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DEC 30 / 1993 - JAN 5 / 1994

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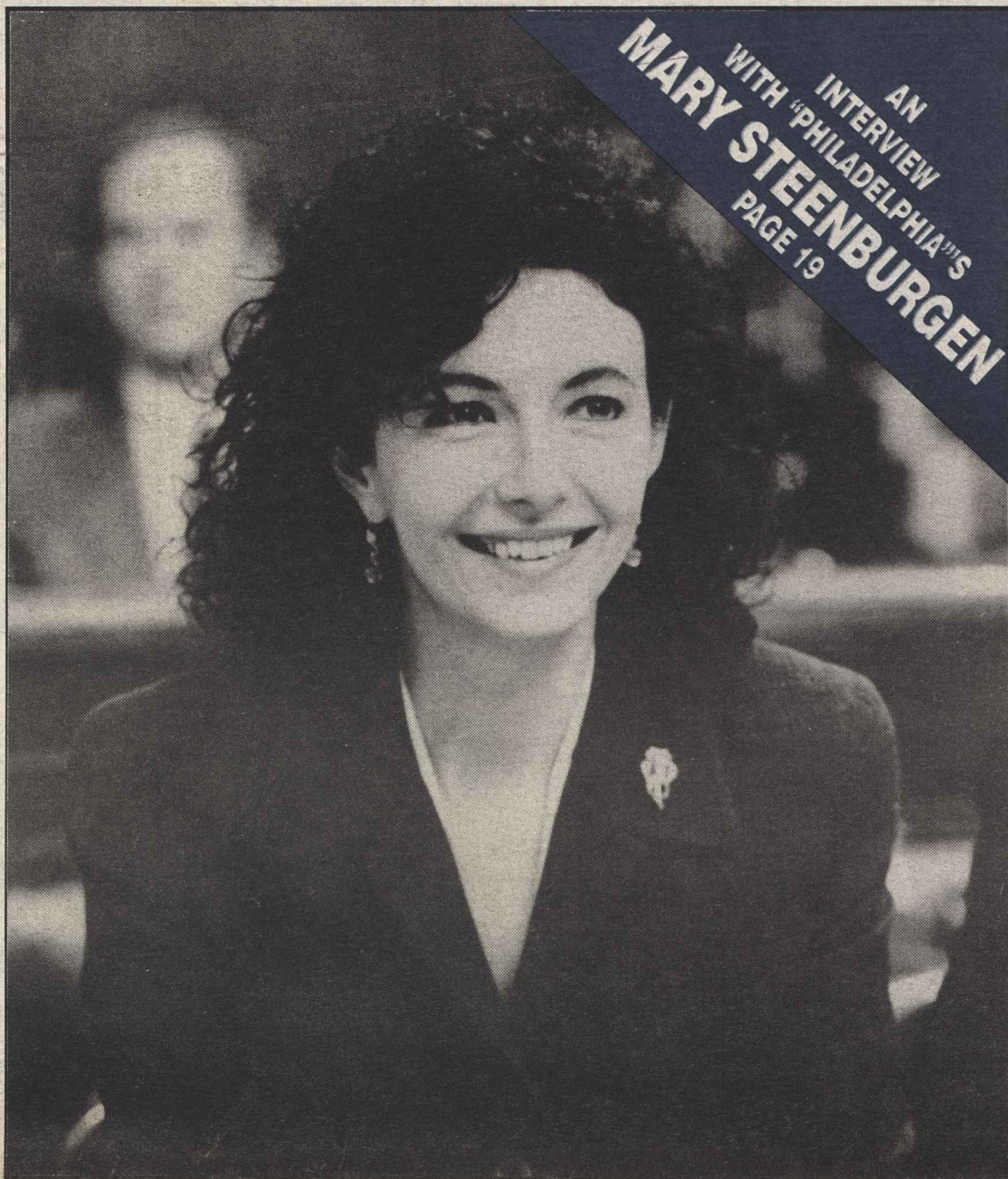
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OPRAH ENTERS THE FRAY

Mississippi lesbians, and the people who want to drive them from their land, square off on national talk show

by KC WILDMOON

Chicago—It was a verbal slugfest on Dec. 21 as Oprah Winfrey refereed a battle between angry lesbians and self-righteously ignorant Christian supremacists—participants in an increasingly ugly confrontation in Overt, Miss. over a feminist education center.

The talk show host was the first to air the story nationally, bringing together Wanda and Brenda Henson, the two Gulfport women who have bought 120 acres of land in rural Mississippi to start the educational retreat, and residents of Overt and neighboring towns, who are intent on driving them out.

The show was often heated, as the Hensons and others who supported them reacted angrily to the three white men on the stage representing Overt's concerns.

Rev. John Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richton, explained the community's opposition with three "concerns," all of which boiled down to "they're lesbians."

Allen's first concern was that the Hensons, who run Sister Spirit, 4-year-old non-profit organization that provides social services primarily to women, was "a proactive group that has come in and said they are going to interface with our community." Secondly, Allen said he was concerned that "people in our community [would be] influenced by this lifestyle." And finally, Allen noted that "these ladies have said openly that they practice that lifestyle," putting them "in great spiritual danger."

"The primary concern that we have is that the morality of our children may be affected [by the retreat]," added James Hendry, representing Overt's anti-lesbian citizens.

Overt's citizenry has reacted to Camp Sister Spirit, as the retreat is called, by leaving threatening messages on the Hensons' phone, leaving a dead dog on their mail box and holding a town meeting to discuss

how to rid the town of the women. A second meeting is planned for Jan. 4, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has called for the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in the situation.

Winfrey's show was the first time the Hensons and their opponents had met face to face—the women did not attend the town meeting because they feared for their safety—and the tone of the exchanges left little room for the two sides to come together on any common ground.

"They will be attempting to convert these people," said Paul Walley, a Richton attorney representing the anti-lesbian citizens. "If they came to help people, they've come to the wrong place."

An audience member from Overt accused the two women of staging the harassment incidents, including the dead dog, to get attention.

"[They did it] so everyone will know Overt is a lesbian hangout," the woman said bitterly.

Allen admitted that there probably were gays and lesbians already in the community, but said that the key was that he didn't know who they were.

"This is about visibility," said Wanda Henson. "As long as you will pass, they won't do anything. I am a Deep South feminist and that is a term these boys are going to have to reckon with."

Winfrey spoke with several Overt residents by satellite from a local restaurant, where speakers worried that the Hensons were going "to teach people to be lesbians."

From the Chicago studio, Hendry brought out the list of demands from the 1993 March On Washington—reading aloud from the portion about teaching that homosexuality is a viable lifestyle and barring funds from the Boy Scouts because they ban gays—

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"How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something, but to be someone."

CoCo Channel

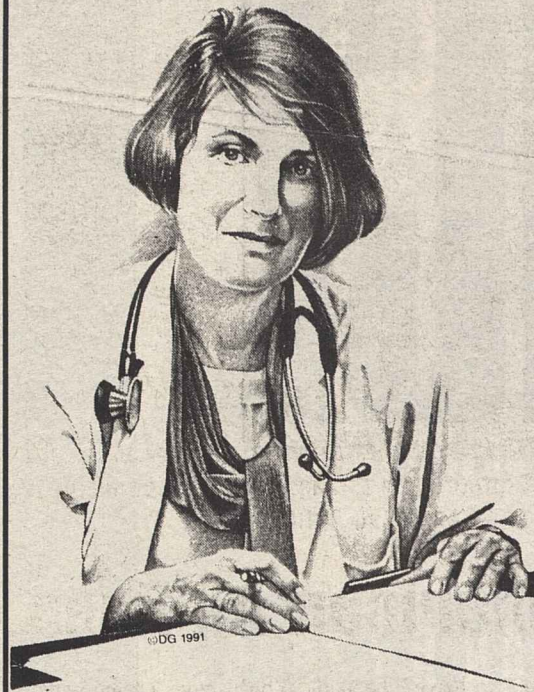


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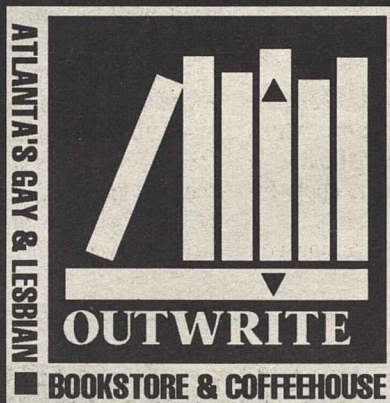
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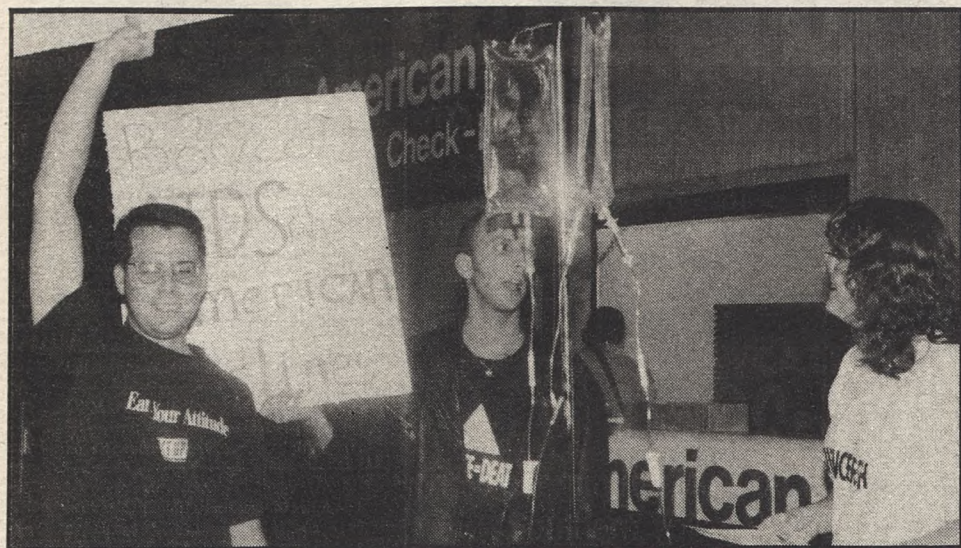
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MIDTOWN PROMENADE ■ MONROE AND VIRGINIA



Members of ACT UP picket at Hartsfield Airport with IV bags to protest an incident where an AIDS patient was removed from an American Airlines flight.

ACT UP zaps American Airlines

Atlanta—Saying that apologies aren't enough, ACT UP/Atlanta took its act to the Hartsfield International Airport on Dec. 17, protesting American Airlines' removal of an AIDS patient from one of its planes in November.

The airline issued an apology shortly after the incident, in which Timothy Holless was dragged screaming from a plane at Chicago's O'Hare airport, allegedly because he refused to put away an IV bag he used to administer medication.

About 10 activists picketed outside American's ticketing area at Hartsfield, carrying signs, chanting and handing out information about the incident. Four of the members were attached to IV bags hanging from a mobile carrier. The protesters then went inside the airport, handing out literature to passengers waiting in line at the American ticketing desk.

The protest, on one of the airport's busiest holiday travel days, continued for about half an hour before Atlanta police ordered the group to leave, citing a city ordinance prohibiting solicitation and distribution at the airport without a permit. Following a tense confrontation with police officers, the group headed back for the airport's MARTA rail line, trailed by the police.

Inside the airport, Roger Jones of the Atlanta Airlines Terminal Corporation, which represents the airlines serving Hartsfield, told the group that they were welcome to apply for a permit to protest.

"Then you won't have people telling you

to leave," he said. "You'll have a legal paper in your hand."

ACT UP's Jeff Graham told Jones that the group was "not here to cause you harm. We're just here to get the airline to do the right thing."

On the train trip back into the city, Graham said ACT UP would consider applying for the permit during the holidays and make a decision after the first of the year.

Activists charge that American is insensitive to gay/lesbian and HIV/AIDS issues and has not learned from previous mistakes.

"We want action," said ACT UP member Uri Vaknin. "[American] apologized last year after what happened with the March on Washington flight, too."

In April, American flight attendants had blankets and pillows exchanged at the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport following a flight from Washington, DC that carried many returning participants from the 1993 march. Attendants cited the gay activists in their request for the linen change.

"Their apologies are absolutely not sufficient," said Vaknin. "This is the second time for them dealing with AIDS-phobia and homophobia. American Airlines has still not dealt with the problem. We want to remind them that we are watching."

ACT UP wants American to develop a sound policy dealing with AIDS, to begin a mandatory and intensive education program for its employees and to adopt AIDS as its "corporate cause," including donating money to AIDS service organizations in cities the airline serves.

KC WILDMOON

TVs come on for Grady AIDS patients

Atlanta—Officials at Grady Memorial Hospital have reached a tentative agreement with the company that provides television service for the hospital's patients to provide the service for Grady's 29-bed inpatient AIDS wing at a substantially reduced cost.

Grenada TV provides television service at Grady for just under \$4 per day (paid for by the patient), but under the new agreement, which will be included in the contract currently under negotiation between Grady and Grenada, cost for AIDS patients will be \$1.07 per day. Fundraisers coordinated by the First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta will pay for the service.

"MCC has already provided \$3,000 worth of TV service for AIDS patients all over Grady in the last year and a half," said Chris Starr from Grady's development office. "They've been extraordinarily generous. Most of the patients [in the AIDS wing] are here for a long time, and TV is a nice tonic for them."

Chip Carson, who has worked on the TV project for two years for MCC's AIDS minis-

try committee, said it was a "pet project."

"It aggravated me that I would see these people with nothing to do but stare at the walls," said Carson, who is also the pastoral care coordinator for AID Atlanta and the Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network. "[With the new agreement], probably the only AIDS patients without television will be those in respiratory isolation for either TB or PCP. Hopefully we'll have enough other donations to turn those TVs on later."

Benefits at Buddies/Cheshire Bridge and Hoedowns, a monthly pledge from Midtowne Medicine and anonymous donors have raised almost all of the nearly \$12,000 necessary for a year's worth of television.

"We're still a couple of thousand dollars short," Carson said. "But I'm sure we'll get it."

Carson added that the televisions were turned on in the AIDS wing last week "in time for Christmas."

"We'll be billed for that half month, but I wanted them turned on by Christmas," he said.

KC WILDMOON

Atlantan heads national network

Cathy Woolard will be in charge of the Human Rights Campaign Fund's new grassroots Federal Action Network

by KC WILDMOON

Washington, DC—Former Atlanta activist Cathy Woolard has been put in charge of the new national grassroots lesbian/gay rights network being organized by the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

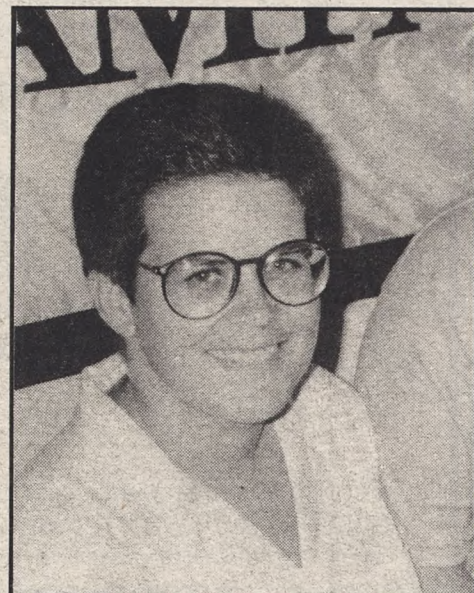
Woolard, who headed HRCF's Atlanta field office before moving to Washington in March 1992 as an HRCF lobbyist, will run the Federal Advocacy Network, or FAN, in her position as deputy director HRCF's public policy department.

Woolard said that FAN's focus will remain on national issues, such as the federal lesbian/gay rights act, and its initial targets will be the nine states with anti-gay ballot initiatives, plus Georgia, added to the list because of this summer's vote by the Cobb County Commissioners condemning homosexuality and U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn's active opposition to gays in the military.

"Ballot measures are national issues," Woolard said. "Every time we lose a ballot issue it reinforces for members of Congress the conception—in their minds—that there is little or no support for gay and lesbian issues."

"And also," she continued, "with the exception of Idaho, every state with a ballot issue has a major Senate race. The hidden agenda [of the right wing] is to mobilize the conservative Republican vote. In 1994, the Senate is up for grabs."

Although HRCF is a bipartisan organiza-



Cathy Woolard

tion, Woolard said, the loss of the Senate to "a conservative Republican majority would not suit us well."

"We do campaigns," she said. "And ballot issues are campaigns."

FAN's goal is to create field offices in every congressional district in the country by the end of 1995.

"It's vastly like what I did in our Atlanta office," she said, adding that the Atlanta office has continued to be a strong force in Georgia politics. "Georgia plays a role in this because we have such a great field committee there. Now we're trying to recreate that field committee in every congressional district."

"I like to use Atlanta as the place to try something out," she added. "The model has been so successful. I like to go back to what works."

Woolard will be in Atlanta on Jan. 8 for the first of several needs assessment trainings

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Making a difference in Macon

Two men struggle to build a home for people with AIDS in Middle Georgia

Macon—Every day is a struggle for Lee Jackson. "Some days I feel like I could run a race. Other days I can't even get out of bed."

But since he and retired nurse Jim Bass decided several months ago to open an AIDS house in Macon, Jackson, who is living with AIDS, has had something special to get out of bed for.

Together, the two men have started Our Lady's Haven of Hope. Now it is a skeleton organization of 10 volunteers who help people with AIDS by taking them shopping or to the hospital. But by spring, Bass and Jackson hope to have a house where homeless people with AIDS can stay.

"It's not going to be a place for people to come and die, but a place to live," Bass said.

Bass and Jackson want the house to be a safe place where people who have AIDS can stay if they can't afford other housing or have nowhere else to go. The two men hope to have some medical care available at the house with the help of volunteers. But mostly, they want the house to provide love and support to people who otherwise would be alone.

