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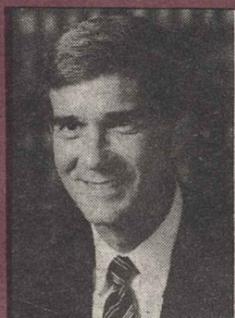
VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

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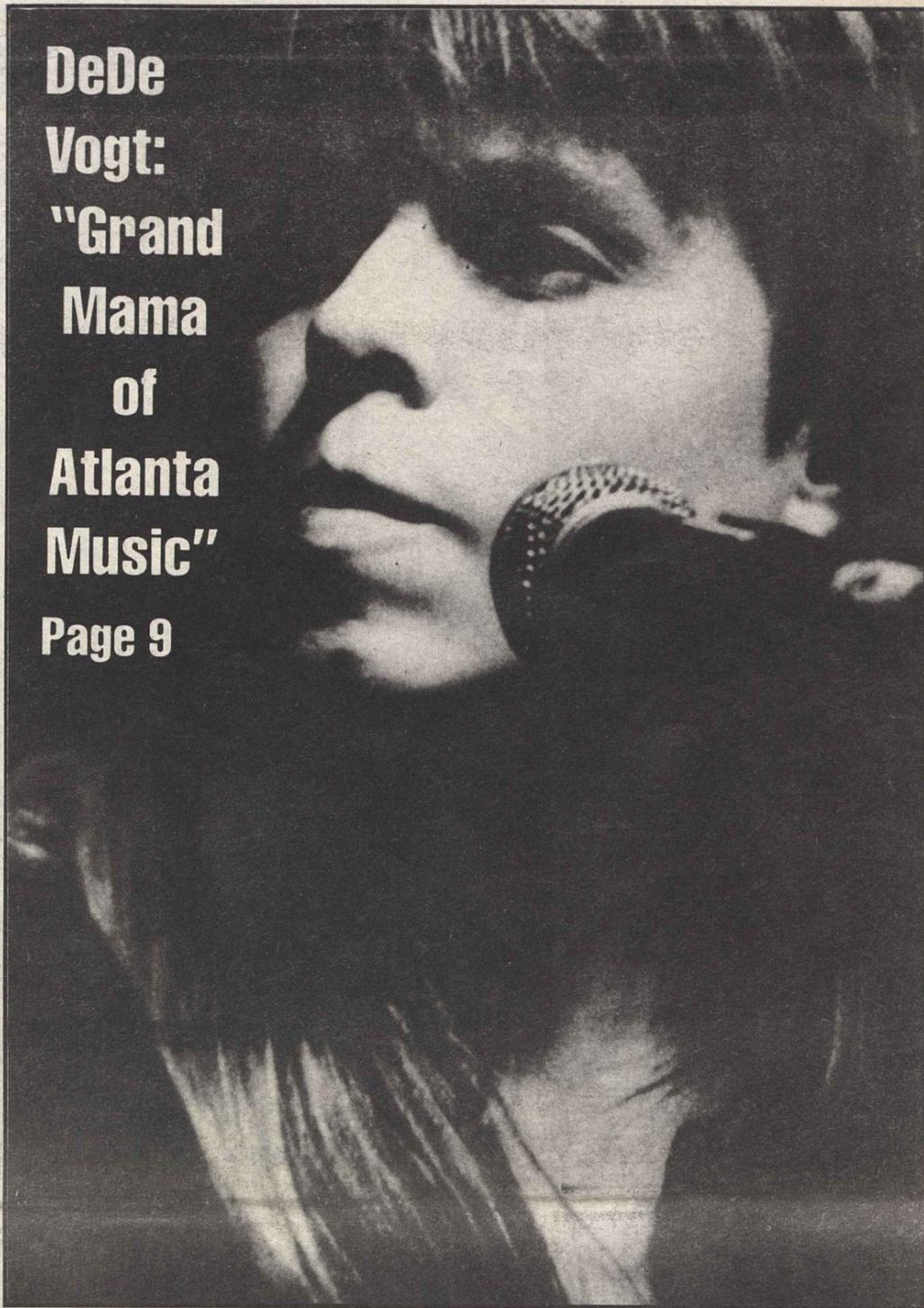
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Mississippi town vows to drive out lesbians

Two women who started the Sister Spirit feminist retreat receive threats, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force calls for federal intervention

by KC WILDMOON

Ovett, MS—Residents of a small rural Mississippi town are using homophobic hysteria and hate in their attempts to oust a feminist educational retreat from their town after they learned that the organizers are lesbians.

A community meeting on Dec. 6 in Ovett, where residents and church ministers compared Sister Spirit, Inc. to the North American Man/Boy Love Association, prompted the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to call for federal intervention.

Wanda and Brenda Henson, who founded Sister Spirit in Gulfport to do social justice work in Mississippi—the group operates a food and clothing bank among other activities—bought 120 acres in Ovett, a town of 400 about 80 miles from the coast, in July of this year. The decision to purchase land came after difficulties in locating the Gulf Coast Women's Festival, which the group produces.

"Our idea was that it would be like a state park, campground space," Brenda Henson said. "It is not a women's community, but a safe space that can be rented by civil rights groups, lesbian/gay groups."

But the residents of Ovett are in arms over the group's plans. Sister Spirit's troubles began on Nov.

8 when a dead puppy with sanitary napkins attached to the body was draped across the mailbox. Two days later, two separate phone calls from men asked if the group "rented out women" or "sold women." Then someone made and distributed copies of Sister Spirit's Oct. 11 newsletter.

"We found out they had made thousands and thousands of copies of that newsletter," said Brenda Henson. "They handed them out at churches, grocery stores, everywhere."

At the Dec. 6 meeting, attended by 250 people—many of them from outside Ovett—residents pointed to a section of the newsletter advertising a Halloween campout noting "boys up to age 8 years and all girls are welcomed." That, the residents said, reflected the group's ties to NAMBLA.

"These people can pick up our little girls and take them to this place and do whatever they want to," said resident Clint Knight, who said that he fears for the safety of his 11-year-old daughter.

The main topic of discussion at the meeting was how to force the women out of Ovett. One resident, Harvey Shows, suggested infiltrating the camp.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



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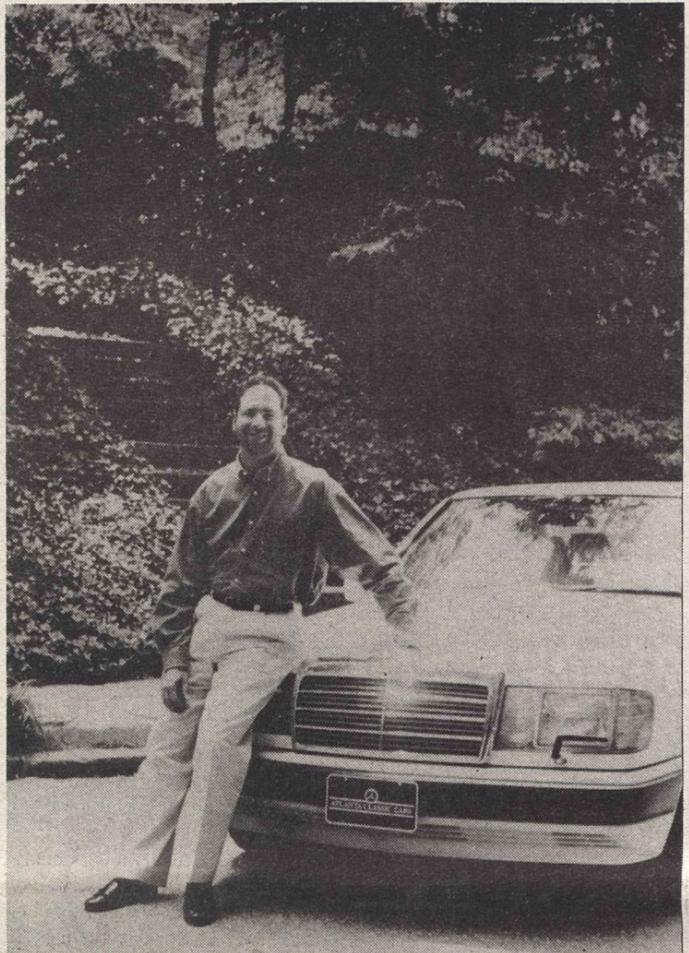
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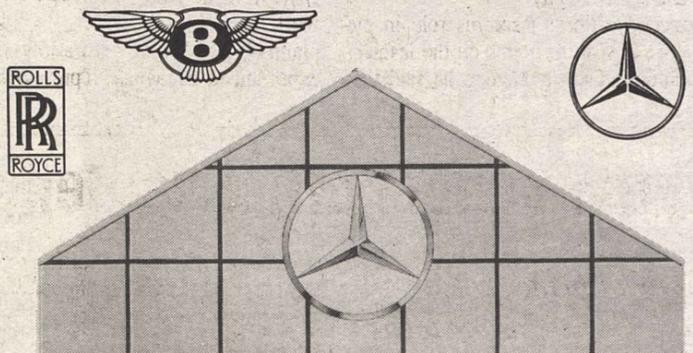
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BOWERS STRIKES AGAIN

*Attorney General says
Atlanta's domestic partnership
ordinances violate state law*

Atlanta—Continuing his string of anti-gay/lesbian positions, Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers has issued an opinion that Atlanta's domestic partnership ordinances are illegal.

In the ruling, which came down late Friday, Bowers said the ordinances "violate both constitutional and statutory provisions which restrict a city's power to legislate concerning status and individual relationships."

For several weeks, pro-partnership forces had been awaiting the decision. Given Bowers' vigorous opposition to the gay/lesbian community's interests in the past, "it was not unexpected," said GAPAC lobbyist Larry Pellegrini.

The issue of whether the ordinances are legally valid is at the center of a lawsuit pending in Fulton County Superior Court. Under state law, any court decision that the ordinances are legal would take precedence over Bowers' opinion that they aren't. The only immediate effect of his opinion is that no insurance company can offer coverage to the domestic partners of city employees while the lawsuit is pending.

Insurance Commissioner Tim Ryles had asked Bowers whether he could approve a request from the city's insurance carrier to extend benefits to registered domestic partners of city employees. The City Council approved both a domestic partnership registry and the benefits extension this summer and had asked the company to provide the coverage.

Under state law, changes in insurance policies and forms have to be approved by the Insurance Commissioner's office within 90 days after they are filed. Ryles, a Democrat who along with Bowers comes up for re-election in 1994, was under no obligation to ask for Bowers' opinion.

During his tenure as attorney general, Bowers defended the state's sodomy law against constitutional challenge, taking the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 1986 case *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, the court ruled that states could regulate the private sexual behavior of consenting adults.

In 1991, he also came under fire for withdrawing a job offer to lesbian attorney Robin Shahar after learning that she planned to marry her partner in a religious ceremony. A lawsuit by Shahar against Bowers is pending.

In his opinion on partnership, Bowers said that Georgia's constitution and state law do not allow cities to take any action affecting "private or civil relationships."

"The ordinances quite clearly create a legal status or relationship of domestic partner and

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opinion that they aren't.*

imbue this relationship with rights and privileges beyond that which is merely incidental to the city's exercise of home rule," Bowers said.

The lawsuit in Fulton County Superior Court was brought by a conservative public interest legal group, the Southeastern Legal Foundation, and by Family Concerns Inc., the Christian supremacist organization headed by anti-gay/lesbian activist Nancy Schaefer.

RICHARD SHUMATE



OutFront's billboard can be seen from the Downtown Connector.

Sending a message to Cobb

*Billboard tells motorists that
in Atlanta, "hate stops here"*

Atlanta—A new billboard on the downtown connector tells travellers that in Atlanta, "hate stops here," a message inspired by the Cobb County Commission's resolution condemning homosexuality.

"My original intent was to have it right on the highway as Cobb County-ites pass it on their way into town," said Rich Zejlovitch, a spokesman for the organization that sponsored the billboard, OutFront. "And although this stemmed from the Cobb resolutions, it's a message for everyone, not just gay people. [The resolution] could just as well have been 'we hate Jews' or 'we hate blacks.' There's a trend toward hatred—this billboard is for everybody."

Zejlovitch, who originated the idea for the sign, said that the location of the billboard— atop a parking garage at Spring and Alexander streets—was not the ideal spot, but that it was the only location facing the interstate that billboard companies could make available.

One billboard company—3-M—turned the

group down when OutFront began negotiations for the sign space. Officials at 3-M could not be reached for comment in time for this issue.

Todd White, president and one of three founders of OutFront, said that the organization's purpose is to educate the general public with positive images of gay people.

"Our thought is that nothing legislatively will change until public opinion changes," White said. "Helping to change public opinion seemed to us the most important thing to do."

White said that the group is made up of about 15 men and women in business and marketing professions.

"[We] came together to try to reinforce positive images [of lesbians and gay men] through the media," he said.

Next on tap for the group is a series of ads to be placed in the Atlanta Business Chronicle and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and to extend the stay of the downtown connector billboard an extra month.

"We'd like to keep it up through the Super Bowl [in January]," said Zejlovitch, "And we're trying to raise funds for that."

KC WILDMOON

Mayor-elect Campbell names Todd White to his transition team

Atlanta—Mayor-elect Bill Campbell's transition team, which will help shape his new administration, will include an openly gay man.

Todd White, owner of ProMove Inc., was one of the 90 people selected by Campbell. White got involved with the Campbell campaign in its early days and was the candidate's primary conduit to the lesbian/gay community.

"I'm really not sure yet what my specific responsibilities will be," said White, who said his role will become more clear when transition team members are organized into task forces, probably this week. "I'm anxious to continue to help him and serve the city."

White said he doesn't see his role in the transition as lobbying for items on the lesbian/gay community's agenda. Rather, he said that

should be the role of the liaison to the lesbian/gay community that Campbell has pledged to appoint.

"I think that person is really going to be more responsible for getting Bill in touch with the community," said White, who also said he doesn't expect the new mayor will push for any items on



Todd White

the community's agenda right away, as President Clinton did in the early days of his administration.

"Bill Campbell has made a number of promises to the gay/lesbian community, but I don't think he will follow in the footsteps of Bill Clinton," said White. And he said he believes the community needs to help Campbell build up a reservoir of public support in tackling other issues—crime, the city's finances and the airport scandal—that can then be used to push the community's agenda.

"I think the more public support he has, the better off our agenda will be," said White.

Campbell, who took 73 percent of the vote while rolling to one of the largest landslides in Atlanta history, pledged during his campaign to

seek the best and brightest for his administration, including lesbians and gays.

Of the 90 people on the transition list, White appears to be the only openly gay man with a record of community involvement selected, and there were no open lesbians chosen. The only name on the list with a record of opposition of lesbian/gay rights is Thomas Cuffie, who voted against domestic partnership while a member of the Atlanta City Council. Mayoral candidate Myrtle Davis, who was endorsed by GAPAC and ran well in lesbian/gay neighborhoods, is also on the transition team.

RICHARD SHUMATE

Clayton school officials deny paper was removed for gay content

*But local principal says
VOX, a newspaper for teens,
was "not suitable"*

Jonesboro—Did Clayton County school officials ban a student-produced newspaper from county schools because of an article about gay and lesbian teenagers?

Though initial comments made in media reports indicate that the articles may have prompted

the action, county school officials now say they were simply following an already-existing policy, not censoring content, when they ordered VOX out of Clayton's schools.

The county's high school principals decided during the 1992-93 school year to ban all outside newspapers from their campuses, Jack Warren, a spokesman for the county's Board of Education, told Southern Voice. Warren said the decision was based on an overabundance of such publications in the schools.

"It wasn't a matter any problem whatsoever with the VOX," Warren said. "It's well written,

with students expressing their own ideas. Some systems choose to allow these things and some do not. But we have not banned any speech because of a particular point of view."

Warren said he had no idea how that general ban was interpreted as a specific ban on VOX, which has now published three issues distributed free in high schools, youth centers, homeless shelters and hospitals in the Atlanta area.

But media reports claimed that complaints from some parents had prompted Jonesboro High School principal Grady Kilman to review the newspaper after it ran an article by 16-year-old

Elizabeth Henderson about gay and lesbian teens.

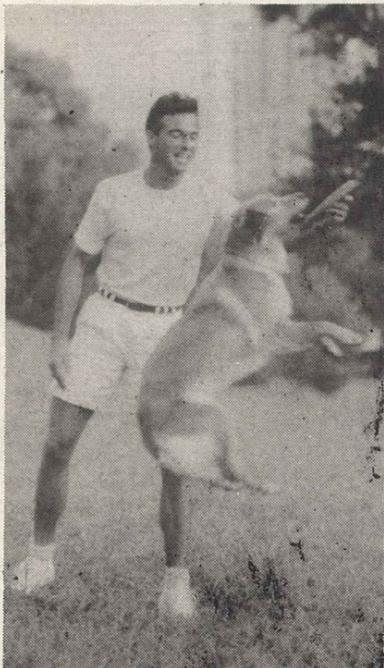
"I don't have time to justify or defend articles that show up in a newspaper that I have no control over," Kilman told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He also called VOX's articles "biased and slanted...on topics that were not suitable."

Dr. David Gregory, an assistant to the Clayton County school superintendent, told the AJC that "it's an issue of responsibility. We are scrutinized very carefully on what kinds of information we offer our students. It's a matter of,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

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Florida groups challenge hate initiative in court

Tallahassee, FL—Several groups in Florida, led by Floridians Respect Everyone's Equality (FREE), have asked the Florida Supreme Court to stop the American Family Association of Florida's Colorado-style anti-gay ballot measure, now in process in the state.

At a press conference on Dec. 6, FREE's Jeff Peters announced the lawsuit, which challenges the ballot measure's constitutionality.

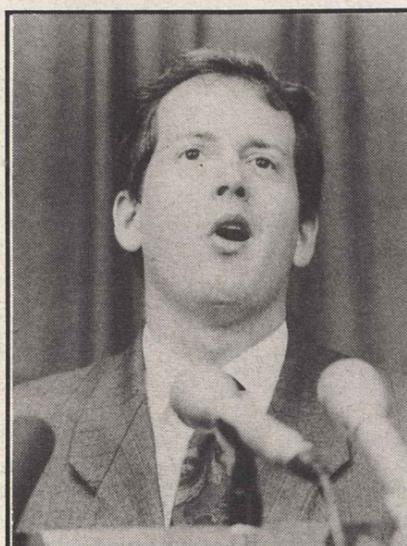
"The AFAF proposed initiative limiting anti-discrimination laws violates Florida statutory and constitutional requirements... because it fails to provide voters fair notice of the proposed amendment's chief purpose," he said.

Peters noted that the official versions of the proposed amendment, which seeks to prevent local governments from enacting laws that protect segments of citizenry, do not mention lesbians or gay men, although AFAF's printed materials make clear that lesbians and gay men are the amendment's chief targets.

"In fact," Peters said, "the AFAF telephone number to call for a petition is 1-800-GAY-LAWS."

The lawsuit also charges that the amendment is ambiguous in its intent and purpose, embraces more than one subject and fails in several other criteria that would allow it to pass constitutional muster.

Joining FREE in announcing the lawsuit were representatives from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, the ACLU, NOW, People for the American Way, The Public Interest Law Section of the Florida Bar, Miami Legal Services Union National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, Florida Legal Ser-



Jeff Peters of FREE says proposed anti-gay/lesbian amendment doesn't tell voters its true purpose.

vices, Florida AIDS Legal Defense and Education Fund, Floridians United Against Discrimination, The Southern Poverty Law Center and the United Teachers of Dade's Gay and Lesbian Caucus.

Serving as legal counsel for the groups are Chesterfield H. Smith, former president of the American Bar Association, Suzanne Goldberg of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Professor William Adams Jr., cooperating Lambda attorney, and Rosemary Wilder of Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Association.

SC activists organize to fight expected anti-gay/lesbian bills

Columbia, SC—Activists from across South Carolina met on Dec. 4 to organize around anti-gay legislation expected to come before the state legislature during the next session.

Some thirty activists were joined by Susie Nickles, a South Carolina lobbyist, State Sen. Ernest Passallaigue, Jr. of Charleston, and Human Rights Campaign Fund organizer Mandy Carter, originally from North Carolina.

Bills that would ban gay men and lesbians

from being foster or adoptive parents, from giving blood and from the South Carolina National Guard were given serious attention, as well as one that expands the state's "buggery" law to include more sex acts. Two of those bills—the foster parents and National Guard measures—are already on the state House's calendar.

Organizers hope the meeting will be the beginning of a statewide coalition, and a second meeting has been planned for the beginning of March.

Court upholds gay adoption ban

Lakeland, FL—Whether gays should be allowed to adopt is for lawmakers to decide, not judges, a state appeals court ruled.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal reversed a March decision by a Sarasota judge who ruled that a 1977 state law barring gays from adopting children was unconstitutional.

Florida and New Hampshire are the nation's only states with laws banning gay adoptions. Attorneys for James Cox and Rodney Jackman, who sued for the chance to adopt a child, said they likely will appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

In a 26-page ruling Dec. 1, the appeals court said Cox and Jackman failed to prove the Legislature lacked the constitutional power to make "this public policy decision."

"The debate over the nature of homosexuality and the wisdom of the strictures that our society has historically placed upon homosexual activity cannot and should not be resolved today in this court," the opinion said.

"For purposes of governance, the legisla-

ture is the proper forum to conduct this debate so long as its decisions are permitted by the state and federal constitutions," the opinion said.

Cox, a professional pianist, and Jackman, an accountant, made separate visits to the Sarasota office of the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in 1991.

Each wanted to sign up for parenting classes and apply for permission to adopt a "special needs child," a youngster with mental or physical handicaps. But after admitting they are gay, both were turned away by HRS workers citing the 1977 law.

Attorney Doris Bunnell and the American Civil Liberties Union represented both men, who contend the law violates their rights by excluding a class of people from adoption screening solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

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

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FBI Ordered TO End Bias Against Gays:

Attorney General Janet Reno outlaws anti-gay discrimination in the Justice Department, including the FBI.

being ordered by Attorney General Janet Reno to end a policy making it difficult for gay men and lesbians to be hired. Reno issued a statement last week prohibiting all kinds of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, at the Justice Department. The action came as the case of Frank Buttino came to trial in San Francisco. Buttino was a 20-year FBI agent, who claims he was fired in 1990 because his supervisors learned he was gay. It is not clear how the new policy will affect his case.

Giant Pink Condom Highlights World AIDS Day In Paris:

The obelisk at the center of Paris' Place de la Concorde was turned into a giant pink condom on Dec. 1 as France joined worldwide efforts to promote awareness about AIDS. ACT UP and Italian clothesmaker Benetton put up the towering prophylactic to combat indifference to the disease. Elsewhere in France: pamphlets were distributed in high schools and activists in Condom, a small town in the Gers region, distributed free condoms. Town officials in Condom announced that a condom museum was under study.

Louisville Nurse Takes Limbaugh To Task: A Louisville woman says bombastic radio host Rush Limbaugh erred big time in alleging in his latest best seller that she is a transsexual lesbian. Sherrol Miller, who was the darling of television talk shows for a time when she learned she had married a gay con man/bigamist, is angry that Limbaugh's book, "See, I Told You So," includes her story under the headline "A Transsexual Lesbian Finds Herself Much In Demand." The nurse, Kate Bornstein of San Francisco, does not appear in the chapter until the 11th paragraph, after a lengthy discussion of Miller's story. "He got me confused with Kate Bornstein," said Miller. "He trashed me." Miller has contacted an attorney and may sue Limbaugh.

