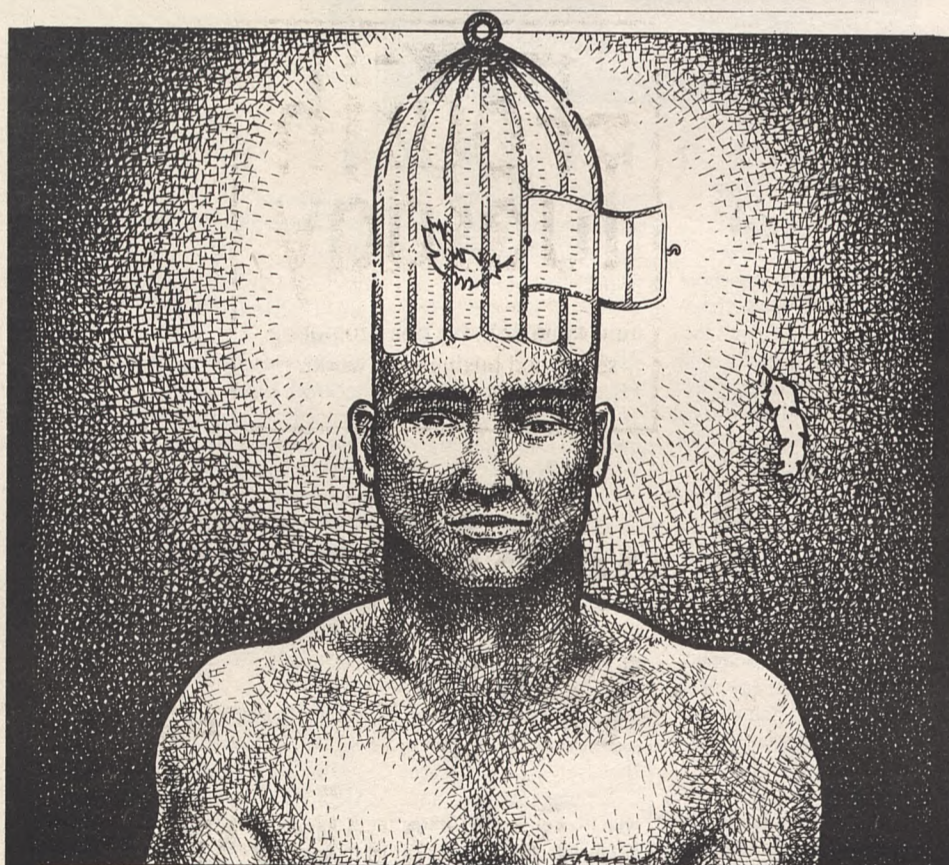
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# Chris Coleman's new play debuts at Actor's Express

*"Looking for a City" explores the trials of families facing break ups*

The newest production at Actor's Express, "Looking for a City," is the outgrowth of artistic director Chris Coleman's reaction to the anti-gay vitriol that came from a number of speakers at the last Republican National Convention—particularly Dan Quayle.

**"Looking for a City"** runs Nov. 12 to Dec. 17 at Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth Street, Inman Park. Three special benefits performances will benefit P-FLAG (Nov. 10), GAPAC (Nov. 11) and the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (Nov. 18). For information, call (404) 221-0831.

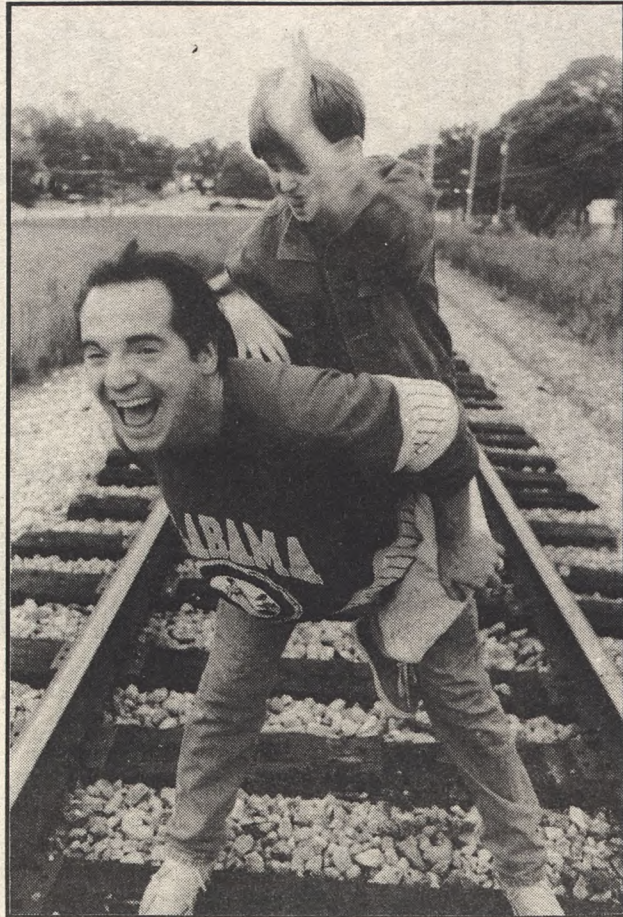
"I was so stunned and infuriated by him, even though his remarks were oblique," said Coleman. "He felt he had permission to talk about me and the people who comprise my family the way that he did. I could not get it out of my head. And this stayed with me for about a month after that."

"I started trying to find plays that dealt with this material, but I couldn't find

anything. Finally, I was in a script meeting with [Atlanta playwright] Sandra Deer about a project she may or may not do, and she encouraged me to write."

The premise behind "Looking for a City" deals with two gay men—lovers on the verge of breaking up—and their best friend, a single mother with a 10-year-old son. Their friend's mother wants to wrest away custody of her daughter's son, in particular because the grandmother objects to the influence the lovers seem to exert over the young boy. He appears to not be overly "butch," which is causing grandma great consternation.

"In the course of these events, a lot of big questions get asked," Coleman says. "Who is a family? That, to me, is the most interesting thing about the play. There is an attempt to unearth the problems you or I would face if we actually considered parenting. Both the positives and the negatives would go through



Anthony Payne plays a boy in the middle of a custody fight because of his friendship with a gay couple, one of whose members is played by Stephen Petty.

my mind."

The plot of the play is at least partially derived from the personal experiences of Coleman, who used to hang out at the swimming pool with friend of his, an actress who had a 10-year-old son.

"It was fascinating for me to be around him and see myself at 10. I wondered what he felt like. I wondered what he thought about himself. I wondered what people did to him at school. Just to see my whole life at 10 years old—it became this kind of fantasy for me to image how I could help [him] feel better about himself."

Other large questions loom in "Looking for a City," specifically the nature of the break up of a gay relationship. We're told the two men, Nick and Spencer, are splitting up because Nick has accepted a job in Washington as a senator's aide. What we come to learn, according to Coleman, is Spencer could have gone with him but chose not to.

"Really, it's because Spencer has refused to mature or deal with his issues—his immaturity, his infidelity, his irresponsibility. They've been through eight years, and that has been the crux of their difficulties in their relationship."

"These issues are explored and thought about in interesting ways, because we rarely get to see ourselves [as gay men] on stage. I think we tend to romanticize ourselves. This play was an opportunity for me to talk to those people who are my friends."

Coleman has been writing "Looking for a City" for nearly a year. Its first reading was last January. In the interim, he's also directed two shows at Actor's Express, and he recently appeared in the Alliance Theatre Company's acclaimed production of "Falsettos," in which he played Marvin. "Looking for a City" started rehearsals right after "Falsettos" closed, and Coleman, who's also directing the show, just finished his final revisions.

Appearing in the production will be Stephen Petty (who directed "The Harvey Milk Show" and "The Women"), Cathie Hall Payne (Heather-in-leather from "The Harvey Milk Show") and her son Anthony Payne, Charles Black (the old man in "Fool for Love"), newcomer Cade Chilcoat and Annette Coleman ("Approaching Zanzibar" and "Passion"), who also happens to be Coleman's mother.

"My mother is playing the grandmother in the play, and she's playing it with a vengeance," says Coleman. "I use my mom a lot. She's good. It's hard to find good women in their early 60s who aren't in [Actor's] Equity. I'm fortunate that we get along."

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"Longtime Companion"

Continued from page 21  
feature-length films in this year's festival includes: "Sex Is ...," "Forbidden Love," "The Last Island," "Twin Bracelets," "Amazing Grace," "Salut Victor," "Together Alone" and "Damned in the USA."

"Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives" follows a current trend of an historical look at lesbian lives in the 1950s and 1960s. Viewers who remember when the only lesbian literature came in the form of pulp novels written with the mainstream reader in mind—when the feminine blond heroine was seduced by the evil and aggressive brunette to a life of perversion and misery only to find both of them punished in the end and the blond probably mending her ways in the arms of some forgiving man—will appreciate the film's respectful nod to

the generation that brought us novelist Ann Bannon (interviewed in the film), the Daughters of Bilitis and lesbian bars. The film is a salute to the openly butch and femme lesbians who pioneered lesbian activism and gained what freedom you have.

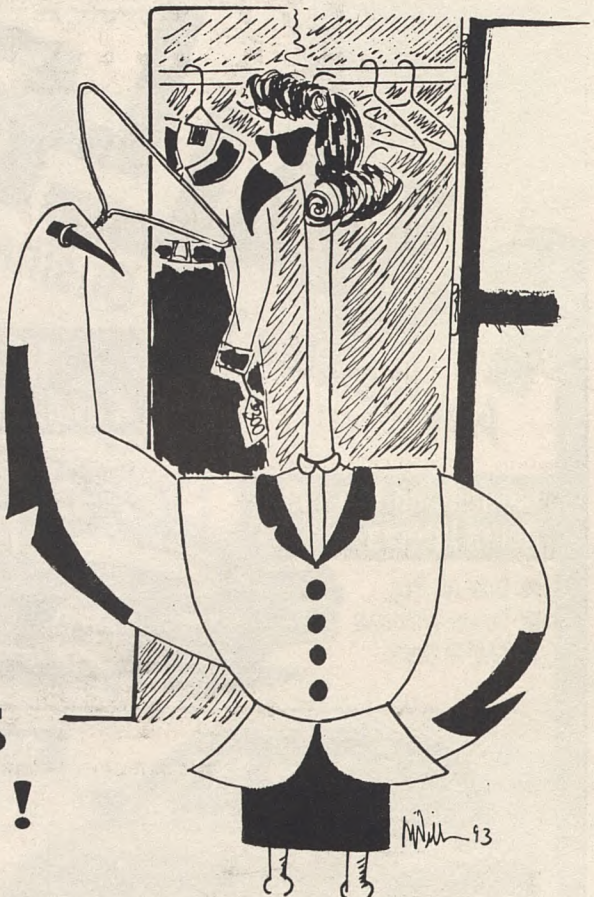
"Forbidden Love" is a fun mix of history with a clever love story. The tragic romance that the film portrays is contrasted with the real lives of lesbians of that

time.

"Sex Is ..." has been a smash hit from New York to San Francisco. The film takes an honest, graphic look at the sexual issues facing gay men "in the age of AIDS," as the 80's and 90's have come to be known. But don't look for an instructional, judgmental film on safe sex. "Sex Is ..." opens up a dialogue about sexuality that respects the vast diversity and differences of opinion in the gay community.