However, making the project happen is not going to be easy because it will be run entirely by volunteers and will be non-profit.

To get things started, Bass spends his time exploring possible funding through state and company grants. He's always looking for an old house or motel that the group could purchase.

But even before funds can be granted, Bass and his board of directors have to complete the process of becoming incorporated and establishing non-profit status. "We're just getting started," Bass said. "But we go to any lengths to see that people with AIDS

Even more than the legal complications, Jim Bass and Lee Jackson worry that people's attitudes will work against the project.

"Everyone says housing for people with AIDS is a great idea, but 'not in my neighborhood,'" Bass said.

get what they need." These lengths include organizing transportation for AIDS patients to hospitals here and in Atlanta for treatment.

Bass thinks there is a need for housing for AIDS patients with nowhere to go because the number of AIDS cases in Macon

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

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Workers fired for being straight

New Port Richey, FL—Four women dismissed after a straight nightclub was turned into a gay bar contend they were fired because of their heterosexual orientation.

The owner of the nightclub acknowledges she didn't think the women would fit in a bar full of gay men.

"We didn't feel like that would be too comfortable for them," said Audrey McGillivray, who recently turned her Late Show into a gay nightclub. "I have nothing against the girls personally."

Carolyn O'Neill, Kathleen Shappello, Julie Meindersma and Judy Whyte, who were fired last week, said they would have had no problem working in a gay bar.

"None of us have that problem," Whyte said. "I enjoy the company of gay people. The homosexual men who know us love us."

A Tampa-based gay/lesbian rights group, Human Rights Task Force, has come to the women's defense.

"We think that firing people because they are straight is just as bad as people being passed by because they are gay," said Todd Simmons, co-chair of the task force.

No federal or state law would protect the workers from being fired because of their sexual orientation. New Port Richey has no specific ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual preference.

Simmons, who plans to talk with the workers and the bar owner, thinks McGillivray made the decision based on misunderstanding rather than malice and might be willing to reconsider.

The National Organization for Women also came to the defense of four women.

"We see it as a gross form of discrimination against women," said Linda de Bottari, co-president of the Pasco NOW chapter. "It had nothing to do with their job performance. It was just discrimination based on sexual preference."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police keep watch on bathroom

Asheville, NC—The Asheville Police Department has completed a patrol operation targeting male prostitution at the Westgate shopping center, according to Lt. Ross Robinson.

Officers have had a public bathroom in the center under surveillance through a two-way mirror for several weeks after receiving increasing complaints from customers about being solicited for sex as they attempted to enter the men's room, Robinson said.

Signs were posted saying the bathroom was under surveillance, he said. The mall management paid to install the two-way mirror, but only one police officer had the security key that activated the mirror, Robinson

said. Robinson said most of the solicitations were "non-verbal" and involved soliciting teen-age boys by writing messages on the wall.

"These subjects would go in and sit on the toilets for long periods of time, and the customers would merely come into the stall," Robinson said.

Robinson said it is against the law to install a two-way mirror in a women's bathroom, but not in a men's—similar to "peeping tom" laws that make it illegal to look at a woman through a window at night, but not at men.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arrest made in AIDS records theft

Miami, FL—Two hospital security guards were arrested for stealing desktop computers containing the records of 7,000 people who receive AIDS-related services.

The suspects insisted they did not know what was on the computers taken from the South Florida AIDS Network at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Some activists feared the confidential information could be used against the named patients.

One of the stolen computers was sold to an unsuspecting buyer; another was being

used in the home of one of those arrested, police said. Both hard-drives, which carried the AIDS program information, had been erased.

Edgardo Chacon-Diaz, 41, was arrested Dec. 13 and Robert Gonzalez, 29, was taken into custody Dec. 14 on grand theft charges.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement special agent Ed Royal said the two had been linked to at least two other recent computer thefts at the hospital.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kris Pratt joins HRCF staff

Washington, DC—A former South Carolina political operative has joined the Human Rights Campaign fund as a public policy advocate.

Kris Pratt, a native of Charleston and a graduate of Clemson University, will be in charge of lobbying members of Congress from South Carolina, Florida, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In addition, she will be involved in HRCF's Federal Advocacy Network.

Pratt managed the local campaign office of U.S. Rep. Butler Derrick, D-SC, for three years before going to Washington in 1991

to work on Capitol Hill. She served on the staff of the House Subcommittee on the Legislative Process, a part of the powerful House Rules Committee.

"Kris has the great combination of grassroots, campaign and Hill experience that we need in order to mobilize constituents and [members of Congress] alike to support fair treatment for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation," said Daniel Zingale, the campaign fund's director of public policy.

Connecticut United Way May Cut Funds For Boy Scouts:

The United Way of Greater New Haven has adopted a new anti-discrimination policy that could strip future funding from a local Boy Scouts council which fired a leader because he is gay. The funding organization has adopted a policy that would block funding from groups that practice any form of discrimination. The rules would not affect money that already was appropriated for 1994. The move comes amidst pressure from several groups to cut off funds from the Quinnipiac Council of Boy Scouts after it fired a 67-year-old scout leader because he is gay, but UW director Douglas Higgins said the rule change was coincidental. "We've been dealing with our strategic plan for a year and that's one of the areas we looked at," he said. Quinnipiac expelled the unidentified former Eagle Scout last month after receiving "written allegations" that he is an "avowed homosexual." The man says he will appeal the expulsion.



Openly gay Petty Officer Keith Meinhold is back in the Navy.

Meinhold Reenlists: Openly gay Petty Officer Keith Meinhold reenlisted in the Navy on Dec. 16, as the Clinton administration resumed its court battle to expel him. In the oath administered by Lt. Zoe Dunning, a reserve officer and a lesbian who is also fighting Navy efforts to kick her out, Meinhold swore to uphold the Constitution for the fourth time in a ceremony held one hour before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was scheduled to hear opening arguments in his nationally watched case. Justice Dept. lawyers argued that morning that the military's ban on lesbians and gay men is not a ban after all. "A person who made a statement of homosexuality could remain in service," said Mark Levy, so long as he or she could "live by the rules" and had no "propensity" to engage in homosexual conduct.

Judge Rules Gays Can March In Boston Parade: For the third year in a row, a judge has ruled the organizers of Boston's

St. Patrick's Day Parade cannot prevent a gay group from marching because of sexual orientation. What makes last week's ruling different is that Suffolk Superior Court Judge J. Harold Flannery made the injunction against the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council permanent. Temporary injunctions paved the way for gay marchers in 1992 and 1993. The judge used a Massachusetts state law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in his decision, but stopped short of ordering the organizers to include gays in the parade, instead only barring them from refusing to allow the gay marchers because of sexual orientation.

After The Colorado Decision: Reversing their steps from 13 months ago, about 200 people rallied at the Colorado Capitol last week to celebrate a decision finding the state's anti-gay law unconstitutional. The crowd shivered and hugged to fight off the freezing temperatures as speakers told them the Dec. 14 decision was simply the start of the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights. Across the country, in Cincinnati, supporters of a measure similar to Amendment 2 proved them right. "These judges are making decisions that the homosexual groups out there are...an identifiable group—what does that mean?" said Phil Burress, president of Cincinnati's Citizens for Community Values, claiming that Denver District Court Judge Jeffrey Bayless had made a mistake. "The only thing they have in common is who they choose to have sex with. You can't tell whether a person is homosexual by looking at him. How can you identify a group when you can't tell by looking at them?"

Suit Filed On Behalf Of Gay Couples: An Arizona attorney representing four gay couples is hoping for an early initial ruling in a suit challenging the constitutionality of a state law that prevents them from getting marriage licenses. The statute is unconstitutional because it violates a person's right to privacy, attorney Linda Harter of the National Lawyers Guild maintains. "The right to chose a partner, regardless of sex, is a private decision," she said. "It's not a decision for the state." Harter said she hopes for a summary judgement by Pima County Superior Court this week.

Aspen Gays Hope To Revitalize Gay Ski Week: Aspen's lesbians and gay men hope the court's decision knocking down Amendment 2 will revitalize the town's annual Gay Ski Week. Terry White, a gay community spokesperson, said, "It was a decision that we were all hoping for all along. This decision will let us get on with our normal Aspen lives." Aspen was one of three cities in Colorado with gay rights ordinances that would have been struck down had Amendment 2 been upheld. Last year, the 18th time Gay Ski Week was held, attendance dropped from the usual 3500 skiers to 1500, as many gay men and lesbians boycotted Colorado in the wake of Amendment 2's approval by Colorado voters.

Library Keeps Books On Gay Parenting: "Heather Has Two Mommies," "Daddy's Roommate," and eight other books about children with gay parents will remain in the Dayton, Ohio public library's collection despite a call for their removal. Trustees for the Dayton & Montgomery County Public Library voted 7-0 last week to reject a Christian group's request to ban the books. U.S. Magistrate Michael Merz, trustee chairman, said he reviewed the books and found they were not pornographic and did not describe sexual conduct. The books were removed from the section on fairy tales to the section on social issues, said Mark Willis, a library spokesman.

Tijuana Officials Reject Bid For Gay Beauty Contest: Tijuana city officials have turned down a request to stage the Miss Gay National 1994 pageant at a trendy disco, saying it "goes against the morals and good customs of the people of Tijuana." The Catholic Church and various civic groups led the dissent against the proposed event, mounting a high-profile campaign against it. Organizers, claiming the denial is hypocritical coming from a city that allows strip bars and does little to crack down on prostitution, have appealed the city's decision to a federal judge.

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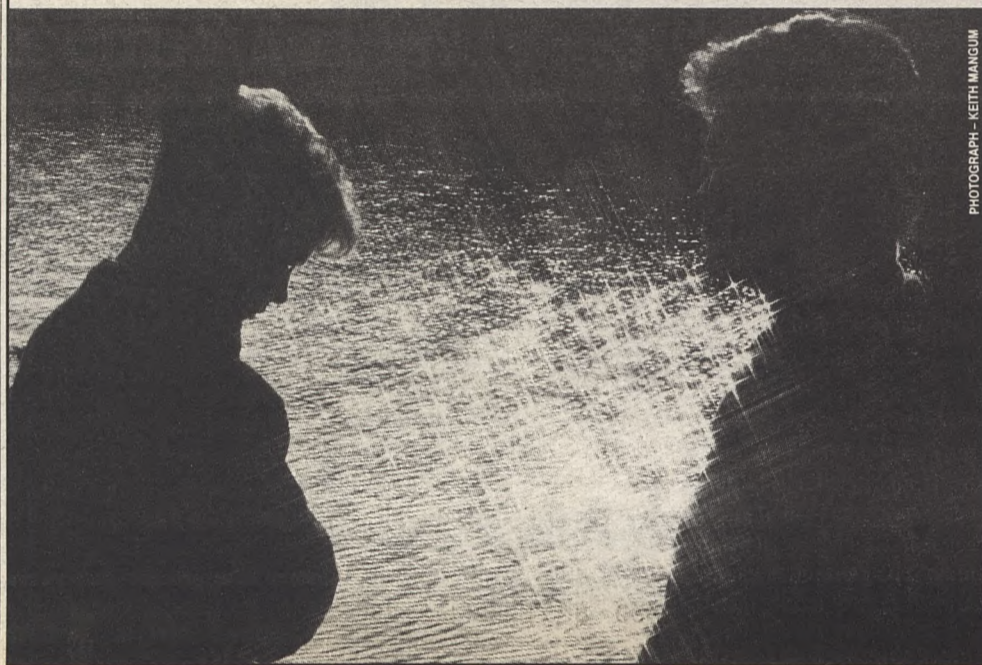


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Abused gays and lesbians get cold shoulder in court

Charleston, WV—The quarrel began at a bar and continued when John Wigglesworth III and Kenneth Smith returned home after midnight.

Wigglesworth pushed Smith into an aquarium and Smith stabbed him. Wigglesworth then crawled across the street. Smith followed him and stood by crying as a neighbor tried to plug three stab wounds.

"You wouldn't understand. He's my lover. Please tell me that he's OK. Please, please say yes," Smith said as he watched.

Wigglesworth later died. And when Smith was prosecuted, his attorneys tried to apply "battered person's syndrome" to their gay relationship—a defense usually used by heterosexual women and, occasionally, by children.

In a "battered person's defense," expert testimony is used to show a history of domestic abuse led a person to believe his or her life was in danger. But it's harder for lesbians and gay men who have been the victims in the abusive relationships to use such a defense.

In a 1993 law review article, Denise Bricker, now a federal judge's clerk, found only one case involving a lesbian or gay couple which had actually gone to trial using the battered person's syndrome as a defense.

In 1989, Annette Green of West Palm Beach, Fla. used the defense in connection with her lover's shooting death. She was convicted, but the judge gave her the minimum prison term, sympathizing with her claim she acted in self-defense after years of abuse.

A similar defense was used in another case in Yakima, Wash. involving two men who were not lovers. Peter Schneider said he was driven to kill his boss, Dennis Waymire, after being sexually assaulted repeatedly. Schneider was sentenced to 21 months in prison for manslaughter, 10 months less than the standard sentence for the crime.

Robin Kane, a spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said the legal system's hostility to lesbians and gay men often prevents gay and lesbian victims from even reporting domestic violence because they fear discrimination from authorities.

"Many people...don't trust discussing an issue so volatile with a heterosexual who might not respect their relationship to begin with," she said.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, said those who report abuse face slim odds their abusers will be convicted.

About 350 cases of battery among gay partners are reported to his organization every year, but only about three make it to court, he said. And Foreman said in the three most recent cases, two of the accused batterers were acquitted.

The courts will get more serious domestic cases involving gay men and lesbians, said Claire Renzetti, a sociology professor at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia who published a 1992 book, "Violent Betrayal: Partner Abuse in Lesbian Relationships."

In addition to the reluctance of gays to deal with authorities, gays and lesbians also do not have shelters they can go to like many heterosexual women do.

"They really have no place else to go," Renzetti said.

In 1991, an Ohio appellate court ruled the state's domestic violence laws must cover lesbians and gay men. But experts are unaware of similar rulings in other states. And some states' domestic violence laws specifically exclude gay and lesbian couples.

In Smith's case, Kanawha County Circuit Judge John Hey told him during a pretrial hearing that he would not allow him to use testimony on battered person's syndrome in his trial.

"There's no precedent in West Virginia for using that defense in the case of homosexuals," Hey said during the August hearing, even though a West Virginia court had allowed that defense in 1987 for a woman who killed her husband.

So Smith, in a plea agreement, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. He was given five years' probation and credit for the year he served in home confinement.

Some legal experts say battered lesbians and gays should continue to try the battered person's defense.

"What's really at issue is not the sexual orientation, but the intimate relationship and the power dynamics," said Charles Patrick Ewing, an associate professor of law and psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. "To say that it's not valid simply because two people were members of the same sex strikes me as untenable."

He said gay men face double discrimination in the courts "on the theory that a man certainly wouldn't find himself in that kind of situation where he was trapped and couldn't escape from his abuser."

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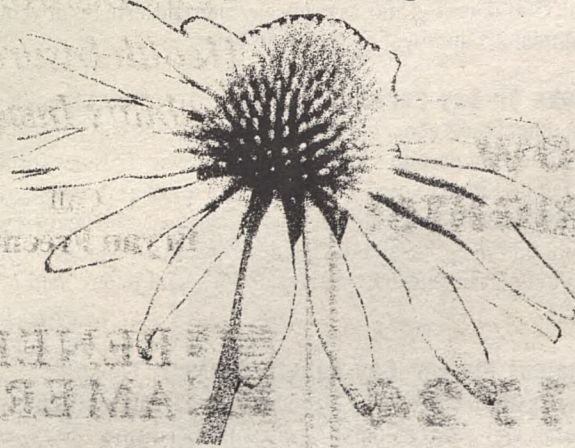
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Oregon groups prepare to fight new hate amendment

Salem, OR—Pro and anti gay/lesbian rights forces in Oregon are shuffling the deck for another hand of contention as they prepare for new legislative battles in 1994.

The right-wing Oregon Citizens Alliance, emboldened by a string of victories in 15 city and county anti-lesbian/gay rights initiative referendums during 1993, launched a signature gathering drive Dec. 1 for a new statewide referendum next November.

However, the new referendum includes more moderate language than the unsuccessful "Measure 9," defeated by Oregon voters in November 1992, which would have labeled homosexuality as abnormal and perverse, required state and local governments to discourage it and required schools to teach that homosexuality was wrong. The new measure removes that wording but still prohibits government from creating any classification based on homosexuality or spending public money to promote homosexuality.

When OCA leader Lon Mabon started the new signature drive, he waved a flier, entitled "You talked—We listened," to indicate the local elections showed the tide was changing in favor of denying "special rights" to the lesbian and gay community.

"We have designed this new initiative to appeal to the middle voter in Oregon," he said, noting the revised language in local referendums was responsible for their passage.

The new petition, which needs 89,000 signatures by July 8, would call for a November vote on "The Minority Status and Child Protection Act."

But gay rights leaders call the OCA local victories hollow and not indicative of any change in opinion statewide.

"Lon Mabon was strategic in selecting those 'Baby Nine' locations as sure victories for himself," said Julie Davis, executive director of the Support Our Communities Political Action Com-

mittee (SOC-PAC) and a former legislative aide to state Rep. Gail Shibley, one of two openly gay legislators in Oregon.

"Where we go from here is to confront at least six more local initiatives...three for March and three for May, while we simultaneously prepare for a statewide campaign," Davis said. "However, we want to add an additional strategy."

According to Davis, the 1992 "No on 9" campaign received a lot of media attention, but field operations got off the ground late, and organizers primarily focused their efforts on the three urban counties in the metro Portland area, with some field work in Salem, the state capital.