Apple Story Goes On: Even as the Williamson County Commission last week was voting to reverse itself and grant tax incentives to lure an Apple Computer facility, the Texas Republican Party was endorsing an earlier vote by the commission to rescind tax breaks because the company provides benefits to the partners of lesbian and gay employees. The commission reversed itself amid widespread criticism—and the threat by Apple to take its facility elsewhere. The company says it will now go ahead with plans to locate the facility in the Austin suburb. However, news coverage of the controversy revealed that earlier, a town in Williamson County, Cedar Park, had voted to ban the use of tax incentives for businesses providing benefits to the unmarried partners of their employees.

Harvard Honors Creator Of AIDS Quilt: Harvard University honored Cleve Jones, the originator of the AIDS memorial quilt, with the Harvard AIDS Institute's annual leadership award. On display during the recognition ceremony were seven large panels of the quilt, which Jones started in 1986. "Because of what Jones has done, and because of the quilt, we all have a way to remember," said Mary C. Smothermon, director of the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, who spoke at the ceremony. "It's very hard to sustain a movement on anger alone," said Jones. "And I think a lot of us have discovered that it's not a one or two year campaign, but something that's going to consume us for the rest of our lives."

Mass. Senate OKs Anti-Discrimination Law For Gay Students: The Massachusetts Senate gave all-but-final approval last week to a bill that supporters say would make Massachusetts the first state to bar discrimination against gay students. The bill was endorsed on a 28-2 vote but needs final approval from the House and Senate. "This is a whole new frontier of the gay rights movement," said David LaFontaine, political director of the state Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

Investigation Of Gay Stalker Yields No Arrests: New York police are still searching for a murderer they believe killed and mutilated at least four gay men. "We need some additional leads in this investigation, we need some help, we need some breaks," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. Despite the slow progress, the New York City Police Department last week pulled three detectives from the case. Police focused their investigation on a possible serial killer when the body of Michael Sakara was found earlier this summer, hacked into several parts and stuffed into a trash bin in Rockland County. The bodies of other victims were disposed of in a similar fashion.

Protestors Watch Cincinnati Mayor's "Agenda": As Roxanne Qualls was sworn in as Cincinnati's new mayor, protestors gathered outside City Council chambers to put her on notice that she was being watched. Shortly after her election, Qualls was bombarded with questions about her sexual orientation—questions she refused to answer. "She's not going to be able to serve objectively as mayor if she is, in fact, a lesbian pushing their agenda," said protestor Jennifer Thomas. "It's a free country," Qualls said of the protest. "I'll conduct myself as mayor as I conduct myself as mayor."

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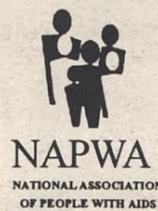
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Light Up The Night Set For Sunday

Atlanta—Many of Atlanta's best known entertainers will gather on the veranda of the Gallus on Sunday, Dec. 19 for Light Up The Night, which will culminate in the lighting of a Christmas tree in memory of people with AIDS.

This will be the fourth year for the event, spearheaded by Danny Honohoe and Gree Daughterty, which benefits Project Open Hand. The program begins at 8:30 p.m.

For \$5, anyone can purchase a light for the tree, either anonymously or in memory of a loved one. Sixth Street, between Cypress and Peachtree streets, will be blocked off to accommodate the crowd. The tree will be lighted during the finale of the caroling.

Mississippi

Continued from page 1

"If we go to court, why can't we force them to open it up to men, and I want to be the first to join them," he said.

Ministers railed against the group's work with women, claiming their agenda was to recruit.

"It will intervene with women and girls in this community when they're vulnerable and in need of help," said Rev. John Anderson of the First Baptist Church of Richmond. "I believe we're dealing with something that is against nature."

The residents adjourned the meeting with plans to research laws that would aid them in ousting Sister Spirit, scheduling a second meeting for Jan. 4.

The Hensons contacted the NGLTF to

ask for help. NGLTF responded by asking Attorney General Janet Reno to instruct the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Services to mediate the matter.

"CRS is an agency within the Department of Justice that mediates disputes within the community," said NGLTF spokesperson Robin Kane. "But their mandate is to mediate disputes involving race, color, and ethnicity. This is a perfect example of why CRS needs to expand the mandate to include sexual orientation."

That can happen only if Reno gives the go ahead, according to Kane. CRS has been passing along information regarding the situation to the FBI and local law enforcement officials, said CRS spokesman Ron Tomalis.

"We've been acting as a conduit," he said.

Myron Marlin, of the Justice Department's public affairs office, confirmed that the complaint has been turned over to

criminal section of the civil rights division, and the situation will be reviewed there.

NGLTF has also contacted Sen. Joseph Biden and Rep. Don Edwards, who chair congressional committees overseeing the Justice Department, and the district office of Mississippi U.S. Rep. Mike Parker. Parker's district director, Ed Cole, told NGLTF that he would contact the local sheriff to inform him Parker's office was monitoring the events.

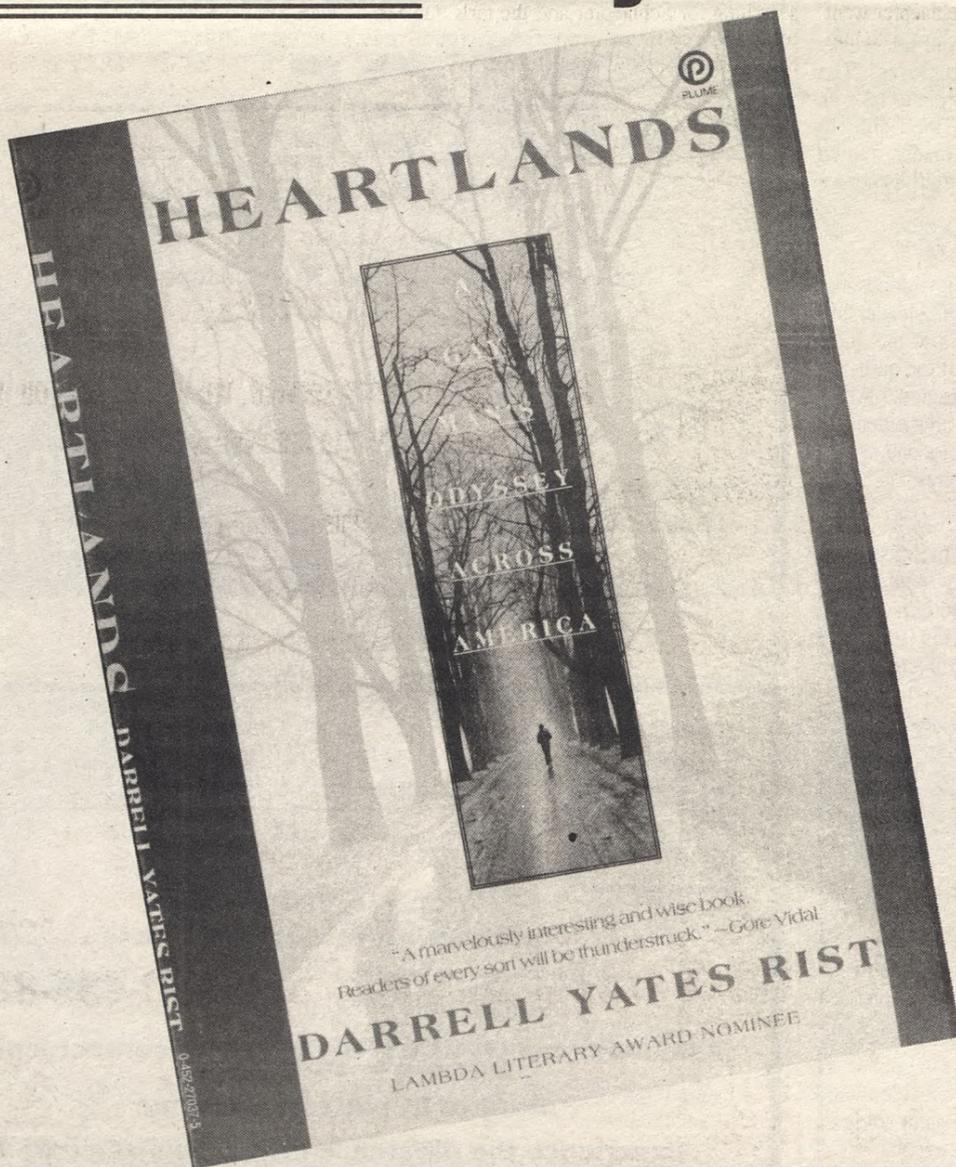
But the Hensons do not trust local officials. "It's scary here at night," Brenda Henson said. "Sometimes there are only three of us here."

"We're not a lesbian organization," she continued. "On our purpose statement homophobia is one of the issues we deal with. What they're protesting is lesbian volunteers."

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Dying wishes of AIDS educator at heart of custody fight

After his death, Rob Schlaepfer's mother took his daughters to Texas, even though he had granted custody to a Minnesota couple.

by CYNTHIA SCOTT

Duluth, MN—Rob Schlaepfer did everything a father could do to make sure his daughters' futures would be provided for once he was gone.

He chose two caring people, Lance Rhicard and Kandi Geary, to be guardians of his two five-year-olds, Natasha and Felicia, and he designated them as such in a will legally executed in St. Louis County, Minnesota.

Long before his death, he made sure the girls got to know Rhicard, Geary and their 13-year-old son Erin. The six spent holidays together, gardened and built their own loving family in the midst of their terrible grief over Schlaepfer's battle with AIDS.

When he became progressively more ill, Schlaepfer asked Rhicard and Geary to become the girls' foster parents. They did, and began spending more time with the girls.

He sat down and talked with Natasha and Felicia about his illness, explaining that one day he would be gone and Rhicard and Geary would be their new mom and dad, and Erin, their new brother.

In addition to his will, Schlaepfer made a written declaration of intent making known to his friends and family his wishes in regard to custody. He also signed a health care declaration for himself, specifying his wish to die at home and to receive no extraordinary life-prolonging measures.

A well-known Duluth AIDS educator who had lived with the disease for five years, Schlaepfer knew he could leave nothing to chance regarding his or his daughters' welfare, and so he followed the letter of the law, doing everything by the book to ensure that his daughters, who had lost their mother when they were three, would grow up in a loving home.

How, then, can it be that Schlaepfer's mother, Phyllis Durichek, has been granted custody of Natasha and Felicia in a Texas court, and has not allowed Rhicard and Geary to see or communicate with them since a few days before Schlaepfer's death in early September? And how can it be that Schlaepfer, who had so carefully spelled out his desire to die in the presence of friends in his Duluth home, died instead 150 miles away, at the University of Minnesota Hospital, where none of his friends or caregivers knew he had been taken?

Lance Rhicard believes he knows the answer: "What this means is that if someone dies, you can steal their children, take them to another state, bog it all down in the court system and get away with it. Basically what this woman did was betray all her son's wishes, and then steal the children and lie in court. And she's coming out ahead."

Schlaepfer's health began to decline seriously in May, following his return from a trip to Mexico, according to Rhicard. At Schlaepfer's invitation, his mother had traveled from to Minnesota from her Texas home at the end of April so she could get to know Rhicard and Geary. "For a couple of weeks, things went well," Rhicard said. "She was gracious and friendly and we went birdwatching together, had dinner, stuff like that." But Rhicard said Durichek's amiable attitude changed when Schlaepfer went to Mexico and left Natasha and Felicia with him and Geary.

A tug-of-war over access to Schlaepfer and the girls escalated as Schlaepfer's illness progressed, according to Rhicard and Russ Schriener, a close friend of Schlaepfer's and program manager at Hillside House, an HIV/AIDS residence where Schlaepfer had lived since 1989. Durichek at times refused to let anyone visit Schlaepfer or the girls, they said, and Natasha and Felicia were not allowed to visit the Rhicard-Geary home, where they had their own bedroom.

Finally, Schriener said, on September 1 when he went to check in on Schlaepfer, he discovered that he was gone. Durichek had taken

"We see this as a sacred trust with Rob," said Russ Schriener, a close friend helping with the fight to carry out Schlaepfer's wishes. "We loved Rob and we love the girls... We told Rob we would do this, and we are."

Schlaepfer to the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, where he died in less than 24 hours. "The girls were gone before that, probably by August 28 or 29," Schriener said. "I'm not even sure what their grandma told them about their dad dying or if they got to say goodbye to him."

Meanwhile, Rhicard, Geary and Schlaepfer's other friends and caregivers began frantically searching for Schlaepfer and the girls. On September 2, Rhicard and Geary found out Schlaepfer had died when an employee of St.

Mary's Hospital in Duluth located him at the university and was told that he had died. His mother had ordered an autopsy and cremation and instructed the funeral home to release no local obituary. No one knew the whereabouts of Natasha and Felicia; Rhicard and Geary immediately started a nationwide search for them.

On September 3, Richard and Geary went to St. Louis County District Court, where Judge John T. Oswald granted them temporary custody of the girls, thus beginning a legal odyssey which continues to this day. On September 10, Durichek and the girls were located in Houston, and Durichek was served with a summons requiring her to relinquish custody.

The authorities could do nothing until the state of Texas honored Judge Oswald's custody order, so Rhicard and Geary hired an attorney in Texas, who filed a writ of habeas corpus, requiring Durichek to bring the children to a court hearing. Rhicard and Geary then flew to Texas.

"We were elated on our way down to Houston because we just knew that we'd have the girls soon and this would be over," Geary said.

But it wasn't to be. Instead of Durichek appearing in court, her attorney did—and announced that another Texas court had granted her permanent conservatorship of the children on September 15. Durichek made three claims which she later, in another court hearing, admitted were not true: that she knew of no other custody proceedings, that the children had lived with her for six months and that the girls had no permanent residence and, therefore, no permanent home.

Rhicard and Geary stayed in Houston and again went to court, but the judge refused them, saying they had no standing with the court.

"We came back without the girls, and we were just devastated," Rhicard said. On October 18, Judge Oswald upheld Rhicard and Geary's

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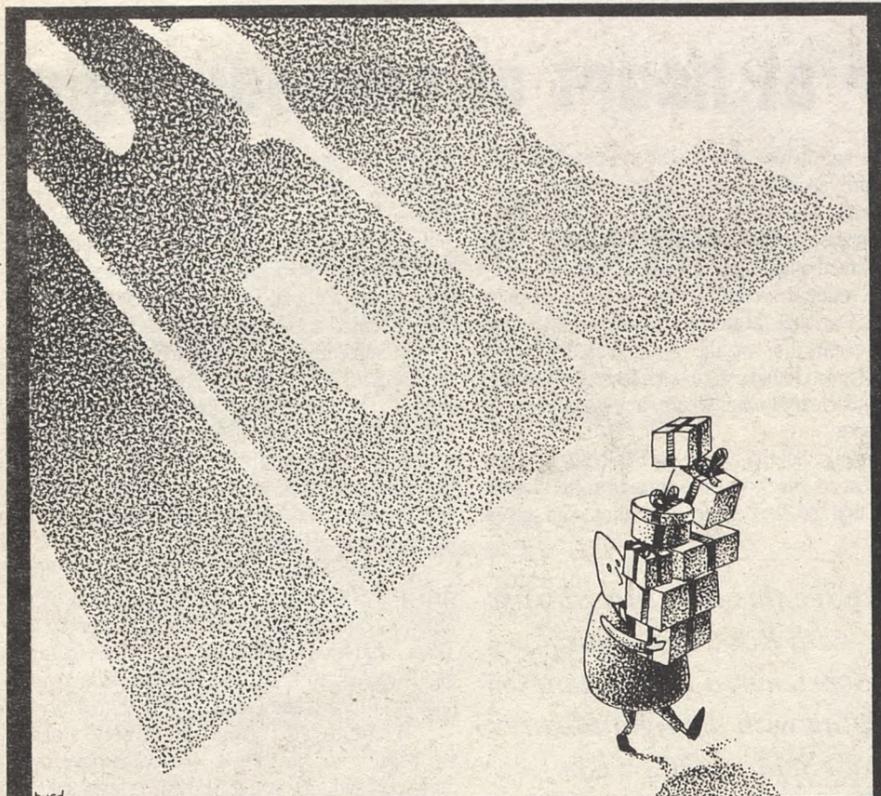
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Custody battle

Continued from page 7

custody order, ruling that Durichek had given false and erroneous information to obtain custody, and that Minnesota, not Texas, is the state with jurisdiction.

"In my opinion," said Glen Johnson, Rhicard and Geary's Houston attorney, "this has happened because of false statements being made by Mrs. Durichek when she was standing before the court in Harris County [Texas] unopposed. When we had a hearing to set aside [the conservatorship] order and show the court that what she said was wrong, under oath she acknowledged the falsity of those statements."

The problem, Johnson said, is that Durichek's attorney "totally confused" the judge by saying that Rhicard and Geary do not have standing in Texas. Durichek's Houston attorney, Stuart Gagnon, did not return phone calls. Her Duluth attorney, Rodney Brodin, said his client bases her case on the existence of a previous will in which Schlaepfer appointed his mother guardian.

"It's our position that at the time the second will was signed, he was suffering from the AIDS disease and was not competent at the time he changed his will. There is also a third document that they [Rhicard and Geary] tried to have him sign, making them guardians before he died. It's my understanding that he absolutely refused to sign that document." Brodin declined comment on any other aspects of the case.

Rhicard said Schlaepfer had indeed considered signing over custody of the children to him and Geary before his death, but he did not because he saw no need after his legal documents had been filed and his mother had assured him she would abide by them. "Phyllis promised Rob she wouldn't go against his wishes, and so Rob wouldn't change anything. He just didn't believe his mother would do anything," Rhicard said.

The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, adopted by both Minnesota and Texas, requires the two judges—Oswald in Minnesota and Peavey in Texas—to communicate directly with one another to try to settle the jurisdictional dispute. Judith Schretter, an attorney with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children who is familiar with the case, said in her view Minnesota is clearly the state with proper jurisdiction. The best case scenario, she said, would be for the Texas judge to relinquish that state's claim to jurisdiction. The worst case scenario, she said, would be that Rhicard and Geary would have to prove their custody claim in the Texas court, which Rhicard and Geary are prepared to do if they have to. They have until December 15 to appeal.

"We and this whole community just love Rob. One of the things we've been stripped of in this whole thing is our right to grieve over this death," Kandi Geary wept. "We loved him so much and then she [Phyllis Durichek] pops in for four months and kidnaps the kids. Schlaepfer's rights as a parent have been completely annihilated. He deserved the mourning that would have naturally gone on in this community and will some day."

"We see this as a sacred trust with Rob," Schriener said. "We loved the man, and we wanted to go by his wishes. The girls were the most important persons in his life. Rob lived with a diagnosis of full-blown AIDS for five years, partly because he helped them get through the days. We loved Rob and we love the girls, and we're doing it out of friendship and our word. We told Rob we would do this, and we are."

Lance Rhicard and Kandi Geary have spent nearly \$25,000 so far trying to gain custody of Rob Schlaepfer's children. Friends have established a fund and donations are welcome. Send them to A Sacred Trust, Duluth Teachers' Credit Union, 28 W. 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55802.

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The den mother for Atlanta's girls with guitars

As a musician, songwriter and producer, DeDe Vogt provided inspiration and aid to the women of Atlanta's music scene, including the Indigo Girls. Though she has watched some of her proteges eclipse her in fame, she says she feels "a lot of peace."

by KC WILDMOON

Like any city its size, this town has a thriving local music scene, and it almost always has. And it's an equal opportunity music scene—women have always taken their place along side male counterparts, even before the folk revival of the 80s brought national attention to women like Suzanne Vega, Tracy Chapman and Atlanta's own Indigo Girls.

And Atlanta's women have not been relegated to folksters—the gutsy bluesy guitar and soaring vocals of Ellen McIlwaine in the 70s, the rock vocals of the Swimming Pool Q's Anne Richmond Boston and all-women bands like Pretty Good for Girls, Moral Hazard and the Paper Dolls. No matter how you look at it, women have been a mainstay of Atlanta's music community from the start. And one woman has had a hand in just about all of it for the past 20 years—DeDe Vogt.

Vogt arrived from Albany, Georgia, in 1973 with Cass Kennedy, who still performs around Atlanta, and the two performed in the city and across the country from Hilton Head to Sun Valley, Idaho as the duo Rose for four years.

"I remember it as 1974 and we played to-

gether for 3½ years," laughs Kennedy. "But I'm very proud of those years. We were making a living, and a lot of it was the hotel circuit."

With Kennedy on guitar and Vogt on guitar and mandolin, Rose did some original material, and a number of covers.

"But we arranged the hell out of them," Kennedy explains. "We did Led Zeppelin, Emerson Lake and Palmer, and DeDe would do Billie Holliday—not your basic Top 40 act. We got away with murder."

Vogt picked up at guitar at the tender age of 12—and knew right away that music would be her life.

"I just knew I wanted to play," she says. "I don't know what it was—I just knew."

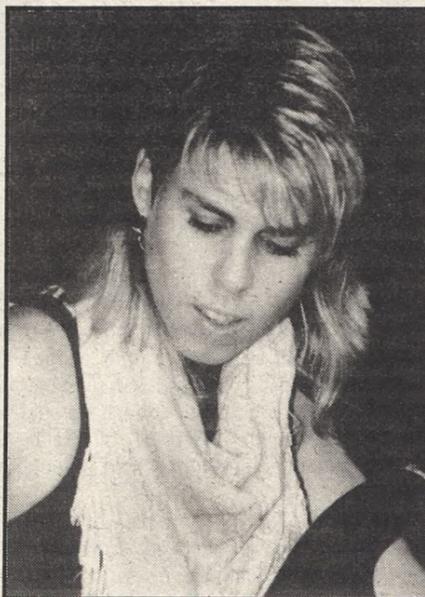
In high school, Vogt joined a southern rock band called Southbound as the "chick singer," and her fate was sealed.

"My parents were extremely supportive," she says. "When I graduated high school, they asked me to go to college for a year and see if I found anything else I wanted to do, and if not...I thought that was fair."

So, after a year at Georgia Southern, DeDe embarked on the career in music she wanted. After meeting Kennedy, that career began in earnest.

After splitting with Kennedy, Vogt did some solo work around town, and then joined with Anne MacDonald, Cindy Diamond and Becky Gibson for the vocal trio Jessica. The three would later reunite to form the Fabulous Scallion Sisters, but first Vogt played bass in the Pretty Good for Girls band, with drummer Lou Eller and pianist/guitarist Caroline Aiken. When Aiken left, popular songwriter and pianist Fonda Feingold replaced her.

"I remember it as being a really good time," Feingold said from New York City, where she works as a musical computer sequencer for a



Vogt has started her own studio, Sound and Fury, and put together a new album, "Willing Suspension of Disbelief."

Connecticut studio and still finds time to write and play. "We were pretty wild, always sick and contaminating each other with whatever we had. But we'd play anyway."

PGFG developed a strong following at shows at the Harvest Moon Saloon and the Moonshadow Saloon.

"We had a lot of great fans," Feingold remembers. "Some people were there every single time we played."

And most of those fans followed Vogt when PGFG broke up and she rejoined MacDonald and Diamond, along with drummer Caroline Bennett, in the Scallion Sisters. The band, like Jessica, featured tight harmonies, performing

material ranging from the Andrew Sisters to the Roches, with original songs interspersed. Later the group added guitarist Missy Speert and Tammye Hurt replaced Bennett on drums, and the band took a turn toward a harder rock sound.