Interviews with gay men representing a variety of ages, races, celebrity, sexual activity and HIV status are interspersed with clips from pornographic videos. The interviews range from Madame X, an Oakland streetwalker and female impersonator, to African-American playwright Wayne Corbitt, talking about having sex with a white South African, to 73-year-old Midwestern minister Jim Glycer.

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The headline on the San Francisco Examiner's review read "Sex Is... not for Jesse Helms." Director Marc Huestis told the San Francisco Chronicle: "If Helms is so offended already, let's show him what's really happening." Huestis and co-producer Lawrence Helman admit that the film was primarily for a gay male audience, but insist that the subject of sexuality has been in the closet for too long. "Sex Is..." will offend some people, even some gay men, but the time has come to open up this closet and examine its skeletons.

"The Last Island" has been called a feminist "Lord of the Flies," and it is among the most challenging of the films and videos of the festival. It is the story of two women, five men and a dog stranded on a deserted island by a plane crash. Two of the men are gay, and one of the women is apparently a lesbian. This society in microcosm struggles with issues from reproductive rights to euthanasia. The ways they deal with these issues may surprise you.

"Twin Bracelets" is a tragic, but lovely, Chinese romance that starts between two young girls who promise to stay with each other forever. As often happens to the promises of childhood, they are unable to keep this one. The cinematography is as beautiful as the story is heartbreaking.

"Amazing Grace" is an Israeli film about Jonathan, a young man who moves away from home to live with Miki, a

handsome, bed-hopping young man who spends little time at home. Jonathan falls for Thomas, a 30-year-old man who has returned home to say goodbye to his mother and grandmother. But Thomas hides the fact that he is HIV-positive from his family and from Jonathan, making their relationship necessarily strained and complicated.

"Salut Victor" follows the tender relationship of two elderly gay men in a nursing home. They meet as residents and create a loving life together. When Victor's children cut off payment of his bills, Phillippe takes up the payments without Victor's knowledge so that they can stay together. This warm, delightful film is based on "Matthew and Chauncy" by Edward O. Philip.

In "Together Alone," two men meet at a bar and spend the night together talking about everything from AIDS to Asian philosophy. The mood is muted and somewhat strained as one would expect from two individuals who only know each other from a brief sexual encounter. As they get to know each other, each learns a little about himself.

"Damned in the USA" is among the feature-length documentaries in the festival. "Damned" was made at a time when the National Endowment for the Arts was struggling to maintain some artistic integrity against the censors of the religious right. The film includes interviews with censorship players ranging from Donald Wildmon to "2 Live Crew's" Luther Campbell. Ironically, after agreeing to the interview in the film, Wildmon tried to keep "Damned" from being shown in the United States. You will want to see for yourself what the



"Nitrate Kisses"

fuss is all about.

Other feature documentaries include "Last Call at Maud's," a delightful last look at San Francisco's oldest lesbian bar. The sneak preview of "One Nation Under God" airs at the festival. A historical perspective of gays and lesbians since Stonewall, its focus is on the supposed cures for homosexuality touted by the religious right. The film includes interviews with ex-gays and ex-ex-gays, including Gary and Michael, co-founders of the ex-gay organization, Exodus International, who fell in love with each other and denounced the movement.

"West Coast Crones" tells us that growing old may not be as bad as we're afraid it is. Interviews with old lesbians explore their lives and growing old, opening dialogue about everything from sexuality to ageism.

In addition to the feature length films in the festival, there

CONTINUES ON PAGE 28



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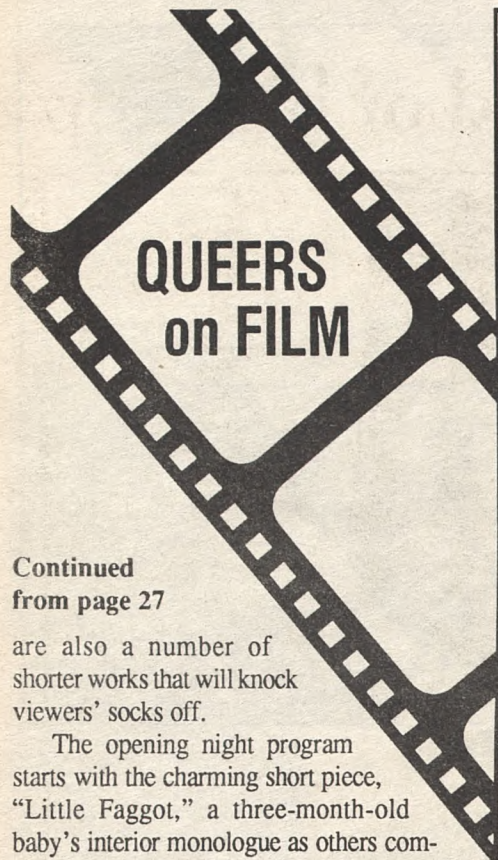
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Continued from page 27

are also a number of shorter works that will knock viewers' socks off.

The opening night program starts with the charming short piece, "Little Faggot," a three-month-old baby's interior monologue as others comment on his future. "Kiev Blue" is an exceptional documentary about lesbians and gays in Russia. "Bill and Ted's Homosexual Adventure" is a very sexy (and sexually explicit) music video by the Pansy Division (recent visitors to Atlanta's Dark Horse Tavern). "Pink in Public" is a light-hearted, almost silly, look at media outing.

A very important part of this year's festival is the family night program. Take the kids; take your parents; take the whole family.

Do you remember when Debra Chasnoff accepted the Academy Award last year for her exposé documentary on General Electric? She stood on stage on national television and thanked her partner, Kim, and their son. "Choosing Children" is Chasnoff and Klausner's combined effort about the education they received in their adoption process. It is touching, tender and revealing. Along with "Choosing Children," the family night program includes "Seth's Aunt," a very short film about a young boy who confuses his Jewish Aunt Nina with her lover, Penny.

Among this Festival's treats are two works each from Marlon Riggs and Isaac Julien. A repeat screening of Julien's exquisite film "Looking for Langston" will screen with Marlon



"Tongues Untied"

RON SIMMONS

Riggs' new video "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien" and a repeat of the ever-popular "Tongues Untied." Julien's new film, "The Attendant," is the sexy fantasy of a museum guard experimenting with his own desires for both dominance and submission.

A lesbian and gay film festival would hardly be complete without work from Barbara Hammer. Hammer's "Nitrate Kisses" is a talented culmination of her work so far. Her visual exploration of intimacy is balanced by the insightful feminist theory for which she is famous. For a different kind of cultural analysis, see the poignant and funny "Tim Miller Loud and Queer."

This year's festival also includes both men's and women's erotica. Be forewarned that the Festival's late-night safe sex video programs are sexually explicit. "Safe is Desire," headlining the women's program, is produced by Deb Sundahl and Fatale Video (of "On Our Backs" fame). The women are gorgeous and the sex is hot. Also on the women's erotica bill is "True Inversions." You many remember the Kiss and Tell Collective's "Drawing the Line" exhibit which encouraged women to write on the wall and indicate where they would draw the line on offensive material. It drew a big response from both women and men. "True Inversions" is Kiss and Tell's new project. It combines sex with censorship theory.

The First Annual Gay Men's Erotic Safe Sex Awards show is the result of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Homo Home Video contest. The winners include titles such as "The Package," "Safety in Numbers," "I'm Gonna Eat Worms," "Evil Thoughts," and "Bi-Ways."

The festival's opening night is Nov. 12 with a reception at 8 p.m., and the screening beginning at 9 p.m. The festival runs through Nov. 21. A complete program of screenings and film descriptions will be included in next week's Southern Voice.

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**NEW OR USED**

# Black lesbian breaks through in the world of hip-hop

*Me'Shell NdegeOcello's first album debuts on Madonna's label*

by WAYNE HOFFMAN

Me'Shell NdegeOcello is not the easiest person to interview. She lacks the arrogance of other musicians and is somewhat uncomfortable talking about herself. But she had better get used to the spotlight soon, because she is about to make a tremendous splash with the release of her debut album, "Plantation Lullabies," on Maverick Records.

She is reluctant to open up. "Listen to the record, listen to the music," she protests. "The music is much more interesting than me as a person."

Me'Shell sells herself short. In a field where artists wait years to be discovered overnight, Me'Shell makes her major label debut at age 24. In an industry where record companies are often afraid to take risks, Me'Shell is making it as an outspoken black lesbian.

Her success is no great surprise, considering that she has music in her blood. Her father is a U.S. Army band leader, and her older brother has played with go-go bands for years. Despite her family's encouragement, or perhaps because of it, Me'Shell resisted her musical urges for years, until 11th grade when she finally gave in.

"I didn't want anything to do with music," she remembers. "One day, a friend of my brother's left his bass over at the house, and I was just fiddling around and it was just as natural as breathing. I just fell in love with it—it was what I wanted to do."

She took up music at the Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and quickly expanded on her natural talents. Despite what she had hoped, having a musician for a father did not make her life easier.

"People always think it's great to grow up with a musician as a parent when you want to be a musician, but it's the worst thing in the world," she says. "I was always in his shadow. He was supportive, but difficult."

After high school, Me'Shell studied in Howard University's jazz program and began occasional session work with local groups in Washington. Her work with go-go bands like Rare Essence led to her first solo projects, which quickly led to her first awards—in 1990 Me'Shell took home three Wammies (Washington's local music awards) for her solo work. And she knew she was ready to move on.

She had done mostly studio work in Washington, which is not her favorite. "Live performance is, I think, what I do best. It's where I come from, it's what I grew up with," she says. Yet, in all her years in D.C., she played only two gigs: one with a band at the Hard Rock Cafe and one as the opening act for Big Audio Dynamite.

"I just don't fit there," she says of Washington. Despite getting her start there, she has few positive memories. "I spent most of my time at the Hirshhorn Museum sculpture garden. That is my fondest memory of D.C."

Me'Shell could feel her life changing, and she needed a new start, so she moved to New York City. Three years later, the city is home.

"I love New York. When I'm away, I totally miss it. It's my home," she says. "I love the trash. All that stuff—the subways, the noise—I can't sleep without it."

In New York, Me'Shell expanded her musical talents and began to play all of her own instruments and do her own vocals. But the change was more practical than artistic, Me'Shell says. "The only reason I did that is that I got tired of asking people to



MELODIE MCDANIEL

Me'Shell NdegeOcello's music blends free-form jazz with a steamy funk attitude and growling, husky vocals.

come and they wouldn't show up. That's why I play everything."

She started playing small clubs in New York and took on a new role as a mother. Her son, Askia, now four years old, changed her priorities completely.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

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## Lesbian in hip-hop

Continued from page 29

"He is very adorable, the center of my life," she says. "And he too has music in his blood. He's a musician. His talents are very apparent. He has incredible sense of time, and he remembers lyrics and melodies."

Settling into a life as musician and mother, Me'Shell says she has no time for a lover right now and is currently single.

"It's great. I love being by myself," she explains. "I have a child—that's where my focus is. It's hard to be caring and considerate and be there for other people, and I don't want to burden them with my self-absorbed life."

Me'Shell began searching in New York for a record label to sign her and provide her with a little job security. But there was only one offer, from Tommy Boy. Faced with too little money and too many artistic restrictions, Me'Shell turned down her only offer. She was disillusioned and burned out and ready to give up her career.