"While continuing with a fairly visible and high profile in those areas, we are also organizing local communities to run grassroots campaigns that include voter registration, door-to-door efforts to let people know about the issues and to get out the vote," Davis said.

The new efforts would also include increased media visibility and statewide meetings and training.

The effort to "create bases throughout the state," she noted, involves more coordination of SOC-PAC with organizations such as Right to Privacy, Rural Organizing Project and Oregon Speakout.

SOC-PAC has developed a strategy team made up of broad based allies, she said, "including gays, lesbians, people of color, faith, labor, business, education and statewide leaders."

One such organization is the Rural Organizing Project, a network of 52 human dignity groups that deal with a wide array of human rights issues, including gay rights.

"We will use that network along with building a coalition council which will be more active than 'No on 9' was, to educate and move people on this issue," added Davis.

"In most of our groups, gays and lesbians



Julie Davis, left, head of a group fighting anti-lesbian/gay initiatives in Oregon, consults with state Rep. Gail Shibley, the state's only lesbian legislator.

are in very strong leadership," said project director Marcy Westerling. "But, we have a broader agenda—to create, support and maintain human dignity groups that combat the bigotry in rural and small-town communities."

"The religious right knows we are vulnerable in rural communities," she said, noting that "traditionally rural folks have been locked out of participating in progressive politics, making decisions and having access to resources."

"We first met in March of 1993, when 96 activists gathered from around the state to look at educational strategies to shift the overall climate," said Westerling. "It may be challenging

racism, going to schools and talking about how oppression operates, or demonstrating at a Coos Bay restaurant where the owner was hardline about women and rape and even had a Rush Limbaugh room."

"These are all different ways of challenging the bubble, the silence, the lack of penetration, the fact that we don't talk about these issues," she added. "We are using the tactic of figuring out where people are coming from, not labeling them as bigots, but describing who is most likely in our society to be bigots or racists."

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Southern Voice is published by Ryan Publications Inc. with offices at 1189 Virginia Ave. NE, Atlanta GA 30306. Correspondence should be sent to our mailing address, which is P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta GA 30316. (404) 876-1819.

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GUEST COLUMNIST

Salvation Army's fuzzy image belies anti-gay stance

by AMY ADAMS SQUIRE
STRONGHEART

What do the homeless and homosexuals have in common, besides the unwitting ability to make other people uncomfortable? The Salvation Army—that's what. The charitable organization that aids America's disenfranchised is also the purveyor of one of our nation's most prized and practiced prejudices.

The Salvation Army's position statement, now almost a decade old, professes concern for strengthening family life and then promptly goes on to denigrate lesbians, gays and their families.

"Homosexual behavior, both male and female, promoted and accepted as an alternative lifestyle, is contrary to the teachings of the Bible and presents a serious threat to the integrity, quality and solidarity of society as a whole." This document, dispensed to employees as part of their orientation, enumerates several ludicrous rationalizations for denying the authentic personhood of individuals with a same-sex orientation. These in effect force gays and lesbians to remain in the closet if they wish to be soldiers in the Salvation Army.

No one would think of insisting that any other group of individuals renounce themselves. To require self-abasement and self-denial constitutes not evangelism but terror-

ism, reminiscent of the Inquisition.

It would be naive to think that the mindset fostered by this kind of homophobic rhetoric does not have a perverse impact on the people the Salvation Army serves, many of whom are lesbian or gay, and many of them with children. Often gays on the street have already been disowned by their families for being who they are. They have no one to whom they might petition for help. In addition, they are forced to endure hateful epithets and queer-bashing from other homeless people in shelters. The possibility of being subjected to further humiliation and abuse by the people to whom they turn to abate starvation or even death is unconscionable. To be at the mercy of those with resources who might withhold them unless one apologizes for being who one is amounts to travesty.

The Salvation Army's position statement stands in stark contrast to its mission statement, which declares that its ministry is "motivated by the love of God" and that its mission is to preach the gospel "without discrimination." What harrowing hypocrisy. Singling out sexual minorities as a special class of sinner flies in the face of the gospel message.

When I learned of the Salvation Army's anti-gay policy, I felt betrayed. I have always held this organization in high regard.

The selflessness and dedication of salvationists are undeniable, and their service to humanity, indisputable. It seems, though, that noble acts of generosity and Christian charity are just a front for the bigotry and ignorance which fester underneath. As Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen wrote in "After the Ball," "These days, America rebukes all bigotry, except that which is imagined is God's."

With reluctance, I've stopped putting dollar bills in the little red kettles, so prominent and abundant at this particular season of the year. I cannot in good conscience help the Salvation Army feed the hungry with one hand and bash my people with the other. I'll have to give my funds for the transient to someone who will truly respect and care for all God's children without condition.

I do not believe that Jesus incarnated on this earth for the benefit of only the select few who have been deemed worthy by the Salvation Army. He came to deliver the good news that God loves each of us because of who we are, not in spite of who we are. This God does without fail and without expectation.

Amy Adams Squire Strongheart is an openly lesbian columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

LETTERS

Men who deny themselves Charis miss powerful experience

I am extremely sad and dismayed over the recent series of letters in Southern Voice regarding Charis Books and More. With the constant violent emotional and physical attacks on lesbians and gays and the backlash against feminism, it is sad we are now attacking each other. It would be wonderful if we had lots of lesbian, gay, and bisexual bookstores for persons who have different rhythms in buying books.

I am giving a testimonial for Charis. I have done business at there over the past 14 years. I have gone to programs at Charis dealing with issues of lesbians, gay and straight men, as well as feminist topics. Franklin Abbott has presented several programs there on his anthologies of being and

growing up male (gay straight, bisexual, black, etc.).

My concern is that all of us men may miss a powerful experience if we deny ourselves the opportunity to visit and spend time in such a very feminist and lesbian environment. It is an opportunity to visit for a while in a place that's operated by feminists. I feel very very sad when I hear of men (gay, bisexual and straight) who are intimidated by the presence of powerful, creative and caring women. I have been taught a lot about inclusiveness and openness to others' perceptions by feminists. My life is enriched each time I have the opportunity to participate in worlds that are not exactly as my own. I appreciate that each of

us will have different experiences in a feminist world.

If someone doesn't like Charis, that is fine. What is not fine is for any man, regardless of sexual orientation, to speak as if his experience is the only reality. I have felt deep respect and appreciation for my concerns in my weekly visits to Charis. I am a man and I encourage each of your male readers to give himself a wonderful adventure during this season and drop by Charis Books and More and experience the more.

R. Lanier Clance
Atlanta

Editor's note: Clance is minister at the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta.

Charis experiences don't show "deep commitment" to gay men

I feel I must respond to the letters praising Charis Books and condemning SoVo's article about Outwrite for not doing the same. About five years ago, I went to Charis Books looking for books about gay men's issues (gay male sexuality, coming out, spiritual issues, etc.). After scouring the men's section, which only took a few minutes due to its quite limited selection (which included several straight novels with no connection or reference to gay males whatsoever), I looked around the store. I finally found what I wanted on a low shelf deep in the women's section. After a few minutes of crouching down and looking at them for a few minutes, I made a selection and stood up.

As I made my way through the store to the cash register to pay for the books, a woman in a raincoat repeatedly and firmly bumped her shoulder against me while making gross throat-clearing sounds. She did this seven or eight times, I am sure. I told the tall woman at the cash register what had happened. She said that on the self above the books I was looking at were illustrated

books about lesbian love-making, and that they sometimes had problems with men who would linger and gape in that section.

When I asked if the shoulder-bumping was considered acceptable behavior in her store, she laughed and said "You mean like this?" and then gave me a hard punch in the shoulder. She smiled and said that the women in the store often treat "dirty old men" in the store that way.

I still sneak into Charis Books from time to time and look at the men's section. It is still small and poorly stocked. A gay man can and will find much better selections of gay men's books at Oxford Books and Chapter 11 at Ansley Mall.

If placing books written by and for gay men far away from the men's section in their store and then harassing their male customers who find them and look at them is a reflection of Charis' "deep commitment" to gay men, as far as I am concerned, they can keep their "women's work" to themselves.

I have and will continue to encourage

gay men not to set foot in that store unless accompanied by a woman (preferably a lesbian), and even then, be careful. Who can imagine what else their "deep commitment" might involve.

Patrick Phillips
Atlanta

Send us a letter

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

We'll have a queer Christmas without you

There are many reasons why I hesitate to write about death in this space, not the least of which is because this audience has spent far too much time dealing with death. I don't feel a strong need to add to our collective area of expertise. But this year, I'm left with little choice, because what's going on in my life right now is death.

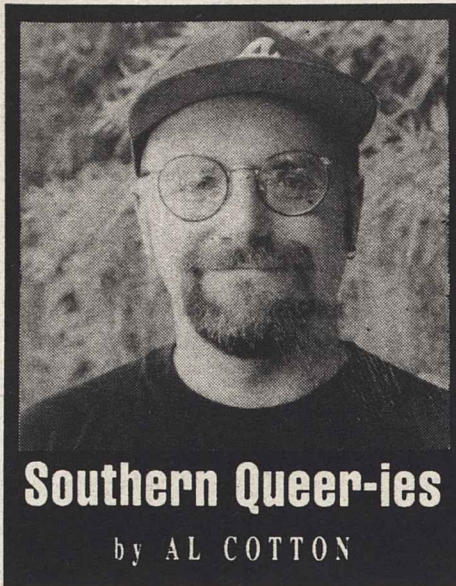
My friend Raven was stabbed in front of his apartment on Dec. 13, in what I would consider to be a safe neighborhood. I find myself facing the violent dissolution of a friend roused out of bed in the early morning, presumably unprepared for what faced him when he opened his door—so unexpected, unprepared for, so quick and random and abrupt and final and interrupting and profoundly unsatisfying.

Part of me is certain that I could deal with this death better if it had been one of the kinds I already have experience with, such as AIDS or old age or suicide. Random urban violence really hasn't touched me before, and I've had trouble recovering my sense of safety in the world. For a few days after the murder, a knife lurked around every corner, and every car looked like an accident with my name on it.

And part of me, inevitably, wonders if it truly was random. Raven was a gentle soul with no known blood enemies. But he led a life of integrity, which I've recently come to see as threatening to people who don't "get" it. Integrity makes you a target, with some people awfully good at sniffing it out and trying to undermine it. One gift Raven's departure has given me is an understanding of the dangers of carving out a new path to follow. I honor him for that wisdom.

Add to the mix that this happened near Christmas, and the recipe for major unpleasantness is complete. When I remember Christmases, I can usually recall that each one was "about" something. Like the first year I came to Tennessee separate from my parents, an announcement of adulthood. Or the first time a new spouse or a new baby shows up, and Christmas expands to encompass them. Or Christmas 1987, which we all knew to be my grandmother's last.

This year, I had envisioned a Christmas about staying in Atlanta, getting used to my new house, growing a few local traditions



Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

with friends, quiet and low-key. But that script got a rewrite. Now it's about calling friends with bad news, going out, almost compulsively, to keep from sitting around the house, yet steeling myself every time I turn a corner.

Part of me wishes more Christmases could get rewrites, that we should be reminded more often of the pathology that abounds during our holiday season. A radical queer scholar named Eve Kosovsky Sedgwick writes in her book "Tendencies" about what she calls the Christmas effect. She argues that Christmas is so overpoweringly oppressive because all the voices we hear, from the church to the government to business to the media, are saying the same thing—"Be jolly, spend money." They've all figured out how co-opt Christmas, and that leaves no room for any real emotions that might not match the ones the season calls for.

As a writer, I've found it hard not to get caught up in that same pressure. The last two years I've felt like at Christmas I'm supposed to write something uplifting and "Miracle on 34th Street-ish." Isn't that the mood we're supposed to help manufacture for this festive season? Part of me feels guilty just for bringing up the topic of personal tragedy and hindering your ability to feel "Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men."

But this artificiality of feeling cannot hold when real events confront it. How do we pro-

cess personal tragedy in the midst of a society that puts decorations up before Halloween, just to make sure you don't forget to buy early and often? It almost seems an improvement, for once, to deal with real emotions and not the corporate retail ones, conjured up cartoon Santas hawking electric shavers.

I remember a series of three Christmases about 10 years ago when I would arrive in Tennessee and find there had been at least one death two or three days before Christmas. (I've not seen Elisabeth Kubler-Ross address it, but I think the terminally ill are subtly pressured to die before December 24th so as not to ruin Christmas Eve.) Those were the odd Christmases, or to use Kosovsky's terminology, queer Christmases. They didn't feel the way Christmas was supposed to feel; instead, they were full of painful truth and authentic emotion, nothing conjured from plastic mangers and canned cranberry sauce.

I've reached the conclusion that writing about death during Christmas is a selfish thing. It is me expressing what I need to say, whether or not this is the time you should be reading about it. But then, all of our tears around death are at the root selfish, as we express our feelings about the fact that this person we want in our lives is gone. Funerals and memorials represent the chance to make this knowledge real. Why else would all of these people have gathered, were it not absolutely true that this death has occurred?

For those of you who have read this far, I thank you for allowing me to indulge my selfishness in this space. Our memorial is tomorrow night, and I hope that amidst the litter of grief and shock and surprise we can find a way to reconnect to the magic that Raven brought to us all. I can justify the selfishness. I have lost a friend who supported me in finding a path I could walk with spirit and integrity. The Rave-Meister (as I called him during our Gestalt Canasta games) would have understood the selfishness, but he would have wanted the joy to come out on top.

As for the season generally, we as a society will not have a healthy holiday existence until tears at Christmas are no longer a radically queer act. But out of my own selfish desire to have my friend back, I can't help wishing that this wasn't my year to have such a queer Christmas.



by CARL LANGE

WRFG On Track

Community radio station WRFG management has agreed to significant policy changes concerning its attitude toward gay and lesbian defamation.

On October 29 and 30, two specials aired on WRFG claiming to provide proof that homosexuality did not exist in Africa prior to colonization. What transpired was several hours of verbal gay-bashing—gays and lesbians were associated with incest, pedophilia, child abuse and were called deviants and a threat to the African race.

GLAAD and the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) have met with WRFG management. At the meeting board president Paul Williams agreed to all demands—that non-discrimination based on sexual orientation be included in WRFG's mission statement, that all management and staff go through sensitivity training to be conducted by GLAAD and AALGA, that GLAAD anti-defamation public service announcements be played on Round Midnight and Potential Vibes (the two shows which hosted the specials) at least once per show through March, and that WRFG issue a public statement concerning its policy toward gay and lesbian defamation.

Mr. Williams must have the support of the station's board of directors to carry out these promises. While the board as a whole will most likely be supportive, there are several, very vocal, highly homophobic African-American board members who have been successful in the past in thwarting any change.

Mr. Williams needs to know that he has the support of the Atlanta lesbian, gay and bisexual community and that these promises must be kept despite opposition. He especially needs to hear from members of the African-American community. Let him know that you applaud his efforts and that you will be watching to see if WRFG lives up to these commitments.

Write Paul Williams, 1357 McClelland Ave, East Point, GA 30344 or call him at 753-8034.

Support the station by becoming a member. Call during the shows "Gay Graffiti" on Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., or "Les Chanteuses Africaines," Sunday 1-4 a.m. and let them know that you are gay, lesbian, bisexual or supportive.

New Queer Books

Chelsea House Publishers has issued their 1993-94 catalog which includes two new series for and about lesbian, gay and bisexual youth. The first series, "Issues of Gay and Lesbian Life," includes 25 books on such topics as AIDS, African-American lesbian and gay culture and coming out. The second series, "The Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians," includes 30 biographical books. For more information, contact Chelsea House, 300 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010 or call (800) 848-BOOK.

Please tell us about your calls and letters. We welcome copies of your letters for our files. This column is a product of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Atlanta, Inc. For more information about GLAAD write us at PO Box 55111, Atlanta GA 30308 or call (404) 605-7477.

Romantic Interlude

Camper ©93



Experts, health workers indignant over AIDS revisionism

Marrakesh, Morocco—Experts at a conference on AIDS in Africa were indignant over continued reports in Britain questioning whether HIV causes AIDS and whether there is an epidemic in Africa.

"Very disturbing," is how Max Essex, director of the Harvard AIDS Institute described the Sunday Times of London's reports. Essex, who commented in a speech to the annual conference, was the second AIDS researcher in two days to criticize publicly the Sunday Times' coverage of AIDS.

In the Dec. 13 session, Alan Whiteside of the University of Natal in South Africa, called the reporting "extremely irresponsible behavior on the part of what once was a quality Sunday newspaper."

The Sunday Times has provoked outrage in the AIDS and scientific communities for more than a year by publishing articles arguing that the AIDS epidemic in Africa is a myth and

suggesting that HIV does not cause AIDS.

A story in the Sunday Times on Oct. 3 read, "They said it was the epidemic that would devastate a continent. Yet how many Africans are really dying of AIDS?" On Nov. 28 it said journals and newspapers that refuse to print unpopular ideas about AIDS and its cause engaged in "self-imposed censorship."

"If the spread of poverty helps the spread of AIDS, then Africa is indeed fertile ground," Whiteside said. "The problem is, these reports are now getting into Africa, and doing immense damage to our AIDS programs."

Souleymane Barry, an AIDS health adviser in the Ivory Coast, called the Times reports "aberrant," adding "we have problems in Africa getting people to accept AIDS. Our problems are multiplied when a newspaper, especially a so-called objective European one, does this kind of thing. It's very, very saddening."

Such reports are "very light commentary

without any analysis," said As Sy of Senegal's Environmental and Development Association. "Are people waiting for so many millions of Africans to die before believing an epidemic is propagating?"

The result is that many Africans feel they cannot get HIV and that AIDS is not contagious, so they may not use condoms, Essex said in an interview. "And that's a major disservice to humanity."

"If you're running a program on the effect of condom use in prevention in Nairobi or Kampala, and reports come out that HIV doesn't cause AIDS, how would you convince people at the ministerial level that condom use and other methods should be continued with as much intensity?" he added.