"We were evolving as songwriters," Vogt remembers, "and we wanted a harder edge."

A name change—to the Paper Dolls—solidified the shift in musical direction, and the group put out an album in 1986, only to see the band dissolve not long after.

Since then, Vogt has turned her focus to production, and has started her own studio—Sound and Fury—and has produced or co-produced releases by Kennedy, Elise Witt, Bo Ketchin, David Patterson, Boink Dee Deek, Ashley & Mark, Chief Seattle—and Vogt's own performance, a CD and cassette release called "The Willing Suspension of Disbelief."

It's Vogt's second recording—the first, "Goliath Dreaming," brought rave reviews but no contract from a major record label, once an intensely sought dream.

"I saw other people with record deals [at the time]," she said, "and you think, 'damn, I work so hard. What am I doing wrong?' But my mom told me something that I think is very important—she said 'make sure success is something you feel daily.'"

Today, Vogt says that she does feel that success. "So much is happening. I'm working hard and the results are right in my face. I feel a lot of peace, and now I'm open to enjoying my friends successes and not be pissed about it. It's a weird feeling."

It wasn't easy. Vogt recalls that in her early 30s—she's now 40—she began to realize she couldn't keep up with the hard pace of playing nightly in bars and traveling that came with the rock life.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

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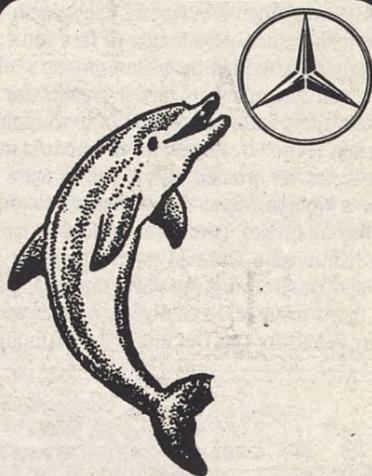
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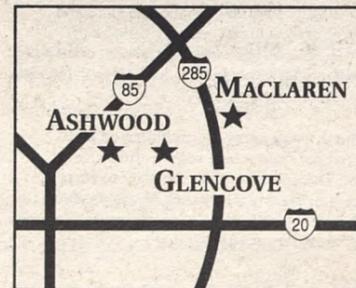
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EDITORIAL

New HRCF action plan shows its leaders listened

After the military ban debacle this summer, the leaders of the Human Rights Campaign Fund found themselves under serious scrutiny. Here is the HRCF's own description of the atmosphere: "The community felt betrayed by the politicians that it and the HRCF had supported, including President Clinton, and resentful that the HRCF had not foreseen and prevented these losses."

It was clear that the group's traditional strategies—raising money for federal political candidates, lobbying Congress and sending mailgrams—hadn't translated into enough power to compete with the Christian supremacists. So the HRCF embarked on what would become a four-month odyssey of self-examination, promising to develop a "bold" plan of action.

Whether the HRCF's new plan of action can be characterized as bold or not is, of course, open to each individual's interpretation of the term. All in all, though, there is much to applaud in the plan.

The group plans to double its budget and quadruple its membership by 1996. The plan also calls for two new programs: the Federal Advocacy Network, or FAN, which will be a collection of grassroots organizations in every congressional district by the end of 1995, and the Ballot Measure Project, which will provide technical and financial support to groups fighting anti-gay/lesbian ballot initiatives.

If the gay rights movement is to succeed politically, the community must demonstrate that ours is not a movement exclusive to a handful of big cities. FAN, given the proper resources, will do that. And the ballot measure project will give local groups the tools they need to fight these initiatives—tools they

couldn't afford on their own.

The most positive thing about the new plan, however, is that it demonstrates that HRCF's leaders have asked serious, basic questions about their approach toward public policy advocacy. It shows that the leaders of the nation's largest and wealthiest gay and lesbian political organization have listened to the anger and concern in the community and are making a good-faith effort to remain relevant.

For an organization that still has to assure the attendees at its black-tie fundraisers that no, those cameras in the room do not belong to the press, the admission by executive director Tim McFeeley that HRCF is now structured to serve a closeted community—and must change—is welcome progress.

In a few areas, we believe the HRCF might have gone further. The FAN system, though it will have local affiliates across the country, will work exclusively on federal issues and will have its agenda set in Washington. Given the group's traditional focus and limited resources, this structure is perhaps understandable, but we believe that a national grassroots network would better serve the community by being able to work on issues at every level of government—which is the way the Christian supremacist groups behave.

For example, the HRCF's chief legislative push is for a federal civil rights bill. While that's an important goal, there is almost no chance Congress will pass it in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, there are winnable battles out there—expanding state non-discrimination laws beyond the eight states where they exist, repealing sodomy laws, legalizing same-sex marriages—that FAN groups could and should be involved in.

The lesbian/gay rights movement is also better served with an agenda that is more inclusive of the issues and views important to people outside of Washington. The HRCF must take that into consideration in directing activities of the local FAN groups. We hope that as membership and financial resources grow, the group will decide to expand its focus into sodomy law reform and other state and local issues.

The HRCF also plans to spend money on pollsters and consultants to develop a message that will build public support for lesbian/gay rights. If that effort focuses on developing effective political messages, it will be a plus. But we hope that it doesn't become an assimilationist effort to convince straight society that we should receive civil rights because we are just like them.

We're not. We shouldn't be. Our civil rights are just that—ours—and we should spend our resources more wisely, building a political potency that allows us to demand the same treatment as every other American citizen. Let's not waste our time and money trying to make straight people like us. Let's spend it making politicians respect and fear our power.

There will, of course, be those who will criticize HRCF's plan for not being specific enough, for not going far enough. True, there is no revolution here. But no matter how you view the HRCF, there is no getting around that fact that it is currently the most significant political organization we have. We should give the group's leadership credit for embracing the concept of change.

RICHARD SHUMATE

Book buyer finds "No Boyz Aloud" feeling at Charis

I am writing in response to the letters from the disgruntled wimmin at Charis [SoVo, Dec. 2]. They are certainly to be commended for the services and outlet they provide to the community; however, this outlet is definitely targeted to the women's community [rather] than that of their gay brothers. I have attempted to spend my gay dollars in Charis on numerous occasions and usually met with a sullen if not hostile attitude. I don't own a television and spend a fair amount on reading material every time I go to any bookstore. I would prefer to patronize a gay business, but Charis doesn't

want men's business. They do stock some men's titles. As a matter of fact you can find anything written by a man on one shelf. I've even attempted to buy a present for a lesbian friend and was stopped from shopping a certain section by an employee who told me, "Those are for women only." I even tried to show a woman friend the women's networking resource book (she recently fled an abusive relationship and had no job or place to live and was seeking women's support). Boy was that a mistake. Recently my partner went to buy tickets for Lea DeLaria and even though

the women at the counter seemed to be joking, they didn't want to sell a man any tickets.

It's fine to be a specialized retailer—you could even put a "No Boyz Aloud" sign on the door if you want—but don't get your panties in a wad about Outwrite. It's great to have a new place where our brothers and sisters can come together their titles over a nice cup of coffee in a bright friendly space. I wish both stores a long and successful career in Atlanta.

Read on.

J. Montgomery Schuth
Decatur

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Sometimes you take whatever acceptance you get.

On a recent visit to a gay disco, I noticed that the facility was selling lottery tickets.

This is interesting. The Georgia Lottery Corporation will not sell tickets at "adult" nightclubs that feature nude dancing. This prohibition is intended to protect the "image" of the lottery.

Does this mean that gay nightclubs are better for the "image" of the lottery than straight "tittie" bars? It would seem so. This is a back-handed compliment at best, but it is acceptance...I think.

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Little hidden in hidden life of straight men

Last month, a friend and I attended a day-and-a-half workshop on boyhood, half-gay, half-straight, where I noticed up close and personal how different we are from our straight counterparts.

With one or two exceptions (like the straight man from Buckhead who sat on the "gay" side of the room all weekend), their stories about their boyhoods were almost uniformly lifeless, dour, disengaged. The gay men, eventually weighed under by the grim energy, never caucused separately; if we had, I'm certain an objective listener would have found more energy, content, wit and heart in our stories.

My friend finally helped me frame the question that this weekend generated—Is it *that* hard to be a straight man nowadays? (Emphatically, "Yes.") And why?

Men's movement guru Robert Bly diagnoses this problem as arising from the absence of rituals or rights of passage for men that impoverishes their lives, and for straight men, I agree with him. But for gay people, there is a universal right of passage that we all go through and that incalculably enriches our lives. It's called coming out, and it gives every one of us a story where we come out the survivor, the triumphant hero.

There's a passage from Tom Spanbauer's remarkable novel, "The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon," that is pertinent here. The narrator, a Native American named Shed, tells the story of his test as an infant for sexual orientation.

"You lay the baby down on a bed on his stomach. You put a bow and a feather on one side of the baby, and on the other side of the baby you put a gourd and a basket. If the boy reaches for the bow and the feather—then you've got a boy whose human being sex story is the way every boy's sex story had better be. But if the boy reaches for the gourd and the basket, then you've got a boy whose human being sex story is a sex story you got to shut up about." The rest of the novel is propelled by Shed's human being sex story and how it gives him a set of stories to tell.

For us, our coming out story arises directly from our human being sex story, and we love telling it. I've seen people's eyes, both teller and listener, light up when someone describes what it took to come out to their parents, or go in their first gay bar, or tell their wife. Some of us did it at 15 and some of us at 60, but we all did it. That's why we're here.



Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

Of course, straight men have stories to tell too, but it's almost always old news. After spending 500 years worth of literature and history, 100 years of psychology and two millennia of religion telling us these stories in every possible permutation, we've heard them all and are bored with them. Unlike queers or dogs, there is very little left hidden in the hidden life of straight men. We know all these stories all too well.

If this were the only difference, the gulf between gay and straight might not be so enormous. But in addition to the pain of growing up different and then being forced to make a choice to validate that, we continue to have front row seats for the biological event of the century, the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS gives us a community story, a sort of companion piece to the individual coming out story, which tells of the courage we've witnessed, the losses we've experienced, all occurring in a place that seemed like sanctuary when we found it. It's a stunning reversal, like a magician's tablecloth trick gone tragically wrong, with broken china scattered all across the room. But the ones telling the stories are still here.

And these stories have become the fountain of artistry and creativity and, yes, gaiety in our community. Just as changes in the South spawned the Southern Renaissance in American literature, coming out and AIDS have already created a literary movement that will last long after other 20th Century literature is relegated to dusty library corners.

At the Gay Spirit Visions Conference in September, Tom Spanbauer spoke of his friend's belief that the intersection of gay men and AIDS is changing our society's collective psychology. His friend sees a new archetype arising, a figure or a pattern of behavior that has not previously been prominent in our society's consciousness.

For years, the vision society had of a gay man was either that of a bitchy, non-productive, lonely, emasculated man, only good for cutting hair and decorating apartments, or a decadent, ungrounded party animal, discoing and drugging and fucking while responsible society works, raises kids and pays taxes.

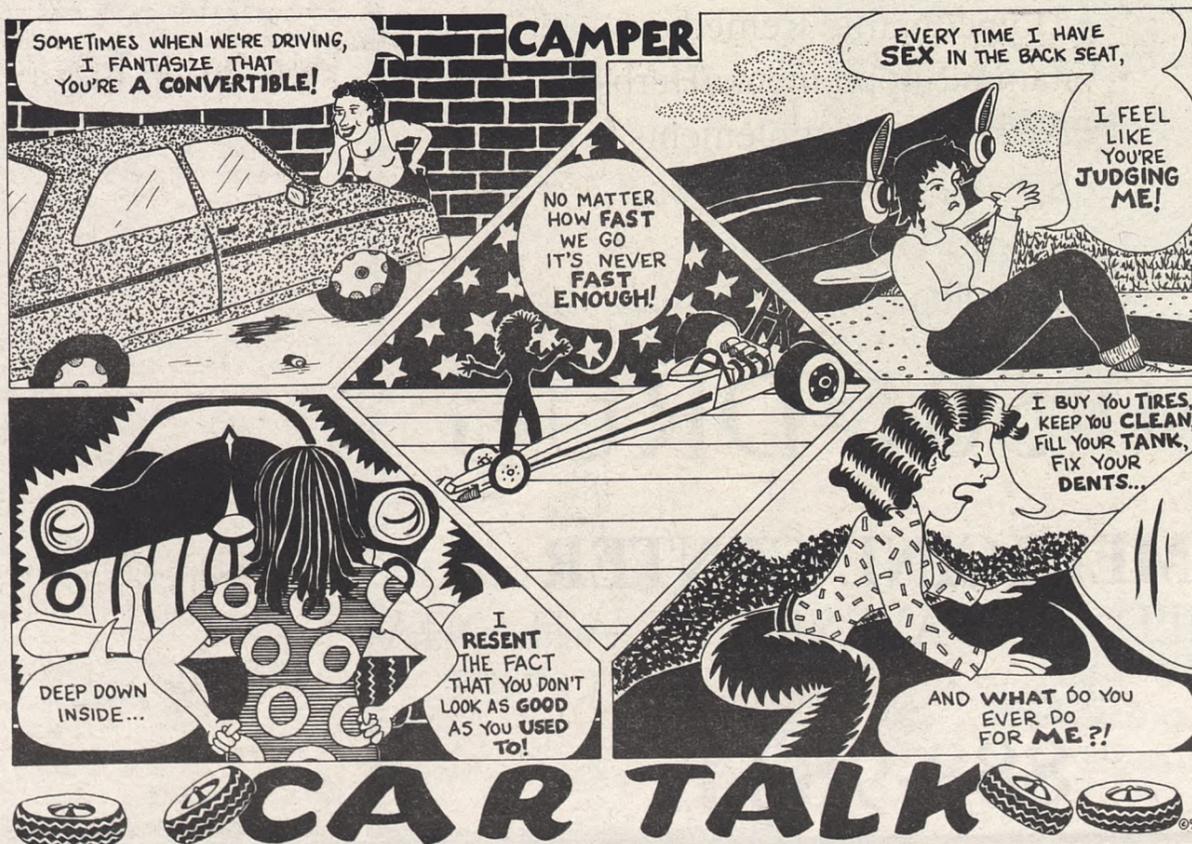
But the '80s have given us another story to tell, and the new archetype helps us do that. It shows a young man growing up estranged from society and his own body, alone and unable to talk about how he's different, then discovering in early adulthood that he must leave the path laid out for him, no matter what the risk or cost, and choose to follow his heart, led by his penis, to a place where dreams sometimes come true.

There are seeds of this archetype in Mark Huestis' film "Sex Is..." (currently showing at the Screening Room), as well as in Brian Helder's and John Williams' video, "Voices of the Sixth World." But it was first and best told in "The Wizard of Oz," with Dorothy as stand-in for the gay man, a stereotypical example that is too apt for words. (Is a stereotype simply an archetype in search of an extra dimension or two?)

Ultimately, archetypes assert themselves to teach society something it needs to know, and our passionate need to tell our human being sex story may eventually come to be seen as our gift to society. And maybe straight men will then be able to use this example to create a new archetype for themselves, abandoning the over-tilled soil of warrior and patriarch for something different.

To finish Shed's story, as he lays on the bed, the infant reaches for neither the gourd and basket nor the bow and feather, but instead, up around the neck of the prostitute Ida Richilieu for her feathered boa, which all present took as a portent of a somewhat unique child.

Funny how none of the conventional choices would have made the story half as good.



by CARL LANGE

Welcome to GLAAD/News, a column produced by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. This biweekly column provides you with information on how to combat negative stereotypes about gays and lesbians and encourage more fair and accurate representation.

Each story is followed by names, addresses and/or telephone numbers. By writing letters and making phone calls, you, the "arm-chair activist," significantly influence the people who define the public's ideas about "gay" and "lesbian." Countless times, your individual letters have affected journalists, producers, business executives and politicians, both locally and nationally.

So pick up those pens and phones and join us in our fight against ignorance, fear, and hate.

All Hail Apple

When the Williamson County commission (Texas) rejected a tax break for a proposed \$80 million Apple Computer center, commissioners cited Apple's policy of providing health benefits to domestic partners of employees. One week later, on December 7, the commission reluctantly offered a compromise package after it was apparent that Apple would move the 1,700 employee center elsewhere. Apparently jobs are more important than prejudice in Williamson.

The original vote against the tax break was a close 3-2. The one commissioner who switched his vote at the last minute and voted against Apple was David Hays, who stated that he refused to "subsidize, and therefore, tacitly endorse a benefits policy" with which he disagreed. The other two commissioners against the abatement were Mehevec and Boatright. Commissioner Heiligenstein and County Judge Doerfler were in favor.

It is likely that the conservative forces of the religious right were screaming "family values" over the commissioners' phone lines prior to the vote...just as they did in Cobb County. Perhaps Mr. Hays should hear from you.

Write: David Hays, 515 Pine St, Georgetown, TX 78726 or call him at the Williamson Courthouse at (512) 255-7084.

Write to any of the commissioners at: Second Floor, Williamson County Courthouse, Georgetown, TX 78626 or call them at 512-255-7084.

Apple is suffering an attack by the right wing over this incident and its corporate policy on domestic partnership benefits. Apple is the first high tech company to advertise in a lesbian or gay publication (November issue of Out magazine). Apple stood firmly and has stated publicly that it has no plans to change its policy. However, when complaints appear to affect the dollar, policies have been known to change.

Apple needs to know that their policy is appreciated and should be encouraged to continue their support for equal rights for all people.

Write: Mr. Michael Spindler, CEO of Apple, 10431 N. DeAnza Blvd., Mail Stop 38A, Cupertino, CA 95014.

For more information about GLAAD write us at PO Box 55111, Atlanta GA 30308 or call (404) 605-7477.

Latest developments discussed at Sarasota AIDS conference

Sarasota, FL—"Fight back. Fight AIDS. Act up." So said Lark Landis, Ph.D., in her closing remarks at the December 3rd and 4th AIDS conference, "Until There's a Cure V," in Sarasota, Fla.

While the closing remarks of a panel of practitioners emphasized self-empowerment, the conference as a whole presented the latest updates of drug clinical trials, new verifications of the nutritional needs of HIV patients and offered alternatives to conventional medicine. There was also advice on how to deal with often bureaucratic social services available to people with AIDS.

Medical practitioners reported some progress in understanding HIV, noted statistics that HIV infection is not universally terminal, and that early results are encouraging in some ongoing clinical trials.

Mark Delaney, M.D., a founder of Project Inform and a noted AIDS researcher, quoted statistics that showed that of an HIV-infected group followed now for 14 to 15 years, 37 per-

cent have not progressed, so far, to full-blown AIDS; 35 percent have CD4 counts higher than 500 and 7 percent have shown no immune dysfunction whatsoever.

Dr. Delaney also noted that shortly after the pessimistic reports that followed the Berlin AIDS Conference, weekly deaths in California made a sudden sharp jump. He suspects that numbers of PWAs lost hope from those reports and noted that keeping hope alive is important to maintaining one's health.

Among current clinical trials, Dr. Delaney reported that the good news on D4T, a substitute for AZT, is that HIV, to this point, hasn't seemed to develop a resistance as it often does with AZT, DDI and DDC.

Protease inhibitors show mild promise, but are hard to manufacture. The most promising version is made by Merck. Dr. Delaney also reported that strides are being made in gene therapy and in Anti-Sense therapy.

Larry Bruni, M.D., the promised lecturer on Interleukin 2 (IL2) research was a no-show,

with no offered excuse, disappointing both the conference organizers and the attendees. Dr. Lands stood in and explained what she understood about the research. IL2 is an immune modulator and does nothing directly against HIV. There has been some success in raising CD4 counts temporarily, which then requires repeated treatments. The problem is horrible, if temporary, side effects, which include high fever and chills. The research includes ways to reduce these effects to a minimum.

Dr. Paula Sparti, who recently spoke in Atlanta, and Dr. Lands both noted the success in desensitizing patients who initially cannot tolerate Bactrim, a prophylaxes drug for PCP. This allows intolerant patients to eventually to tolerate the full therapeutic dose of Bactrim. Dr. Sparti noted none of her patients on Bactrim have experienced an episode of PCP, once the largest killer of AIDS patients.

Dr. Robert Keller, an immunologist and noted researcher from Miami, and Dr. Lands spent time discussing recent research confir-

mations in the importance of anti-oxidants to maintaining the immune system, particularly among those infected with HIV. Anti-oxidants are nutrients such as vitamins E, C and Beta Carotene, and minerals such as selenium. Dr. Lands reported that, almost immediately after infection with HIV, patients experience a sharp drop in the levels of the anti-oxidants, plus other nutrients, such as B6, calcium, zinc and magnesium. All conference participants agreed in the necessity for the HIV infected to take large doses of nutritional supplements, monitored by their doctors.

Other conference participants offered alternatives to standard medical care, which included information on spiritual guidance, therapeutic touch and holistic approaches.

Bob Hattoy, the White House aide and PWA who made a courageous speech at the last Democratic Convention, opened the conference with a description of his experiences as a PWA and of working in D.C.

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AIDS

AT THE CROSSROADS

by Bruce Mirken



Shooting messenger is no solution

Be forewarned: You are reading the words of an accused murderer.

The accuser is none other than Martin Delaney, founding director of San Francisco's Project Inform, Advocate columnist and a major voice in AIDS advocacy for the last several years. Though sometimes controversial, he is not one whose ideas are easily dismissed.

In his November 16 Advocate column and an October speech in Los Angeles, Delaney pointed to a sharp rise in San Francisco AIDS deaths in the two months following the 9th International AIDS Conference in Berlin. The culprit, Delaney asserted, was the wave of gloomy reports that came from the conference. By killing people's hope—possibly "to make a political point," he wrote—the gloom-spreaders had pushed them into a premature grave. He didn't name names, but since this reporter's distinctly pessimistic dispatch from Berlin (calling the meeting "surreal and depressing") ran prominently in San Francisco's largest gay paper, I assume I'm one of the people he was talking about.

In any case, no such "political point" could be worth it, Delaney declared. "We are trampling on sacred ground when we challenge such other's hope," he told his L.A. audience.

This is serious stuff. It also misses the point.

On technical grounds, Delaney knows enough about scientific research to realize that two things happening at roughly the same time don't come close to proving that one caused the other. And common sense indicates that anyone who was sick enough to drop dead after reading some bad news was unlikely to "be here for the cure" anyway.

Still, all of us who write or speak about HIV/AIDS need to remember that our words can literally have life-and-death consequences. They affect people's attitudes and treatment decisions in ways we can't possibly anticipate.

But those effects can cut many different ways: Excessive gloom can be lethal, but so can false optimism. And we've been up to our ears in bogus optimism the last few years.

My new home town, for example, is dotted with San Francisco AIDS Foundation posters declaring, "Be Here For The Cure: Get Early Treatment For HIV." The same slogan has been used in several other cities as well.

What a shame it's a lie.

Despite all of the huffing and puffing from AZT manufacturer Burroughs Wellcome (which, not surprisingly, has poured a lot of money into "early intervention" promotions fronted by local AIDS agencies) and its handful of pet researchers, nobody has produced a shred of data showing that taking AZT or its cousins ddI or ddC while you're asymptomatic helps you to live longer. There is no early treatment capable of guaranteeing that anyone will

"be here for the cure," and to pretend otherwise is a fraud.