But Me'Shell took control of her life, and turned it around. She started by changing her last name. Her family's "government surname" was Johnson, but she chose NdegeOcello, which means "free like a bird" in Swahili.

"I have respect for my family—it has nothing to do with that," Me'Shell explains. "As a person, I think you travel through life, and sometimes you change, and there's some new things accompanied with my old name that I'd like to get past because I feel I'm this new person, a better person trying to leave some things I've done in the past behind."

With her new name and a new outlook, Me'Shell finally took off, and just in the nick of time. "Last year this time, I was ready to quit music totally and just forget about it, become a barber and take care of my child," she recalls. "And right when I got into barber school, all this stuff started happening."

This stuff amounted to a deal bigger than she had ever imagined. She got an offer from Madonna herself and became the first woman to sign on the diva's own Maverick label. And it happened so quickly that Me'Shell did not have the time to pinch herself.

"I did a gig on Thursday in New York, with a Maverick agent in the audience, and Monday morning I flew out to L.A. to meet Madonna," she explains. "She said she'd like to meet me,

and she liked the music, so I went out there and we ate rice cakes and gumballs and talked."

Me'Shell tried to contain herself. "I was nervous. I was overwhelmed. It was like, 'Dang, this is fucking Madonna!' But she's just like a nice person. She's my boss, you know?"

Madonna seemed to appreciate Me'Shell's no-nonsense attitude about being openly lesbian, as well. "With Madonna, I don't think she really cared. She heard the music first before she even met me, and signed the music before she even knew, so I don't think that had any impact," says Me'Shell.

She has gotten flak from others, though. "This is a very macho system. Musicians make their little comments," she says. "But I see it as their ignorance. It has nothing to do with me. They have the problem, I don't. It really doesn't bother me."

Other performers are not so bold. Many closeted musicians worry about losing the support of their labels and listeners if they come out of their closets. Me'Shell thinks that is mostly in their heads.

*Homophobia in black music has become a front-page issue. Me'Shell sees the problem, but she does not see it as insurmountable. "I kind of grew up in an urban situation, and I know where the rappers are coming from. Being a man is a precious thing, but they really don't know what it means to be a man."*

"Maybe I'm wrong, but I think that decision is all on them," she says. "Treat people with respect, and they'll treat you the same way."

The music press would seem to indicate that hip-hop in particular has a problem with gay musicians. Homophobia in black music has become a front-page issue. Me'Shell sees the problem, but she does not see it as insurmountable.

"I kind of grew up in an urban situation, and I know where the rappers are coming from. Being a man is a precious thing, but they really don't know what it means to be a man. There's a problem, but someone just needs to take the time to say 'What's up with that? What makes you feel that way?'"

Me'Shell has mixed feelings about another media phenom-

on that hits close to home for her—lesbian chic.

"It has pros and cons, just like anything else. It's sort of great that you get to see out lesbians who are intelligent who speak well and are doing things. It takes off the negativity from it when you see that they are regular people and I think that's great," she says.

"But otherwise, I think it's a game, like propaganda. All of a sudden it's cool to have lesbian friends, or to have a lesbian look, and that's such utter bullshit. I mean, I live this life, and I've been beat up in the subways. It's not all that glamorous."

Me'Shell is not aiming to be a lesbian poster child. She simply has nothing to hide.

"It's very much a part of me, and it doesn't affect my personality. I mean, it just is me," she says. "I guess I'm just trying to deal with it with some normality. It just is."

"I am Me'Shell NdegeOcello. I play the bass, I write music and I sing. Oh, and I happen to be a lesbian. Maybe I can help people see it in a different light. It's really no big thing. I go to work, I come home and take care of my child. My life is really no different than anyone else's."

Aside from having Madonna as a boss, of course.

"Plantation Lullabies" is due out in October, following the release of the first single, "Dredlocks." Me'Shell's music blends free-form jazz structure with steamy funk attitude, and growling husky vocals a touch too laid-back for rap. So what radio stations will play her? Where will her single be targeted?

"I hate radio. It sucks," she blurts out. "Everything sounds the same. If I could just get them to listen and open up their minds, maybe they'll play it. The single is pretty—not in a bad way—accessible. It will be targeted at black radio."

Her music is an uncomfortable blend of rage and peace, an apparent contradiction that Me'Shell thrives on.

"I don't think I'm political. I try not to deal with anything in the political system, because it doesn't work for me as a black person," she says. "Black love in the midst of revolution—to love myself and to love other people—that's what I think the album is about."

Even the album's title embodies the paradox. "[Plantation] is a metaphor for all sorts of urban situations, from Harlem to the shantytowns in Jamaica, just black urban living sort of thing." And Lullabies? "These are songs to lull your soul to rest, to caress your mind."

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# Bechdel is a dyke cartoonist to watch out for

*Mo and the gang from "Dykes to Watch Out For" have caught on—even with straight people*

Montpelier, VT—Mo, Toni and Sparrow are winning hearts nationwide with their broken romances, job angst, fertility problems and political frustrations.

Their lives, created by Vermont cartoonist Alison Bechdel, fill five books in 100,000 printings. The comic strip is syndicated in 45 publications (including Southern Voice), and Bechdel's work has appeared in Ms. magazine and New York's Village Voice. Her latest book, "Spawn of Dykes to Watch Our For," was released just last month.

A solid resume for any cartoonist.

A breakthrough for Bechdel, a lesbian whose work, "Dykes to Watch Out For," allows Americans a rare glimpse into the day-to-day lives—and kitchens, and bedrooms, and workplaces—of the lesbian community.

"I really am like a one-trick pony," said Bechdel, seated in a folding chair on the front porch of her red farmhouse on an isolated dirt road in central Vermont. "I write not so much about lesbians, but about my life."

Bechdel began doodling lesbian cartoons in 1982, shortly after graduation from Oberlin College in Ohio, while working as a word processor in New York City. She volunteered her cartoons to gay and lesbian publications before being approached about a book by a feminist publishing firm.

"She was incredibly bright, extremely funny and very much inside the lesbian community and poking fun at a higher intellectual level," recalled Nancy Bereano, Bechdel's editor at Firebrand Books in Ithaca, N.Y.

"She came of age as a lesbian at a time when possibilities seemed much greater," Bereano added. "She's not self-hating, and that's true of the way she sees the women in her life and the cartoon strip."

"Dykes" is sexually graphic. Her characters—a rainbow of races, colors, and body types—are often naked or topless, some-

times conversing while seated on toilets. They are mistaken for men and occasionally worry about being revealed on the job.

More often, however, their situations blur gender lines.

Lovers quarrel. Romances end. Friends die. Babies are born. Roommates argue about housekeeping chores. Lonely Saturday nights are spent eating popcorn with friends.

"What makes us laugh is when we see ourselves portrayed in these characters," said Raymond Lesser, publisher of the Ohio-based Funny Times monthly humor review. "It just so happens that these characters are lesbians."

And it's that universality and the sweetness in its telling that has Bechdel's books in high demand across the country.

"We can't keep her books in stock," said Roz Parr, manager and buyer for New York City's A Different Light, one of the nation's largest gay and lesbian bookstores.

That comment is echoed at gay, lesbian and alternative bookstores around the country—from the Women and Children First bookstore in Chicago to the Old Wives Tale bookstore in San Francisco.

"There's a soap opera quality to it," joked Kathie Bergquist, assistant manager of Women and Children First. "It's like 'Gays of Our Lives'...the soap opera the major networks never liked."

But Bechdel said she was not aiming for the traditional soap opera audience. Any appeal to straight readers is purely accidental.

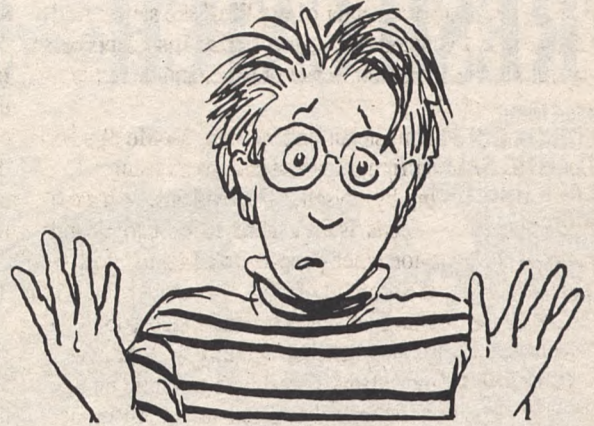
"I have no desire to speak to the mainstream," she said. And, noting the importance of sex in her cartoons, she added, "It will be centuries before you could show anyone having sex in the [mainstream] funnies."

Given its controversial theme, Bechdel's work is surprisingly noncontroversial.

Lesser, who notes that "Dykes" is one of only two gay cartoons regularly featured in Funny Times, said he has gotten only a handful of complaints about her work—a few from lesbians who felt she was making fun of them and a few from straight readers offended by the topic.

And Gray City Journal, an alternative student newspaper at the University of Chicago, plans to use the strip to attract not only gay and lesbian readers, but straight progressives, as well.

"It would be a kind of strip that people would pick up our



Mo is Bechdel's most angst ridden, and popular, character.

magazine to read," said Matt Roth, ad director for Gray City. "Although lesbian relationships have special qualities, a lot of what she writes about is universal."

Bechdel moved to Vermont several years ago with a lover. Although that relationship ended, she plans to remain in the state. In Vermont, she said, the lesbian community and cultural opportunities are limited, but the state is more open-minded than other areas about homosexuality.

"I would not feel nearly as safe" in her hometown of Beech Creek, Pa., a small, farming community, she said.

Her family has mixed feelings about her work—a younger brother gives her books as gifts, another brother "is more conservative," she said.

Her mother, who first asked if her daughter's lesbianism was the result of a bad experience with a boyfriend, is now interested in her work.

"We went through a lot of really painful stuff," Bechdel said, pausing to choose her words carefully. "I just kept bringing it up when she wanted to ignore it. She came to understand the political struggle that was just unfair. She started to get it."

Apparently a lot of people are starting to get it.

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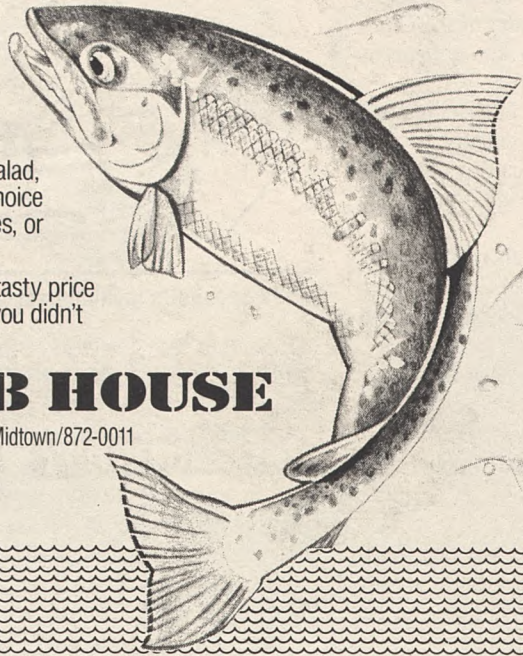
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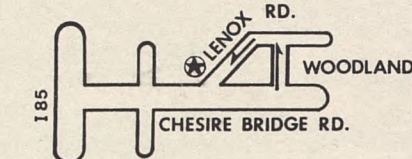
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A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

When crisp fall weather devolves into the damp grey ick that too often describes winter in Atlanta, my craving for tomatoes, cheese and red wine goes into overdrive. Unfortunately, my fave trattoria is La Strada, and its East Cobb location is a tad too far removed from Decatur for a quick and soul satisfying meal. (The good news is that the La Strada folks are opening a store in Buckhead sometime this winter, though if it is as mobbed as their other locations, the wait for a table will be mucho annoying.)