Essex said officials of the World Health Organization and Agency for International Development have told him the British reports have led to increased resistance to use of

condoms, the main prevention in Africa where the disease is spread primarily through heterosexual sex.

WHO announced at the opening of this conference that 15 million people have been infected by HIV since the disease was first diagnosed in the early 1980s. Two-thirds of them were in Africa.

Last week the science journal Nature announced it would counter what it called The Sunday Times' "seriously mistaken and probably disastrous" coverage of "perverse" AIDS theories without comments from medical experts.

"It's incredible arrogance to think it will change our views at all," Neville Hodgkinson, The Sunday Times' science writer who covers AIDS, told The Associated Press. Nature "wants to shut up the one British voice giving attention to dissident views," he said.

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Government seeks help in breast cancer battle

Lesbian advocate at NIH conference says we are "a community that is being quietly devastated by this disease."

Washington, DC—The government asked outside experts Dec. 14 to devise a strategy to cure and prevent breast cancer, which Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala said "rips at the very soul of women."

In an address at the opening session of a conference on breast cancer at the National Institutes of Health, Shalala called on experts attending the meeting to draw up a plan that will give direction to President Clinton, to Congress and to federal decision-makers for a renewed war against breast cancer.

"The plan must address why the incidence of breast cancer is steadily rising, and what action we must take to detect breast cancer earlier, when we have a better chance of saving lives," she said.

The conference fulfilled a pledge made by President Clinton in October. A total of 145 invitees, from professional associations, universities, drug companies, minority and advocacy groups, attended the two-day meeting.

Susan Hester, president of the Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer attended to represent lesbians and to voice their concerns about breast cancer.

"While scientists and health care providers who are lesbians have been involved in public policy issues concerning breast cancer, this is the first time someone has been specifically charged with representing the voice of lesbians on these issues," offered Hester. "It is critical that lesbians have this voice at the table so that our government can begin to understand that we are a community at high risk for breast cancer and a community that is being quietly devastated by this disease."

Nationally, breast cancer strikes about one woman in eight, over a lifetime, and kills about 46,000 women a year. While there is no

definitive study of breast cancer rates among lesbians, rates as high as one in three are sometime cited.

Committees of the conference will be responsible for producing recommendations for a final report to be delivered to HHS in six weeks, Shalala said. The report will influence research funding, elements of the President Clinton's health plan, education efforts, and will help point the direction that research should take.

She asked that the plan consider the following elements:

- A genetic counseling program because a tendency toward breast cancer can be inherited. Researchers are searching for a breast cancer gene.

- A strong education program aimed at prevention and early detection. She said a 1990 study showed that only 43 percent of women age 50 or older received mammograms during a two-year period.

- Basic research into the environmental influences on breast cancer. Hormones and pesticides are among factors suggested as causes of breast cancer.

- Ways to speed research discoveries into clinical treatment.

- How to develop screening tests that more accurately detect the disease, particularly in younger women.

Shalala summarized what she called a somewhat ambiguous National Cancer Institute recommendation last week on mammography screening. She said the current recommendation is for annual mammographies for all women over 50 and for women who are in a high-risk category, such as those with a mother or sister who has had breast cancer.

The Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer was formed in 1990. It currently furnishes direct services to lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and provides education and information to lesbians about cancer. Persons who are interested in obtaining more information about the Project can call the Mautner Project Hotline at (202) 332-5536.

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Study finds tubal ligation cuts risk of ovarian cancer

Chicago—Women who had tubal sterilizations were two-thirds less likely than other women to develop ovarian cancer, a leading cause of cancer death in American women, a study found.

"It's reasonable for women or couples to consider these findings when choosing among alternative methods of contraceptives," said the lead researcher, Susan E. Hankinson, an epidemiologist with Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Results of the study are published in the Dec. 15 issue of the "Journal of the American Medical Association." The researchers tracked about 78,000 pre-menopausal women from 1976 through 1988 in the continuing Nurses' Health Study.

Women who had undergone tubal sterilization were 67 percent less likely to develop ovarian cancer, the researchers found after eliminating the effects of other traits that might alter risk. Such traits include long-term use of oral contraceptives and prior pregnancies. Past studies have found that tubal sterilizations reduce ovarian cancer risk by 20 percent to 80 percent, Ms. Hankinson said adding that more research is needed.

Ovarian cancer is the fourth-leading cause

of cancer death among American women, after lung cancer, breast cancer and colon cancer, Ms. Hankinson said. It strikes 1 to 2 percent of women in their lifetimes. About 20,000 new cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed each year and about 12,000 women die of it annually, she said.

No one knows why tubal sterilizations and hysterectomies may reduce ovarian-cancer risk, said Dr. Saul B. Gusberg, a spokesman for the American Cancer Society. They may diminish the blood supply to the ovaries. Or the procedures might cause a hormonal change that inhibits cancer in the same way that long-term use of birth-control pills protects against the disease, he explained.

In a tubal sterilization, a woman's fallopian tubes are surgically tied, cauterized, clipped or otherwise closed to prevent pregnancy. The tubes are the path by which an egg reaches the womb from an ovary.

Tubal sterilizations were used by 21 million American women in 1988, and are the second most popular form of contraception, after birth-control pills, according to an editorial accompanying the study in the journal.

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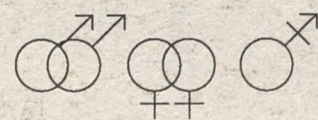
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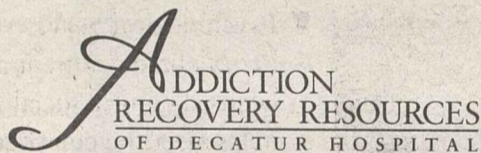
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Study finds drug-resistant strains of HIV are more lethal

Washington, DC—People with drug-resistant strains of HIV are three times as likely to die as those with other strains, researchers say. The finding could spur development of drugs that attack the virus differently.

Researchers began to detect drug resistance among people with HIV in 1989. But a new study announced last week is the first to prove resistance is linked to progression of the deadly disease.

Tests of 170 HIV strains found people with those highly resistant to the AZT, were three times more likely to die in a given time period than other patients, researchers told an AIDS conference here.

The scientists are studying whether resistance to ddI is also as deadly. But the only approved AIDS drugs now on the market all work the same way, said Dr. Clyde Crumpacker of Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, one of the study's authors.

"Proving resistance is clinically important is a great stimulus to the fact that we need new drugs," he said. "As long as this virus can replicate, it can develop resistance. The goal has to be to shut down this viral replication, and we desperately need new targets to do that."

Scientists don't know how common drug resistance is, although it has public health officials worried because of recent discoveries that people can spread resistant strains.

Currently, most HIV patients are started on AZT. When they do poorly, they typically switch to ddI or ddC or combinations of the three drugs. All suppress an HIV enzyme that was first identified as impor-

tant for the virus to multiply. Because the drugs appeared to work fairly well, research into drugs to attack other portions of HIV wasn't vigorously pursued.

That is changing. At last week's conference, dozens of studies showed the six regulatory genes of HIV, particularly one called nef, and another enzyme called protease could be good targets for new drugs. Development of drugs called protease inhibitors are farthest along, with 15 companies working on them and several entering clinical trials.

The goal is to attack different portions of HIV at the same time so the virus can't just shift its replication process to avoid a drug, said Dr. Robert Schooley of the University of Colorado. "This is a very adaptable virus and we need a wider and wider array of drugs to fight it," he added.

The resistance study looked at patients at five hospitals who had highly advanced AIDS, all with T-cell counts below 50. Of the 170 HIV strains, 39 percent had some drug resistance. Of those, 15 percent were highly resistant. Only the people with highly resistant strains died faster.

The findings don't have immediate implications for patients, Crumpacker said.

The study used a new test that can measure resistance, developed by Dr. Douglas Mayers of the Department of Defense, but only research laboratories can get it. The challenge now is to make that test easier and more cost-efficient so doctors can tell early if patients develop resistance, Crumpacker said.

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Studies say young gay men not getting safe sex messages

San Francisco—When AIDS first appeared in the early '80s, fear of the disease scared many in the gay community into practicing safer sex. A decade later, the disease is showing signs of a resurgence as health workers struggle to get their message to a new generation and to older gays who seem to have lost their motivation to protect themselves.

"Prevention messages need to last a lifetime and we certainly can't declare a victory and stop programs," said George Lemp, chief of surveillance for the San Francisco Health Department's AIDS office.

Several sets of numbers show the danger:

- In 1982, there were 18 new HIV infections for every 100 uninfected gay men in San Francisco, according to the city's health department. That rate dropped to one per 100 in 1987 but increased to two per 100 this year. For gay men younger than 25, it's four per 100.

- Of 271 gay and bisexual men under 30

who reported in a study that they had receptive anal sex, 40 percent said they did it without a condom, an act with a high risk for HIV transmission.

- Statewide, 85 percent of those newly infected are gay men, but less than 10 percent of funds aimed at prevention target gays, said Ron Stall, a spokesman for the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco.

A common belief is that young gay men ignore safe-sex messages because they feel invincible. But the problems run much deeper, health workers say. Young gays, living in a society that in many ways shuns homosexuality, are also grappling with self-esteem and the volatile transition from teenager to adult. They may not know how to act responsibly or assert themselves in a sexual situation.

"To say just throw on a condom, it's more complicated than that," said John Tighe, a spokesman for the AIDS Health Project at the University of California, San Francisco.

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Acyclovir-resistant herpes found in man with healthy immune system

Washington, DC—Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) report the first documented case of recurrent genital herpes in a person with a healthy immune system whose repeated outbreaks were not suppressed by oral acyclovir, the standard therapy for preventing recurrences.

The study revealed the patient's virus to be resistant to the drug, which suggests that acyclovir-resistant strains of the herpes virus may pose problems for healthy patients as well as for people with compromised immune systems.

The research report appeared in the December 9 issue of "The New England Journal of Medicine."

"The possibility that resistance to acyclovir could occur in people with healthy immune systems has long been a concern," says Stephen E. Straus, M.D., chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation (LCI) for NIAID and lead researcher on the study. "Viral resistance has been documented in animal models and already is a problem in

people with compromised immune systems such as individuals with HIV infection."

"While acyclovir-resistant genital herpes may be rare in people with healthy immune systems, the current study suggests that resistance to the drug may be emerging," Dr. Straus adds.

The current report describes a 24-year-old man who since November of 1990 has had frequent, symptomatic outbreaks of genital herpes despite increasing doses of oral acyclovir of up to 4.8 grams per day, which is six times the amount usually required to suppress recurrences. The patient's immune system has prevented the outbreaks from becoming severe or long-lasting, the authors note.

Study investigators acknowledge that this patient may have acquired an acyclovir-resistant virus through sexual contact with an HIV-infected partner known to be taking acyclovir. They suggest, however, that resistance also may have developed during the course of his therapy.

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Activists slam Weld veto of terminally ill prisoner parole in Massachusetts

Boston—AIDS activists are angered by Gov. William Weld's veto of a bill that would have made dying inmates eligible for parole.

Victims' rights activists opposed the bill, which would have let the state Parole Board release any terminally ill prisoner no longer considered a threat to society.

Weld said Dec. 17 he was concerned because the bill provides medical parole for any crime, regardless of its brutality. He also criticized the bill because it did not require that victims be notified or revoke parole if a parolee's medical condition changed.

"This is another example of a system that cares more about the criminal than the victim and that's something the governor is trying to change," said Weld's spokeswoman Virginia Buckingham.

Rep. Donna Cuomo, R-North Andover, also praised Weld's veto, saying the state cannot forget the suffering of victims' families. Cuomo's brother Joey Fournier was killed by Willie Horton, who while on furlough went on to terrorize a Maryland couple.

But Larry Kessler, executive director of the AIDS Action Committee, criticized Weld for not sending the bill back to the Legislature with amendments to correct its flaws.

"It looks like Scrooge is alive and well in the Statehouse," Kessler told the Boston Herald. "To veto it basically penalizes the whole spectrum of people that we're concerned about, from those dying of AIDS who are in for shoplifting all the way up to major felonies," he said.

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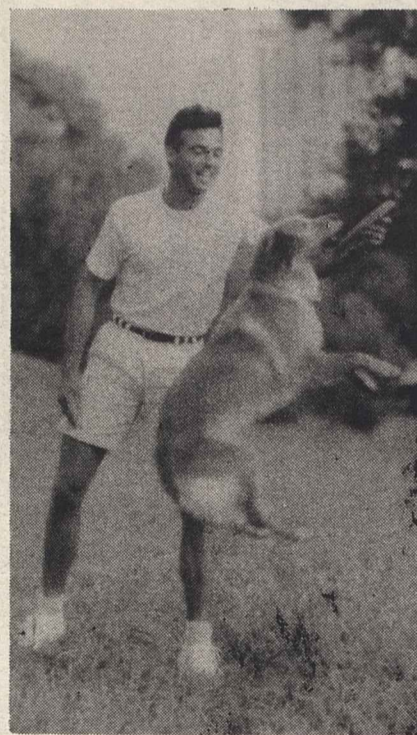
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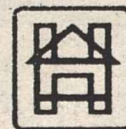
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Gay and Lesbian Americans hosting leadership summit in D.C.

Washington, DC—Gay & Lesbian Americans, a new grassroots gay/lesbian rights group, will hold a leadership summit and national organizing meeting in January.

The summit will be held over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Jan. 15-17, at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington.

"The purpose of the summit is to bring together gay and lesbian grassroots leaders who are interested in forming a national group with state and local chapters," said GLA spokesperson Steven Reichert. "Advocates from beyond the Washington Beltway must realize they are our best hope for the future."

Gay & Lesbian Americans was formed this fall after the setbacks to the lesbian/gay civil rights movement during the summer. The group grabbed immediate attention by attacking the largest existing lesbian/gay rights group, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, charging that HRCF hasn't produced results. In addition to Reichert, organizers of GLA include Kansas City activist Jerry Hagerty; Ann Northrop, a longtime lesbian leader from New York City who was formerly with CBS News; well-known Washington AIDS and gay activist

Michael Petrelis; and Terry Schleder, leader of Boycott Colorado.

Issues scheduled to be discussed include establishing local chapters, utilizing computer bulletin boards to disseminate information, organizing phone trees and letter-writing committees and developing a gay and lesbian agenda, including sodomy-law repeal and passage of the federal gay and lesbian civil-rights bills. GLA is encouraging summit attendees to submit two-page proposals on structuring the organization and what issues the agenda should include. Proposals should be mailed to GLA by Jan. 7.

Northrop will be the facilitator for the summit, portions of which will be broadcast by C-SPAN.

Letters of intent to attend should be mailed to GLA, P.O. Box 77533, Washington DC 20013-7533. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Suggested donation for the summit is \$35, but no one will be turned away due to lack of money.

A small number of community housing slots are also available. Anyone interested can call GLA housing director Steve Barchers at (301) 588-7330.

Macon AIDS story

Continued from page 3

is growing. The Georgia Department of Human Resources said 272 people have been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in the Macon area since the department began keeping track of cases in 1981. And, according to the Rev. Sam Johnson, director of Friendship Ministries, a Macon group that helps AIDS patients find a place to live, the number of area residents infected with HIV is more than 2,000.

Johnny Fambro, director of Macon's Rainbow Center, an AIDS resource center, agreed that such housing is needed because only one nursing home in Macon accepts AIDS patients. But he said such an undertaking would face a lot of problems. "It would be good, but I just think it's going to be hard," Fambro said.

Zoning regulations will be a large obstacle, Jackson said. Bass and Jackson would have to get special zoning for the house in order to have more than four unrelated people living in it. "It's just a matter of finding an appropriate place and getting it rezoned and approved by the state," Fambro said.

Even more than the legal complications, Bass and Jackson worry that people's attitudes will work against the project. "Everyone says housing for people with AIDS is a great idea, but 'not in my neighborhood,'" Bass said. But Bass and Jackson are ready to jump any

hurdles, they said. "I've almost died three or four times, so there's some reason I'm here," said Jackson, who also has suffered from tuberculosis.

Both Bass and Jackson have dipped into their income from Social Security to help pay some of the start-up costs. But Bass said a lot more office equipment and funding are needed. "It's going to take a lot of money," Bass said, but until the grants come through and work begins, he can't be sure just how much it will cost.

Jackson was diagnosed with HIV in 1985 and has waged an eight-year battle against the disease. Last April, Bass took Jackson from the Macon nursing home where he lived and now cares for him at their home.

Bass worked as a nurse at Macon hospitals for 30 years and has been an AIDS volunteer, even though he is not HIV-positive. "I've seen a lot of different diseases, and AIDS is the most horrible and degrading disease," he said.

Jackson, originally from Mississippi, was an educator at a junior college until AIDS forced him to stop working and live off Social Security. "We just want to do something to offer a new hope, a new life to people who feel they have no where to go," Jackson said.

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Black Gay and Lesbian Conference set for February in New Jersey

New York—The Seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian conference is slated for February 17-21, 1994 at the Meadowlands Hilton in Secaucus, N.J.

This year's theme, "Black Gays and Lesbians: From Silence to Celebration...Beyond the 28 Days," will celebrate the past contributions black gays and lesbians have made to the world and the need to focus on the present contributions they make on a day-to-day basis beyond the month of February, which is Black History Month.

The conference is expected to draw national and international participants from as far away as South Africa. Workshop topics include self-empowerment, culture/arts, family issues, youth issues, heterosexism, homophobia, health, public policy, economics and gay/lesbian issues.

This year's conference co-chairs are

Vallerie Wagner and Russell Thornhill. Both serve as board members of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (FORUM), the sponsor of the annual conference, which was established in 1988 to strengthen, empower, and provide a network for African-American Gays and Lesbians.