Don't get me wrong. There are plenty of reasons to get tested, start monitoring your health and looking at things like nutrition, stress, alcohol or drug use and other factors that can affect your well-being. And if your immune system is damaged, there are proven ways to help stave off infections. But there is no magic pill that will keep you healthy, which is what those posters imply.

Meanwhile, feel-good ad campaigns about "Living With HIV" have blanketed the gay press. The implied message—never explicitly stated but readily apparent—is "take the right pills and everything will be just fine." And doctors, some of whom have discovered a small gold mine in "early intervention," often advertise along similar lines. A handful of Southern California practices regularly run ads featuring hunky guys swimming or playing volleyball on the beach, with slogans like, "Who Would Have Thought You Could Live With HIV?"

All of this advertising may be well-intended and have a legitimate purpose, but in combination it has saturated our community with messages that minimize the dangers of HIV—that say, in effect, "Don't worry. Things are under control. Medicine has got this thing handled."

And people are surprised to discover that gay men are having unsafe sex?

For the last few months, an aide to San Francisco Supervisor Carole Midgen has been convening meetings aimed at improving safe sex education for gay men. Part of the process consisted of a series of focus groups that sampled the attitudes of a cross-section of men about sex, AIDS and safety. One of the justifications people gave for unsafe behavior (though not the only one, it should be noted) was the feeling that medicine was close enough to a cure that being safe no longer mattered. Or, as one young man told a local TV news crew, "Well, it's not the end of the world. They'll find, like, something to either cure it or help it along." Oh.

The gloom that poured out of Berlin was the natural and appropriate reaction to the implosion of three and a half years of "don't worry, be happy" nonsense peddled by the AIDS industry, all too often aided and abetted by well-intended but befuddled community organizations. Such rosy rhetoric has already led too many down a potentially deadly path.

"The most potent weapon that we have against this disease...is hope," Delaney declared. Wrong. The only sure weapon we have is prevention, and the sad truth is that may not change for a while. Painful as it is, we can't let our desire to encourage the sick lead us to deny the fact that we're still in the midst of a plague for which there is no cure.

And when the news is bad, shooting the messenger is no substitute for action.

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KS cases found in HIV-negative men

San Francisco—A San Francisco television station has reported that Kaposi's sarcoma, the skin cancer commonly associated with AIDS, is also appearing in gay men and others who are HIV negative.

Some doctors quoted in the report by KPIX-TV Nov. 30 say that they believe the men may have contracted KS through sexual contact.

Six such cases were uncovered in San Francisco, a dozen more in New York, and at least 28 cases nationally. Most of those afflicted fit the same profile as many AIDS patients—young gay men in urban settings. One doctor believes the disease may be spread through unprotected anal sex.

San Francisco AIDS specialist Dr. Marcus Conant, who treats three of the HIV-negative KS cases, believes that the skin cancer is caused by an agent separate from HIV and that it spread throughout the gay community even before AIDS and has simply been dormant.

"KS was present in the gay community before the AIDS epidemic began. It was back there in the 1970s and large numbers of gay men were exposed to this agent," Conant said.

That theory was confirmed by Dr. Anthony Fauci, AIDS chief at the National Institutes of Health. Fauci said, "I would not be totally surprised if we found out that KS is caused by a combination of things—maybe by an agent that at this point is unrecognized."

AIDS researchers interviewed by KPIX

believe that only a small number of people who carry the "KS agent" may develop the KS lesions, but Dr. Conant advises anyone in a high-risk group who notices an unusual

"I would not be totally surprised if we found out that KS is caused by a combination of things—maybe by an agent that at this point is unrecognized," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

purple spot on their skin not to ignore it.

"Don't think it couldn't be KS because you're HIV-negative," Conant said. "You should show that to your physician the next time you're in and consider having a biopsy done."

Conant says that KS is treatable and the cases they're seeing in HIV-negative people don't appear to be fatal. But the disease is progressive over time, so more lesions may follow.

Although KS may be a signal of the onset of AIDS, this new evidence points to a separate origin for KS. Before AIDS, it was most common among Mediterranean men, but these cases—in the high risk groups associated with AIDS—are a mystery.

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Vaccine study starts in St. Louis

St. Louis—The president of St. Louis University was first in line for injections of an experimental AIDS vaccine being tested at the university's School of Medicine.

Other community leaders followed the Rev. Lawrence Biondi, president of the university, in an effort to publicize the need for volunteers for the program.

"I am proud to participate in this clinical trial of a potential AIDS vaccine," said Biondi at a World AIDS Day news conference. "All of us must do everything we can to stop the progression of HIV. If my participation in the trial brings us closer to a vaccine, I am happy to serve."

Doctors said that over the next five years an estimated 1,000 people will be needed in the St. Louis area to help with vaccine studies.

Others receiving injections at the news conference were J. Joe Adorjan, president of Emerson Electric Co. and chairman of the board of trustees at St. Louis University; resident Bishop Ann B. Sherer of the Missouri Area, United Methodist Church; and Sister Mary Jean Ryan, president and chief executive of SSM Health Care System.

"Participation by the community leaders underscores the importance of our work,"

said Dr. Robert B. Belshe, director of the medical school's Center for Vaccine Development. "It sends a message that AIDS is a concern for everyone and that all of us can make an impact by volunteering for research in AIDS prevention." Belshe also received a vaccination.

Officials said all volunteers in the vaccine studies undergo pre-vaccine exams and health screenings before getting injections of either an experimental vaccine or a non-vaccine control substance. Their blood is then tested to see if their bodies produce an immune response capable of killing a laboratory strain of HIV in the body.

A genetic engineering process is used to make the vaccines. Doctors said that although they are designed to mimic HIV in the body, it is impossible to contract AIDS from the synthetic vaccines. In studies so far, the vaccines have caused no major side effects.

Four other schools—Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, the University of Washington and the University of Rochester—are also taking part in the nationwide study.

The clinical trials were approved by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prevention ads will mention condoms

Ann Arbor, MI—Condoms will be mentioned in a federally funded AIDS public service advertising campaign to be unveiled later this month, breaking a long-standing taboo.

The condom ads "will be very different than anything you've ever seen before," Kristine Gebbie, national AIDS policy coordinator, said in a speech at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

"They reflect the changes we're going through here," she said.

Gebbie said the campaign, targeted at young people, has been kept under wraps to avoid "weird backlashes." She didn't

elaborate.

The campaign is to be announced Dec. 21 by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The ads will also include messages about abstinence, said Kent Taylor, a CDC spokesman. He declined to comment on the precise slogans, saying the scripts had not been finalized.

Medical authorities have long urged the use of condoms to help prevent the spread of AIDS during sex, but the Reagan and Bush administrations refused to publicly support their use.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New studies split as to whether depression hastens onset of AIDS

Chicago—Researchers trying to determine whether depression hastens the advance of AIDS symptoms reached opposite conclusions in two new studies.

Researchers have focused on the question because depression is a treatable disorder common among people with HIV; scientists in both groups agreed that depression should be treated in those infected with the virus.

A study led by Dr. Constantine G. Lyketsos of Johns Hopkins University found no significant difference in the decline of CD4 lymphocytes between those who were depressed and those who weren't.

The Johns Hopkins study looked at eight years' worth of data beginning in 1984 on 1,809 HIV-positive men who hadn't progressed to full-blown AIDS.

In the second study, a team from the University of California, San Francisco, found the CD4 counts of subjects who were depressed fell 38 percent faster than those of subjects who weren't depressed.

However, they found no relationship between depression and the time elapsed from HIV diagnosis to full-blown AIDS or death.

That study, led by Dr. Jeffrey H. Burack, analyzed 66 months' worth of data collected from 277 men who by January 1985 were HIV positive but did not have AIDS.

Both studies were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The San Francisco findings are "intriguing" but less reliable than the Johns Hopkins findings, which support previous research, Drs. Samuel Perry and Baruch Fishman of Cornell University said in their editorial.

They noted that the Johns Hopkins researchers studied more subjects over a longer period of time. When the data from both studies was combined, they said, the effect reported by the San Francisco team disappeared.

All the researchers agreed depression should be treated.

"Clinicians should not assume depression is a natural reaction to the disease," said psychologist Thomas J. Coates, a member of the San Francisco team.

The depression rate among HIV-infected men is 25 to 40 percent higher than among men in the general population, Coates said.

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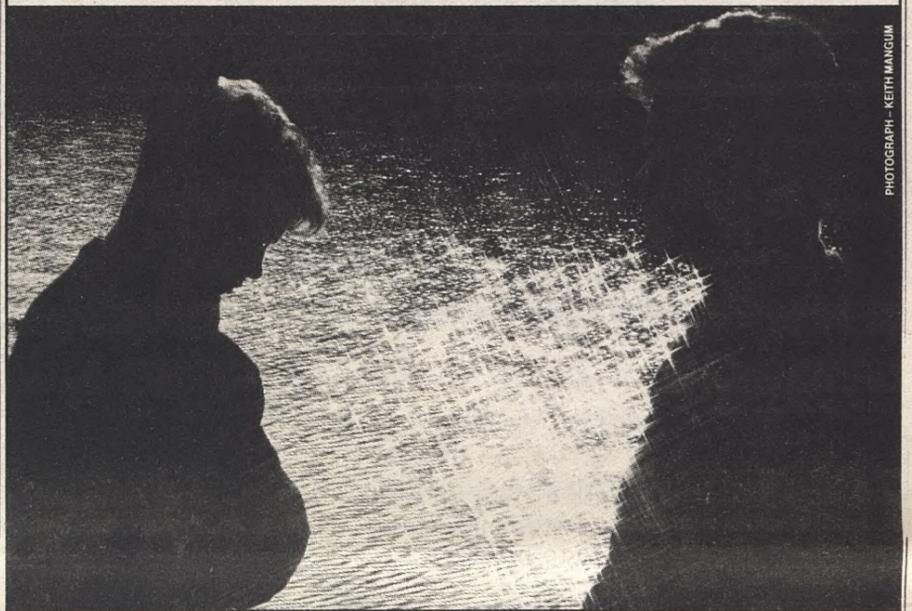


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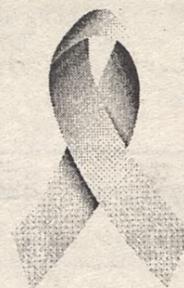
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DeDe Vogt

Continued from page 9

"When I was 35 I started worrying about it," she says, "and when I was 37 I was full blown panicked. I had no education, and I was skilled at nothing."

Out of that panic, Vogt took a look at what skills she did have. And then, through a series of events that she characterizes as "fate and luck," she found that she had a knack for engineering recordings.

"Natalie Farr and Wendy [Bucklew] asked me to help them in the studio," she says. "And I was fortunate enough to be around Russ Fowler—he's a great engineer. That's the reason I stay in Atlanta—people are more apt to share their knowledge."

After helping Farr and Bucklew, Vogt decided to try her hand at starting her own studio. And that wasn't easy either. After being turned down for several loans, she finally put together two personal loans and a sizable Visa bill, and Sound and Fury was born. Despite the financial difficulties, Vogt says she's very happy with how it all turned out.

"In my position, you have to do it," she said, "and you can't look back."

Vogt doesn't look back, but plenty of other Atlanta area musicians do, and when that happens, they invariably see DeDe Vogt.

"DeDe and Fonda were two of the first couple of people I met when I came to Atlanta," said Missy Speert, former Paper Dolls guitarist who still plays but spends most of her time on a new business venture, the Flying Biscuit in Lake Claire. "Nothing came of that, but later DeDe was the person who asked me to join the [Scallion Sisters]."

Indigo Girls' Amy Ray—Vogt's newest release bears the imprint of Ray's label, Daemon Records—remembers those early days, too, and Vogt is a player in her career.

"I remember I was 18 or 19 and I was playing at Good Ol' Days," she recalls, "and DeDe

was there. I was freaked out because she was there and I was in awe of her."

Ray says Vogt had a "major influence" on her career.

"She encouraged us," she said from Nashville where the Indigo Girls are recording a new album. "She's sort of like the grand mama of Atlanta music."

Speert agrees. "She paved the way in a lot of ways, whether through her solo efforts or her bands. She's a real musician, not a poseur. That music speaks for itself."

But Vogt says she's not writing so much anymore, and she attributes it to getting older.

"I have less and less to say as I get older," she said. "But when I do have something to say, it's usually pretty solid."

Getting older has mellowed Vogt in other ways as well—she's no longer driven to get that major record deal, and is instead content to put out the music she's done for years—from boogie blues, to folk, to rock, and beyond.

"It just doesn't seem so important to promote DeDe Vogt anymore," she said. "When I was coming up, the kind of diversity I have was unheard of—it still is—and it's taken 20 years to feel just fine about having diversity in my songwriting."

A new band—Cowboy Envy—will debut this month, performing old cowboy songs. With former Gypsy Heart guitarist and vocalist Berné Poliakoff, Vogt hopes the band will draw the fans her previous work has drawn.

"With what we're doing, and me in cowboy drag, we're either going to be chased out of town with tomatoes or we're going to kick ass," she laughs.

Vogt's also taken steps to become more politically aware, and to put something back into the community that has backed her for 20 years.

"I know I've disappointed people by not focusing [on being a lesbian]," she said, "but I see [music and sexual orientation] as two very separate things. And I've always preferred for the focus to be on the music."

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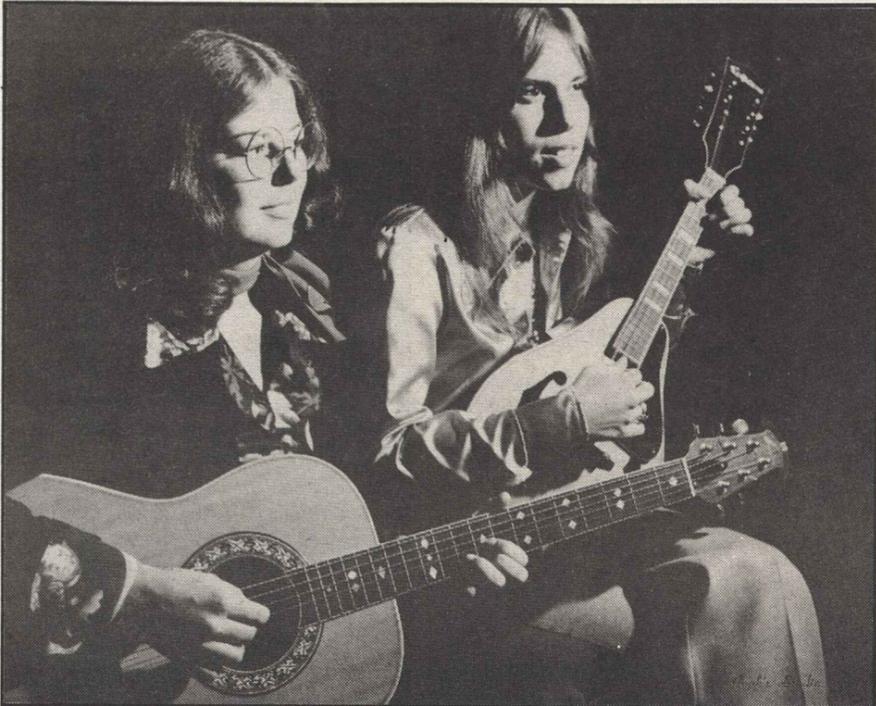
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Vogt came to Atlanta in the early 1970s with Cass Kennedy, and they performed together as a duo called Rose.

But lately, Vogt has relaxed that rule just a bit. "I can't say it has nothing to do with my music," she said. "Most of my songs—well some have been inspired by a gentleman—but most of them have been inspired by a woman."

"I'm embarrassed to say this, but I voted for the first time last year," Vogt admits. "And I did it because I kept seeing so many people trying to do something. I started feeling like I needed to do something to affect change. Perhaps I'm trying to get less self-absorbed as I get older."

A 20-year career with no end in sight. Vogt's new release—which contains a song from the Paper Dolls and a song recorded with Fonda Feingold in the late 70s—is a testament to that career.

I'm not the person I expected to be, Vogt sings in "Button Song," Things haven't gone necessarily as planned. . . But somewhere inside the dream stays true, even if it's lost somewhere inside of you. Someone will believe it when you no longer see it. . .

"I'm learning," she laughs, and then adds what she guesses some may say about her: "hope she gets it before she dies!"

No problem there. Twenty years is a long time, and DeDe Vogt has made the best of them.

A release party for DeDe Vogt's "The Willing Suspension of Disbelief" will be held at Eddie's Attic in Decatur on Sunday, Dec. 19, beginning at 9 pm.

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OCCASIONS

BIRTHDAYS

SoVo distributor Shirley Brown turned 65 on Dec. 4, a day she spent rehearsing for the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus concert that night. Shirley says she's not about to retire—"What would I do?" she said. Whatever you want, we say—and congratulations.



Shirley Brown is now 65—but retirement is not in sight.

And SoVo's very own Shane Nugent, circulation and classifieds queen, turns 24 on Dec. 19. With holiday madness circulating these days, Shane says he plans a low-key celebration.

COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Dr. Stephanie Blackton and Elizabeth Cobb joyfully announce their Nov. 29 Lunar Eclipse "Ceremony of the Hearts" in which they declared their intention to spend their lives growing together in love.

ENGAGEMENT

Thanksgiving dinner was made extra special for Judy and Marv Colbs and their family when their daughter Sandy announced her engagement to Kathy O'Connell. Sandy and Kathy live in Richmond, Va. and are planning a ceremony in the fall. Judy and Marv now have two more grandchildren: Kathy's daughters Kate and Meaghan, great teenagers. If the ceremony is here, y'all come.

ding old acquaintances there.

COMBINATION OCCASION

Congratulations to Laura Groon of Athens on both her recent job promotion and her recovery from an accident. Laura plans to celebrate her promotion and recovery with a close bud in Atlanta over the holidays.

MOVING

Tiffany Wolf is anticipating a moving experience—to another city. She'll be heading for greener pastures in Columbia, S.C. to pursue graduate studies. Tiffany has been a long time fan of Columbia and looks forward to rekin-

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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OBITUARIES

Curtis W. Morriss

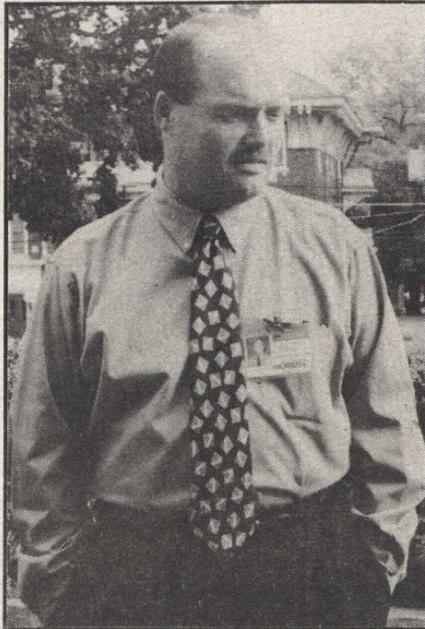
Curtis W. Morriss, 36, the long-time administrator of Grady Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic, died last Wednesday from complications from AIDS at his Atlanta home.

A memorial service was held last Thursday at Patterson's Spring Hill funeral home.

From its inception in 1986 until early this year, Morriss had been on the staff of Grady's IDC, which provides care to people living with HIV/AIDS. As administrator of the program, Morriss oversaw the development of the clinic's new facility on Ponce de Leon Avenue, which opened in September and is considered to be among the country's most comprehensive public treatment centers for HIV/AIDS.

Survivors include his companion, Richard Kewer; his parents, C. George and Helen Morriss of Lilburn, and five brothers and sisters.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Infectious Disease Clinic, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30308.



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.

School Newspaper

Continued from page 3

where do you draw the line?"

Other than the ban on outside publications, Clayton County has no rules about subject matter in student publications. However, in 1991, the school system did adopt a policy that prohibits homosexuality from being "presented as an acceptable alternative lifestyle" in sex education classes, a policy that doesn't apply to publications.

Rachel Alterman, director of Youth Communications, which publishes VOX, would not comment directly on the Clayton County controversy but praised the work of the students who produce the paper.

"Any teacher who looked at the articles would see they're not biased," she said. "They do tackle tough issues, but they do it in a responsible way. To us, this is not an issue about sexuality. It's about censorship—and young people's right to participate in a public forum. [VOX] is young people finally having a voice in this city."

VOX publishes bi-monthly, and all articles are written by students from high schools across the city with the help of mentors from mainstream media outlets. Funding for the project comes from corporations and individuals, including Bell South and Georgia U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

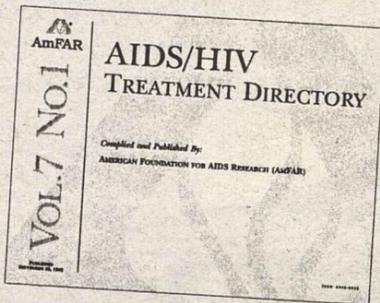
During the summer, Youth Communications offers workshops for the students on writing, photography and desktop publishing.

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Rates valid thru December 31, 1994. People with HIV disease who cannot afford a paid subscription—call 1-800-458-5231.



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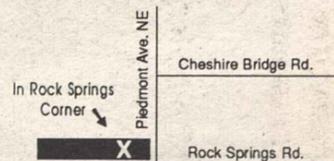


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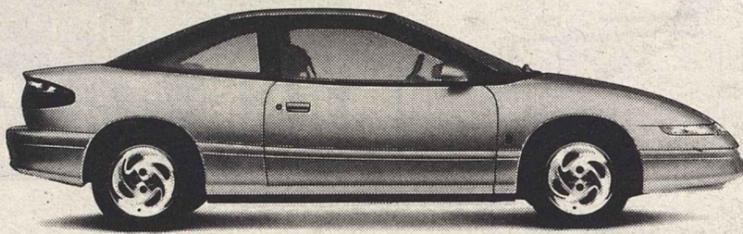


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OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

Carols of Splendor

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus kicks off its 10th anniversary season with a holiday music feast

by BRIAN COCHRAN

The story goes that at a recent performance of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, one of the audience members was overheard asking, "Who are those guys?" (The crowd was markedly mixed, gay and straight.) The reply, of course, was "That's the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus." To which the bewildered audience member countered, "The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus? But they look so normal."

Yes, well . . . maybe, but the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus is undoubtedly an organization comprised of gay men, who serve as goodwill ambassadors for the community in a variety of venues. This year's holiday concert, for example, is scheduled for the Cannon Chapel, at Emory University. This may not sound that unusual, unless you realize that Emory is Methodist university, which nonetheless has an Office of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Life, the organization that is sponsoring this concert.



Phil Parkey, a spokesperson for the AGMC, has nothing but glowing words for the organization, saying "they have been extremely compliant with our requests. Everything we asked for has been done." The group seems to get along quite well with churches, anyway, since it rehearses at Virginia-Highland Baptist, with the full cooperation of the congregation.