Failing the availability of Italian comfort food, a slab of paté and a plate of beef bourgignon are my next choices as a curative for Seattle-like weather. **Violette** (3098 Briarcliff Rd. 633-3323) is the obvious choice when *that siren sounds*.

At least it was until last week, when the temperature dropped, the skies turned ashen and, after a meal at Violette, my tongue felt like I'd taken a trip to the salt mines.

Violette is the sort of idiosyncratic place that is easy to love. It's located in a former (small) bank office. The floors are tile, ceilings low, the tables crowded and the decor either funny or distressing depending on the bent of your aesthetic sensibilities. Menu offerings are very basic bistro, servings are large, prices moderate, the music World War II vintage.

What more could a body want?

On numerous previous visits, my answer would have been, "not much." This time my reply would have to be "a little more finesse and a lot less sodium."

The soup d'jour, a creamy but thin tomato bisque, could hardly have been better. The balance of tomato and cream is near perfect. Carrots add sweetness to balance the tomatoes' acidity. Yes, it's too salty, but who cares?

And a sampler plate of salads garnished with a slab of coarse country paté is pretty wonderful too. The pasta mixture spiked with tarragon is especially noteworthy; shredded carrots doused with vinegar are almost as fine. Red cabbage slaw and light potato salad are balanced and totally enjoyable. Cous cous is spiked with nuts and raisins—yum. The paté is a mite greasy, but then it's supposed to be, isn't it?

On previous visits a huge green salad with walnuts, bacon, mozzarella and thinly sliced onions added was equally wonderful. Either salad with a bowl of soup would make a wonderful meal.

Unfortunately this night, the entrees can't keep up with the appetizers.

The beef part of beef Burgundy is tender and moderately well flavored, but the accompanying sauce is thin and tastes of little except salt, salt and beef base. It's almost as if someone neglected to add the wine.

Ditto equally tender chunks of pork in a creamy peppercorn and brandy sauce. The meat is tender and moist, not overdone with flavor, but tasty. The light sauce is not unpleasant, but there is little bite from either peppercorns or booze. It's a more honest take than the ersatz au poivre that they serve at Mick's, but a far too pale version when compared to the real thing.

Veggies and rice come plated with entrees. The former, though again saturated in salt, are crisp, well cooked and nicely presented. The rice is dry and flavorless, not unlike what you'd expect at the Holiday Inn in Unadilla.

But probably the most disappointing thing about Violette on this trip is the prepackaged commercial feel of both the food and service. One cannot, of course, expect Ciboulette at these prices (\$15 for 2 1/2 courses without wine), but it doesn't seem unreasonable to expect more soul than you'd get at Houlihan's.



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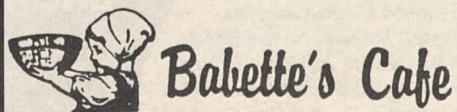
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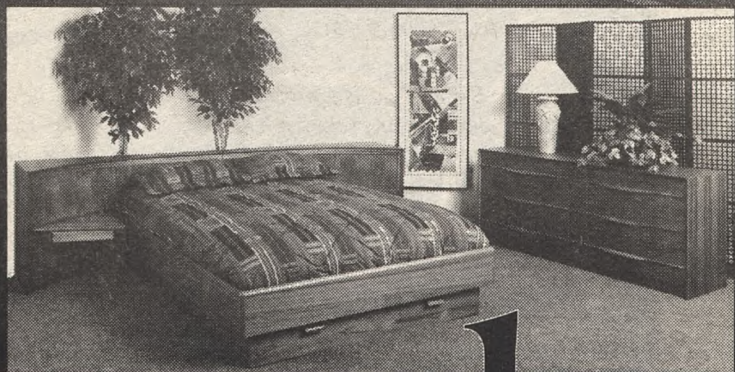
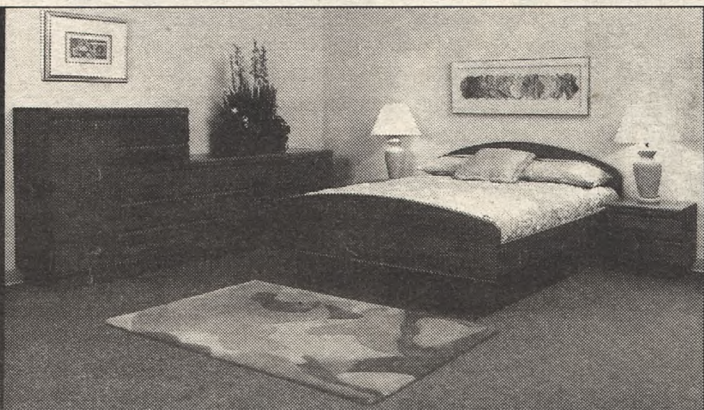
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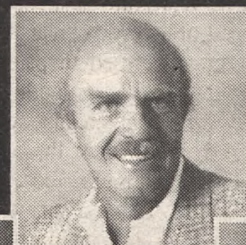
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# BACKSTREET ATLANTA

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**Word of (Bad) Mouth:** Word on the street is that folks are organizing a boycott of a very popular Atlanta business because said business refused to participate in a recent AIDS fundraiser. Charges of homophobia and AIDS-phobia are being traded with counterclaims of attempted coercion and (near) blackmail. Unfortunately, the folks who are privy to the facts are not willing to go on the record, so we are uncomfortable with naming names. That's a shame, because if the charges are true, queers in Atlanta are spending mucho dinero where their money is welcome but little else about them is valued.

**Switched at Birth?:** We are indebted to a creative reader out Buckhead way for providing us with an image that, at first glance, we thought it was the late Mickey Day. But then we realized that it was naught but a skillfully altered image of Jerry Falwell (from our Oct. 7 cover), who had been provided with a fake eyelashes, lip color, nails, a coiffure and a snazzy earring. Mr. F., we think, looks far more comfortable in his skin as a woman that he does when he dons preacher drag. Then again, maybe it's possible that Jerry and Mickey were the same person all along and that accounts of the late Ms. Day's death were just a smokescreen to allow Jerry to quit performing.

**Slightly Skewed:** Word is hot on the street about a new study that purports to prove that gay men are more attractive (beautiful, cute, pretty, handsome—take your choice) than straight men. The study had panels of judges look at photos of straight (young) men and (young) men who had gender identity disorders. The panel agreed strongly that the GID guys were more attractive. Sounds cool, but the problem is that gender identity disorder and gay are two different things. Gay men like men. Folks with gender identity disorder tend to feel like they were born with the wrong parts. One-third grow up to be straight. Sorry guys. Great premise, but bad science.

**Sad Story:** Kathy Mattea (who performed at last year's AIDS walk here in Atlanta and was chair of a similar event recently in Nashville) reports that her former boyfriend has died of the

# Dish

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



Dish thinks the Lavender Menace's blast at Betty Friedan was misplaced.

disease. She didn't give the man's full name, referring to him only as "Michael from Los Angeles."

**Retrovism?:** Dish wants to give an A for creativity (and an F for timeliness and sensitivity) to a group of (all male) activists

who protested feminist author Betty Friedan's recent reading at Oxford Books. Seems said band of guys (calling themselves the "Lavender Menace" and wearing T-shirts bearing those words) were angry because Friedan used that term years ago to describe worries about lesbians in the women's movement. Now Dish likes creativity, and we don't think we see near enough of from queers in public places. And Ms. Friedan may actually have had some problems with homophobia those many years ago. But her new book, "The Fountain of Age" is a wise and powerful tome that denigrates no one, especially lesbians, whose relationships are lovingly and sensitively portrayed in the book. Ms. Friedan, may have once been a valid target for protest. But in a town fire with the likes of Billy McKinney, Sean Hannity and Gordon Wysong, it seems the effort expended to criticize her past might have been put to better use challenging some real enemies.

**Fag Wabbit?:** The magazine "Wild Cartoon Kingdom" opines that Bugs Bunny may be a homo. We quote, "As a chronic cross-dresser and female impersonator, Bugs hasn't exactly been hiding in the closet. In the past the effeminate bunny has posed as female rabbits, humans and even Tasmanian devils. He once even transformed into a female Bugs after downing a magic pill." More important, they point out, Bugs and Elmer Fudd have had an openly romantic thing for years now.

**Cards & AIDS:** Whilst we're on comics, a reader informs us that the AIDS Trading Cards that we mentioned a couple of weeks ago are available at several local comic outlets. This particular woman (and she's a lot of woman) found 'em at Oxford II out Buckhead way and says they are well worth the \$1.25 or so asking price.

**New 'Zine:** Good news for gay/lesbian Vietnamese—surely there are a bunch in the Southeast. There is a new magazine for queer folks from that part of the world being published in California. The quarterly "Doi Dien" contains fiction, poetry, personal accounts and photos. The publication is bilingual and you can order one copy (\$6) or a year's worth (\$20) from Doi Dien, P.O. Box 730305, San Jose, CA 95173.

**NOVEMBER 4 - NOVEMBER 10, 1993**

Mercury is in retrograde through Nov. 13, so be sure all your communications are clear, simple and to the point and mail everything early. Avoid confusion in your own mind by being clear about your own priorities, and keep your feet on the ground.

**ARIES**, now you can really focus on your career, as Uranus and Neptune move forward in your 10th house. However, don't take on more than you can realistically accomplish and remember to take good care of your body. Even Superman had to eat. **TAURUS**, worrying to death about something is definitely not the same as being practical. Worry is non-productive and damaging to the spirit, so do your best to give it up. You can accomplish much more by looking for creative solutions to any problems. **GEMINI**, remember home is where the heart is, so follow your heart and you will always feel at home. You can depend on the kindness of strangers, so take a little risk and live your dream. Later in life, you can write a best seller about your adventures.

**CANCER**, you will find life much smoother the more you are able to integrate your wonderful, practical style of creativity into everything you do. Amaze your friends and co-workers with unique solutions to problems that everyone thinks are necessary.

## STARSIGNS

**LEO**, how is life in the fast lane? With Mercury retrograde in your fourth house of home and family relationships, be sure you are communicating with your significant other and/or the folks you live with. Not a good time for visitors. Wait a week or so. **VIRGO**, if you are spending any time worrying about that which you cannot control, then you are wasting precious time and energy. Put your efforts into creative solutions to any problem or difficult situation that crosses your path. You'll be amazed.

**LIBRA**, say goodbye to Jupiter as it heads out of your first house and into your second house of material resources and personal income. Jupiter energy is very expansive, so be careful about spending and put lots of thought into ways of creating income. Happy birthday, **SCORPIO**. With Mercury retrograde in your first house, you can expect the unexpected for about two weeks. Plan ahead, but don't be surprised if you have to make last minute

changes. Do a few spontaneous fun things this week. **SAGITTARIUS**, the 12th house is your gateway to the wonderful world of the collective unconscious, and it is very active right now, possibly bringing old memories (past lives or otherwise) to the surface. So, you may need extra quiet time.