The conference is currently soliciting workshop presenters, vendors and volunteers for the five-day event. Workshop presenters are needed to provide information to participants on issues of relevance to the community. Vendors will have the opportunity to sell their merchandise in a prime location of the conference. Volunteers are needed to assist with specific conference tasks. All volunteers will receive a significant discount of conference fees.

For more information, contact FORUM in Los Angeles at (213) 964-7820.

Woolard

Continued from page 3

to be held across the country. This initial session, to be held at the Holiday Inn in Decatur, will focus on media, political training and legislative training.

"This is a test program to see what we need to do," Woolard said. "My guess is that as we get into this, the sessions will be tilted toward political work and media—how to sell the message."

Woolard said she is excited about HRCF's new focus and that recent events have marked a change in the focus of the community as well.

"Three years ago I did a political skills training and about 10 people showed up," she said. "And people were asking me why I was doing it. But our community is ready to be

organized. People are interested now, with the election of Bill Clinton, it looks as though our agenda has somewhat of a chance, the military issue notwithstanding. People are willing to do the things they weren't ready to do three years ago."

HRCF's new grassroots campaign will hopefully be a force to challenge the successful tactics of the religious right, who have carefully constructed a similar organization throughout the last several years. But organizations like the Christian Coalition are not HRCF's model.

"The Christian Coalition model is nothing new or unique," Woolard said. "There is a basic organizational model. What the Christian Coalition is doing is imitating the Democratic and Republican parties' national structure. We don't have to reinvent the wheel to do grassroots organizing."

Oprah

Continued from page 1

asking the Hensons if they agreed with them and smiling smugly when they said they did.

"We got the Lord Almighty on our side," he said, when Brenda Henson's daughter, Andrea, said that the citizens would not "run us off."

Several audience members chastised the rural Mississippians, with a black woman accusing them of "preaching hatred and ignorance."

"One hundred years ago you would have been preaching that my people should be in chains," she said. "You need to stop calling yourselves Christians."

Winfrey, who was clearly unable to control the often raucous audience, brought on Jim Sears, a University of South Carolina professor and author of "Growing Up Gay in the South," as a balance.

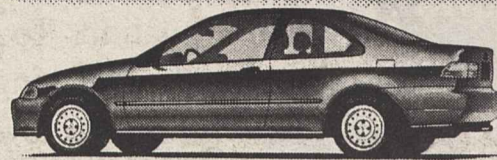
"Behind the interstate developments...is the Old South," he said. "Our nation is becoming a nation of tribes...we cannot communicate, we won't communicate, but we must communicate as human beings."

"We have a democracy, not a theocracy. We have the rule of the constitution, not the Bible," Sears said, responding to Rev. Allen's assertion that he wanted lesbians and gays to have "a relationship with Jesus Christ."

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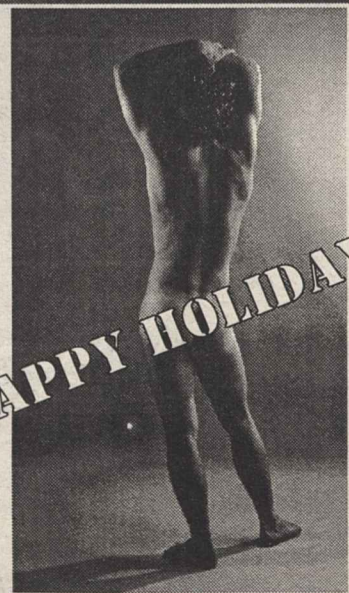
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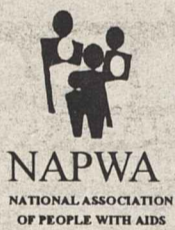
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London gay serial killer confesses, gets life term

London—Colin Ireland, who confessed being the killer who stalked London's gay community and murdered five men, was sentenced on Dec. 20 to life in prison.

Prosecutor John Nutting said Ireland set out to become a serial killer, telling people he would have to kill at least four people to be classified as one. Ireland carefully planned and executed the crimes, spending hours after each murder clearing away evidence, Nutting said.

One of the victims was an American, Perry Bradley III, a businessman from Sulphur Springs, Texas, who lived in London.

Ireland, 39, turned himself in on July 20 after police released a security camera picture of him walking behind the fifth victim at a subway station shortly before the murder.

He had been held without bail, and he confessed in August, according to testimony at the start of his trial in Old Bailey Central Criminal Court. It was the first opportunity Ireland had to enter a plea.

Ireland strangled or suffocated the men in their London homes between March 8 and June 15. Each time, he telephoned police, a national newspaper or a suicide hotline with precise details of the crime. He also threatened to kill a new victim every week.

Police said four of the victims were known to be gay. They said they had no evidence that Bradley was gay.

But Nutting told the court that "the victims all had in common the fact that they were homosexual" and all frequented a pub popular with gay men in south London.

"He chose a vulnerable group as his intended victims—homosexual men who indulged in sadomasochistic sex, thus enabling him to tie

them up with no resistance from them before killing them," the prosecutor said.

Before every murder, Ireland emptied his pockets of everything but money so nothing could fall out and incriminate him, Nutting said. After each killing, he spent hours removing all traces of his presence, even taking away half-eaten food and dishes. He cut up and destroyed the clothes he wore.

Ireland strangled or suffocated the men in their London homes between March 8 and June 15.

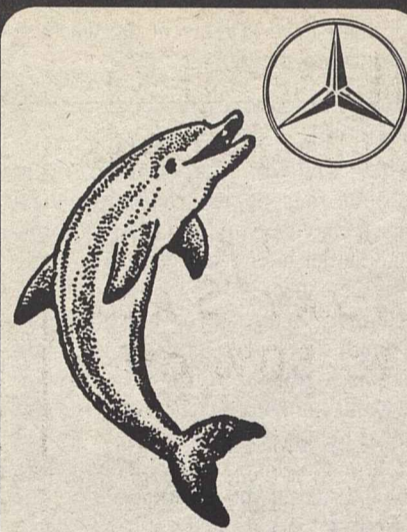
Each time, he telephoned police, a national newspaper or a suicide hotline with precise details of the crime.

Nutting said Ireland stressed in his interviews with police that he was not gay and did not have sexual relations with any of his victims.

"To take one human life is an outrage. To take five is carnage," Judge Michael Sachs said in passing sentence.

Ireland's mother, Pat, sobbed when he was sentenced. His stepfather, Alan Williams, said life in prison was justified.

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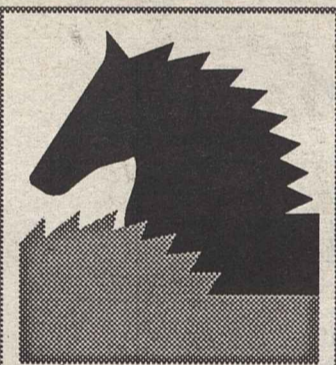


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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Dawna Wade and Nina Deadwyler celebrated their fourth anniversary on December 30. The celebration included both getting massages and dinner "out" at some undetermined location.

ACT Uppers Pete Stinner and Jeff Graham celebrated their fifth anniversary on Dec. 31.

BIRTHDAYS

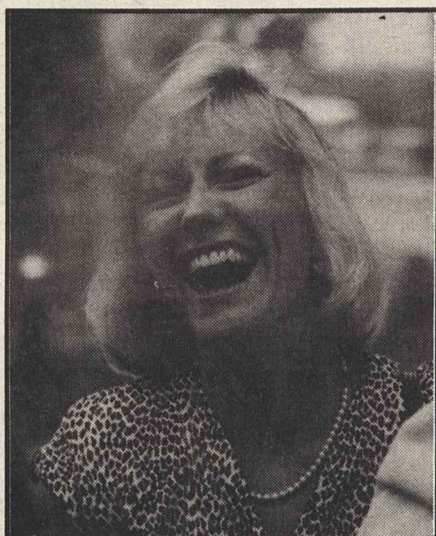
John Abell celebrated his 40th birthday on Dec. 28 at a gala surprise party given by his spouse and their friends. In an upcoming column, John promises to share his goals for this milestone year and his closely-guarded secrets for looking wonderful at any age.

Paige Bell celebrated her 25th birthday on Dec. 30.

Sheila D. Nichols celebrated birthday number 36 on Dec. 30.

Stephanie Miller was 48 years old on December 25. She Celebrated by running 10 miles.

Deborah Bedsole turned 30 on the 23rd. We expect there wasn't much fanfare on her actual birthdate since there had been a



Sheila Nichols isn't embarrassed about turning 36, but she's a bit embarrassed about having her picture in Occasions.

fabulously successful surprise party thrown in her honor on the 11th. Congratulations to Karen on pulling it off and Happy Birthday to Deborah from all your friends.

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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by Chris Coleman

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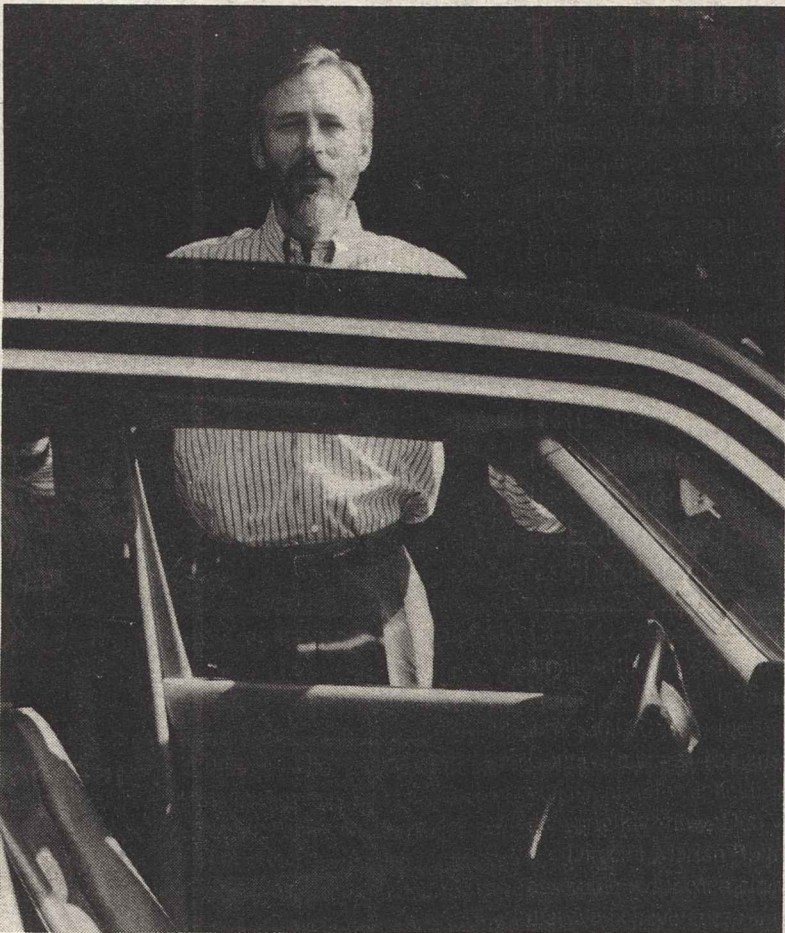
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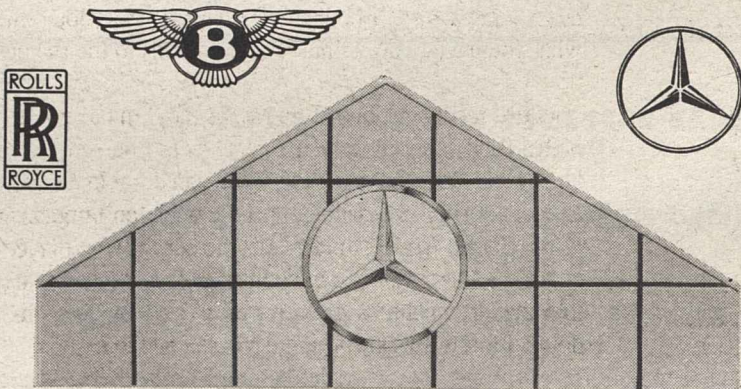
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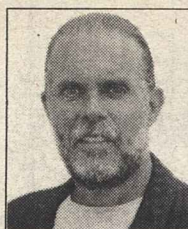
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OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

"Philadelphia's" Unlikely Villain

JOAN MARCUS

Mary Steenburgen sheds her likeable image to take the role of an attorney representing a law firm that fired an employee for having AIDS

by BRENT HARTINGER

Mary Steenburgen as a lawyer ruthlessly determined to prove that a gay man with AIDS wasn't discriminated against? It's hard to imagine the folksy, immensely likeable star of films such as "Parenthood," "Back to the Future III," and "Ragtime" as such a person, but that's exactly the character she plays in the upcoming Jonathan Demme film, "Philadelphia," Hollywood's first big-budget take on the subject of AIDS, which goes into nationwide release Jan. 14.

First discovered by Jack Nicholson while casting for "Goin' South," a 1978 film he directed, Steenburgen won an Oscar three years later for her hilariously exuberant portrayal of a determined wife in the 1980 film, "Melvin and Howard." Steenburgen hasn't stopped working since—appearing in films such as Woody Allen's "A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy," "Dead of Winter," "The Butcher's Wife," "One Magic Christmas," "Time After Time" (with ex-husband Malcolm McDowell) and "Miss Firecracker."

"In contemporary cinema, you're sexy, you're serious, or you're funny," Tommy Schlamme, director of "Miss Firecracker" told People magazine. "To put all three of those together is rare, [but] it's what Mary has a great ability to do."

These days, however, Steenburgen is probably as well-known for her close friendship with fellow Arkansans Bill and Hillary Clinton as she is for her acting.

At home in Santa Barbara, Steenburgen recently made time to talk with Southern Voice contributor Brent Hartinger about her role in the upcoming "Philadelphia," her close friendship with the Clintons and her political activism (mostly for women's issues such as abortion rights and breast cancer research).

Q: How would you describe the experience you had making "Philadelphia"?

A: An emotional experience, because of the subject matter. Artistically, it was a wonderful experience, especially because of who was directing. Jonathan Demme is someone I worked with many years ago [on "Melvin and Howard"], and someone I've been extremely close friend with ever since. He's such a great artist and such an incredible human being. In many ways, films take on the personality of the director, and Jonathan's presence is so ebullient and intelligent. It was an amazing film to work on. You wish every single work experience could be that thoughtful and heartfelt.

Q: Was there much studio interference?

A: They were great. In a world where people are out to make money, these guys [at Orion and Tri-Star Studios] were really interested making a film that was respectful of the subject matter and that was eloquent. They were utterly supportive in every way, and I think Jonathan was just thrilled with them. When they did show up, which wasn't very often, it was just to cheer us all on.



Steenburgen, seen here in a court scene from the movie "Philadelphia," said "it was an amazing film to work on. You wish every single work experience could be that thoughtful and heartfelt."

Q: From what I've heard, you play one of the "bad" guys. Is that how you see it?

A: No, and neither did Jonathan, because once you do that, you're already demeaning your character. It would be too simplistic an attitude for the film, because this character was, in fact, someone who was trying to give the best representation to her client, which doesn't make her a bad guy. Just because you or I might disagree with the politics, or even the morality, of the people she's representing, what she's trying to do is what we say in America you're supposed to do, which is to give the best representation to your client possible. If I just saw her as the bad guy, I would already be distancing myself

I'm a funny activist in that I do a lot of my work quietly. I worked for two hours this morning on political activism issues, but no one knows it. I don't do it to get my picture in the paper—I'm not saying most people do it for that, although some do.

from her, and since I play my characters very much from within who I am, I can't ever mock them or make fun of them. I have to understand them.

Still, I lost a very dear friend to AIDS right before I went to do the movie. It was hard not to think about him when I would look at Tom [Hanks, who reportedly lost 30 pounds for the role of the gay man with AIDS]. A lot of buttons were pushed in me in the early days of the film. The first day or so I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to do it.

Q: You have to admit this role is a bit of a change for you.

You usually play very likeable characters.

A: You know, I don't even like that. One of the favorite things I've ever done is "Miss Firecracker," where I played a vain bitch. So that part of it—playing someone who's not likeable—was not a problem for me. I'm actually eager to do that more and more in my career. While I have mainly eluded being typecast in my career, if I have been at all, it would be that I've played more likeable people than people like the "Miss Firecracker" character. I adored her, but, you know, one does not aspire to be like her.

That wasn't a problem. The problem was just literally that it was AIDS. That was the hard part for me—trying to go up against somebody who had it.

Q: It sounds like Jonathan Demme created a safe environment where you could have your feelings and work through some of these things.

A: Yes, but you have to remember everyone's feelings were heightened by the fact that there were people on the set who are HIV positive, some with AIDS. They were very much a presence. Of course, we also laughed a lot, which is what you have to do. I think that even adds to the richness of it.

Q: It seems like one of the things the film has going for it is that it has very likeable actors, such as yourself, and Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, that can draw in an audience and make AIDS accessible to people who don't understand.

A: Thank God Tom Hanks is the person who played that part. He's stunning. He's incredible. In fact, he was so incredible that I sometimes got so mesmerized by what he was doing, I forgot I was working, I'm ashamed to say...

There are some people that are literally going to protest the fact that a straight actor played a gay part, but the fact is I don't know who you would have found who would have been any more respectful of this material than Tom Hanks, and who would have done a better job. Tom is familiar and likeable and easy and accessible, and since that is the experience of so many of us with our gay friends, it was wonderful to use him, instead of someone who was more aloof or harder to relate to.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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GAY GRAFFITI. Out and loud lesbian and gay radio. 7-8pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.
SESAME STREET STAYS UP LATE. The Muppets bring a



"Monster New Year's Eve Party," featuring celebrations from around the world, although it is a day early. 8pm, GPTV, Ch. 8.

A **31 FRIDAY**

BWMT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Rock in the

New Year with Black & White Men Together. 9pm, \$3/members, \$5/nonmembers. 892-BWMT for location.