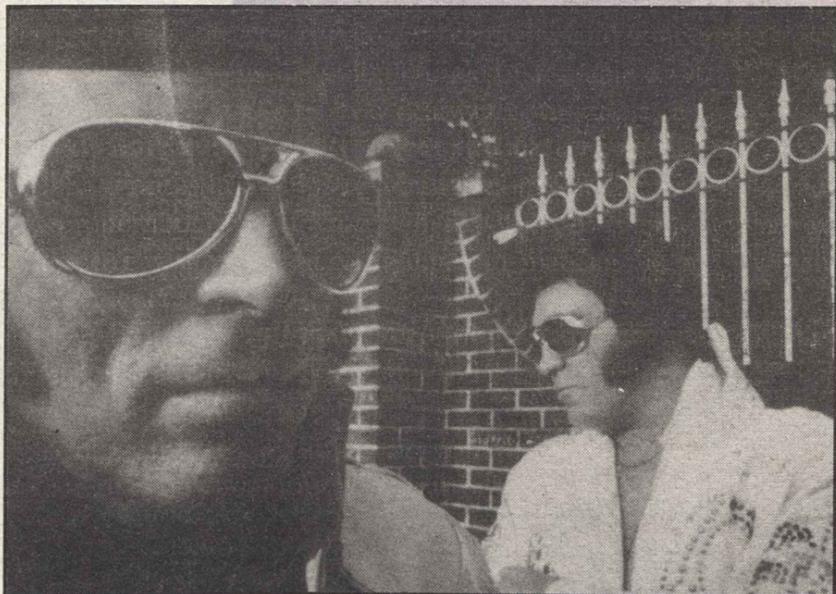
The AGMC has been performing consistently in the Atlanta area for more than 10 years now and has weathered some tough times, both in terms of changing leadership and losing members, through natural attrition and, tragically, AIDS. In the past few years alone, their numbers have varied wildly, from 18 members to 68 at one time.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus presents "Carols of Splendor" on Dec. 17 and 18 at Emory University's Cannon Chapel. Tickets are available at The Boy Next Door and Brushstrokes.

Not really Elvis — just an incredible simulation

"Elvis: That's the Way It Is Now" is showing at Gallery V., 188 Walker St., through Jan. 14. Call 577-5578 for more information.



One of Marvin Rhodes tributes to those who want to be the King

Gallery V. shows Marvin Rhodes' photographs of Commemoration Week in Memphis

by BRIAN COCHRAN

Elvis fan or not, the exhibit of photographs by Marvin Rhodes at Gallery V. will intrigue you—and might even inspire you to try on a gold lame jacket or build a Jungle Room. At the very least, you will get a glimpse into a world that you never knew existed.

"Elvis: That's the Way It Is Now" is a photographic peek at Commemoration Week, an event held annually in Memphis (where else?) at which innumerable Elvis impersonators congregate in a week-long bacchanal that culminates in a competition to choose the best Elvis impersonation. It is this event that Rhodes chose to illustrate in his art. As he puts it, the show is "not a tribute to the King. Rather, it's a tribute to those who would be King."

The final competition, which includes a performance by each impersonator, is real. No lip synching allowed. This

CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

LOOKING FOR A CITY

by Chris Coleman

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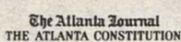
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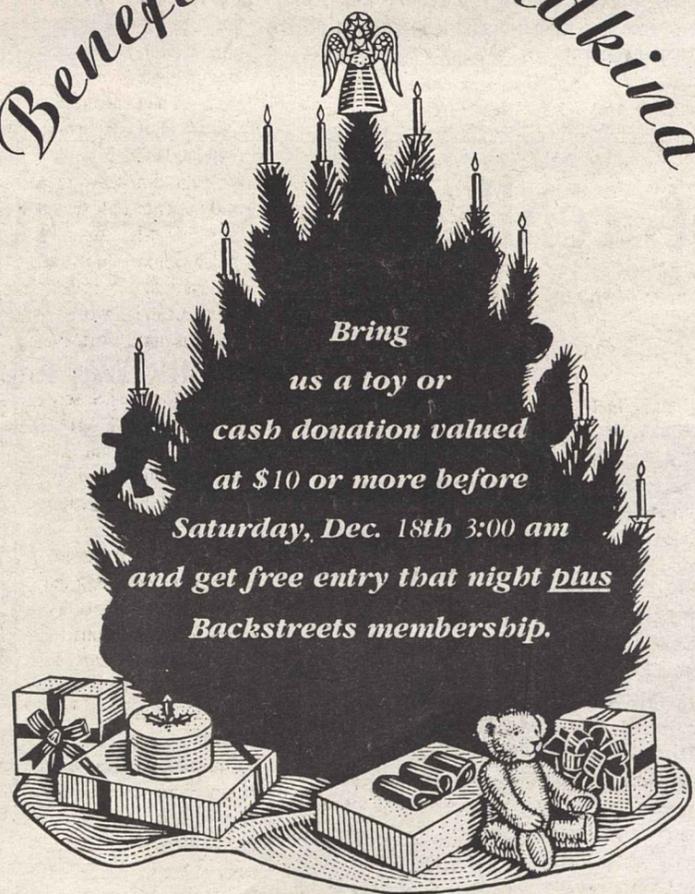
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GAY GRAFITTI. Out and loud lesbian and gay radio. 7-8pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.
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lecture/video on taking personal responsibility for your own safety. Charis, 419 Moreland in L5P. 7:30pm. 524-0304.

BONFIRE/MARSHMELLOW ROAST. Sponsored by the Decatur Business Association on the Decatur Square. 7pm.

JINGLE ON THIS. A holiday dance party for women at Bill's, 208 N. 23rd St. in Birmingham. 7-12pm.

DR. KENNEDY SCHULTZ. Religious Science leader autographs "You Are the Power" at Oxford books on Pharr Road. 7-8:30pm.

17 FRIDAY

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Annual holiday concert tonight and tomorrow at Cannon

Chapel of Emory University at 8pm. Tickets at Boy Next Door and Brushstrokes.

JONI MABE. Athens-based artist celebrates the release of "Joni Mabe's Classic Postcard Book from her Museum of Obsessions Personalities and Oddities" at Nexus Press with a performance by an Elvis impersonator. 7pm. 535 Means St. 577-3579.

NAOMI JUDD. Wynonna's mama - autographs "Love Can Build A Bridge" at Oxford Books on Pharr Road, 7-8:30pm.

PETE TOWNSHEND'S PSYCHODERELICT. A Great Performances special featuring compositions from the Who guitarist. 10pm, GPTV channel 8.

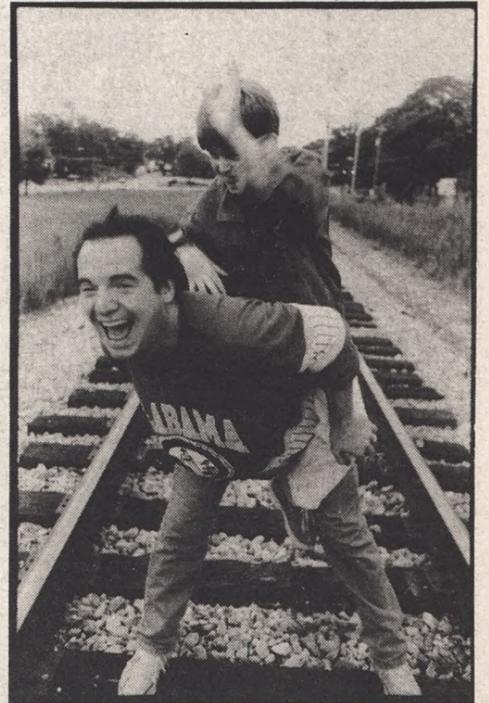
18 SATURDAY

KID'S CHRISTMAS. The Voyage to Toyland with the Atlanta Symphony. Also tomorrow. \$12. 898-2414.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA. Santa shares a meal with kids of all ages at the Phoenix Ballroom at the Marriott at Lenox. 8:30am to 10:30am, \$15. 233-6767.

19 SUNDAY

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.



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

STEEL MAGNOLIAS. Truvy's beauty salon comes alive at Neighborhood Playhouse, through Dec. 18. Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm & 7pm. 373-5311.

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES. Thru Dec. 18. Dylan Thomas' holiday classic is given a musical treatment by Druid Circle Theatre Company. Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm at 14th St. Playhouse. 892-2414.

CRAZY FOR YOU. Thru Dec. 19. An all-Gershwin evening at the Fox, presented by Theatre of the Stars. Stars James Brennan, Karen Ziemba and Ann B. Davis, of Brady fame. 817-8700 for tickets.

JOSEPH AND THE TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. Through Dec. 19. Stage Door Players presents the Webber-Rice show, taken loosely from the Bible, about the man who ends up Mayor of Egypt. North DeKalb Cultural Center. Thurs-Sun. 396-1726.

A LIE OF THE MIND. Thru Dec. 19. The Play Ground Theatre opens its 2nd season with the Sam Shepherd tale of love, violence and the American family. Wed-Sat 8pm at 7 Stages Back Door Theatre. 523-7647.

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS. Theatrical Outfit's holiday offering runs through Dec. 23. 872-0665.

A WONDERFUL LIFE. Thru Dec. 23 at Onstage Atlanta. Musical version of

the holiday classic. 897-1802.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL. The Alliance Theatre's annual classic with Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the rest. Directed by Kenny Leon and adapted by Sandra Deer. Through Dec. 26. 892-2414.

ATLANTA BALLET'S NUTCRACKER. The Ballachine holiday classic returns to the Atlanta Civic Center, presented by the Atlanta Ballet through Dec. 26, complete with a live orchestra, flurries of snowfall, and a ferocious duel. Evening shows at 8pm, matinees at 2pm. 817-8700.

GARGOYLES. Pen and ink collection by Michelle Feder, on display at BurnNoff Gallery at Clear Creek Center thru Jan. 29. 875-3475.

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.

LEE BOMHOFF. Pastels by the Atlanta artist are on display at Anthony Ardavin Gallery at TULA through Jan. 1. 352-8738.

1940S RADIO HOUR. Theatre in the Square's annual holiday offering runs through Jan. 1. Performances will be held in the larger performing

arts space at Southern Tech. The show features music, skits, sound effects, and a 10-min. condensed version of A Christmas Carol. 422-8639 for tickets and information.

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.

LOOKING FOR A CITY. Extended thru Jan. 9. Chris Coleman's play addresses real family values, the kind Pat Buchanan et al don't want you to know about. Thurs-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 7pm.

\$12-\$15. Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth St. 221-0831.

AMERICAN PAINTINGS FROM THE MANOOGIAN COLLECTION. American artists of the 19th century are on exhibit thru Mar. 6, 1994 at the High Museum.

MARY CASSATT. Paintings of the American Impressionist are on view at the High Museum thru Mar. 27.

NEW WORK: GALLERY ARTISTS. Heath Gallery opens an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture, through Jan. 15. 262-6407.

ALADDIN. The Center for Puppetry Arts presents the familiar tale of Aladdin and the magic lamp thru Feb. 16, 1994, as part of the Family Series. 873-3391.

NEW YEAR'S EXTRAVAGANZA. Pearl Productions with Lou Sims presents a New Year's party at the Swann Building, 205 32nd St. in Birmingham featuring Brave and Crazy. 940-7481 in Birmingham, 250-0774 in Atlanta.

CATS. Theatre of the Stars will present the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical from Jan. 11-16 at the Fox. 249-6400.

WHO'S DINING WHO? NAPWA is signing up potential hosts for a February fundraiser. 20 dinner parties will happen concurrently on Feb. 19, and the guests will be chosen by lottery. 876-7926.

20 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. 10:30pm and again, Wed 5:30pm. Cable Ch. 12.

GOING HOME TO GOSPEL. With Patti LaBelle, Albertina Hunter, the Mighty Clouds of Joy and Edwin Hawkins. 10:30pm, GPTV channel 8.

21 TUESDAY

ATLANTA RAINBOW COALITION. Meeting open to representatives of organizations and individuals to keep abreast of what's going on in Atlanta. 7:15pm, 14th St. Playhouse. 876-1398.

THE NEW HOLY WAR. Bill Moyers travels to Colorado Springs, home of Amendment 2, to talk about the controversy. 10pm, GPTV channel 8.

22 WEDNESDAY

POSITIVE LIVING. This locally produced show about people living with AIDS airs twice every week on People TV Ch. 12, 2:30pm and again on Sat, 10pm. It also airs on City Ch. 6, Thur 5pm.

PICTURED:

ABOVE: Actor's Express has extended its run of Chris Coleman's "Looking for a City" through Jan. 9. Photo by David Zeiger.

LEFT: Painting by American Impressionist Mary Cassatt are on view at the High Museum through March 27, 1994.

BELOW: Brave and Crazy will perform in a New Year's Eve celebration in Birmingham.



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Carols of Splendor

Continued from page 21

Somehow, though, even through the most difficult times, the chorus has stayed afloat and now enjoys a large membership, though some wish it could be even larger. "I think of Atlanta as having a gay community roughly as large as the one in Washington, D.C., and their chorus has 150 members," says director Jeffrey McIntyre. "And I see no reason why we can't have that many as well."

McIntyre, who founded the chorus in 1981, has returned to his former position as director, after an absence of several years. A performer as well as a musical conductor, he has sung with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Choral Guild of Atlanta. Current members of the AGMC credit him with the renaissance of the group, since his return during its 10th anniversary year.

This year's holiday concert, entitled "Carols of Splendor," takes its name from a choral montage by composer James Adler, based on The Oxford Book of Carols. The montage contains carols that will sound familiar to the average listener, and some that will not. As a special attraction, James Adler will appear at a reception following the Saturday night performance. Mr. Adler has composed for the New York Gay Men's Chorus and has written for the Centennial Celebration of the Statue of Liberty and the opening of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. Currently, Adler serves as director of choral music at St. Peter's College.

In a somewhat non-traditional vein, the chorus is also presenting "Betelehemu," a Nigerian carol that has been performed exten-

sively by the Morehouse Glee Club. Arranged for the late Wendell Whalum by a native Nigerian, "Betelehemu" is a rousing piece that features West African instruments, movement and vocal gymnastics. First heard by director McIntyre at the Denver meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses in 1991, it became a favorite of the festival, and he quickly decided to include it in the chorus' repertoire for Christmas this year.

But...lest you think that this recital will be typical for a choral Christmas concert, think again. Remember, this is a gay men's chorus. Director McIntyre promises that the second act in particular will be an attention grabber. He notes especially "The Fight Before Christmas," a number that incorporates a coming-out story into the singing, first done by Scott Henderson of the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus (It would figure that L.A. would be the chorus to add acting in to the mix).

If "The Fight Before Christmas" isn't enough for you, how about "Elmer Fudd Carols?" Yes, the arch-nemesis of Bugs Bunny (whose own sexual orientation we always wondered about) has been further immortalized by David Maddox of the Seattle Gay Men's Chorus in a medley of carols to be sung using the cartoon character's distinct speech...uh, pattern. Example? How about "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear?" Think about it.

The holiday performance opens a three performance season for the AGMC. In addition, the organization contributes each year to Atlanta's Pride celebration and the Olde English Festival at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, a benefit for Jerusalem House.

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Groundbreaking gay movie a triumph for straight filmmaker

Chen Kaige's "Farewell My Concubine" was the first Chinese film to deal with gay life

"I work as a scientist," says Chen Kaige. "If you're a filmmaker you have to know about life." That's why he didn't shy away from gay subject matter in "Farewell My Concubine," which opens this month in Atlanta.

"This is the first Chinese film that involved homosexuality, but it's done in a very subtle way," he says. The government may be in denial about it, but "there is a gay community in Beijing and Shanghai and other large cities."

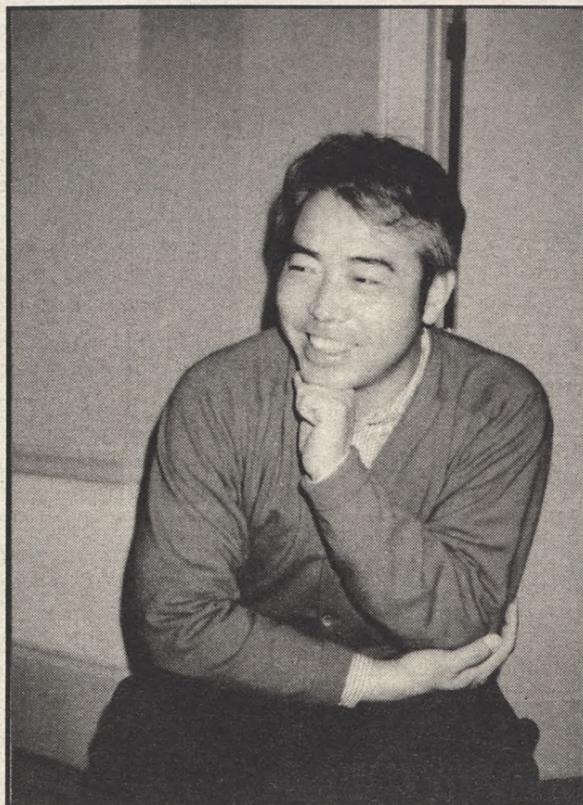
Although his English is by no means limited, Chen has some answers that fit more than one question. His explanation of how Americans can appreciate "Concubine" without knowing about such Sino-specifics as the Peking Opera and the Cultural Revolution—"I know there is a cultural gap...but we're all human beings"—also answers the question of how he can make a movie whose main character is gay when he's not gay himself.

Despite his own orientation, Chen says he identifies closely with the gay character, Chen Dieyi, played by former Hong Kong pop singer Leslie Cheung. That's because he believes creative types share an outsider status with gays. "Artists are people from another planet," Chen says. "They are people who must be very brave, very independent; as pure as possible, as naive as possible."

"In the West it's no big deal," continues Chen, who has been based in New York since 1987. "But in China...we feel insecure if we are outside of society. To be an individual means to be lonely sometimes." However, "I really enjoy to be myself, to different from others."

Dieyi holds a dual outsider status, as a gay man and as an artist. A star of the Peking Opera, he specializes in female roles, especially that of Yu Ji, concubine of the King of Chu in the third century B.C., who took her life when her beloved husband appeared on the verge of defeat, in the opera "Farewell to My Concubine."

As Chen explains Dieyi, "He believes there is only one female in the whole world, the concubine who committed sui-



Chen Kaige says he approaches moviemaking "as a scientist."

cide 2,000 years ago, and he has replaced her."

"Why must the concubine always die?" Dieyi asks at one point, and that question may be echoed by gay viewers who recall the homophobic, preliberation tradition of Western literature that always left the queer dead at the end.

"Some people call it a tragedy," Chen responds, "But for me the ending is happy. This is what (Dieyi) has been trying to do his whole life." The culmination of a life spent trying to be Ju Yi is to share her death. It ties in with the Eastern concept of fate,

which runs through the film. If that's bullshit, it's better than what the Paul Verhoevens and Oliver Stones have come up with to justify their work.

Perhaps some of the hardships Chen suffered during the Cultural Revolution are reflected in the training and discipline children are subjected to in the Peking Opera school in "Farewell My Concubine," which begins in 1924 when Dieyi enters the school as a child. "The training used to be brutal," Chen confirms. "People used to believe students had to suffer to become stars."

At school Dieyi bonds with the slightly older boy who will be his best friend, co-star and the object of his unrequited love. Zhang Fengyi plays the adult Duan Xiaolou opposite Leslie Cheung's Dieyi. In what Chen calls "a film about love and betrayal," the rift between the friends begins in 1937 when Xiaolou becomes engaged to a willful prostitute, Juxian (played by Gong Li). Dieyi retaliates by accepting an offer to become the lover of a bourgeois (male) opera patron.

"She's a dragon lady, she's very tough," Chen says of Juxian. Though she and Dieyi are rivals for Xiaolou's love, the director feels that once they reach a mutual understanding, "they treat each other like sisters."

The popularity of his own medium is helping to kill off Chen's beloved Peking Opera, which thrived from 1790 until recently. "It depends on the old lifestyle," Chen admits. "It's impossible to keep it alive today." He sees this as part of a larger concern in his native country: "Even though we have economic reform, culture is a big problem. Culture is the base of a nation....People say we don't know anything about democracy, but how much (do) we know about art? How much (do) we know about film?"

He might add, how much do the Chinese know about medicine? While he was at the Venice Film Festival last September, his parents sent him the results of a recent check-up. His doctor in China said he had hepatitis-B. He went to an Italian doctor for a second opinion and was told, "You are stronger than a cow."

Watch Chen Kaige's films for indications of his "personal opinion about love." It's depressing, but worth quoting: "When people, especially young people, say they love each other, they mean they don't know each other. That's why love can't last forever, because eventually they come to know each other."

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Not really Elvis

Continued from page 21

year, the winner was Japanese. Other contestants included an African-American and a Pakistani Elvis—sort of an international brotherhood of Elvises. The name of the club where this occurs is Bad Bob's Vapors Lounge (it used to be two clubs, but they merged). This year's winner plans to go back to his homeland and start a club there specifically for the purposes of Elvis impersonation. Other contestants ranged from factory workers to guys who showed up just to look for "Elvis sluts."

Rhodes, whose previous work includes two books, one on Vietnam veterans called "Testify," is a former Marine who served in Vietnam himself. Photography was a hobby that became a passion then a career and he earned his master's of visual arts from Georgia State University in 1984. His work has found its way into shows at The Museum of Modern Art and The Brooklyn Museum. One of the photographs from "Elvis: That's the Way It Is Now" was purchased by the High Museum of Art and now hangs in the "Printed Light" exhibition which continues through February 4, 1994.

Rhodes is particularly pleased to be included in this exhibition because his work hangs next to one of his strongest influences, Diane Arbus. "To be on the same wall with her is a tremendous thrill," he says.

But can an exhibition of photographs featuring guys dressing up like a dead pop star be considered serious art? Maybe not. The question is, rather, should it? Why can't art exist

for humor, or a documentary on life? The people who participate in this annual event take it very seriously, as anyone can see by the careful detail they incorporate into costumes, which include monogrammed sunglasses and turquoise jewelry, to performances (sneers and hip gyrations everywhere).

Rhodes' own pilgrimage to Memphis included being offered jelly doughnuts out of a brown paper bag and meeting a father and son Elvis team who had conquered a significant handicap (the son was blind) in their attempt to win the contest. He calls Commemoration Week "fascinating though bizarre...like something out of a Fellini movie."

Though Rhodes admits that "Elvis: That's the Way It Is Now" won't solve any world crises, he does think the show's validity lies in its illumination of the people who are still just as fascinated with the King (or more so) than they ever were. He even suggests that it may provide some career direction for those experiencing a mid-life crisis. What it will do for you, without a doubt, is make you laugh.

The main connection he feels, though, is with the people who participated in Commemoration Week. "I am very fond of these people. They are totally ridiculous. My kind of folks," he says.

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Taking on homophobia in the American workplace

Atlanta author Brian McNaught's new book teaches employers the value of their lesbian/gay employees

by JAMES FITCH

"The U.S. Census Bureau called me because they were confused by how I identified my profession," writes Atlanta-based author Brian McNaught.

"It says here you are a homophobia educator," they said.