**CAPRICORN**, some days life on the planet just looks like one giant soap opera. But, there is hope as we all gain clarity about our own personal needs and visions. Be patient with yourself and others, as we are all adjusting. **AQUARIUS**, Saturn is now moving forward through your first house, so you can move forward on any personal projects that seem to have been sitting on the back burner. Make haste slowly, especially at work, and you will have wonderful results. **PISCES**, you are definitely in a learning cycle right now, and you could benefit from a seminar or a trip to someplace new and exciting. Stay within your budget, don't buy now and plan to pay later. You may have some unexpected expenses, but don't worry.

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.

**THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS Social Life OF ETHAN GREEN...** BY Eric Orner...

**Flashback 1976**

**IT WAS 1976, AND DESPITE MOM'S BEST EFFORTS AT FOCUSING YOUR INTERESTS ELSEWHERE, PUBERTY'S ONSET HAD LEFT YOU ETHAN HONEY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR NEW BICYCLE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD? SLAX 9/9**

**CHRISTOPHER ATKINS CENTER - FOLD SNUCK INSIDE MENSWEAR! "MAYBE LATER"**

**HAD YOU BEEN A STRAIGHT KID, perhaps YOU MIGHT'VE ENJOYED THESE NEW HUNGERS AS MUCH AS YOUR BEST FRIEND BURTON COHEN SEEMED TO... THAT'S TERRIBLE BURTON... YOU WANNA GO TO DEANNA GUTHMAN'S PRICK TOWN CAMP? YOU WANNA GO TO MINIATURE GOLFING? OR WHAT? BURTON HAD ONE OF THESE MOMS WHO NEVER MADE HIM MAKE THE BED...**

**INSTEAD, FURTIVE and FEARFUL, YOU SPENT MUCH OF THAT YEAR LOCKED IN THE UPSTAIRS CEDAR CLOSET, AROUSING YOURSELF WITH YEARBOOK PICTURES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM.**

**WHAT'S YOU DOING OVER THERE? BRILLIANT! THE CROTCH OF MY LEVIS - WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING? (HEY, WANNA WEAR THESE FUNNY HATS TO THE BANK? SURE, WHY NOT?) BEAN BAG CHAIR**

**BACK AT YOUR HOUSE, BURTON WAS SLEEPING OVER. THE TWO OF YOU WERE USING FLASHLIGHTS TO FIGURE OUT WHO HAD BIGGER BICEPS AND MORE BODY HAIR... NEIL STONE HAS IT UNDER HIS ARMS... REALLY? HE WAS MORE DEVELOPED WHICH WAS AT ONCE AMBITIOUS & EXCITING... POOR DANNY DEWMAN DOESN'T HAVE "ANYTHING" HE GOT TEASED IN GYM... REALLY?... YOU'RE GETTING A "WOOBY"!**

THANKS TO AVA MAHLER.

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General Psychiatry



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# ORGANIZATIONS

### AIDS Organizations

- AID Atlanta—872-0600
- AIDS Education/Services for Minorities—POB 87277, Atlanta, 30337, 762-6002
- AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
- AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728
- AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
- AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—872-2246
- AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
- AIDS and Substance Abuse Speakers Network—977-7797
- AIDS SUPPORT—Jewish Family Services—888-6400, #76
- Atlanta Buyers Club—874-4845, or POB 77003, Atl, 30357
- Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network—874-8686
- Atlanta Lesbian AIDS Project—250-8177
- Childkind—936-9655
- Common Ground—874-6425
- First MCC AIDS Ministry—325-4143
- Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network—1-800-551-2728
- Good Samaritan Project—873-4589
- Grady Mem. Hospital Infectious Disease Program—341 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atl, 30308, (404) 616-2440
- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—876-0105
- National Assn of People With AIDS/Atlanta—874-7926
- The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
- Outreach, Inc.—(404) 346-3922
- People's United Pet Support—370-0178
- Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)—876-PALS
- Positive Impact—885-9040
- Positive Outlook On Health—872-9954
- Project Open Hand Atlanta—525-4620

### Arts/Entertainment/Culture

- Atlanta Diversity Chorale—607-1146
- Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—438-5823
- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—POB 771144, Atlanta 30357
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing—POB 7032, Atlanta 30357, 876-1060
- Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble—872-3135
- "Funny... That Way"—875-2275
- Gay & Lesbian Marching Band—872-9763
- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc—609-9590
- Southern Country Atlanta—938-0609

### Bars

- The Armory—836 Juniper, 881-9280
- Babylon—Piedmont Grove, 10th & Monroe.
- Backstreet—845 Peachtree St, 873-1986
- Bellissima—688 Spring Street.
- Blake's—227 10th St, 892-5786
- Buddies Cheshire Square—2345 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-5895
- Buddies Midtown—239 Ponce de Leon, 872-2655
- Bulldog & Co—893 Peachtree, 872-3025
- Burkhart's—Ansley Square, 872-4403
- Club Fetish—(Weds.) 695 North Ave., 577-8178
- The Cove—586 Worcester, 875-2477
- Crazy Ray's—1492 Piedmont, 873-4655
- Crown Club—2050 Cheshire Br, 636-5470
- The Eagle—308 Ponce De Leon, 87EAGLE
- 551 Downstairs—551 Ponce De Leon, 873-4052
- Gallus Bar & Restaurant—49 6th St, 892-8983
- Goodies—64 Third St, 873-3355
- The Heretic—2069 Cheshire Bridge, 325-3061
- Loretta's—708 Spring St, 874-8125
- The Metro—48 6th Street, 874-9869
- New Order—1544 Piedmont, 874-8247
- Opus—1086 Alco St, 634-6478
- The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Rd, 875-5238
- The Pear Garden—11 Luckie St, 659-4055
- Peppers by Frank Powell—980 Piedmont Ave. NE 872-4000
- Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon, 892-7871
- Revolution—293 Pharr Rd, 816-5455
- Scandals—Ansley Square, 875-5957
- The Model-T—Ford Factory Square, 872-2209
- Visions—2043 Cheshire Bridge, 248-9712

### Direct Action/Political

- ACLU of Georgia—523-5398
- ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
- ACT UP—874-6782 (O)
- Atlanta Greens, Green Party USA, Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Queer Caucus—368-7137
- Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
- Cobb Citizens Coalition—POB 965336, Marietta 30066, 256-8690
- Dykes & Faggots Bash Back—P.O. Box 14531, Atlanta 30324, voice mail 908-5369
- Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—605-7477
- Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atl, 30312
- Georgia Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—(404) 662-4199 or POB 5282, Atlanta 30307
- GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
- Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field Committee, 231-5751
- LEGAL—605-7476
- Lesbian Avengers—621-5016
- National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
- National Organization for Women, Gay & Lesbian Rights Task Force—636-7435
- Neighbors Network—257-5550
- Queer Nation—605-7396
- Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324, 239-1679
- Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
- STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

### National

- Human Rights Campaign Fund—1012 14th St. NW, Suite 607, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 628-4160
- Lambda Legal Defense Fund—666 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, NY 10012, (212) 995-8585
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force—1517 U. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 332-6483
- Old Lesbians Organizing for Change—OLOC, PO Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098
- Stonewall 25/Internat'l March—662-6753

### Professional

- Atlanta Entrepreneurs' Club—Dr. Bravy 457-6347
- Bar Owner's Assn—POB 15114, Atlanta 30333-0114
- Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
- Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (G/L PEN)—POB 580397, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0397
- GA Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
- HomeGirls—622-0105
- LEAGUE, Inc. (Employees of AT&T)—404/872-2359
- Nat'l Gay Pilots Assoc.—PO Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542, (703) 660-3852
- Nat'l Lesbian and Gay Journalists Assoc.—634-7429
- Nat'l Federation of Career Women—(404) 659-0315
- OUTstaff (Emory)—727-2787 (Donna)

### Spiritual

- All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—622-1154
- Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—876-0631
- Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
- Congregation Bet Haverim—642-3467
- Emergence/Atlanta (Christian Scientists)—565-2126
- First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta—378-5570
- First Metropolitan Community Church of Atl—325-4143
- Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (Quakers)—370-1340
- Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)
- Gay Spirit Visions—378-7224
- Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church—627-6221; 575 Boulevard SE
- Hosanna African Unity Life Center—872-9055
- Integrity (Episcopal)—642-3183
- Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—636-7109
- Oakhurst Presbyterian Church—378-6284
- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—373-5830
- Unitarian Universalists—634-5134, George at 688-2242

### Sports/Outdoor/Hobbies

- Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
- Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
- Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—662-GAME
- Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
- Greater Atlanta Naturalist Group—851-2882 (voice mail)
- Hotlanta Soccer—876-7372
- Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl, 30324, 873-4061
- Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
- Lambda Car Club—POB 11705, Atlanta 30355
- Luring Lesbians (fishing club)—932-5236
- Mountain Catalyst—POB 199, Demorest, GA 30535
- S.E. Gay Rodeo Assn—POB 7881, Atl., 30357, 760-8126
- Wilderness Network of GA—SASE, POB 55156, Atlanta 30308
- Women's Outdoor Network—624-3418
- Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
- TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
- Underwater Escapes—289-0696

### Service/Support/Social

- About Crossdressing—Janet, 624-3770
- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
- Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—223-3718
- American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (eve)
- Asians & Friends—Atlanta—876-0090
- Athens Lesbian Information—LSG, POB 7864, Athens, 30604
- Atlanta Corporal Punishment Club—Box 11863, Atlanta 30355
- Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
- Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
- Atlanta Gender Exploration—875-9846
- Atlanta Lambda Community Center—POB 15180, Atlanta 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—POB 5502, Atlanta 30307, phone 378-9769
- Atlanta Lesbian Singles Organization (ALSO)—843-4492
- Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
- BiAtlanta—256-8992
- Bisexuals of Atlanta Resource Network—908-3413
- Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
- Caregivers to PWAs Support Group—874-1109 or 875-6109
- Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
- Delphi—POB 14591, Atlanta, G 30324
- Emotions Anonymous—872-0979
- First Women—G.G. Richardson, POB 724711, Atl, 30339, 612-9473.
- Friends Atlanta—662-4501
- Gay Fathers of Atlanta—342-6451
- Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
- Gay/Lesbian AA & Al-Anon—881-9188
- Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America—623-4099
- Gay/Lesbian Task Force to the Public Safety Comm. of City Council—330-6504
- Georgia Girth & Mirth—POB 9678, Atl, 30319, (404) 621-5710
- Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
- Gwinnett Lambda—POB 464848, Lwrnc'ville 30246, 871-GAYS
- Hospitality Atlanta—627-0520
- Interact of Atlanta—984-9875
- KO-Existence—875-8936
- John Howell Park Project—876-0105
- Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
- Latinos En Accion—621-5743
- Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—325-4909
- Lesbian Narcotics Anonymous—703-3897
- Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
- Lesbians Considering Parenthood—908-1704
- Lesbians Over 50—850-1005
- Lesbians With Children—740-1729
- Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 30307
- Name the Violence Support Group for Battered Lesbians—822-9570; Crisis Hotline—688-9436
- Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)—892-5868
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—296-0830 or 875-9440
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chattanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
- Positive Black Lesbians United (PBLU)—294-4377
- Prime Timers—POB 29487, Atlanta 30359
- Queer Youth—P.O. Box 54032, Atlanta 30308; 605-7396
- Real Gay World BBS—404-266-0856
- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
- Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 350-0456
- Survivors of Incest Anonymous—POB 2502, Decatur, GA 30031; 239-8018
- Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
- Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
- Women of Wisdom—289-8819
- Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
- Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
- Zami—908-3356

### Students/Alumni

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

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OUTLINES

**CECILY WALKER**

**Age:** 25

**How long in Atlanta:** Native

**Relationship Status:** "Terminally dateless"

**Last Book Read:** "Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone" by James Baldwin

**Pet Peeve:** People who are culturally unaware



Atlanta's largest college radio station, WRAS 88.5, has long been known for its diversity in programming and staff by students at Georgia State University. The station's current general manager, Cecily Walker, is certainly a reflection of Georgia State's policy of embracing individuality within its various media. Cecily is the kind of person who could let anyone know she's an out lesbian—but then the person just realized they have had the pants charmed off of them.