PRIDE '94 FUNDRAISER. Clan of the Handwavers & the Pride Committee present a New Year's Eve celebration at the Inforum, 250 Williams St. downtown. \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door, but tickets are limited. 9:24pm to 3:31pm.

SOAP. Comedy Central kicks off the new year with "All the Soap in the World," a 46-hour marathon featuring "Soap," the controversial 70s TV series. Begins at midnight tonight thru 10 pm Monday. Soap begins airing regularly Mon-Fri at 2pm & 7:30pm on Jan. 3.

PEACH DROP. The annual New Year's Eve celebration at Underground with fireworks and a laser show.
NEW YEAR'S EVE

WITH DONKEY. Atlanta based band brings in the New Year at the Roxy in Buckhead. 9pm, \$16.

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

E **1 SATURDAY**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! NOW'S NEW YEAR'S DAY BENEFIT CONCERT. Catbird Seat, Angela Motter, For Kate's Sake, Viva La Diva with Cooper Seay & Jan Dykes, and Shawn Mullins & Mathew Kahler perform at Eddie's Attic to benefit the National

Organization for Women. 8pm. \$6.

C.J. CHENIER & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND. Zydeco at the Variety Playhouse in Little 5 Pts. 8:30 pm, \$10. 249-6400.

TIME IN A BATTLE. A science fiction-fantasy-stage combat play written by Kyle Crew and Tony Wright presented by the Shakespeare Tavern for the next 4 Saturday nights. (Jan 1-22). 9pm tonight, \$8. 874-5299.



N **2 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.

DIA DE REYES. Celebrate Three Kings Day at Nexus Contemporary Arts Center from 2-5 pm. The Mexican celebration include games, pinatas, storytelling, music and more. \$3 per family for Nexus members, \$5 nonmembers. 688-1970.

and gay cable program featuring interviews, news, arts & entertainment and more. 10:30pm and again, Wed 5:30pm. Cable Ch. 12.

\$18-\$34. 892-2414.
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.

D **4 TUESDAY**

EARTH PERIHELION. Planet Earth reaches its closet point to the sun today. Try some mid-winter sunbathing.

A **5 WEDNESDAY**

DANCING AT LUGHNASA. The Alliance Theatre opens Irish playwright Brian Friel's inspiring drama tonight. The play is a tribute to Friel's mother and her sisters. Runs thru Feb 6; shows at 8pm Tue-Sat and 2:30pm & 7:30pm Sun.

PICTURED:
 ABOVE: Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa" opens at the Alliance on Jan. 6. Photo by David Zeiger.
 LEFT: Billy Crystal played the gay son on TV's soap in the 1970s. Comedy Central brings him (and the rest of the Tates) back beginning Dec. 31 with a 46-hour marathon.
 BELOW: Raphael Peale's "Fruit in a Silver Basket" on display at the High Museum thru Mar. 6, part of the Manoogian Collection.

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

AN AMERICAN SAMPLER: QUILTS IN THE HIGH MUSEUM OF ART. Thru 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 thru Jan. 1. 352-8738.

1940s RADIO HOUR. Theatre in the Square's annual holiday offering runs thru 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. Thru 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.

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.

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

PRINTED LIGHT: TWO DECADES OF COLLECTING PHOTOGRAPHY. Thru Feb. 4. Exhibit features 140 works from the High Museum's photography collection. The Folk Art and Photography Gallery at Georgia Pacific, 30 Houston St. downtown. 892-HIGH.

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

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

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

DAVID COPPERFIELD. The amazing illusionist returns to the Fox Jan 7-

9. \$27.50. 249-6400.
CATS. Theatre of the Stars will present the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical from Jan. 11-16 at the Fox. 249-6400.

NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Feb. 17-21 at the Meadowlands Hilton in Seacaucus, NJ. This year's theme: "Black Gays and Lesbians: From Silence to Celebration—Beyond the 28 Days." Scholarships will be available. 213-964-7820.

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

HEARTLIGHT AFFAIR. Mar. 19. An evening of dinner parties to benefit Jerusalem House. To host a dinner, call 527-7627 before Jan. 15.

N **3 THURSDAY**

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.

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22 OUT & ABOUT

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The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), The Georgia Political Action Committee (GAPAC) and the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) will sponsor a political skills workshop on Saturday, January 8, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Atlanta-Decatur Conference Plaza. The workshop is free and pre-registration is encouraged.

The workshop's focus is to train citizens in a variety of skills necessary to be effective advocates for lesbian and gay issues. For more information or to pre-register call HRCF's state coordinator, Don George, at 231-5479.

*An interpreter for hearing impaired individuals will be provided. Please call 373-6673V/TTY for information and pre-registration. The Holiday Inn Atlanta-Decatur Conference Center is a wheelchair accessible facility.

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"Philadelphia's"

Continued from page 19

Q: A lot of your films haven't been big box office hits. Does that discourage you?

A: No.

Q: That's not something you consider when—?

A: Well, sure, I consider it, but I can't make people go to the movie. All I can do is do my best work, which I always try to do. I've never phoned in a day or an hour of my work, ever. I really care about it. That's not to say that I don't help to promote movies, because I do, but ultimately, it's almost serendipitous in the end. You do as much as you can do, and then you have to leave it to someone else. If I got eaten up by that, I think it would probably restrict the work that follows it. I'm very protective of my working self. I just don't let things like that bother me.

It's been really nice that some of my less successful films have been loved in video. "Cross Creek" is really a film that eventually people really saw. "Miss Firecracker" has its own funny little cult. Certainly I would love for a million—millions of—people to go see these films, but when a film comes out it's either "Parenthood" or "Back to the Future III," and everyone goes and it's fantastic and great, or it's "Miss Firecracker," which I loved and had an amazing experience doing, and you mourn it and you go on. You just have to do that.

Q: Recently, Susan Sarandon said, "In Hollywood, they nominate an actress for playing an activist, but ban her for being one." You have a reputation for being an activist. Do you agree with Susan?

A: I'm a funny activist in that I do a lot of

my work quietly. I worked for two hours this morning on political activism issues, but no one knows it. I don't do it to get my picture in the paper—I'm not saying most people do it for that, although some do. The work that I do is mainly work I started before I ever became an actress, and it's a continuation of that work. [She laughs.] I'm probably more involved than you could ever guess, but for me part of the pleasure of it is not making a big deal out of it.

Q: So you find that it hasn't really negatively affected your career?

A: I don't think so. I've been criticized, and I've taken very unpopular stands. I mean, I went on television last February to support Bill and Hillary Clinton when nobody would go near them with a barge pole.

That wasn't a fun time to be their friend, but I am their friend, and she's one of my closest friends, and they needed me. When I did that, there were a lot of people who thought I was nuts, and a lot of people had a lot of negative things to say about them to me. Of course, some of those same people were inviting me to cocktail parties honoring them within a few months. If you care about that stuff, you only have to wait a couple months and it swings a different way. You have to—it's a terrible cliché—but to thine own self be true. You just have to go with your heart and your instincts about these things.

I don't know that my career's been hurt, but my feelings have been hurt, and sometimes it's been uncomfortable—but not so much so that I would consider being silent or being disloyal.

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THEATER

THE 1940S RADIO HOUR

returns to Theatre in the Square, this year performed at the new Student Center Theatre at Southern Tech. Once again it's a rattling good show, full of nostalgia and fun. It has more of a gay subtext than ever before, apparently a direct answer to the recent wrath of Cobb that descended upon the acclaimed small theater, withdrawing its funding for a show that supposedly failed to endorse hetero "family values."

The 1940s Radio Hour runs through January 1 at the Student Center Theatre at Southern College of Technology

An unmistakable sense of esprit de (gay) corps and rallying round the (rainbow) flag seems evident. In the lobby stands a display of photos of Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman,

along with a copy of the letter from Woodward to Michael Home, Theatre in the Square's artistic director, giving the theatre \$20,000 from the two stars to make up for its lost Cobb County funding. The arts have come through, heads high, diversity proudly upheld, is one holiday message conveyed by the sprightly show. Don we now...yes, indeed.

Director Marian Bolton has created a smooth and seamless ensemble, with each character having a life of his or her own that we believe goes on outside the snow-covered door of the radio station. The action is a bit more risqué this time, and is bigger, suited to the larger stage. Everyone has something to do every minute, and sometimes the different actions going on seem like a three- or four-ring circus.

Many of the regulars are back. Kent Whipple again plays



The cast of "The 1940s Radio Hour," Theatre in the Square's nostalgic production for the holiday season.

the pompous, dyspeptic boss and announcer, Clifton Feddington, yelling orders and looking bewildered. He gets more of a chance to look bewildered this time as Ginger Brooks (Denise Wilbanks) a blonde bombshell with a whispery Judy Holiday voice, goes into suggestive, wriggly ecstasies during a Popsicle commercial and Neal Tilden (Jeff McKerley) dances a wild fandango with the delivery boy Wally Ferguson (Thomas E. Brady in a wig).

McKerley is the standout as far as acting, creating a gay subtext in his role of Neal Tilden, the second banana and would-be star. McKerley is by turns waspish and melancholy, but he keeps something interesting going on with his character

(You may remember McKerley as B-Flat in "Second Samuel" with Southern Fried Productions).

Lynn Cole Moss plays the role of Ann Collier, glamorous principal chanteuse, who can present a soulful ballad with seemingly effortless presence. Ann is besotted with the feckless, alcoholic Johnny Cantone (Alan Kilpatrick), and once again, the audience wants to yell to her, "Dump the Lout!" Moss sings "I've Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)" with heart wrenching style and simplicity.

The pathetic yet charismatic Johnny, a sort of Sinatra-Vic Damone imitation, is convincingly portrayed by Alan Kilpatrick. He has just the right sleazy charm that makes the audience both despise him and see why classy Ann has stayed hooked for six seasons. His bewildered moment of recognition when he forgets the lines to a song and realizes he has not lived up to his potential is touching.

Pops, played by Charles Hayes, also charms with a tap dance as Uncle Sam. And Tamara McCurdy's clear, operatic soprano rings out splendidly. It would have been nice to hear her sing more. Mike Elam plays trumpet in fine style as the service man off to war, Biff Baker. And Michael Monroe performs ably at the piano as Zoot Doubleman. (Jazzwoman Penelope Williams, who used to titillate the ivories at the Otherside, sometimes plays Zoot.)

"The 1940s Radio Hour" brings back memories to those of us who can remember, even remotely, the big-band sounds radiating out of rounded-top Philcos, the cheerful, energetic voices that went on forever selling Pepto-Bismol, Sal Hepatica, Pepsi and Doan's Pills, that announced the news in a way that let us know we were all in it together, that all Americans were united with a common purpose. Such a sense of unity seems touching now and further than ever from the truth.

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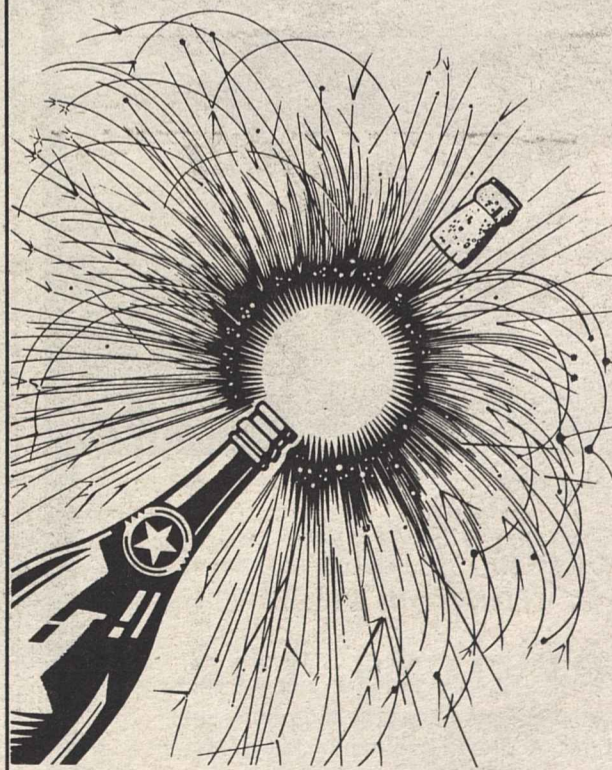
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Midtown lights up new year with FirstNight celebration

The idea for a FirstNight celebration in Atlanta has been bubbling around in the minds of some for more than a decade. This New Year's Eve, for the first time, FirstNight will take the streets of Midtown with food, original entertainment, fireworks and pagentry.

"FirstNight is an event that we've wanted to bring to Atlanta for as long as I've been here, which has been 11 years," says Susan Mendheim executive director for Midtown Alliance, the organization coordinating the event. "It's just such an exciting way to start the year with a celebration of hope and new beginnings. It brings the city together . . . all ages, all backgrounds, all interest groups."

FirstNight
begins at 7 p.m.
along Peachtree
Street from 14th
to 17th streets
in Midtown

On Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. until midnight, Peachtree Street from 14th Street to 17th Street will be blocked off. De-

spite the block-party ring, don't expect "party central." The entertainment will be thought-provoking, civilized and non-alcoholic. And, for the most part, it will take place inside of 20 different business lobbies, churches and theaters along the three-block stretch.

A hundred other cities do FirstNight celebrations, says producer David Sheppard, but Atlanta's will be something special.

"Ours is different," he says. "In a lot of cities performing groups or artists are just asked to do what they normally do. We've asked them to do new and different things. There are a lot of truly unique and unusual things being done."

Sheppard has had a long relationship with Midtown Alliance (until this year it was the Midtown Business Association).



He had been involved in talk about FirstNight for two years, but was too busy with his "Heart Strings" production tours. His primary focus on this project is the performing and visual arts aspect, which he is overseeing along with local artist Michael Venezia.

Sheppard said that when request proposals were sent out, artists were encouraged to do things that weren't necessarily commercially viable. They were told that they could do some "wild and wonderful crazy idea that they've always had or wanted to do."

Take, for example, "The Wall of Hope," which will be

performed in the atrium of the High Museum for FirstNight. For this production, local composer James Oliverio will put 50 musicians and singers on ramps in the atrium; the audience will sit below. Oliverio will conduct a beginning and an end to a musical piece. The middle part, however, will come directly from people in the audience who have entered hopes and wishes for the new year at computer kiosks. The computers will convert the words into musical notes and project them into real time, displayed on a wall across from the singers. On first sight, the singers will perform the music that has been created.

The 20 possible acts to see throughout the evening are a diverse array, spanning such categories as gospel, the one-man show, Cajun music, and West African drummers and dancers. Performances range from pop to avant garde. In total, there will be 100 performances with repeat performances on the hour and on the half-hour.

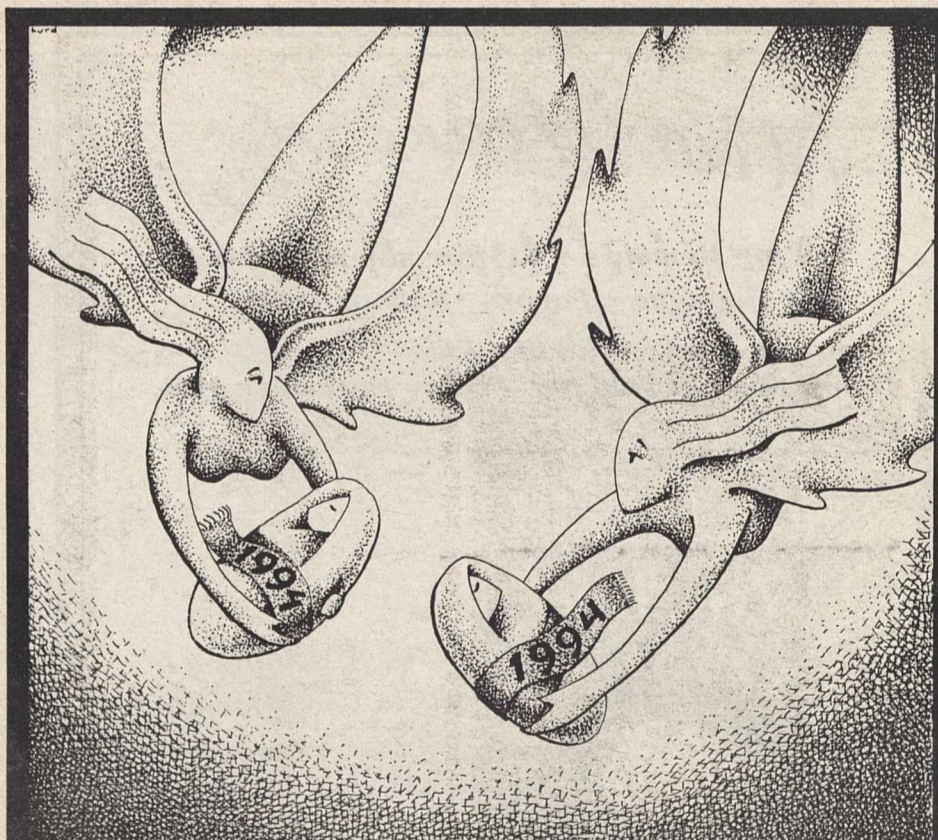
There will also be action outside. Giant puppets and a boom-box orchestra will roam the streets. And booths will sell hot chocolate, cappuccino, pretzels, Brunswick Stew and bratwurst.

At midnight, all of the performers and spectators will gather in front of Colony Square for the grand finale. There will be a fireworks display, and two giant weather-balloons full of hopes and wishes for the new year will be released.

"It's a non-alcoholic event," Sheppard says. "It's not a big party. It's not a blowout. This is not where you want to come if you want to get wild and crazy. It's more reflective . . . It's a different experience."

JAMES FITCH

The purchase of one button buys admission to all of the indoor activities. Buttons cost \$7 in advance or \$10 the night of the event. You can buy them with a credit card by calling 231-5888 or at any Pace membership warehouse.