"That's right," I replied

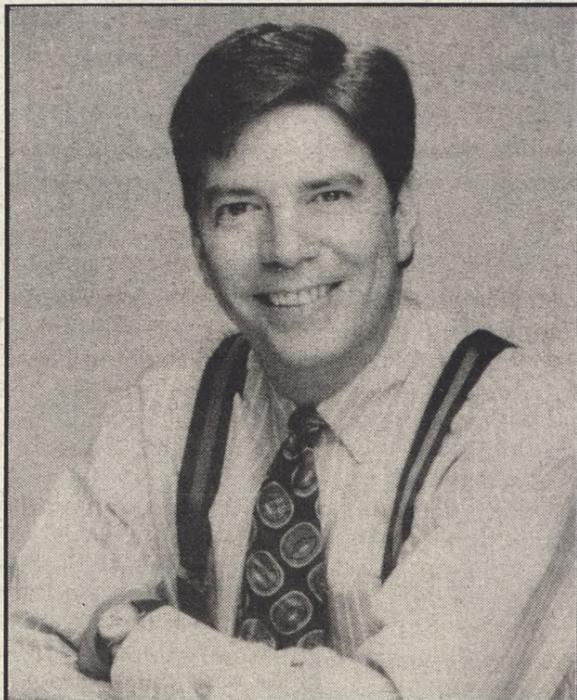
"Well, we don't know what that is, but we think it's for people who are afraid of leaving the house. Are we right?"

That's a passage from McNaught's latest book, "Gay Issues in the Workplace." It's that type of societal ignorance that keeps him gainfully employed. And it's that type of ignorance that pretty much guarantees that gay and lesbian people will routinely witness gay slurs at work, or perhaps come across an anti-gay cartoon taped to an office file cabinet.

Through efforts like his book and his mainstay occupation as a corporate consultant and director of workshops on homophobia, McNaught is making the world a safer place for gays, lesbians and bisexuals—starting with corporate America.

Corporations today are acknowledging that the employee is the most invaluable asset they have. Workshops on multiculturalism, racism and sexism in the workplace have become big business. The Personnel Department is no longer called "Personnel"; it's "Diversity Management."

But when McNaught began doing his homophobia workshops in 1988, it was an area previously untouched. To many, he is a pioneer. "The New York Times," for one, has dubbed him no less than "the godfather of gay diversity and sensitivity training." Today, according to McNaught, his field is fast



Brian McNaught's previous book was "On Being Gay," a collection of essays and articles written from a personal perspective.

becoming a hot one.

"As a result of the success that some of us are having doing corporate training, the big guys—the ones who have been around doing diversity training—are starting to add an aspect to their training to cover homosexuality," McNaught said in a recent interview. "My position is that you can't just mention it. You can't just say, 'We're gonna talk about diversity in general' because people are so ignorant about sexual orientation that they need at least four hours of education."

Among other things, McNaught's workshops take participants through a role-playing fantasy, in which gay people are the norm and straight people are the dregs of society. Ideally, people exit the workshop understanding at least that homosexuality is not a choice, but an orientation, and that gay civil rights is not about giving someone benefits for having sex with somebody of the same sex the night before.

It also sheds light on aspects that typically go ignored, like the awareness in gay and lesbian children of feelings that they can't change and the confusion and anxiety that results. Suddenly, people whose primary references for homosexuality are the pictures they see on the evening news—gay men in jockstraps or bare-breasted lesbians—begin to think about their own children.

"[Before the workshop] they see [homosexuality] as a behavior as opposed to years and years and years of hiding, and not being able to make phone calls at work and not being able to bring a date to a party," McNaught says. "They understand the difference at the end of the workshop. And that's important."

McNaught points out that when you reach people in the workplace, you reach people who would never otherwise pick up a book or attend a talk on homosexuality.

"You're getting somebody who votes, who has children, somebody who may be on a PTA, or maybe sits on a school board, hearing for four hours what it's like to grow up gay... In absolute truth, the typical response [to the workshop] is: 'I just didn't understand before.'"

Judging the book by its cover, "Gay Issues in the Workplace" would appear of value to only non-gay readers—and McNaught did write it in corporate jargon and based it on productivity, the idea that if you don't have a safe environment, you don't have workers who produce.

However, straights and gays alike have something to learn from this concise, academic, and human book. Historical facts and definitions provide a sound basis for understanding, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Homophobia in the workplace

Continued from page 27

McNaught's anecdotal flourishes from work and family life bring the material well into the '90s.

It's something completely different from his previous book, "On Being Gay," a collection of essays and articles written from a more personal perspective.

At a recent book-signing appearance at Outwrite Books, McNaught was reminded of how the information in that book has impacted so many lives.

"At the book-signing, several people came up to me and said, 'On Being Gay' is the book that I read when I first came out," he says.

For his next project, McNaught is considering a book that takes off where "On Being Gay" left off: a book about being gay and 45 that would cover such aspects as growth in family relationships and being with a partner for 17 years.

At present, his consulting keeps him busy and satisfied as he sees the self-affirmation gay, lesbian and bisexual people derive from his presentations and the positive changes he makes in the attitudes of heterosexuals.

"Are we going to have full equality in my lifetime?" he says. "Boy, I don't know. But I don't think black people and women and other minorities will have full equality in my lifetime either. So I think it's a matter of putting things into perspective and making every little step forward you can make."

To illustrate his optimism, McNaught tells a story.

During a recent airplane trip, he sat next to a man who engaged him in conversation. The man offered that he was a born-again Christian businessman from Cobb County and that his wife was involved in Concerned Women of America.

"So what do you do for work?" he said to McNaught.

"I work with corporations on homophobia," McNaught said.

"Homophobia?" replied the man. "That's homosexuality, isn't it?"

They talked for the duration of the two and a half hour flight. At the end of the flight, the man looked at McNaught and said, "Brian, God had you sit next to me. My wife and I had not wanted to put a face to this issue, and you put a face to the issue."

The man exited the flight with a copy of "Gay Issues in the Workplace." Coincidentally, he was on his way to address several hundred born-again Christian businesspeople.

"That's what's so rewarding about it," McNaught says. "People are basically good, but many people are ignorant. If you give people the benefit of the doubt, some of them grow in remarkable, wonderful ways and become allies. It's step-by-step, day-by-day. And every day is a challenge."



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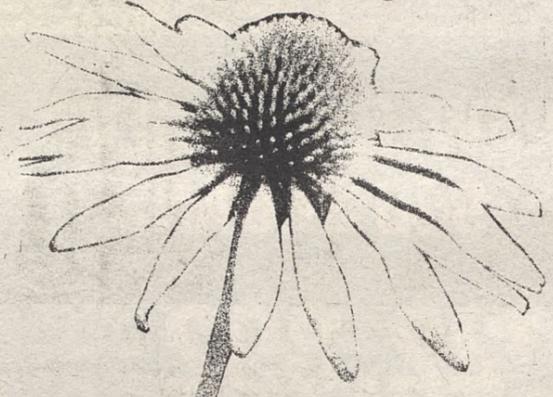
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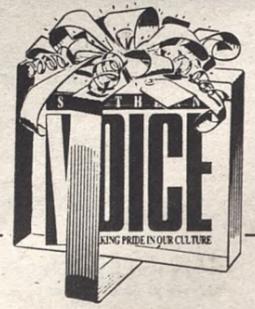


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The living histories of Atlanta's southeastern communities

SAME's Rebecca Ranson explores Edgewood, Kirkwood, East Atlanta, East Lake and East Lake Meadows

by KC WILDMOON

A ride east on the MARTA rail line, from Five Points to Decatur, takes passengers through an early part of Atlanta's history—history made when the city was still a town and much of the land beyond downtown was farmland, dotted with other small towns. Hard to believe, but Inman Park was the fledging city's first suburb.

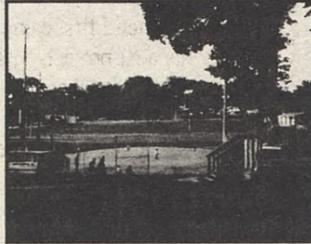
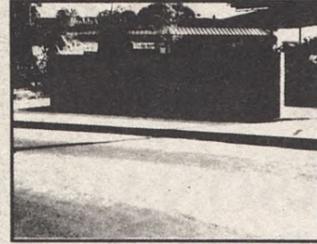
But past that, and to the south of the rail line, were those small towns—Edgewood, Kirkwood, East Atlanta, East Lake—places now relegated to street names...and neighborhoods of Georgia's capital. And the histories of those towns and early neighborhoods have been left to the reminiscences of long-time residents. Until now.

Rebecca Ranson, founder and artistic director of the Southeastern Arts, Media and Education Project (SAME)—and a 9-year resident of Kirkwood—had an idea to preserve those memories and some of more recent residents as well.

"You can hardly live in this community without wanting to do something," she said.

Ranson proposed to the Arts in the Atlanta Project, the arts arm of former President Carter's Atlanta Project, to do a "several phase project," beginning with interviews of residents of the neighborhoods and leading toward a community play based on the interviews. The first phase is complete, and the results have been published in "Living Histories, Community

Living Histories, Community Pride:



Edgewood
Kirkwood
East Atlanta
East Lake
East Lake Meadows

nity Pride: Edgewood, Kirkwood, East Atlanta, East Lake, East Lake Meadows."

"The Arts in the Atlanta Project committee suggested the first people that I interviewed," she said. "From those people I got referred on to the next people. By the end of the interview process, I could have interviewed 300 people."

"Living Histories" contains transcripts of interviews with 28 people, ranging from long time residents to newer trans-

plants, and their stories are as varied as their experiences. Included in the book are the recollections of Jeff Bailey, whose father started Bailey Hardware on College Avenue nearly 50 years ago (and who still operates the business), Eva Davis, president of the East Lake Meadows Residents Association, and James R. Doanes, principal of Drew Elementary for the last nine years.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

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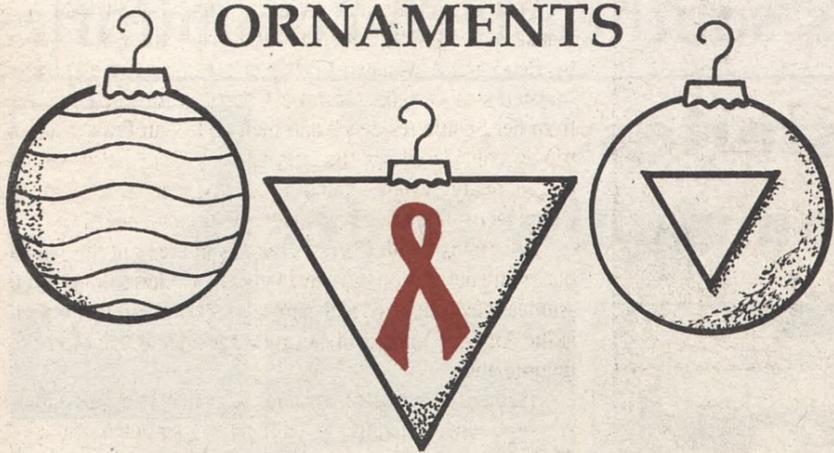
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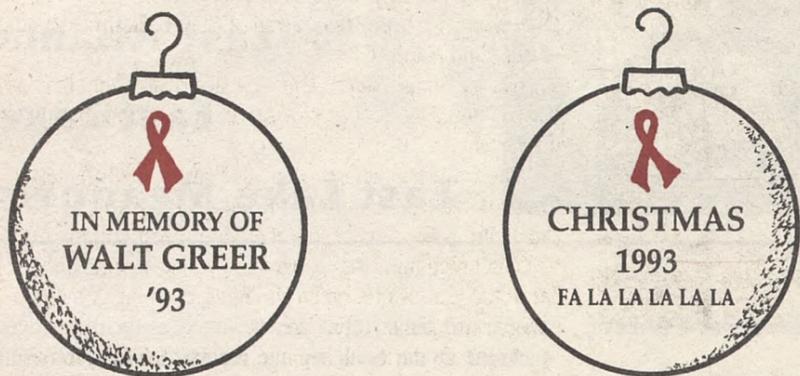
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Atlanta's southeastern communities

Continued from page 29

"It's a very small sample," Ranson said. "The most fascinating thing to me about these neighborhoods is that they are totally diverse. The projects are next door to a house with a doctor in them are next door to the blue collar worker are next door to the crack dealers. We're all here together. To me that makes the neighborhood perpetually interesting."

Most interesting of all, Ranson said, has been the changing demographics of these neighborhoods on the far east side of Atlanta. In the beginning, the towns and then neighborhoods were almost completely white. And then, with the urban renewal that began in the early 60s, black families began moved from the inner city into the neighborhoods, and "white flight" ensued, with the area's white families picking up and heading further out. Now, the neighborhoods are seeing an increase in integration, as young whites seeking low cost, close in homes, move in. And often, those new neighbors are gay.

"There is an enormous influx of gays in this community. And if there is prejudice against that happening, it is totally invisible," said Ranson, adding that during the interviews she tried gave her subjects ample room to comment on the new residents. "I expected that somebody would say something about the gay people in the neighborhood, but nobody said anything except 'now those nice men that live over there, they painted that house such a pretty color.' I just don't think it's an issue."

Ranson's work on the book also gave her

a new sense of belonging in the community.

"For me it was a major opportunity to change the way I relate to the community," she said. "Before I would wave to people but not know anything about them. But now I've been in their homes, I know their children or grandchildren. I'd love to do this all over town."

At a recent publication party held at the Dollar Funeral Home on Kirkwood Street—a house originally built by the then-Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and now a black-owned business—the interviewees came together to celebrate the release of the book, which is distributed free of charge through the neighborhoods' libraries, schools, businesses and the YMCA.

"I was a little uneasy about whether people would be hostile to one another," Ranson said of the party, where previous residents often met with the newer residents who had bought their homes, "But they said things like 'yeah that back door stuck 30 years ago.' They made real human contact on an ordinary level that gave all these diverse people a place to be together."

Today the neighborhoods in "Living Histories" suffer from poverty, crime, and what Ranson calls a "poor self image." But she has seen signs of change and hopes the book will help bring about more.

"I bought a house in this neighborhood on purpose," she said. "And I plan to live here. You can have a real life in these communities, and that's what I want."

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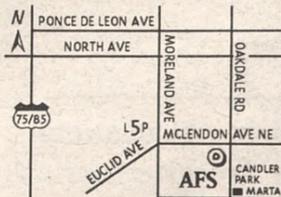
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In "The Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse," you can live out some of those childhood fantasies vicariously, not to mention hilariously. The comic mystery novel follows Cherry Aimless, R.N. as she loses her heart, and other items, to the famous sleuth, Nancy Clue. But first, the innocent young Cherry gets herself embroiled in a mysterious kidnapping case that brings her into the middle of a West Coast lesbian network. Will she figure out the mystery? Will she save her new friend's life? Will she figure out that her new chums are lesbians? Will she figure out that she is one herself? All these questions and more remain unanswered for at least half of the book as Cherry Aimless, R.N. persists in being as naive as possible for as long as possible.

True to Nancy Drew style, Cherry's and her friends' clothes and cars are described in the niftiest detail. Also in typical Drew fashion, the book is filled with darling figure drawings that have little or no relationship to the plot.

Our heroine, Cherry Aimless, R.N., has long admired Nancy Clue from afar. She has read all about the young detective and the Clue family in her *Girl's Life* magazine. So when Cherry reads in the newspaper that the beloved family housekeeper, Hannah, has murdered Nancy's father, the young nurse is incredulous.



But in her busy role as a new probationary nurse, Cherry doesn't have time to dwell on Nancy Clue's problem. In fact, Cherry has a mystery of her own to think about at the hospital. The handsome and somewhat intimidating Head Nurse Margaret Marsted has been paying particular attention to an amnesia patient who bears such a striking resemblance to Lana Turner that the nurses call her Lana. Cherry and the other

nurses decide to try to help Lana learn her true identity.

Cherry is a truly ineffectual detective, but she somehow manages to be in the right place at the right time. She is asked by Head Nurse Marsted to deliver a package to a friend of Marsted's in Oregon. Because Cherry is traveling to Idaho from her Seattle residence and then on to San Francisco, this trip is considered on the way. Nancy Drew also seemed always ready to pick up and travel anywhere at a moment's notice—cost and other responsibilities be damned.

After a visit with Cherry's parents in Pleasantville, Idaho, our young nurse is on her way to visit Aunt Gertrude. Gertrude Aimless never married and is mysteriously *persona non grata* at the Aimless home. But Gertrude has always been Cherry's favorite aunt.

Through a series of mishaps, the real talent of Cherry Aimless, Cherry teams up with the oh-so-butch and quite adorable Velma. The two women are in hot pursuit of Velma's kidnapped lover Midge headed for San Francisco. In San Francisco, they also hear stories of mysteriously missing nuns. Velma and Cherry meet San Francisco police officer Jackie who agrees to help them look for Velma's girlfriend. The three women are now on the trail of Midge, Gertrude, a bunch of nuns and Nancy Clue.

Cherry finds Nancy Clue by accident after the "titian haired" detective picks up Aimless in a lesbian bar and seduces her.

The funniest parts of the novel are usually a result of Cherry's naivete. Even after Cherry's seduction by Nancy, she continues to have a sort of little-girl-lost outlook on life. She can't recognize the sexual energy that is going on around her in the groups of women she finds, even when that sexual energy is having an effect on her.

As the mysteries all begin to unravel, the story draws to a close with a sort of compendium of all the possible abuses women can suffer at the hands of men. Cherry and the others defend themselves and their sisters against the evils of the patriarchy and manage to do it all in fashionable frocks. Fret not, the good gals win, and you will finish the story hoping for another Nancy Clue mystery to follow soon.

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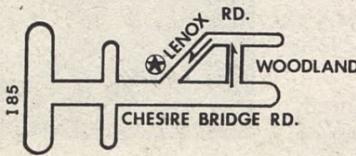
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Holy Lexus, Muffy. Just when you thought that yuppies were dead and gone, they're back with a vengeance. At 3954 Peachtree Rd in Brookhaven. But they're not selling cars or a designer label duds. Nope, these guys are in the grocery business. The name of their shop is **Harris Teeter** (which sounds suspiciously like Harris Tweed to me), and they've got one fancy food palace on their hands.

Two friends whose concern with style far exceeds mine have been gushing about Harris Teeter for weeks now.

I asked, "Is it nicer than Publix?"

"No comparison," was their answer.

"Is it a decent alternative to the farmers' markets or Sevananda?" I queried.

"No comparison," they gushed.

"But is it worth the trip to Brookhaven?" I whined.

"Shut up and drive," they snapped.

(The thought of driving up Peachtree Road on a Saturday afternoon was enough to make me twitch, but when I remembered that North Druid Hills Road goes to Brookhaven too, I gave up and headed north.)

I started giggling as soon as I walked in the door. My buddies were right: this is *not* your father's grocery store. OK, maybe that's wrong. Something here is very much like the pre-supermarket groceries of the late '40s and early '50s: the employees are courteous to the max and ultra helpful. Stop in the middle of an aisle and stare at a wall of soups and someone may just up and ask if they can answer a question for you. The stock clerks say "please," "thank you" and "excuse me." There's a concierge (though goddess knows what he or she does), a wine steward and a bevy of butchers, bakers and espresso makers.

And for the most part, this crew is all very easy on the eyes. A lookist sentiment I know, but it sure does make pushing a cart up and down those aisles easier and more exciting.

The overall look of the place is not unlike the newer A&P Superstores: grey, white and green with red accents. But that's about all that's the same. The produce selection is varied (seven kinds of fancy mushrooms including chanterelles and red lobsters, fifteen kinds of peppers, haricort verts, Chinese long beans, white asparagus and chive flowers), pristinely fresh and not outrageously priced. Granny Smiths are 99 cents per pound, sweet potatoes 35 cents and pole beans 69 cents.

The meat and fish cases look like they were done by a food stylist—a bevy of fat shrimp surrounded by a school of rainbow trout is the image that stays stuck in my mind. The selection of seafood (maybe 12 species) doesn't rival the farmers markets, but what is in stock looks great. The Atlantic salmon and black grouper were especially moist and luscious.

The "natural" beef—deep red and beautifully marbled—is the best looking I've seen outside a butcher shop in decades. There are free range chickens and turkeys and a bunch of applewood smoked products like turkey, trout and bacon. Rabbit, venison and buffalo are in stock. Lion, kangaroo and antelope are available by special order. Not very PC, but impressive in a sick kind of way.

But you needn't be a carnivore, or even a consumer of fresh foods, to have an eyepopping good time here. The staples shelves—which feel more like custom bookcases—are loaded with brand after brand of most anything a hungry soul could want. Instead of 10 rows of Kellogg's Pop Tarts, there are three, with seven more brands surrounding them. The dried bean selection rivals Sevananda. There are at least 10 brands (not varieties) of spaghetti sauce, maybe more. The same hold true for soups, cookies, ice creams and sorbets, crackers, dried pasta, chips, cat food and detergent. You name

MORE ON PAGE 34



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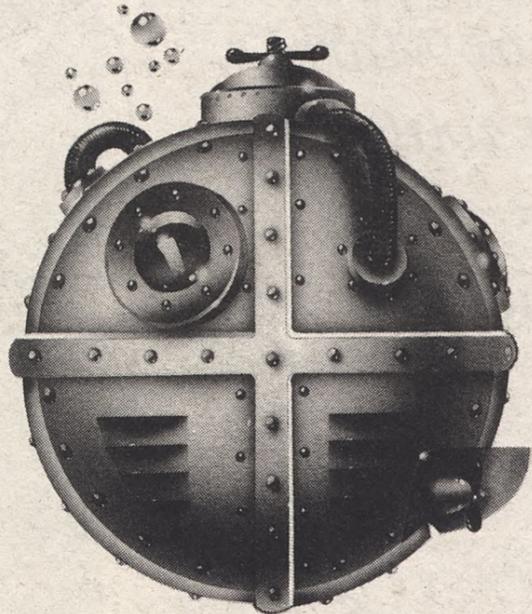
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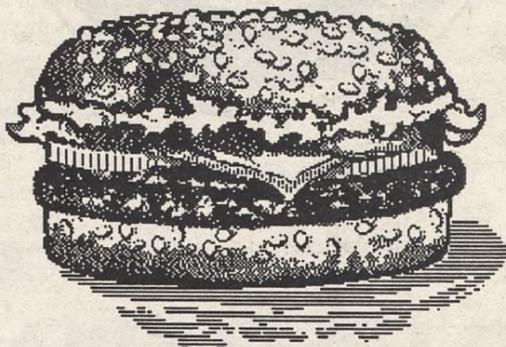
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2770 Lenox Rd. • 261-6280

EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

it, it's here. The prices are higher than Cub, but about the same as Kroger or A&P. Well worth it in my book.

The kitchen tools selection looks like it should be in a Williams-Sonoma store. Need an espresso machine? Three styles in stock, thank you.

Or a dog bowl?

The \$22 ceramic treasure will make Fida a happy pooch, no doubt. Though I've got my doubts about the propriety of a confection called Chocka Ca Ca, chocolate wrapped in a pink, yellow or blue diaper.

The spread of baked goods and prepared food is equally as spectacular. Half the baked stuff looks like it came from Winn-Dixie, but the rest could have been produced by Alon's. Well, at least they look that good. A pretty cinnamon roll tastes pretty ordinary and a gorgeous lemon-poppysseed muffin (despite a perfect crust and moist texture) tastes more like lemon oil than lemon.

Which pretty much describes most of the elegantly displayed prepared food that we sampled. A Caesar salad, tossed fresh before your very eyes, is long on cheese but (garnished with bacon, onions and mushrooms) pretty short on authenticity. Linguine and clams sports too many noodles and not enough mollusks or flavor. Spinach lasagna is way better, cheesy with plenty of spinach flavor.

At \$2.99/pound, a container of too-mild white bean and tomato dip costs less than its canned cousins and tastes way better. But try it with chips or Triscuits—the made-in-house soft French bread is intensely boring stuff.