Currently tying up some loose ends before earning her degree in journalism in December, Walker says part of her would like to remain in the field in which she started just over two years ago at WRAS.

"When I meet people who are not just in radio but who are in the music industry as a whole, and when I meet gays and lesbians in the industry and see how closeted they are, it kind of scares me. It sort of puts me off wanting to go into this business. I wouldn't want to have to go back into the closet."

Being closeted is not something to which Walker would ever again adapt herself. While she is an avowed letter-writer ("Write letters like nobody's business"), she is not currently involved in any of the political activist groups in the way she was for about two years.

"I think almost all of us go through this 'angry queer' mode. Certain groups I felt only wanted me because I was a black lesbian. [In] certain groups, it was like 'You're a woman and you shouldn't do this or you shouldn't do that' so I kind of got burnt out on it and rededicated myself to school."

One of her best experiences this year was attending the March On Washington in a school van. "Being there with all of those people, the 300,000 number notwithstanding, is something I don't think I'll ever feel again. It was my first time going, and it just didn't compare to the Pride marches here. Just going up there and making my own personal history was the best thing that happened this year."

Does being so visibly out ever cause problems with her work? Not according to her. "Our advisor and the current administration have all been very supportive. When I wrote an ad in the

school newspaper about going to the March On Washington, I did it for WRAS, and we were the only local radio station to send a news team up there. They are really supportive of me and it's like, 'You go girl' because what I do as Cecily Walker—and as long as I don't sign my name as Cecily Walker, general manager, WRAS—is fine. I'm not speaking for the radio station, I'm speaking for me."

So, what now after graduation? Walker would like to go back and get a degree in African-American studies. She sees herself remaining in radio long enough to make the money to go graduate school and then get her Ph.D. and maybe end up in academia somewhere. The people who inspire her the most are reflective of the type of person she says she would like to become.

"There are two professors at Georgia State who are sort of my personal heroes. They are black women in academia and you just don't [find] that much."

You can usually catch Walker on the air at various times throughout the week playing that "alternative" music. The alternative music scene recently seems to be at the forefront of producing queer bands. Is the music coming into the station becoming more queer? "Well, we've always played k.d. lang and Erasure. I guess I've seen some of the artists who in recent months have come out and said they're bisexual or whatever. What's really interesting that's happening in the music industry isn't so much people coming out and saying that they are gay but [that] people like one of the biggest alternative bands around, Nirvana. Kurt Cobain, the lead singer, who may say he's bisexual or gay in spirit or whatever, he says 'If you are a gay basher, or if you hate people of color, or if you hate women, do us a favor and don't come to our shows.' That's what I'm seeing more of, though, is people saying 'I'm gay positive and if you're a bigot, we don't want your money.'"

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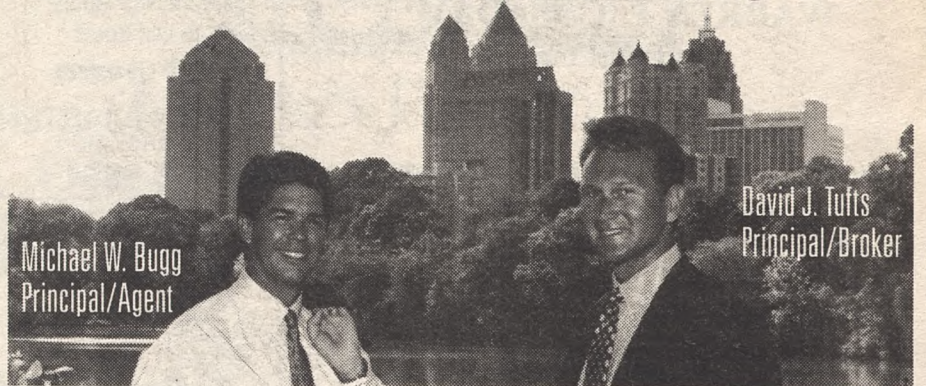


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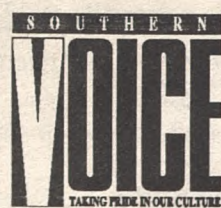
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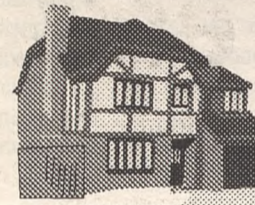
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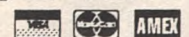
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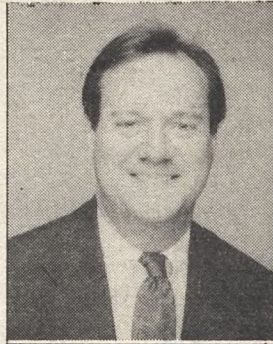
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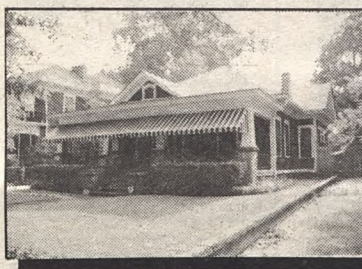


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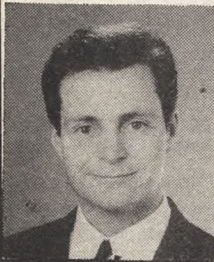
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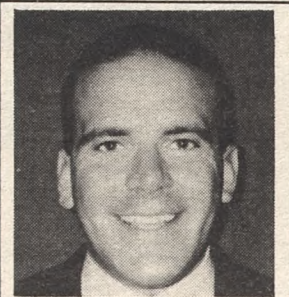
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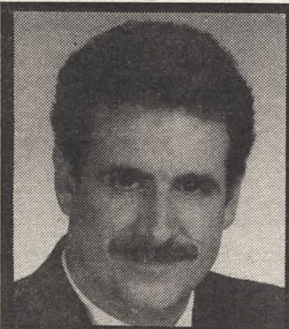


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**Morningside, 1 BR 1452 N. Highland.** Quiet non-smoker, small pets OK. \$525/mo. Linda 876-7540. (6.38)

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**Grant Park-Move-in condition, good street, fenced yard, deck, only \$69,900.** Alene Corey 938-2878. Re/max Metro. (6.40)

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in Decatur/Agnes Scott area, 2 bedrooms & sleeping porch, new kitchen, bath, laundry and systems, deck and large yard, \$89,900, lease purchase avail. 454-7983. (6.39)

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Lesbian roommate wanted for 3 BR home in Decatur, bedroom furnished or unfurnished, month to month or long term OK. \$250 + some util. 289-8819. (6.39)

Now in Atlanta! Bunk Buddies, Atlanta's premier roommate / relocation service, in and out of Atlanta. Call 622-0380 for details today. (6.40)

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Vacation rental near Maggie Valley, NC. Full set up for 6 people. Private, views. \$25 per night. 2 night min. (704) 452-6464. (6.37)

**Gay World Travel Areas** - Gay owned & operated accommodations list. Maps & more. Send \$10. Go Places With Pride, 9418 133 Street, Jamaica, NY 11419. (6.40)

**Volunteers**

**HELP A CHILD**

**AID Atlanta** is looking for volunteers who are willing to work one morning a week from 9-12 in the new pediatric nursery. Responsibilities include watching and playing with young children while their parents see the doctor. This is one of the most rewarding yet least stressful services available. Minorities and men are urged to participate. If interested, please contact Jack Schiffman, Pediatric Coordinator, AID Atlanta, 874-6517. (6.41)

Volunteers needed for the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Come to the general meetings, 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Colony Square Hotel. Hotel parking validated. (ongoing)

**Good Samaritan Project** provides support for persons with AIDS. Volunteers needed - as buddies, practical support, office, clothing/food bank. 873-4589. (6.45)

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Voice Connection

WOMEN

BiWF, trim, 40's, inexperienced, seeks feminine, trim, attractive, BiF for discreet get togethers. T 1835

Very attractive, educated, feminine, Passions: music, philosophy, politics, travel. Seeking friendship and conversation with attractive, feminine, intelligent woman. T 1825

Large feminine WF looking for BiB or WF for fun and friendship. Write: Skeeter, P.O. Box 1685, Cornelia, GA 30531.

Wonderful, full-figured Lesbian (40) seeks fun-loving + intelligent Lesbian. Are you honest, warm and stable? Enjoy children? T 1793

Open GF sought for quality friendship. Must understand college student's life. Must enjoy theatre, art, dance, dining. 20-27. T 1798

GWF - I love life, fun and dogs. Work hard, play hard and know how to relax. No drugs/Alcohol. 40ish. T 1789

GWF, 32, baby dyke starting over, seeks GWF 20-35 into laughter, movies, romance and commitment. No drugs, non-smoker, kids-okay. T 1780

GBF, attractive, very feminine, seeks fun-loving, aggressive GF for friendship, possible relationship. T 1774

Cute, feminine, GWF, 27, educated, academic professional, energetic, cat-lover, passionate and playful, seeks soulmate and friends close to my age for intellectual and comical stimulation. T 1778

GWF, early twenties, doesn't know how to pick up women, but sure knows what to do once she's got one. T 1783

GWF, 34, I'm an old fashioned girl with new age ideas. My mom will like you too if, like me, you're natural, emotionally stable, attractive, kind, humorous, intelligent, and has integrity. T 1777

GWF, 32, feminine tomboy. No butches. Enjoy outdoors, physical activity and quiet evenings. Young/professional by day and student at night. Similar. P.O. 1905, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (6.37)

GWF, professional, feminine, fit, desires correspondence with/meeting same 37-45. Appreciates intellect, depth, balance, equanimity, innate sensuality, taste. POB, 674812, Marietta, GA 30067. (6.37)

Young 40, attractive, intelligent, blessed with many good friends. Are you honest, stable, tender? With no fear of the potential relationship? T 1773

Attractive GF Seeking foreign, petite lipstick lesbian for companionship, to enjoy life, love and happiness. No butch, bi's or kids. T 1746

Attractive GWF seeking feminine GWF who enjoys being wined and dined in life's simple pleasures. No bi's, drug free. T 1744

Lesbian seeking women to talk with, laugh with and walk with along life's path. If your world includes films, theater, books, travel, pets, politics, spirituality and joy, I look forward to talking to you. T 1713

GWF, very attractive, long hair, Gothic, grunge, alternative music, seeks GWF. Must be feminine and attractive, 47, no Bi's. T 1738

GBF, prof., 30's, kids, attractive, enjoys books, music, dancing, laughing. Seeks GF 25-40 with similar interests for friendship & more. T 1716