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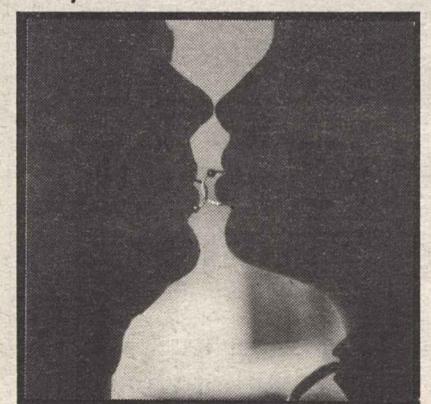
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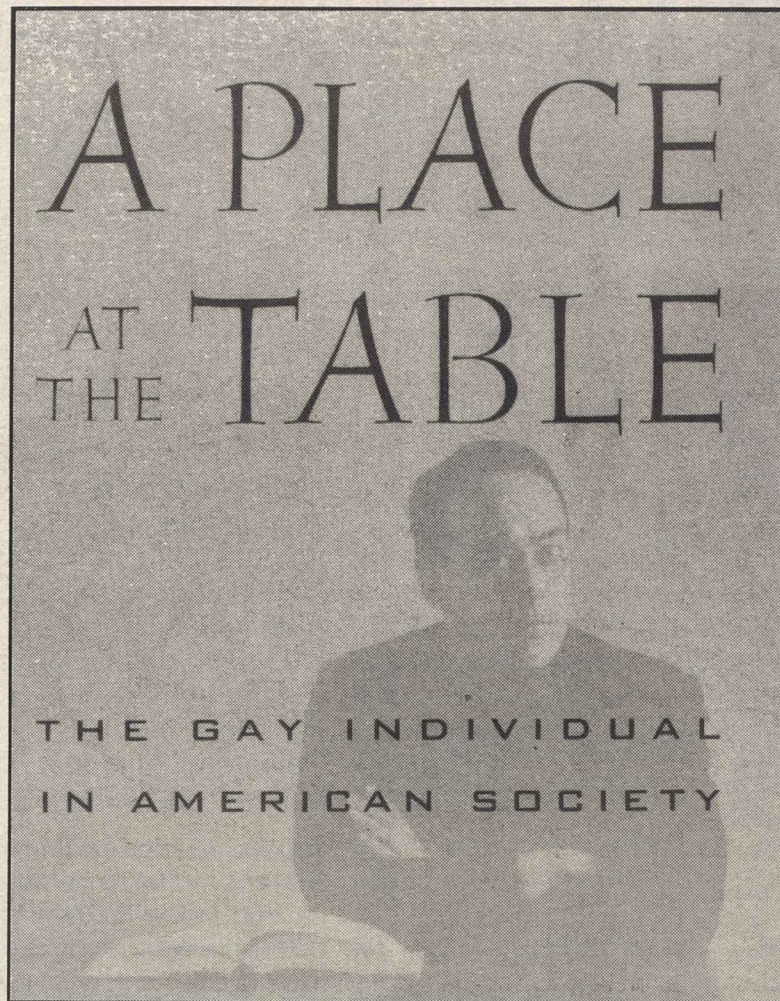
A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Gay Pride Day, the mythical and stereotypical gay subculture, homophobia and same-sex marriage are only a few of the many facets of gay life that Bruce Bawer politely and impolitely examines in his provocative new book, "A Place at the Table."

The book's title reflects the inaugural day words of President Clinton when he proclaimed a "desire for a nation in which every American would have a place at the table." In a search to ferret out truth for the gay individual, Bawer imparts a profound and significantly personal view of homosexuality. One only has to begin wading through the first of four essays to sense the controversy that this work will provoke among his gay and straight audience.

After suffering through his personal journey of silence, Bawer may have emerged as a lone voice crying in a lavender wilderness. If the reader will continue through the entirety of the book, he will see the author's pursuit for understanding of the gay individual. After admitting "he (Bawer) would be the last homosexual who would ever think to write a book about homosexuality," this elitist practitioner of "New Formalism" poetry delves deep into the gay experience.

What has surfaced is a tremendous and needed self-examination of who we are as gay people. The author explains that because a gay person can be a conservative church member, a drag queen, an IBM employee, a husband and father or a gay activist, the exact truth is very difficult to determine and conclude with a final concise definition. Bawer credits the gay subculture's influence for clouding the image



of what a gay person should be. The book attempts to lay open the right and left sides and force the real truth.

The challenge that the book presents to the reader is that as gay or straight people we must move "beyond the malice and misunderstanding" that has created the present discrimination and impasse. The author suggests that the important and basic questions about homosexuality are only "obscured

and blurred by the right-wing homophobes and the left-wing radical activists." A plea of reconciliation and resolution of issues resonates through the entirety of the four-part book.

Bawer's personal anger is evenly paced with his assault on the serious damage that occurs suddenly, or not so suddenly, as the result of the cancerous disease that has come to be known as homophobia. Whether it is the open ax of homophobic discrimination that he has witnessed, or the subtle exclusions he experienced as a member of a wedding party, the wounds run long and deep. As a result, he has issued a call to arms for gay people to emerge from their personal journey as legitimate and valued individuals.

What to wear? How to act? Which mythical icons to worship? These questions continue to add more confusion than clarity to the identity of the gay individual. In the same vein, the author asserts that some gay literature's endorsement of the subculture's thinking has added to the identity confusion of the gay reader. The writings and motives of Allen Ginsberg, Paul Monette and others are called in for closer examination. The scrutiny that Bawer extends towards the gay writers of subculture is the same disdainful perspective that he holds for much of the radical clamor for gay rights. The author feels much of this effort to be counter-productive. He seems to turn a deaf ear to the "out of step" gay activist and leans in favor of the more traditional non-subculture type of individual. Beyond this argument, the author continues to provoke the reader to think and to develop their own socio-moral viewpoint.

In the final essay, the author deals with the coming out experience and he leads the reader to see the personal inti-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 27

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Pride committee puts on New Year's Eve fundraising gala

by PAMELA EVANS

Ring in the new year to ring out the old debt.

That's what the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee is planning to do New Year's Eve with a big fundraising bash at The Inforum downtown.

New Year's Eve Fundraiser for Pride '94

will be held Dec. 31 beginning at 9:24pm at The Inforum, 250 Williams St., Downtown Atlanta

The party is being produced by Steve Berman, who is well known for his event planning. Berman, who normally would receive

a portion of the proceeds from the party, is accepting a set fee for his work. Sponsors of the event include Southern Voice and Etc., and Marriott has agreed to cater the party and return a portion of its earnings back to Pride.

Organizers are keeping most of the happenings of the event secret, but publicized details include music provided by disc jockey Buc and some unusual stage effects provided by Atlanta Sound and Lighting. Hours for the event are 9:24 p.m. until 3:34 a.m., unusual times that are typical of a Berman production. Richy Howard, Pride co-chair, also

revealed that a couple of "well-known" personalities are expected to attend and perhaps perform at the party.

Other than raising money, another particular focus of the Pride Committee, according to Howard, is to get as many women as men to attend the event. "We have planned a fun party that will have something for everyone," he said. "We think the whole community will enjoy the evening."

The Pride committee still owes about \$64,000 for the 1993 Pride celebration. The committee is hoping that the New Year's Eve bash will erase \$20,000 of that debt. Already in December, a weekend Christmas tree sale netted \$2,000, a sidewalk sale at Brushstrokes raised \$1,100 and a special viewing of "Looking For A City" raised another \$500. Other fundraisers have been scheduled for January and February, 1994, including the Second Annual Art Auction for Pride.

"In order for Pride '94 to be successful, we have to be responsible for our debt in '93," said Howard. He said the committee hopes to eliminate the debt as quickly as possible in order to focus their efforts on more important things, like next summer's event.

Howard does not believe the reputation of the Pride event has been tarnished or that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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Revenge of the 50-foot feminist

Remake of 1958 thriller "Attack of the 50-Ft. Woman" is a parable of women's awakening

Is the world ready for a 50-foot feminist? How about an enraged 50-foot feminist?

Are you paying attention yet, guys? Ready or not, Rush Limbaugh's worst nightmare has come to HBO in December, when Daryl Hannah stars in "Attack of the 50-Ft. Woman."

As improbable as it sounds, this comedic remake of the schlock 1958 science-fiction thriller has a roguish charm and a comfy B-movie feel. What's different is that the 1993 version is a parable about feminist awakening.

Science fiction and female rage! Neat idea, huh?

Hannah, who's played an android ("Blade Runner") and a mermaid ("Splash"), shows surprising range and depth as Nancy, the emotionally fragile, powerless victim of two overpowering men in her life.

First, and worst, is her nasty, philandering husband, Harry, a rotter (greasily played by lovable Daniel Baldwin of NBC's "Homicide") who's two-timing her with a beauty shop queen named Honey (Christi Conaway).

And then there's Nancy's father, a corrupt real estate developer named Hamilton Cobb (William Windom), who literally drove Nancy's mother crazy and is looting his daughter's wealth.

Both men bully poor Nancy. They patronize her, infantilize her and marginalize her, turning her into a numb, feckless doormat—a woman who cherishes her childhood dollhouse and stuffed toys.

Nancy is trying to heal, undergoing therapy with psychiatrist Dr. Cushing (Frances Fisher), but the trap is stronger than she is.

Then a flying saucer hums into her life and things... change.

"You could call the story of Nancy Archer a positive fable of female empowerment," says screenwriter Joseph Dougherty. But the film's '50s roots mean "it's about paranoia—male paranoia in the face of female empowerment."

Dougherty, who won a writing Emmy for the TV series "thirtysomething," based his screenplay on the original movie, written by Mark Hannah.

The original had cheesy special effects, including a giant hand that looked as lifelike as an empty rubber glove. The '93 version's effects are shoddy only when director Christopher Guest (co-star of "This Is Spinal Tap") is trying to evoke the B-movie look of the original.

HBO's version has some startlingly good effects. One scene, when 50-foot Nancy has dinner with six-foot Harry, is seamless. The secret (revealed here or you'll go crazy trying to figure it out) is called "forced perspective."

Hannah sits on a platform in front of a miniature barn, trees and a truck aligned with an actual barn, trees, truck and Baldwin in the background. The closeup camera makes her look huge, and picks up the image of Baldwin, 25 feet away, atop the truck.

"Attack of the 50-Ft. Woman" has one other thing in common with the 1958 original: The movie is nearly stolen by the Bad Brunette from the Wrong Side of the Tracks.

In the original, actress Yvette Vickers gave the movie's only real performance. In HBO's remake, Christi Conaway's voluptuous Honey is a woman who attains power as an eroticized object—an object with brains and ambition.

Conaway is a fine actress and comedian, and her sassy, energetic performance lifts the movie when it threatens to lag. And she's also drop-dead, heartbreakingly gorgeous.

If there's a weakness in "Attack of the 50-Ft. Woman," it's that the movie takes too long to get going. Once we've determined that Nancy is a victim, the movie fails to move

on. Once Nancy starts growing, however, the picture takes off. Hannah's scenes as a giantess have real power, and both Baldwin and Windom make for a wonderful bad guys.

In the climactic scene where an enraged Nancy stomps through a desert town seeking her faithless husband, Dr. Cushing steps forward, "Don't do this, Nancy! You must stop!" the therapist entreats.

"I'll stop when I find Harry," big Nancy replies, and adds something you just didn't get to hear back in the '50s. "I'm just looking for a little closure, that's all."

SCOTT WILLIAMS

Williams writes for the Associated Press

A Place at the Table

Continued from page 25

macy of each experience. He repeatedly scolds the subculture for its tendency to paint this issue in simple terms and pleads for an individualistic approach. A short excerpt about a 20-year tragedy of denial that occurred in a young man's life pointedly reflects the author's view that the current society's mores are partly to blame for the mentality that has forced this man to deny his homosexuality. In turn, Bawer points out that this perverse and mistaken attitude has caused more destruction than the "inherent moral evils of homosexuality."

If the reader accepts the author's brave appeal for gay and straight individuals to reexamine their paradigms, Bawer will have succeeded in his writing endeavor. The book will certainly ignite a much needed debate within the gay community. Some viewpoints expressed by Bawer will probably clash with those of the reader. However, Bawer's perspective should leave the reader with a clearer understanding of their own position. Hold your fire and read on.

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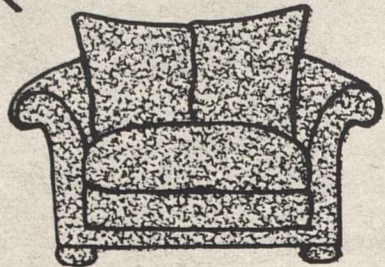


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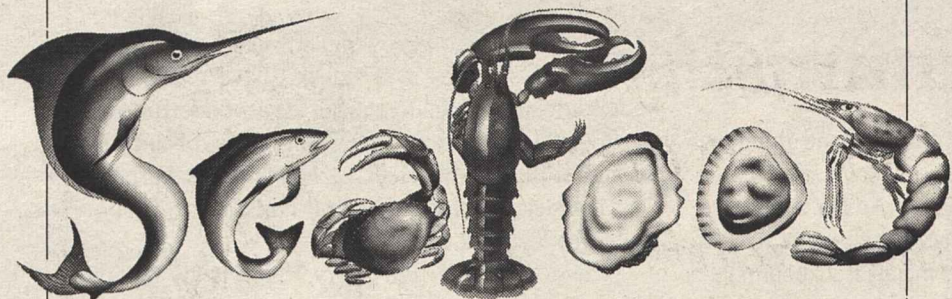


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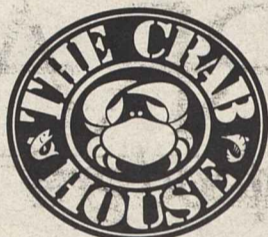
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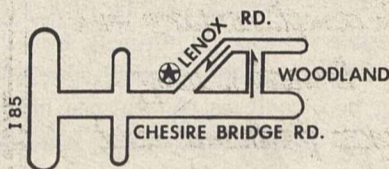


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EAT
A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Regular readers know of my ongoing quest for the perfect take-out emporium. One that dishes up food that tastes like it came from the Buckhead Diner and costs like it came from Winn-Dixie. Given that I live in Decatur, it should also be located on the east side of town.

Pano's Food Shop (in the back of the Atlanta Fish Market, 265 Pharr Rd. 240-6664) comes close on several accounts.

I've eaten only once at the spectacular new Atlanta Fish Market. A friend paid for the meal and requested that I not write about it. Can I tell you how much I liked being taken to dinner *and* not having the experience turned into work? A lot. I also enjoyed much of the food and the Fish Market's relaxed atmosphere. When was the last time you ate at a Buckhead Life restaurant and felt like the host or the server was a human being rather than a cloned (albeit well trained) automaton?

While waiting to be seated for dinner, we cruised the food shop in the back of the place. Talk about eye appeal. A fresh fish/meat/poultry counter is packed with pristinely fresh examples of all sorts of mouth watering goodies—fat shrimp, glistening grouper, squabs, quail, some of the prettiest lamb I've ever seen and deep red, beautifully marbled beef. There's a minimal display of equally exquisite fresh veggies—designer colored peppers, French rose artichokes, purple Peruvian potatoes. And a decent display of baked goods from the Buckhead Bread Company.

The prepared food is even prettier. Mounds of rich brown chopped liver, gargantuan stuffed veal roasts, big bowls of fancy colorful pasta, and cauldrons of rich soup are displayed with the kind of grand excess that we've come to expect from Pano and Paul.

Surprisingly, the prices are not overwrought. Most of the veggies (even beautifully peeled asparagus) and non-meat salads are less than \$3 a pound. Soups are about \$3 a pint. Meats run \$5-10 a pound depending on their rarity and the complexity of their preparation. Not exactly cheap, but considering that this is food from some of the city's most luxe eateries, not at all unreasonable.

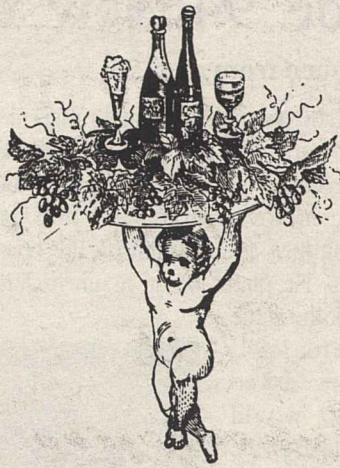
Would that it all tasted as good as it looks. Preprepared sandwiches on foccacia are limp, the bread soggy and heavy. But then the very idea of a pre-made sandwich sitting in a plastic container in a cooler case isn't very attractive. Pretty little triangles of jalapeno cornbread are sweet enough to be dessert and lack significant pepper kick. Not bad, just boring and predictable. Ditto the potato salad, though the potatoes themselves are especially tasty.

Things look up a bit with a trio of soups. Best of the bunch is a sausage and lentil combo in a light cream and tomato base. It's thick and moderately flavorful, though far from the best use of lentils and sausage in the city. Clam chowder is pretty tasty, though the paucity of clams makes me think it would be better described as a too-thin creamy vegetable soup. A spicy, dark seafood gumbo is too thin, too, but lack-o-seafood is its primary failing. None of the soups is bad, mind you, just disappointing.

There's no disappointment at all to be found in a \$3.50 pint of incredibly bright and clear tasting marinara sauce that came straight from Pricci's often excellent kitchen. The flavors of garlic, tomato, and basil are perfectly balanced with no trace of excess acid in evidence.

Ecstatic with my discovery, I tried sauteeing some veggies and adding them to part of the sauce. Bad idea. Avoid the work, use it plain and be a happy camper.

But even more importantly, do not fail to buy a piece of Oreo cheesecake. Light and cakey, but still moist, it's major swoon food that I'll happily drive to Buckhead to buy.