The selection of prepared goods is extensive, so surely amongst the broccoli slaw, marinated veggies, roasted new potatoes, pecan and wild rice salad, wheatberries and currants, rotisserie chickens, and chicken salad with sesame noodles (to name a few of the dozens) there must be something that's decent or better.

Prices of the prepared stuff is reasonable: \$2.89 for a portion of lasagna; \$2.99 for a 6-inch pizza; \$9.99 for a 16-inch pie.

There is, of course, a coffee bar and some tables where you can chow down on prepared food. Not a bad way to deal with the cardinal sin of shopping while hungry.

The crowning glory? Grocery bags are automatically doubled, the inside one brown, the exterior one white. And the folks who bag those groceries are decked out in loden cloth windbreakers that look like they might have come from Neiman Marcus.

Nice.

HIV-Positive Take Note

Buried in the Living section of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution a few weeks ago was a short piece that I found at least a little troubling given all the good press that fish has gotten as a healthy source of protein. It seems that the USDA did a study on a small group of men and women over 40. They divided the 22 folks into two groups. Both kept on a low fat diet for 24 weeks, but one batch got their polyunsaturated fats mostly from fish while the others got them from vegetable sources.

Both groups showed lower cholesterol, but the group that ate lots of fish had a 24 percent decrease in T-cell multiplication: the veggie folks' T-cells went up.

These were presumably healthy people who were not immunocompromised. Extrapolating the data to those who are affected (or assuming that all kinds of seafood has the same effect) would be bad science, but this sure bears further study. If you are HIV positive, ask your doctor how he or she feels about your eating fish regularly.

No Bra Bridge: Officials at the Grand Canyon say that an artist who calls himself Nicolino need not even bother to ask permission to string together 10,000 bras and hang them across the abyss that is America's best known canyon. Nic's Christo-like installation is not their idea of art. The artist says his project "is about the puritanical obsession with the breast...breast implants and victimizing the health of women...[and] connecting a woman's self-identity to the size of her breasts." Dish suspects that Nico protests a bit too much about *other* folks' obsessions. And we don't understand the choice of the Grand Canyon; wouldn't the Grand Tetons have been much more appropriate.

Heal Thyself: Mascara maven and all-round emotional basket case Tammy Faye Bakker (who recently married a Kansas developer appropriately named Roe) has plans to start a 900-number help line for despondent people. Tammy claims that she knows the true meaning of misery and that she wants to help "them [the despondent] get up that day, *put on makeup*...and not just stay hovered in the house." We would have also suspected that Tammy might be thinking about a home shopping channel specializing in cosmetics, but now we suspect that a chain of stores in area malls might be where she is headed, given that she wants to get depressed folks out of the house and into the marketplace. The name of the chain? We're opting for Tamee Louder, but Mascara Madness or Unnatural Body would be cool, too.

Fact & Fiction: We're indebted to the Philadelphia homo paper "Au Courant" for furnishing us with a fascinating chart that purports to show the size of the erect penises of a group of both black and white college men. Several things strike us in studying these stats (we think studying the subjects themselves would have been more fun, but we were not invited. Hopefully Lorena Bobbit wasn't there either.) First, there was the fact that the distribution of sizes for black men and white men were almost identical. More white men sported less than 5.75 inches

Dish

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



Dish thinks these well sexy women have potential

of joy and more black men enjoyed more than 6.75 inches, but the differences were not staggering. Second, way more folks, especially white ones, were smaller (rather than larger) than the 6 to 7 inches that is frequently cited as average. All of which makes us wonder about the viability of a catalog of undergear for "the well-endowed male" that we received recently. But if you think you need it, you can get a copy from Renard Inc., P.O. Box 70026, Tulsa, OK 74170.

Well, Sexy Women: Speaking of things erotic, we're mighty moist over the still photos that accompanied the announcement of a new safer sex video for lesbians entitled "Well Sexy Women." The press release claims that "WSW" "features clear, straightforward (bad choice of words there we think), up-to-date information on safer sex practices and AIDS" and that the tape "answers most of those embarrassing questions you could not ask your doctor. (Even if she's a dyke?) And it is sexy too." Sounds hot. We haven't seen a copy so we cannot recommend that you spend \$39.95, but if you want more info, (800) 959-9843 is the number.

Big Bucks: Given the machinations going on about Pride's money problems, we're pleased to see that the Long Beach (CA) lesbian and gay pride committee had a big enough surplus that they have managed to make more than \$65,000 in grants to local gay/lesbian and AIDS organizations. On top of that, L.B. Pride donated \$5 an hour to a number of gay and non-gay charities for every hour that a Pride volunteer worked. Another \$55,000 was given to 80 groups from this fund. Kind of a queer United Way, which is something Dish thinks we could use in Atlanta, given United Way's seeming anathema to gay causes here. So we have a suggestion for the folks at Atlanta Pride: give the Long Beach Pride gang a ring and ask them for some tips. Much of Long Beach's surplus comes from a \$10 charge to attend their festival. Not exactly the most attractive idea we've heard, but one that we think local organizers might at least consider.

DECEMBER 16-22, 1993

Once again it's time to celebrate the Winter Solstice on the 21st, preparing for a new cycle of life and activity. This coming year could bring major breakthroughs in our understanding of life on the planet. So, be prepared for more personal growth and challenge in '94.

ARIES, as the Sun and Mars move from your 9th house of perception into your 10th house of career and public image, you may find doors opening for you and someone older, wiser or slightly more experienced offering personal or moral support. **TAURUS**, as we approach the holidays, remember, it isn't how much you spend that counts. Use your intuition to find gifts that are unique and special for those you love and appreciate. Also remember to do something very special for yourself. **GEMINI**, if you have been working long hours lately or find you have been running around in a flurry of activity and you are feeling a little bit lost, then you may need to take some personal time to recharge, regenerate and get back in touch.

CANCER, do your best not to worry over the small things (or the large ones). Do take time for fun and enjoyable activities that will make the rest of the year memorable. And, don't let other

STARSIGNS

people bring their troubles to your doorstep. Be firm. **LEO**, it's time to play and have a wonderful time with friends and folks you love and enjoy being with. It is not necessary to be an adult 24 hours a day, so relax and let your child come out of the closet for the fun and sun and delight. **VIRGO**, if you have been thinking about having a party at your house during the holidays, be sure to make it simple fun and get other folks to help you with the fixings. You really don't have to do it all yourself. Have a wonderful holiday.

LIBRA, if you are planning a trip during the holidays, be sure your vehicle is tuned up and in good running condition, even if it is only a short trip. Also arrange to have someone check in on your place while you are gone, and have a great time. **SCORPIO**, the coming year could be really wonderful for you as you resolve internal conflicts and watch old wounds continue to heal. Do your best to be open to the love and caring that does surround you and remember there is balance in the Universe. Happy

Birthday, **SAGITTARIUS**. Hope you have had a very wonderful and fun birthday month with friends and family. As the Sun moves into your 2nd house of material resources and personal income, focus on ways you can make your ideas more tangible.

Happy Birthday, **CAPRICORN**. The sun moves into your sun sign on the 21st, which is also the Winter Solstice and the beginning of a whole new cycle. Use this Solar Energy for expanding your horizons and perceptions. Take time to celebrate your life. **AQUARIUS**, the Sun and Mars are moving into your 12th house of dreams, visions and the unseen this week. Your dreamtime may be more active than usual, so you may find it very useful to keep a journal or make time for drawing or even creative doodling. **PISCES**, community work could be very fulfilling for you during the next month and would certainly be appreciated by others. Just be sure you are leaving enough time for yourself. Definitely have fun and do things that are fun and relaxing.

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.

THIS WAS BACK WHEN YOUR OLDEST, ETHAN, WAS INVOLVED WITH THIS "CIRQUE DU SOLEIL" PERFORMER, AN ACROBAT, OR CLOWN, OR SOMETHING. THE TWO OF THEM VISITED OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

THANK YOU, EM... FOR BIRTHING EETHON WHOM I... LIKE THEE... EM, BIG YOU'RE WELCOME.

SEE, DIDN'T I TELL YOU HE WAS UNIDENTICAL?

THEY MOVE IN TOGETHER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY (YOU HAD MIGRAINES FOR A MONTH), YOU'D VISITED THEIR CONDO, BUT STILL COULDN'T SHAKE THE NOTION THAT THEY LIVE IN A FLEUR-DE-LIS SHAPE TRAILER.

PERSONALLY, YOU THOUGHT THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS "NUTS" OR "FOR THE BIRDS" DEPENDING ON WHICH DAY YOU WERE ASKED, WHICH YOU NEVER WERE.

THE WORST PART WAS THAT SHEILA, WHO YOU KNEW FROM PFLAG MEETINGS, HAD AN UNATTACHED SON NAMED MILES, (YOU THINK) WHO WAS SOME SORT OF DOCTOR, A PODIATRIST MAYBE, AND HAD GIVEN YOU HIS PHONE NUMBER FOR ETHAN... NOT THAT ETHAN WOULDN'T RATHER STICK NEEDLES IN HIS EYES THAN CONSENT TO BEING FIXED UP ON A DATE BY HIS MOTHER. STILL, MAYBE YOU'D JUST DIG THE NUMBER OUT OF YOUR POCKETBOOK...

GET A GRIP MOM WHY WOULD I EVEN CONSIDER GOING OUT WITH SOME ONE?

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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
- Sister Love—753-7733

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
- Gay Musician's Meeting Post—SASE to GMMP, PO Box 250336, Atlanta 30318
- 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
- Out Front—PO Box 12369, Atlanta 30355
- 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)
- Young Women's Brunch Network—Carolyn, 294-4233.

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
- New Age Gays—434-7338
- 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)
- Holanta Soccer—876-7372
- Holanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl. 30324, 873-4061
- Holanta 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 Cr—POB 15180, Atl 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—POB 5502, Atl 30307, 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
- Gainesville/NE Georgia Gay Men's Support Grp—Gary 404-535-5445
- 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—908-6119
- 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/Chatanooga—(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
- Alliance of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of GA State—605-7681
- 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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OUTLINE

DEMETRI THURMON

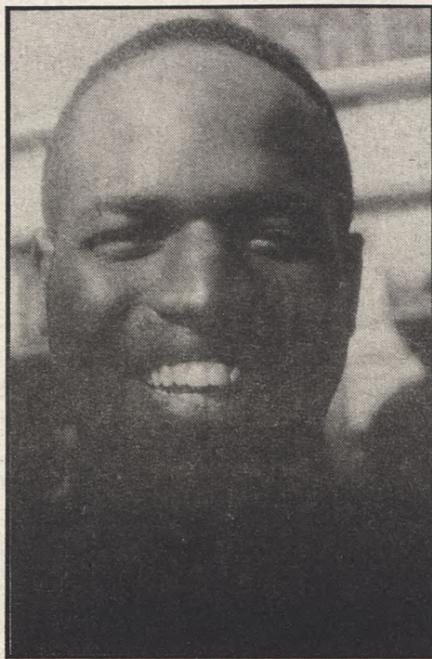
Age: 24

How long in Atlanta: 9 months

Relationship Status: Single (actively looking)

Last Book Read: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou

Pet Peeve: Pretentious people



"What I want to do is travel," Demetri Thurmon says, his eyes bright and shining.

And he already has, spending four years, from age 17 to 21, traveling extensively in Africa—Kenya, South Africa, Liberia, the Ivory Coast—and Europe.

"Kenya is a beautiful place," he says. "I think everybody should visit Kenya. It's a beautiful country and the people are beautiful in Kenya."

"South Africa was a lot different, because they really don't like Americans period, and if you're a black American, they have some strong viewpoints against you."

He's talking about black South Africans. "They feel that black Americans have this attitude that they're better than they are and they've forgotten where they come from. And that they're not willing to help in South Africa," he says. "My purpose there was that I tried to explain to them that I was neutral, that I didn't take sides. But they didn't like that either. They wanted you to be totally on their side."

"But it was pretty interesting," he continued. "Zulus in Africa are one of the biggest tribes, and it's like old tribal feuds, and then the whites come in and try to take over. And that's some animosity there."

The catch to all this travel is that Thurmon was a Christian missionary at the time, traveling to spread the gospel to non-Christian nations.

"I did this for my parents," he says. "I was raised to do this."

But in the back of his mind was the knowledge that he is gay, even as he performed the tasks of a missionary.

"I always did kind of know," he says. "I always used to look at every kind of show about being gay that came on, and any literature I would look at. I was about 21, and in Europe, and I knew I needed to make a decision, because I'd been living a lie basically."

"That traveling really opened my mind," he continued, "because the views I had with my religion and the views I had of the world were conflicting with one another. When I left, I had to write a letter to the board stating why I was leaving. When I wrote that letter, there were no questions asked, because their viewpoints are that homosexuality is not allowed."

Three years later, Thurmon moved from New York City to Atlanta, where he was born (his immediate family left Atlanta when Thurmon was very young, but he has other family members still here). Once in Atlanta, he decided to "get involved," and he did so with a vengeance.

"I saw the 20/20 special [on Queer Nation's struggle with Cracker Barrel] when I was still in," he says, and once he was out and in At-

lanta, he went to a few meetings. "I like what I heard," he says.

Queer Nation was the start—ACT UP followed.

"There's so much work to be done with AIDS, safe sex," he says. "I like that aspect."

And then there's Stonewall 25—Thurmon is co-chair of the Atlanta organizing committee.

Thurmon works with a company in McDonough that manufacturers cleaning products, and at work, he says, "Everybody knows. They basically found out when I was in the paper."

But with a supportive supervisor who will not allow anti-gay harassment, Thurmon's work environment is a comfortable one.

Thurmon says that he likes Atlanta, but one aspect troubles him.

"The South is very race conscious," he says. "My mother raised us not to be race conscious, to see people first. But here they see race first."

That consciousness leaves Thurmon sad, he explains, "because I enjoy people. Everyone is unique. But here there's a lack of unity. The bars are very segregated."

As a result, his work with ACT UP and Stonewall 25 has a strong impetus to include more African Americans. At the recent lighting of the tree downtown, Thurmon and other ACT UP members handed out condoms to the audience. He says he was encouraged by the number of young African American men asking for more condoms and information.

"I hope we can put more consciousness on the black community," he says. "It's not anybody's fault, but the black community is very afraid to get involved. They have two things going against them—they may be fired, and their family may find out. I feel like if they have more positive role models, and see those role models out doing something strong and positive, saying 'it's OK to be gay, come on out and supportive,' we'll get more numbers. Because that's what will give us our power. Hopefully we can do something to change it."

That's an attitude he found when he came out. "When I told my mother, she had a hard time," he says. "She said, 'why can't you suppress this?' But I had been suppressing it, and I was ready to experience it and stop living a lie. I was insecure when I was in the closet, and now that I'm out, my whole outlook is different."

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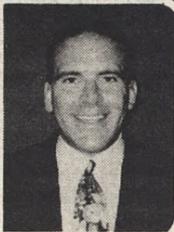
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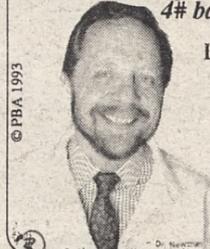
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Good Samaritan Project provides support for persons with AIDS. Support group, buddy program, clothing/food, practical support, pastoral care. 873-4589. (6.45)

AIDS SUPPORT: Jewish Family Services sponsors a support group for Jewish people affected by HIV/AIDS, their families or lovers. 2nd and 4th Sundays, 7:30 p.m. in Buckhead. For information: 888-6400, voice mailbox 76.

AID Atlanta Services include education, case management, transportation, housing, buddy program, practical support, homeless services, pediatric services, support groups, AIDS information line. Call 872-0600 for more information.

AIDS HOTLINE FOR WOMEN - 888-9991 - a project of the Feminist Women's Health Ctr. 5:30-9:30pm Mon-Fri, 10:30am-2pm Saturdays. Caller anonymity assured.

HIV+ Narcotics Anonymous (NA) for African Am. FREE ANONYMOUS HIV TESTS, counselling, referral (minority cultural sensitivity). For confidential info call OUT-REACH, INC. 346-3922.

P.O.O.H. - Positive Outlook On Health is a supportive network of HIV+ persons who share positive health attitudes and want to meet similarly oriented people for social and emotional interaction. Call 872-9954.

THE ATLANTA BUYERS CLUB-ABC provides access to optional treatments for the HIV community in the Southeast. Hours are 12-5 PM, Tuesday through Friday. We are located at 44 Twelfth St., NE, with parking in the rear. For more information phone (404) 874-4845, fax (404) 874-9320, or write P.O. Box 77003, Atlanta, GA 30357-7003.

Atlanta Gay Center-Plus groups for HIV-affected people. Fridays, 8:00pm and Sundays, 6:00pm. 63 12th Street. Call 876-5372 for more info. Helpline, 892-0661, for info, counseling and referral.

AIDS Information Line / GA Toll-Free AIDS Hotline Free, anonymous information and referral services. In Atlanta: 876-9944; Toll-free: 1-800-551-2728 (voice/TTY)

Announcements

Congratulations to the Armory and especially Mary Edith Pitts on a fabulous Homecoming. Mary Edith, you truly deserve the Academy's recognition for your talent and style. You are our star! -Project Open Hand/Atlanta (6.43)

The Volunteers of Project Open Hand/Atlanta will gift wrap your holiday packages while you wait at Mailboxes Etcetera in Midtown Promenade (Monroe & 8th) from now until Christmas. All proceeds go to help Project Open Hand feed people with AIDS. To help out or for more info call 525-4620. (6.44)

Penpal Network for gay and bisexual guys with long hair: students, thrashers, hippies, rockers, headbangers. There are no fees to join. To join, please send a recent photo, self-description, and International Reply Coupon to cover return postage. Write to: MANE MEN, P.O. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA, K1P6C4. Any ideas or offers to expand this into a business are most welcome. (6.45)

GAINESVILLE

Support Group for Gay Men forming now for '94. Contact Gary at (404) 535-5445. (May leave first name and phone number if not in.) (6.44)

Artwork nominations for the 1994 Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration will be accepted at the Volunteer Kick-off Party, the Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7:00pm at the Colony Square Hotel. To be accepted for consideration, must be camera ready and color separations complete. Voting will occur at the Kick-off Party and the winning artwork will be sent out for print the next day. 1994 theme: "From Stonewall to Atlanta." (6.46)

NEEDED: GOOD USED FURNITURE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS. AID Atlanta is in need of furniture for clients. If you are moving or changing your furniture, please consider making a tax deductible donation of your used furniture. Beds, dining room tables, chairs, sofas, etc. are urgently needed. Contact the Furniture Bank at 355-8463 and tell them the donation is for AID Atlanta. They will arrange to pick it up. (6.43)

Volunteer with Pride. With your help, Pride '94 will be the biggest ever. Call the Pride line - 662-4533. (6.44)

Atlanta Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee (ALGPC) meets the third Thursday every month, 7:00 p.m. Call the Pride Line for location 662-4533. (6.44)

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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)

MORE ON PAGE 42

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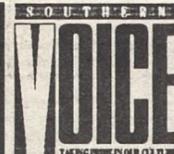
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Category _____ # of issues _____ Text (Please print): _____

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

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Voice Connection

WOMEN

I'm a 26 yr. GBF seeking GBF for conversation, outings. I'm not seeking a relationship. I'm looking for GBF who I can confide in and trust. ☎ 1068

Very attractive black lesbian seeks sincere companion—possible live-in. Attractive, well-read, articulate woman preferred. No drugs, alcohol, cigarettes. ☎ 1065

WF, 20, fem. student seeks fem. G/BiWF 18-30's for friendship or more. PO Box 992, Barnesville, GA 30204. (6.46)

GWF, 38, spirited sophisticate, brains, beauty, ready for possibilities with emotionally mature, gentle, honest, "together" woman, 30-40, not on rebound. ☎ 1063

25 vs. 31, Southern Belle vs. Yankee transplant, blonde vs. red, thinks she's funny vs. really is funny, both GWF professionals — you gotta like one of us! ☎ 1062

BiWF, 20, adventurous, attractive femi-female seeks Bi or GWF who enjoys outdoors, music, good conversations. Under 30, no drugs, smoking. Box 2100, 1189 Virginia Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (6.45)

GWF, 36, attractive, high spirited jovial idealist with inquisitive, progressive mind seeks similar dark haired unchemically altered soulmate with adventurous spirit. ☎ 1059

Attractive, feminine GWF, 26 — interested in sharing friendship, dining, dancing, and simple pleasures. Attractive, affectionate, active, and 24-30?? Let's talk! No drugs. ☎ 1045

GWF, simply irresistible. I don't play head games, drink or use drugs. Searching for GWF 25-35 for friendship, fun. ☎ 1046

GBF, 5'8", 158 lbs, successful, attractive, seeks feminine older GF to enjoy fun, food, music and maybe romance. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 1052

GWF, 31, feminine, attractive, professional, humorous and positive attitude. Enjoys dancing, movies, animals, the arts. Seeks same for quality friendship. ☎ 1047

OUT femme 23, knows who's on "Top"! You — 30+, aggressive, butch, chivalrous. Me — intelligent, literate, sensual. NO Bi's/femmes. TRAY ☎ 1050

GWF seeking a dyke for full time love, nurturing, cuddling, friendship and laughter. Likes outdoors, romance, movies and music. ☎ 1051

WANTED! GWF, fem 25+. Looking for that woman who has an untamed personality like myself! Me, aggressive GWF, blond, 25. ☎ 1016

GWF, 32, feminine, fun-loving, adventurous, professional, honest, attractive, seeks similar ladies who have high ideals, are reliable and not promiscuous. ☎ 1020

Attractive, feminine, GBF, early 20's, mature and settled, seeks an aggressive GF who enjoys being pampered for friendship, possibly more. ☎ 1023

GBF seeks same for conversation & friendship. ☎ 1029

Very attractive BiWF, 28, sexy, feminine, long hair. Seeks WF, trim, under 33, for hot times. Local. ☎ 1008

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

I am attractive and loving and searching for Ms. Right—pretty, intelligent, active, stable companion with available time & transportation. ☎ 1848

Come play w/me: GWF - 31, wine + roses lady w/good sense of humor & a love of adventure. Looking for the right woman to sweep me off my feet. Must be lustful of all life's pleasures + romantic. ☎ 1841

GWF, 38, Lake Dweller, dog lover, convertible driver, free spirit, honest, sincere, direct, 5'7", blonde, hazel eyes, athletic body. ☎ 1845

BiWF, trim, 40's, inexperienced, seeks feminine, trim, attractive, BIF for discreet get togethers. ☎ 1835

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

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

Open GF sought for quality friendship. Must understand college student's life. Must enjoy theatre, art, dance, dining. 20-27. ☎ 1798

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

GBF, attractive, very feminine, seeks fun-loving, aggressive GF for friendship, possible relationship. ☎ 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. ☎ 1778

GWF, early twenties, doesn't know how to pick up women, but sure knows what to do once she's got one. ☎ 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. ☎ 1777

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

Attractive GF Seeking foreign, petite lipstick lesbian for companionship, to enjoy life, love and happiness. No butch, bi's or kids. ☎ 1746

Attractive GWF seeking feminine GWF who enjoys being wined and dined in life's simple pleasures. No bi's, drug free. ☎ 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. ☎ 1713

GWF, very attractive, long hair, Gothic, grunge, alternative music, seeks GWF. Must be feminine and attractive, 47, no Bi's. ☎ 1738

GBF, prof., 30's, kids, attractive, enjoys books, music, dancing, laughing. Seeks GF 25-40 with similar interests for friendship & more. ☎ 1716

Feminine, GWF, 31, seeking dependable friendship, intelligent conversation, laughter (no zombies) and maybe romance with a sincere feminine lady. ☎ 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. ☎ 1719

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

BiWF, 40's, attractive, trim, first-timer seeks non-smoking, trim, feminine GWF 35-50 for discreet safe encounters. No drugs. ☎ 1709

GWF, seeks special woman 32-40 to meet another special woman, emotionally healthy, no drugs, alcohol abuse, feminine, start with friendship. ☎ 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. ☎ 1712

If you're a GBF drug free, independent, spiritually proportioned, naturally beautiful, socio-politically conscious, intellectual, over x-lovers, conversationalist, monogamous — I'm waiting. ☎ 1703

GBF — Attractive, suave 25 yr. old lipstick butch seeks shapely, intelligent, extremely femi Black woman. Prefer Spelman type. ☎ 1707

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

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

Petite GWF 28, fem., non-smoker, romantic, sensual, fun-loving, independent. Seek GWF 25-35 for friendship. No smokers, Bi's, butches. ☎ 1680

GWF, 30, cute and petite, seeking same. Friendship in recovery can be fun without drugs and alcohol. Let's be adventurous. ☎ 1675

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

GWF, 23, 5'1" seeking attractive GWF, 20's for fun, romantic evenings, good conversation. Friendship, possible relationship. Like fun? Let's meet! ☎ 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. ☎ 1673

Attractive GWF, 34, intelligent, professional, shapely, adventurous, sincere, new to Atlanta seeks similar GWF's. Come on Girls, I'm waiting! ☎ 1682

GBF, 33; attractive, sports/arts lover. Appreciates beautiful feminine GF with intellect and security. Call me today anyway. You'll see! ☎ 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, gente relationship. ☎ 1599

GBF, 35, attractive & professional, seeks feminine GF, down-to-earth, for companion/friendship. No games, bi's. ☎ 1660

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

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

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

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

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

MEN

Goodlooking mid-30's, 6'2", 180, educated professional WM seeks similar. Note & photo to PO Box 183992, Atlanta, GA 30324. ☎ 1066

GWM, attractive, romantic, caring, HIV — professional seeks friendship w/same 25-35, enjoys reading, music, tennis, theatre, movies, travel...long walks, sunsets. Looking for a good friend and more. ☎ 1065

Friends say I'm a great catch. This teddy bear needs second opinion. I'm 32, like affection, romance, long walks, quiet evenings. Seeking love to last a lifetime. ☎ 1069

"Two Guys", GWM couple, 35 brn, brn, 6'0", 175, 29, bl, grn, 5'8", 140, seek new friendships, hot times. ☎ 1070

Boyish-muscle bottom, gdlg, sincere, 30, 5'5", 140#, HIV+, healthy. Sks 25-35, gd shape, gdlg for love of a lifetime. Serious replies only. ☎ 1071

Southside GWM, sincere, honest, 30, 5'11", 140 lbs, bld/blu, well endowed, versatile. 855 Morrow Ind. Blvd., Box 56, Jonesboro, GA 30236-1550.