Feminine, GWF, 31, seeking dependable friendship, intelligent conversation, laughter (no zombies) and maybe romance with a sincere feminine lady. T 1718

GWF, 35, attractive, romantic, seeks GWF 35-40, attractive feminine dark-haired, fun, likes outdoors, horses, country dancing. Must be honest, playful & stable. I am. Friendship possible relationship. No drugs. T 1719

Single GBF interested in meeting single BF for friendship with many possibilities. T 1701

BiWF, 40's, attractive, trim, first-timer seeks non-smoking, trim, feminine GWF 35-50 for discreet safe encounters. No drugs. T 1709

GWF, seeks special woman 32-40 to meet another special woman, emotionally healthy, no drugs, alcohol abuse, feminine, start with friendship. T 1711

BF experienced, adventurous, affectionate seeks intelligent, exotic, femi-female who enjoys travel, romance, dancing and a lot more. Non-smoker, novice OK, race unimportant. T 1712

If you're a GBF drug free, independent, spiritual, proportioned, naturally beautiful, socio-politically conscious, intellectual, over x-lovers, conversationalist, monogamous - I'm waiting. T 1703

GBF - Attractive, suave 25 yr. old lipstick butch seeks shapely, intelligent, extremely femme Black woman. Prefer Spelman type. T 1707

Seeking aggressive, intelligent, open-minded romantic for friendship & possible relationship. No drugs. T 1685

GWF, 42, fun, adventurous, independent. Likes outdoors, sports, nice conversation and dinners. Seeks same to go with flow of universe. T 1689

Black lesbian. Intellectually and physically blessed seeks dinner, theatre, bookstore, thriftstore, bowling, exercise companion. Children fine. No drugs, cigarettes, alcohol. T 1672

Petite GWF 28, fem., non-smoker, romantic, sensual, fun-loving, independent. Seek GWF 25-35 for friendship. No smokers, Bi's, butches. T 1680

GWF, 30, cute and petite, seeking same. Friendship in recovery can be fun without drugs and alcohol. Let's be adventurous. T 1675

Feminine, attractive, GBF, no kids, seeking down to earth GBFs for friendship. Will answer all calls. T 1671

GWF, 23, 5'1" seeking attractive GWF, 20's for fun, romantic evenings, good conversation. Friendship, possible relationship. Like fun? Let's meet! T 1678

You: intelligent, secure BiWF, 25-45, seeking take charge partner for sensual relationship - & willing to travel. Me: BiBF, 38, NY prof'l w/Atl. ties. T 1673

Attractive GWF, 34, intelligent, professional, shapely, adventurous, sincere, new to Atlanta seeks similar GWF's. Come on Girls, I'm waiting! T 1682

GBF, 33; attractive, sports/arts lover. Appreciates beautiful feminine GF with intellect and security. Call me today anyway. You'll see! T 1665

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

GBF, 35, attractive & professional, seeks feminine GF, down-to-earth, for companion/friendship. No games, bi's. T 1660

BiBF, 32, attractive GA Peach, feminine, seeks gorgeous feminine female, any race, for possible one-on-one relationship. T 1643

WANTED! Attractive fem. late 20's+ for fun & more. Me, country semi-butch blonde, 25, non-drinker, no drugs. T 1646

WF 31 - Adventurous, untamed, a bit crazy, very humorous, like dancing, pool, outdoors, etc. Lkg 4 same w/wild imagination. Plz call!!! T 1647

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

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

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

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

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

Wonderful, intelligent GWF looking for that special lady, 30-40's, who has sense of humor, honesty, loyalty and is financially secure. T 1594

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GWF feminine, attractive, professional, VERY discreet seeks same GWF or BiWF 25-35 for friendship. Preferably Columbus, Auburn area - Confidential. T 1526

GWF, 23, 5'2", slim, good sense of humor, positive, motivated, has own life, seeking attractive, secure woman who enjoys local music, outdoors, arts, romance. No butch, no druggies, no psychos. T 1525

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

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

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

GWF, 40's, seeks serious animal lover, vegetarian, non-smoker who has trouble with grown people who believe in supernatural beings. T 1497

MEN

Handsome GWM, 21, mature professional, 6'1" - 185, brwn/brwn sks sincere GWM, 30-40. Take charge kinda guy - romantic, cultured, not only interested in a pretty face but what's inside. Let's talk!!! T 1839

GBM, 29, 6'1", 240 lbs, competitive body-builder, professional, masculine, discreet, seeking BM with similar characteristics and interests to spend time with. T 1836

Looking for you! Me: Handsome, sexy, 5'8", 165 lbs, workout, professional, romantic, adventurous. You: sexy, my size or bigger, well-built, romantic, adventurous. Call to talk! Big arms, big heart preferred! T 1828

BM - Handsome, athletic, muscular, romantic, honest, seek masculine, athletic, handsome, muscular, discreet men for relationship. Policemen & armed forces preferred. T 1834

GWM, 39, 5'7", 135 lbs., beard, versatile, daytime playmate for all types of action. Seeks 25-45 GWM into playing hard. T 1829

GWM, Attractive, witty, youngish 50, 6, 185 lbs, moustache, brn/blu, healthy HIV, interests: movies, cooking, cards, theater, dining out, travel, quiet evenings - into: cuddling, long-term companionship, Greek love, light smoker/drinker, no drugs, seeks GWM 40-55 w/similar needs/wants. T 1830

DESIRED: Professional GBM, 30ish, top with average build to spend quiet evenings with professional HIV+ healthy GWM, slim build, athletic, honest. T 1832

Friendship or relationship? GWM 31, HIV +, enjoys country music & dance, easy going, seeks same/older. Call + find out more! T 1833

GBM, 30, 5'10", 185 lbs, goodlooking endowed seeks guys 18-35 to share fun sessions of J/O at my place. T 1837

Butch, handsome, hung, fit youngster (24) gives or receives safe, discreet French sex to/from butch endowed athletes; leave message. T 1838

GWM, 36, 5'11", lean, attractive, seeks similar GWM into movies, conversation, "Star Trek," safe sex and low-key lifestyle. T 1826

GWM 29, Professional, attractive, sincere, honest, financially secure, relationship oriented. I believe there has to be someone out there who believes in having a loving, caring, monogamous relationship. You-Attractive GBM 20-31 professional or serious minded student. I enjoy quiet evenings at home, walks in the park, stimulating conversation, working out, traveling, and anything romantic! Interested? Let's talk. Serious only. T 1824

Handsome No. Ga. Mtns. WM, 37, 5'8"/145, healthy seeks aggressive eager French active GWM for regular encounters! T 1796

GWM, 27, 6'1", 175#, clean cut, athletic, non-smoker, masculine, intelligent, very attractive, seeks similar, 22-32. T 1795

W/M, 35, blond, moustache, butch, handsome, 5'8", 150, fun-loving, single, wants to relocate Gulf Coast Mississippi, Louisiana, needs contacts. T 1794

BM, 5'8", 160 lbs, trim, masculine, endowed, versatile. Seeks same for intense encounters. T 1800

Hot GWM want out, active, confident, Gdtk, hot, political boyfriends. No closet wimps! 20's/30's Adventure. Any race. I dare you! T 1790

GWM, 38, 5'10", 180, somewhat attractive, tired of lonely weekends, have friends, need more, HIV-, like companionship, walks, cooking, seek similar, 36-43. T 1792

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

I want it all! Passion, romance, sex - all that is possible in a committed relationship. I am GWM, 45, professional, athletic, non-smoker, HIV+ and healthy. Looking for fun and adventure, a kid to play with mine/sensitivity and maturity. A Prince who is self aware enough to take care of himself and to care for me. Serious replies only, please. T 1791

GWM, 26, 5'10", 160 lbs., nonsmoker, masculine type, versatile, college grad, recently out, seeks similar GWM (20-30) for dating, possible relationship. Write: "Jake," P.O. Box 101592, B'ham, AL 35210 (6.39)

BiBM, 32, handsome newly relocated to Atlanta. Very discreet, not into bar scene, seeks same. No fats/fems. T 1799

GWM, sincere, stable, Attractive, healthy, well-educated professional, 40's, masculine. Seeks quality clean-cut WM college-student. Novice fine. T 1797

GWM, 22, HIV-, swimmer's build, affectionate, stable, seeks attractive, hairy, stable, mature, HIV-, "Bruce Willis" type, 30+ for possible relationship. T 1788

F.F.B.B. (Fuzzy face/back/butt) sought by GWM, 35, 6'1", 170#, smooth, bar admirer. Hibernation time is near! T 1787

THREE-WAY ACTION: attractive top, 30's, 5'11", 160 lbs, seeks handsome couple for safe, regular, discreet, no-strings encounters. T 1786

Senior Male - seeks male 25-35 to mentor, help financially, and for companionship during week days. Clean, masculine, healthy. T 1785

Horny Midtown Professional. Involved GWM, 40, 5'10", 155, HIV-, with place seeks guys for 5 pm adventurous, creative safe fun. T 1784

WM, 38, 5'8", very handsome, masculine, strong build, seeks open-minded, big man. Big belly is a plus. Letter with photo gets mine. POB 54076, Atlanta, GA 30308. (6.37)

Joven Cubana desea tener Amistad con Damas o caballeros de cualquier edad sincero y cariñoso. No Irogas. T 1776

BM, masculine, built, 30, seeks Black Males for group meetings. Looks unimportant, masculinity, physique, and endowment are important. T 1775

WANTED: ASSWORK. Handsome hairy autoless NE Georgia GWM 26 seeks similar but enthusiasts for 10th recreation. Couples welcome. Ideas encouraged. T 1782

GWM, 23, mature, college student, outdoorsy, hiker, sks honest guy 25-35. Friendship, maybe more. Box 1354, Cornelia, GA 30531. (6.37)

GWM, 34, handsome, 6'2", 175, Red/green, swimmer. You are 30+, tall, bright, adventurous and stable. T 1781

GBM, athletic, college educated, sensual, sexual, sensitive 27 year old, seeking masculine, educated physically fit GBM. T 1747

29, tall, educated, very handsome, quality professional WM. Seeking similar, quality WM, handsome, for potential relationship. No games please! T 1751

Atlanta's Hottest GWM-best dancer, most fashion conscious, great personality, great looks - need support to attain your full potential? Let's talk. T 1743

GWM 27, Little overweight seeks GM 18-30 Top for relationship. Latin, Asian, all replies answered. T 1748

GWM, 6', 175, mid 40s, smooth, healthy, professional, seeks HIV- bottom into submission, humiliation, embarrassment for discreet safe sessions. T 1771

Leather Daddy needs leather boy - would you look great in leather jock, chaps, harness,

collar & cap - Party with the men. T 1742

Hairy and stocky GWM sought by medium size GWM bear. Prefer friendly, professional, healthy, nongame, sincere, husky but trim bears. T 1772

GBM, 19, 200 lbs, nice looking, honest, loving & very caring. Seeking Bi/GM (18-45) for friendship or relationship. Tops and bottoms are welcome. T 1749

GWM Business owner needs attractive young live-in companion, relationship oriented, maintain household, help manage businesses. Some travel, I'll reciprocate generously. T 1741

GWM, 35, tall attractive. New to Atlanta. Seeks same 25-45 for friendship/safe fun/relationship? Duluth/Gwinnett area a plus. T 1750

Female impersonation. You - pretty young man. Me - mature male mentor/hobbyist with dresses, furs, jewelry, prof. make-up & wigs. Beginners only. T 1740

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

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

GWM, 35, 6'2", 175, trim, attractive top gentleman, bearded, smooth body. Into movies, travel, dining out, music, romantic evenings, and cuddling. Seeking GWM, attractive, non-smoking, good natured, smooth bottom, with similar interests. 30-40. T 1739

Cool Nights - Hot Tub Fun. Masculine, fit GWM, 34, Br/Br, 5'10", 155 seeks similar GWM couple - Splash around! Maybe more. T 1737

Youthful 41, GWM, goodlooking professional seeking person possessing: humor, confidence, class, compassion, kids, activism, pets? Seeking relationship, no race preference. Call me, let's talk some. T 1736

Hot, muscular GWM couple - 28, 6', 160#, 30, 5'11", 170#, seeks great looking male(s) for adventures in the bedroom. T 1735

HERMIT seeks companion for sharing a simple life in the spirit of Saint Francis on secluded hermitage in northeast Georgia. T 1589

GBM, 27, 5'11", 220# seeks GWM 30-50 for serious relationship and good times. T 1715

GWM, 29, 5'7", 170 Br/Ht, Novice Boy seeks WM 25-40 dominant. Spanking, discipline, W/S, B/D, Safe S/M. Make me serve. T 1714

GBM newly relocated to Atlanta wishes to meet attractive masculine gay male who is not into bars. T 1710

GWM, good looking, into local music, vegetarian food, C.G. Jung, Comedy Central, lesbians, dating. Seek similar 30-40. T 1704

Hairy, trim, youthful, GWM, 51, 145#, ashblonde/moustache, professional, seeks GWM, non-smoker, slim, varied interests, into affection, relationship. 40-55. T 1705

Attractive, professional GWM into running, MST3000, Mexican food, existentialism without the angst seeks similar 25-35 with sense of humor. T 1706

GBM, 33, 5'7", 130, masculine bottom, novice, seeks heavy-set, very dominant top 200+, 40-60. T 1708

GWM, 30, HIV-, 180, 6'1", average to good looking seeks GM 24-30 for friendship, sex and possible relationship. T 1702

GWM, mid-40's, Healthy HIV+, seeks stable young GWM for hot massage, high erotic states, extended cuddle sessions and possible relationship. T 1559

Roswell, handsome, masculine, professional, 50 Bi-DWM, intelligent, honest, dependable, dominant seeks Bi-DWM with similar qualities for friendship. Sincere inquiries encouraged. T 1688

GWM - 29, good looking, romantic seeks same 25-35 attractive, looking for something special. T 1685

GWM, 31, 5'9", 170, bl/bl, looking for more than "GOOD" time. Varied interests. Call for more details. T 1686

W/F, dominant, demanding queen seeks gentleman, over 50's, submissive, financially secure, supportive, giving to live in Cobb Co., Smyrna. T 1700

Gay Greek & Italian, 6'1", 175 #, br/br, man 27, very good-looking. Romantic, spiritual, and healthy, seeks GWM 27-37 who is good-looking and who is spiritual and likes to go to movies and do romantic things, not into bars. Who's looking for a possible relationship. Please, no fems. T 1661

GWM, 39, 5'7", 140 lbs., brn/tzl, beard, versatile, daytime playmate interested in safe anal, oral ball action seeks GWM 30's-45 with similar interests. T 1595

GBM, tall, slim, light complexion, seeks GWM/hispanic male for fun times, friendship/relationship. Under 32 yo. T 1683

Goodlooking GWM 33, 5'9", 150, athletic, professional, great personality and values, healthy HIV. Looking to meet another exceptional man. T 1670

Average GBM bottom seeking serious friendship with relationship oriented, masculine, aggressive, private, average Black G/BiM absolute top under 51. T 1684

GWM, 35, 5'8", 145#, br/br, handsome, masc, seeks similar 21-30s to help with small resort in North GA Mtns. & relationship. T 1674

Bet you wish you knew me? Uncut idolizer of massive hairy chests seeks GWM for relationship. 30s, smooth, professional. T 1681

Omo-Oschund, W/M, blond, moustache, 40, 5'8", slim, handsome, likes: wolves, nature, son montano, musica campesina, Cajun & Cuban cultures. T 1676

Handsome 6'2", 180, GWM seeks same over 30 with varied interests who is professional, intelligent and enjoys life like me. T 1668

GWM, 42, 5'11", 170, brn/bl, relationship-oriented, non-bar type, seeks same in GWM, late 20s. T 1662

To Japanese GM, 41, from August 19 Voice Connection, please contact me (GWM, 38), we have the same dream. T 1663

Work Hard, want to Play Hard - Prof., stable, happy GWM couple, 29, Bi/Gr, 5'8", 145, 35, br/br, 6', 175, seek fun guy or couple for good times - possible real good time, hot and safe. T 1666

BM, bottom, discreet, seeks BM, top, discreet, masculine, for special friendship. T 1669

WM seeks BM, WM - 25, discreet, good-looking, seeks similar Black Man. No fats / fems. T 1667

GWM, 39, 6'1", 185, br/tzl, HIV negative, reserved, honest, hard working, non-bar, non-smoker, cat-lover, likes spectator sports, travel, French language. Seeks compatible GWM 35-45 for monogamous relationship. T 1650

GWM, 32, 6'3", professional, my eclectic interests: Country/rock music, Braves, comic book art, Grateful Dead, movies...sincere replies please. T 1649

GWM, 35, handsome, looking for big bears who are sincere, into outdoors, romance, cuddling. You never know. T 1648

PERSONALS

Anal erotic seeks playmates, friends, etc. for long fun sessions. SM NOT. ☎ 1645

GWM seeks other ex-Catholics who sometimes feel like concentration camp survivors. Join me in a safe crew for a possibly dangerous voyage to discover/reconcile/slay ancient beasts and tell scary stories. Gay men preferred, ex-religious orders welcome. Brendan the Bold. ☎ 1644

**TALENTED HANDS WANTED:** To explore a masculine, country, muscular, handsome bottom. Prefer masculine hairy tops for safe, discreet sensuous handball. ☎ 1642

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

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

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

GBM, 27, Professional, relationship-oriented, community-involved, ISO GM, 25-35, for cheap movie date. ☎ 1638

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Brother, Big Bottom, Carolina GWM, 50, 6'3", 250, ISO younger GWM, attractive

Top. Trim and smooth A+. Will travel. ☎ 1546

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

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

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

Looking for love? GWM, 38, 6'2" prof. seeks romance with same 30-40. Hairy chest major plus. Sincere and caring. ☎ 1447

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clean-cut GWM, 31, 5'11", 175# seeks athletic GWM 25-35. Interests: 99X, weightlifting. Prefer non-smoker and the smoother the better. ☎ 15ferred. ☎ 1503

TV/TS

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

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

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BISEXUAL

Relationship wanted-women. BiBM, tall, dark, handsome, 34, Healthy HIV+ seeks attractive, honest HIV+ women. Healthy, enjoys music, sharing, love and laughter. Any race, kids okay. Will be discreet and caring. Write me, I'm waiting. P.O. Box 1213, Atlanta, GA 30301 (6.38)

Tall attractive BiTV seeks attractive tall Bi WM over 40 for friendship and possible relationship. Sincere only. ☎ 1831

BiWM, 30, 5'11", 175, very attractive, great shape, sharp mind would like to meet other bi women/men. Let's talk! ☎ 1717

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

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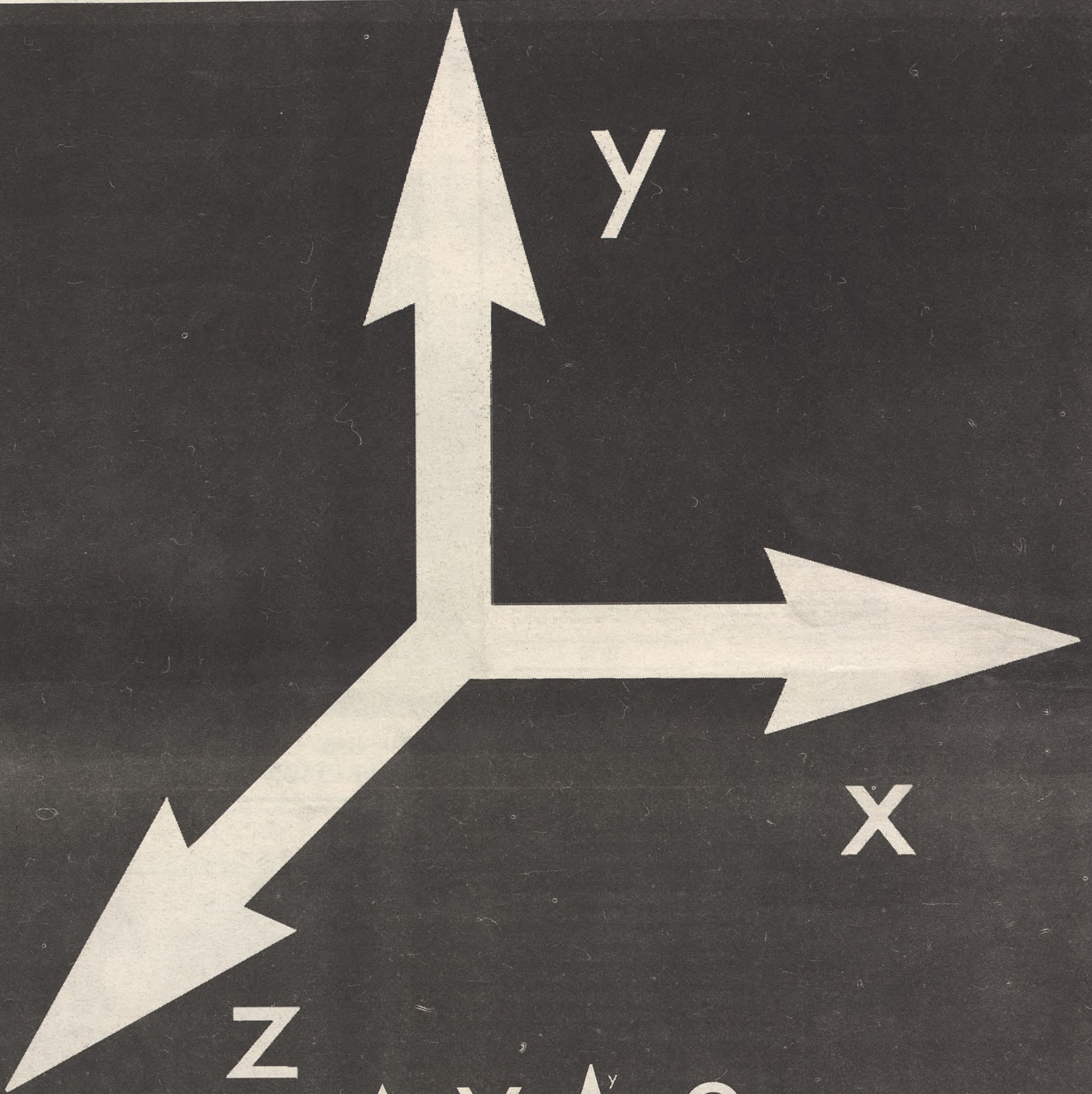
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