Fuzzy teddy bear, youthful, sensitive, hopeful romantic, GWM, 41, bald/bm, 5'10", 170 lbs, facial hair, seeks attractive, slender, smooth GWM 25-35, professional, non-smoker, into movies, music, theater, dining out, romantic evenings, cuddling, possible relationship. ☎ 1058

Undoubtedly UNCUT, muscles in development GWM 30's seeks hairy, prof guy 30-45 for casual dates. Masc., honest, good financier sought. ☎ 1060

GWM, 40, non-smoker, masculine, healthy, active, humorous. Seek nurturing relationship w/similar, country life, w/in 1 hour Atlanta. Can you connect? Box 2101, 1189 Virginia Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (6.45)

"Enchanted," cute deaf GWM, 27, 5'9", 172 lbs. seeks hearing cute GWM for fun/friendship, romantic. Sci-Fic, photography, scenic trips, more. POB 723, Mableton, GA 30059. (6.45)

South Asian, physician, handsome, 28, 5'10", 150, very attractive, recently out, seeks friendship/relationship. ☎ 1061

WM, 31, searching for true romance. Never been in love. Not interested in standard gay lifestyle. Not afraid. ☎ 1064

Dominant top, 36, 175, attractive. Seeks discreet, daytime fun with trim, submissive bottoms or couples. PO Box 80366, Atlanta, 30366.

VERY HAIRY LEGS?

GWM, 43, very handsome, 5'10", slim, masculine, versatile seeks good looking, thin, healthy, safe playmate with very hairy legs for anytime fun. Buckhead. Discreet. ☎ 1048

Very handsome BM, 28, 5'11", 170 lbs, hot gym body, professional, intelligent seeks handsome, masculine, whitebread WM for fun, possible relationship. ☎ 1049

Horny GWM, 32, 5'10", 150#, nudist, lean runner's build, endowed, seeks endowed nicobodied buddies for no-strings get-togethers. ☎ 1053

GWM — 28, 6'2", 175 lbs. Bottom seeks masculine, endowed top 20-30 year old GWM, GBM for French service. ☎ 1055

GWM, 33, HIV-, brn/blue, 180 lbs, muscular build. Wanted — GWM 40s, HIV-, hairy chest, moustache, endowed top or versatile, relationship oriented. I'm a great catch! No fats or fems. ☎ 1031

Daytimes, good looking GWM, cute bottom, brn/blue, 30, 140 seeks discreet convenient friendship w/TOP BLK male, masculine athletic, in shape, hungry. ☎ 1056

VOICE CONNECTION

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BM, 33, 130, 5'7", masculine bottom seeks very dominant bear type to service; 40-50, heavyset. ☎ 1057

GWM, 29, brn/grn, 150 lbs, wants true romance, enjoys music, 101.5 to 99.5, long walks, dining out, looking for someone who understands waiters' hours. Loves dogs and lesbians. Non-smoker, non-drugs. ☎ 1030

Stocky GWM, 29, 5'11" wanting to meet other GWMs who're sincere and honest, who can handle a safe intimate encounter. ☎ 1027

Discreet, professional, HIV-, GWM versatile top, 40, 5'10", 155, wants buddies into exploring mutually satisfying mental/physical desires/fantasies in leather, 3-ways, spankings, etc. Inexperienced/curious OK. ☎ 1026

GWM, goodlooking, 29 yo., 5'11", 150 lbs. Seeks same — 25-35, Hispanic or Latin a plus. Couples welcome. ☎ 1025

GWM tired of maybe!! Looking for yes, ready!! Relationship!! 31, 5'9", 170, bi/bl, varied interests. Seeking 29+, 5'9"+, serious only!! ☎ 1021

Oriental man, fit, clean, 27, 5'9", 145, seeks English teach man GWM up to 38. Will be paid \$XXX. No smoker. ☎ 1019

Wanted: Big, butch WM with muscles, good looks, personality, by sexy BM HIV healthy. For fun, whatever. ☎ 1018

GWM Couple, Hot, Prof., Stable, 34, 5'11", 170#, brn/hzl, & 35, 5'11", 155#, brn/bl, seeks versatile, hot, masculine guys or couples, to 35, for safe fun. ☎ 1017

Hot and Hairy 30 yr. old GWM seeking handsome big brother for fun and more. FFBB. ☎ 1012

My ABC's — GWM 33, seeks same, 18-40, who is athletic, Active, Aggressive, Bold, Built, Beautiful, Cute, Crazy & Curious. ☎ 1011

GBM, 32, 5'10", 150, athletic, attractive, professional, spiritual, various interests, newly relocated, seeks friendships, possible relationship, 25-40, race unimportant. No drugs, non-smoker. ☎ 1010

GWM, 39, 5'11", 190, bi/bl, healthy HIV top. ISO comrade for hero's journey to new life, workout, gardening, movies, hiking. ☎ 1009

LEGS IN THE AIR?? attractive top, 38, brown hair, blue eyes, Scotch/Irish seeks cute hot bottom for safe fun. ☎ 1007

BM seeks masculine BM for uninhibited times. ☎ 1006

Wanna fight? Like to box with tough men. Dirty talk, leather fights and more. 6', 185 lbs, built. Put 'em up! ☎ 1005

AFRICANIZED USA-born, raised in West Africa, not-your-basic WM seeks BM for friend/relationship. Please be 5'10"+, 30-50 y.o. ☎ 1004

Goodlooking WM, 32, 6', 170#, hot gym body, seeks same for friendship/relationship. Must be masculine, non-smoker, healthy, professional. Do you exist. ☎ 1003

GWM, 30, 6'2", looking for college graduate, masculine, thin, GBM 22-30 to share in building the good life, must be spontaneous & possess a sense of humor. ☎ 1015

Take charge! GWM, athletic, 28, professional, great looks seeks safe, dominant, older, endowed inshape WM who needs oral service. ☎ 1850

GWM, top, dominate, 45yo, 6', 180 lbs, clean shaven, seeks under 30 men also clean shaven for fun safe hot times. ☎ 1851

Masculine GWM, 26, 5'10" 160 lbs, blond/brown, hairy, seeks goodlooking butch top to 40 (sane, sexy, safe) for direct manly maneuvers. ☎ 1852

Attractive interracial couple seeks attractive male(s), any race, for very good times, humor/friendships. No attitude, tops, bottoms welcome. ☎ 1849

Attractive BM, 33. Educated, fit, fun, honest, financially secure professional, many interests, ready for relationship. Seeks WM, 29 and over. Serious replies only. ☎ 1842

GWM — HIV+ — very attractive, 28 yo, physically fit healthy, Br/bl, 5'9", 160 lbs, professional, masculine, clean cut, smooth. Likes — a normal life, good times and great sex. Would like to meet/date similar, very similar! ☎ 1843

GBM, 6', 200 #, 38, seeks blue collar type BM, 190+, 25+, looks unimportant, endorsement and personality are. Not into bars. ☎ 1846

Bald 46yo, masculine, sincere, executive seeks same, 30-45. Enjoys tennis, exercise, outdoors, theater, symphony. Looking for monogamous relationship. ☎ 1847

Sexy, hairy leatherboy, 33, 5'8" 150 br/br HIV seeks hairy, affectionate, nonsmoking, intelligent, kinky, horny, top/daddy to 45. ☎ 1840

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!!! ☎ 1839

GBM, 29, 6'1", 240 lbs, competitive body-builder, professional, masculine, discreet, seeking BM with similar characteristics and interests to spend time with. ☎ 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! ☎ 1828

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

GWM, 39, 5'7", 135 lbs., beard, versatile, daytime playmate for all types of action. Seeks 25-45 GWM into playing hard. ☎ 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. ☎ 1830

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

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

GBM, 30, 5'10", 185 lbs, goodlooking endowed seeks guys 18-35 to share fun sessions of J/O at my place. ☎ 1837

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

GWM, 36, 5'11", lean, attractive, seeks similar GWM into movies, conversation, "Star Trek," safe sex and low-key lifestyle. ☎ 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. ☎ 1824

Handsome No. Ga. Mtns. WM, 37, 5'8"/145, healthy seeks aggressive eager French active GWM for regular encounters! ☎ 1796

GWM, 27, 6'1", 175#, clean cut, athletic, non-smoker, masculine, intelligent, very attractive, seeks similar, 22-32. ☎ 1795

W/M, 35, blond, moustache, butch, handsome, 5'8", 150, fun-loving, single, wants to relocate Gulf Coast Mississippi, Louisiana, needs contacts. ☎ 1794

BM, 5'8", 160 lbs, trim, masculine, endowed, versatile. Seeks same for intense encounters. ☎ 1800

Hot GWM want out, active, confident, Gdlk, hot, political boyfriend. No closet wimps! 20's/30's Adventure. Any race. I dare you! ☎ 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. ☎ 1792

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. ☎ 1791

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

GWM, sincere, stable, Attractive, healthy, well-educated professional, 40's, masculine. Seeks quality clean-cut WM college-student. Novice fine. ☎ 1797

GWM, 22, HIV-, swimmer's build, affectionate, stable, seeks attractive, hairy, stable, mature, HIV-, "Bruce Willis" type, 30+ for possible relationship. ☎ 1788

F.F.B.B. (Fuzzy face/back/butt) sought by GWM, 35, 6'1", 170#, smooth, bear admirer. Hibernation time is near! ☎ 1787

THREE-WAY ACTION: attractive top, 30's, 5'11", 160 lbs, seeks handsome couple for safe, regular, discreet, no-strings encounters. ☎ 1786

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

Horny Midtown Professional. Involved GWM, 40, 5'10", 155, HIV-, with place seeks guys for 5 pm adventurous, creative safe fun. ☎ 1784.

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

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

WANTED: ASSWORK. Handsome hairy buttoles NE Georgia GWM 26 seeks similar butt enthusiasts

PERSONALS

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

GWM, 6', 175, mid 40s, smooth, healthy, professional, seeks HIV- bottom into submission, humiliation, embarrassment for discreet safe sessions. ☎ 1771

Leather Daddy needs leather boy - would you look great in leather jock, chaps, harness, collar & cap - Party with the men. ☎ 1742

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

GWM Business owner needs attractive young live-in companion, relationship oriented, maintain household, help manage businesses. Some travel, I'll reciprocate generously. ☎ 1741

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

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

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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. ☎ 1739

Cool Nights - Hot Tub Fun. Masculine, fit GWM, 34, Br/Br, 5'10", 155 seeks similar GWM couple - Splash around! Maybe more. ☎ 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. ☎ 1736

Hot, muscular GWM couple - 28, 6', 160#; 30, 5'11", 170#, seeks great looking male(s) for adventures in the bedroom. ☎ 1735

GBM, 27, 5'11", 220# seeks GWM 30-50 for serious relationship and good times. ☎ 1715

GWM, 29, 5'7", 170 Br/Hr, Novice Boy seeks WM 25-40 dominant. Spanking, discipline, W/S, B/D, Safe S/M. Make me serve. ☎ 1714

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

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

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

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

GBM, 33, 5'7", 130, masculine bottom, novice, seeks heavy-set, very dominant top 200+, 40-60. ☎ 1708

GWM, 30, HIV-, 180, 6'1", average to good looking seeks GM 24-30 for friendship, sex and possible relationship. ☎ 1702

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

relationship. ☎ 1559

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

GWM, 31, 5'9", 170, bl/bl, looking for more than "GOOD" time. Varied interests. Call for more details. ☎ 1686

W/F, dominant, demanding queen seeks gentleman, over 50's, submissive, financially secure, supportive, giving to live in Cobb Co., Smyrna. ☎ 1700

Gay Greek & Italian, 6'1", 175 #, br/br, man 27, very good-looking. Romantic, spiritual, and healthy, seeks GBM 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. ☎ 1661

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

Goodlooking GWM 33, 5'9", 150, athletic, professional, great personality and values, healthy HIV. Looking to meet another exceptional man. ☎ 1670

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

GWM, 35, 5'8", 145#, br/br, handsome, masc, seeks similar 21-30s to help with small resort in North GA Mtns. & relationship. ☎ 1674

Omo-Oschun, W/M, blond, moustache, 40, 5'8", slim, handsome, likes: wolves, nature, son montuano, musica campesina, Cajun & Cuban cultures. ☎ 1676

Handsome 6'2", 180, GWM seeks same over 30 with varied interests who is professional, intelligent and enjoys life like me. ☎ 1668

GWM, 42, 5'11", 170, brn/bl, relationship-oriented, non-bar type, seeks same in GWM, late 20s. ☎ 1662

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

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

*+GWM, 39, 6'1", 185, br/hzl, 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. ☎ 1650

GWM, 32, 6'3", professional, my eclectic interests: Country/rock music, Braves, comic book art, Grateful Dead, movies...sincere replies please. ☎ 1649

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

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 sensual 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

TV/TS

Full figured transvestite would like to have discreet encounters with real men who are honest, sincere to appreciate my company. ☎ 1024

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

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BISEXUAL

BM, 40, professional, clean, seeks couple, feminine bi-male or aggressive bi-female for friendship...more. Will reply same day. ☎ 1054

BiWM, HIV+, seeks F or TV. Am healthy. Spend this winter in Florida with me. ☎ 1022

BiWM, 33, adorable, seek Bi, G, S Females for holiday cheer. Let's visit our families, enjoy a play or coffee. Anxiously waiting - Love ☎ 1014

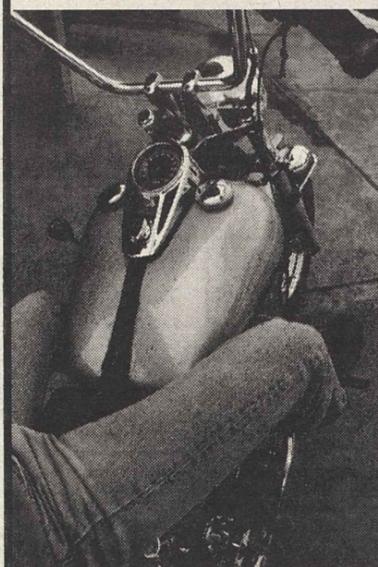
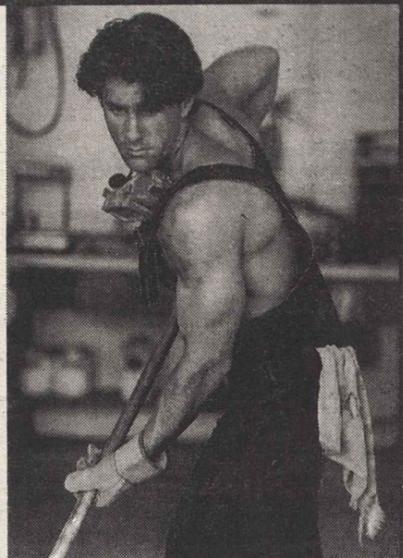
White couple, married, 30's, seeking BiWF to share fun and fantasy from both worlds in an intimate relationship. ☎ 1013

WANTED: fellow traveler(s) to go Dutch with bi guy 65 on land/sea/air jaunts worldwide. Leave your message anytime. ☎ 1844

Tall attractive BiTV seeks attractive tall Bi W/M 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

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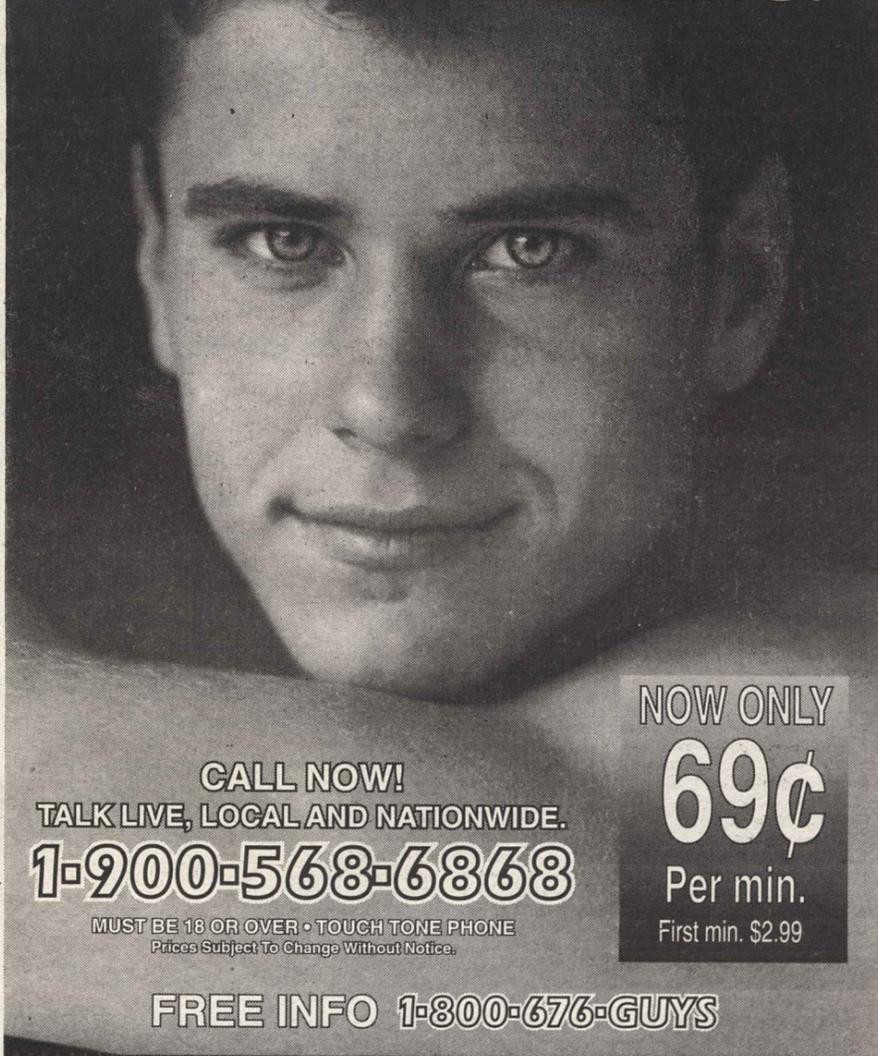
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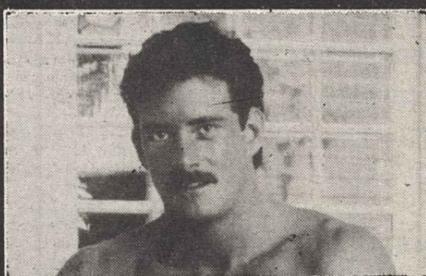
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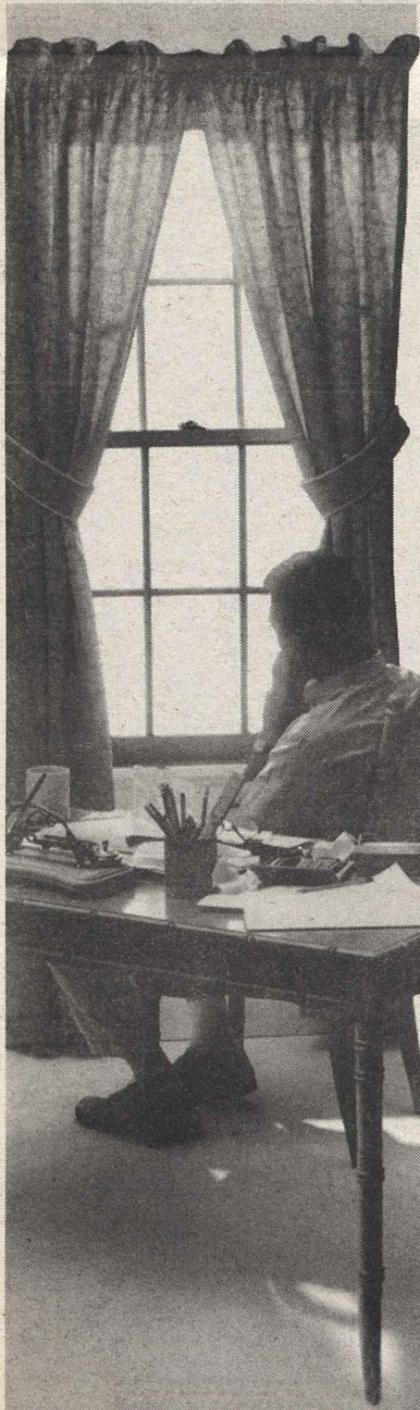
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