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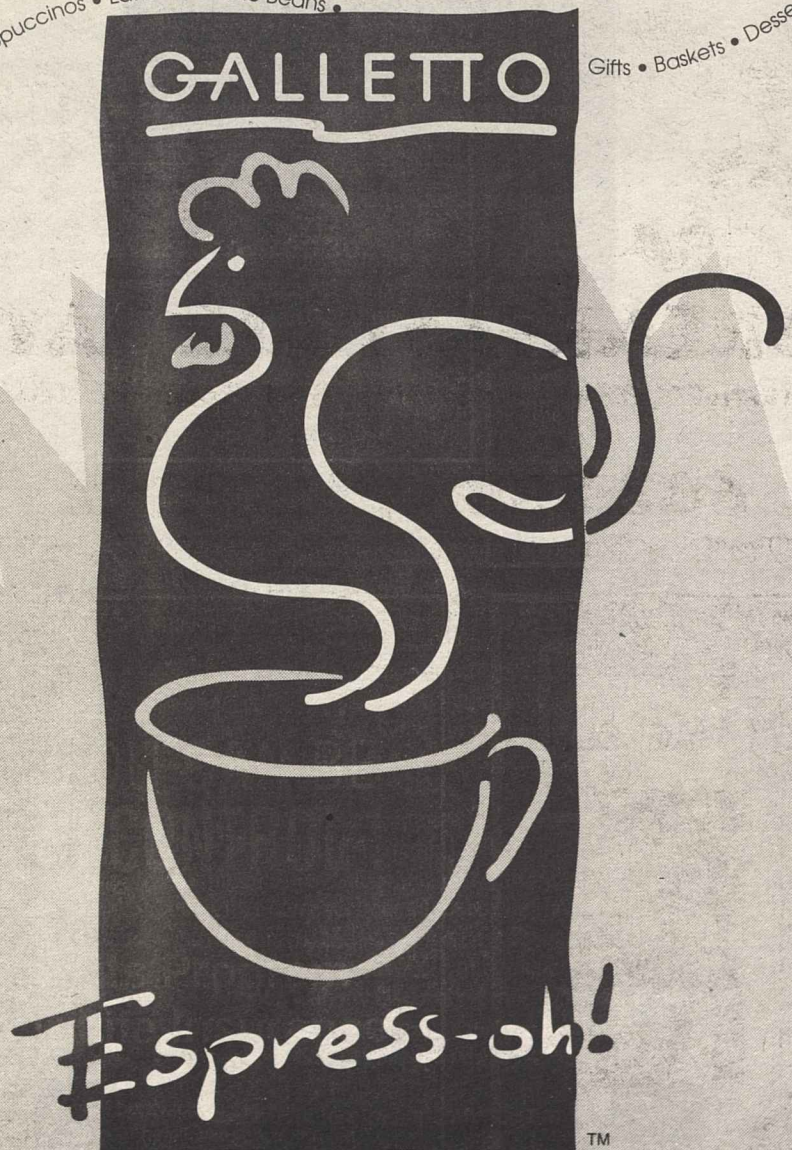
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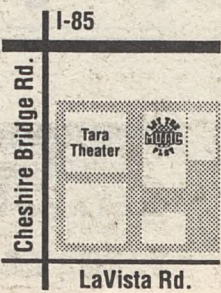
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Pride '94 New Year's Eve fundraiser

Continued from page 26

the task of paying the debt is insurmountable. Howard, who accepted the Pride Committee co-chair position along with Donna Narducci in November, is in his third year on the committee and his first on the board of directors. He plans to run again in January and seek the same position for 1994.

When asked why he would want to take on the task of correcting problems left over from last summer's event, Richy said, "Pride is very special to so many people. It doesn't take a lot to get wrapped up in the enthusiasm of it. There are too many people in our community who bale out, a lot of people who jump ship when things go wrong."

Pride '94 will be held June 10, 11 and 23. This time, volunteers will use the annual Atlanta Arts Festival as their model, hoping improvements will help raise enough money to give extra proceeds back to the community.

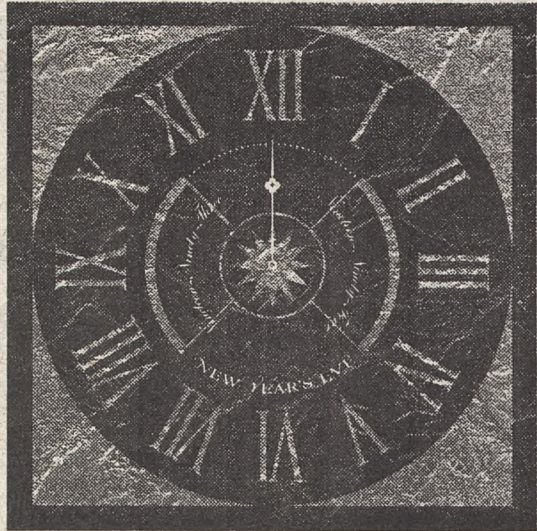
"If we really become focused, and cut

out all excess in spending, we could come out looking really good," said Howard, who this year attended the National Conference of Pride Coordinators and learned that several other cities are able to run at a profit.

Howard encourages the Atlanta community to become involved on a volunteer basis in addition to attending the New Year's Eve event. "We are so limited on the number of volunteers, and there is so much we could do if we had a broader volunteer base. We encourage people to just come to a meeting and listen and give their point of view," he said.

Pride's annual drive for volunteers will be held Sunday, January 23. Times and location will be announced.

Tickets for Pride's New Year's Eve event are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, and are available at Let The Music Play, Brushstrokes, The Boy Next Door, Outwrite, and Physikos.



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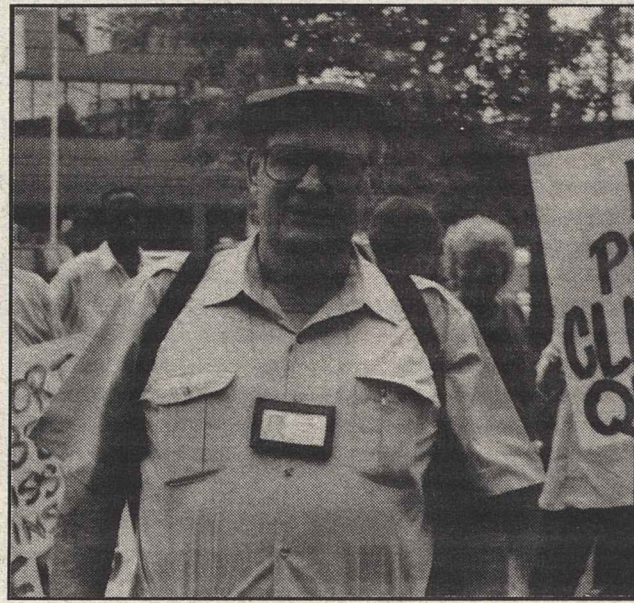
Fresh Words from the Fresh Prince: Dish has refused to see the film version of "Six Degrees of Separation" because its star Will (Fresh Prince) Smith (who plays a gay character) refused to kiss a man on screen. Well, Smith now says that having seen the final cut of the film he realizes that his decision "...cheapened myself as an actor" not to say what it does to the film's integrity. Now wouldn't it be nice if Tom Cruise would take Mr. Smith's revelation to heart, get off his homophobic high horse and embrace a little of the same-sex juices that make "Interview With a Vampire" (the book) so hot?

Perverts at Parade?: Dish is indebted to the reader who sent us a very strange cartoon from the "Laugh Parade" page of the widely circulated Sunday supplement "Parade." A doctor is examining a beefy football player (in uniform) by holding a stethoscope to his chest. Sayeth the smiling doc, rubbing his hand to his chin, "Nothing wrong down to your 50-yard line...I'd better check your end zone." The look on the jock's face is just this side of terror. Dish doesn't know whether to congratulate Parade for a bit of sly homo-acknowledging humor...or run screaming to GLAAD to demand a full scale protest of sick and perverted stereotypes. You decide and let us know, OK?

And a Pervert on Parade: We're indebted to the folks who sent us the photograph of C. Ray Harrelson that you see here. This man represents himself as a photographer for UPI when he is actually a homophobic, racist, anti-Semitic activist of some (ill) repute whose images wind up in the hate publication, "The Truth at Last." One of the people who he interviewed at last summer's pro gay/arts rally in Marietta has been harassed in his home and had copies of "The Truth at Last" thrown into his and neighbors' yards. If you see him at a rally or protest, avoid him like the plague.

Dish

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



Dish is not amused by this faux-photographer.

Dolly's Denial: We're also happy that another reader sent us an article about Dolly Parton from the Nov. 27 TV Guide. Well, no, pleased isn't exactly the right word. In an interview with the

magazine, Miz Dolly goes to some length to announce that she is not a lesbian and that she and her friend Judy Ogle have not done "that." She does say that it would not be a "big deal" if rumors of their relationship were true. "There are a lot of gay people in the world," Dolly said, "I'm just not one of 'em." But we want you to be Dolly, we really do.

And Redford's Reply: A Poughkeepsie, N.Y. talk show host has proposed that "The Sting" co-stars Paul Newman and Robert Redford consider teaming up for a male-male version of "Indecent Proposal" in which Robert Redford offers a man \$1 million for a night of sex with his wife (Demi Moore). Redford's reply? "For a million bucks, I'd sleep with him [Newman]." And a case of "Newman's Own" salad dressing?

Love Ain't Always Easy: It's becoming increasingly obvious that the right wing is going to continue targeting African Americans in its attempt to use homos as its whipping boy du jour. Which means that black lesbians and gay men are going to have to stand up and come out in their families and communities in order to counter the scurrilous tactics of the folks who only recently also saw people of color as the menace. Thus it is that we are happy to report a step in the right direction from Essence magazine. Robert Penn's opinion piece in the December issue is a powerful letter to a friend ("my main man, my blood, my homeboy") who deserted Penn when he came out. Now Penn, who has AIDS, is telling his friend that he wants his love and support. His final paragraph is the kind of searingly honest stuff that brings tears to our eyes and pride to our heart: "Are you going to wait until I'm dead to face reality? I have suffered acting straight for you for decades. This time I expect you to risk discomfort for my sake, because unity is not only for heterosexuals and love isn't always easy."

DECEMBER 29, 1993 - JANUARY 5, 1994

Happy New Year. Here we go into 1994, which promises to be a very interesting year, especially as we start off with six planets in the cardinal earth sign of Capricorn. We can expect continued change and adjustment along with more breakthroughs in science and technology. Our world will continue to shrink as our ability to communicate develops. Have a very safe and wonderful new year.

ARIES, as the new year begins with a strong emphasis on your career and public image, you could really benefit from quality personal time at home. Take time to reflect on how you would like this new year to look and what you would like to change. **TAURUS**, you are moving into a year of personal growth through direct experience of basic life lessons. Sounds like fun, don't you think? Well, life lessons can be fun, and sometimes they can be stressful, so take good care of yourself. **GEMINI**, if you feel things are on a roll for you, then they probably are, meaning you can relax and enjoy the ride. Just be sure to ask specific questions about any new deals or proposals that come your way, personal or business, and keep your eyes open. **CANCER**, wow. You are starting the year off with a bang in the relationship department. You may have new folks popping up in

STARSIGNS

your life who would be wonderful friends, or long-lost ones reappearing. Excellent opportunity for all kinds of partnerships. **LEO**, how is your health? If you have overextended yourself physically or emotionally, or you have been walking around with continuous stress, then start the new year out right with a major personal commitment to good nutrition, regular exercise and fun. **VIRGO**, clear the decks and get ready for a very busy and productive year, especially if you work in the arts. This is your year for accomplishing major projects and expanding your creative horizons. Just be sure to take super care of yourself. **LIBRA**, once the holidays are over, you may want to take a few days at home, just to putter around, clean out closets and regenerate so you will be fresh and rested for the new year. Tie up any loose ends for 1993 and plan for a very prosperous year. **SCORPIO**, this is the perfect year for you to heal and release all those wounds from the past. With Jupiter and Pluto moving through your first house of personality and self-awareness, you can experience

real freedom and a sense of wholeness. **SAGITTARIUS**, you certainly started your solar year out with a bang, and you can expect everything to keep right on rolling along. Stay positive, optimistic, use your good common sense and keep your feet on the ground for a really great year all around. **CAPRICORN**, this can be an amazing year of accomplishments for you. The temptation could be to take on too much responsibility and completely overload all your circuits. Pace yourself, make time for fun, relaxation and folks you love. **AQUARIUS**, this year may start out a little slowly, which could be a very good thing, giving you a change to have some perspective before making any major decisions. You should have wonderful clarity concerning those personal dreams you cherish. **PISCES**, this is a great year for you to be organized and establish priorities that really suit you and your way of expression. Also an excellent year to take extra good care of yourself. You'll lower your anxiety level and have more energy.

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

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The Ethan Green Guide to Holiday Survival, 1993.

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HAVE THEM COME TO YOU. (LIZA & BETH'S POLICY.) HEY, WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH GRANTING YOURSELF A HOME COURT ADVANTAGE? ... BESIDE IT'S BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ESTABLISHED HERE AT ETHAN GREEN THAT FAMILY GROUPINGS PLACED IN UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS TEND TO REACT ATYPICALLY, WHICH IN THE CASE OF MY FAMILY (& YOURS) MEANS THEY JUST MIGHT BEHAVE CIVILLY FOR AN HOUR OR TWO...

CREATE A DIVERSION... FOLKS, I'VE JOINED "JEWS FOR JESUS" OR OK. I JUST SAID THAT TO PEP UP. I AM, HOWEVER, QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL.

OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING HOME... THE WHOLE FAMILY'LL BE THERE! AND SA... COUSIN DA PHINE'S BRINGING HER NEW FRANGE DWIGHT AND HIS GRAMMA MAKING HER FAMOUS LIMA BEAN CASSEROLE AND... TAKE A REALLY BUMP. MARY BETH, I WOULD RATHER RECEIVE THE SEXUAL FAVORS OF A CROCODILE THAN BREAK BREAD WITH THE ASSORTMENT OF PSYCHICS YOU CALL FAMILY... NOT TO MENTION THAT WRETCHED LIMA CASSEROLE. LAST TIME I LET THEM...

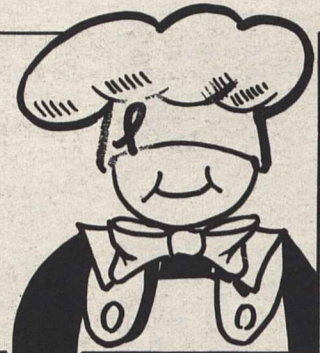
HEY RANDAL, TAKE THIS AND BASTE THE TURKEY. UN, I'VE SAID BETH.

ON MY...

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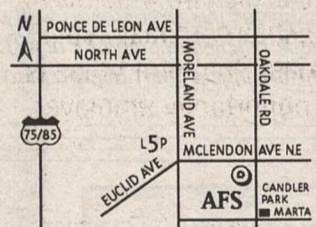
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AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728
AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—872-2246
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
AIDS and Substance Abuse Speakers Network—977-7797
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
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The Eagle—308 Ponce De Leon. 87EAGLE
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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/International 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/LPEN)—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
Grani 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—LSC; 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 Ctr—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, Lawrenceville 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/Chattanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
Positive Black Lesbians United (PBLU)—294-4377
Prime Timers—POB 29487, Atlanta 30359
Queer Youth—P.O. Box 54032, Atlanta 30308; 605-7396
Real Gay World BBS—404-266-0856
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 350-0456
Survivors of Incest Anonymous—POB 2502, Decatur, GA 30031; 239-8018
Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
Women of Wisdom—289-8819
Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
Zami—908-3356

Students/Alumni

- Agnes Scott Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance—Box 501, Decatur 30030; 373-1632
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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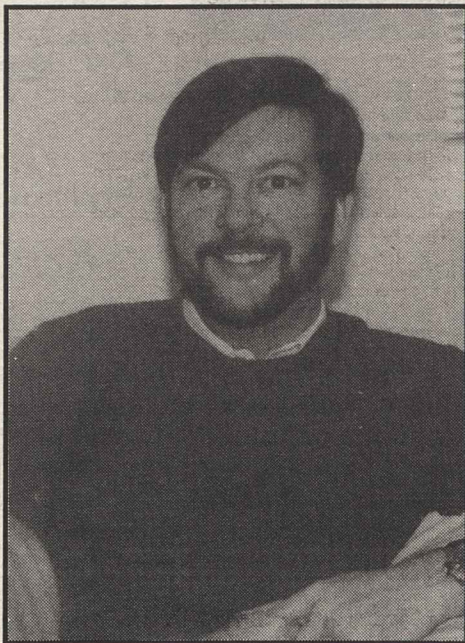
JOHN BALLEW

Age: 39

How long in Atlanta: 11 years

Relationship Status: single

Last Book Read:

"Care of the Soul"
by Thomas More**Pet Peeve:** People who drive in Atlanta like they were playing a video game

John Ballew dreamed being gay. The portentous dream came at the ripe old age of 10½, but it was enough.

The dream came out of the blue, he says. "I'm not aware of having had any sexual feelings other than sneaking a kiss from a little girl in kindergarten and getting slapped."

One night, that changed.

"I had this dream and I woke up the next day and said 'Oh, I'm homosexual,'" he recalls. "I knew what that meant, but I wasn't happy about it."

Ballew grew up in a conservative Lutheran family in St. Louis, and the idea of being gay was unwelcome to him.

"I prayed that God would make me heterosexual for 10 years. But my mother has taken over that now," he adds with a laugh. "She's cornered the market."

While in graduate school at Purdue University, Ballew says he "really started to love the fact that I was gay."

"That's also when I got involved with Lutherans Concerned, which is the gay caucus of the Lutheran church," he says.

Ballew took a job in Watseka, Illinois, a small town whose claim to fame is America's most famous case of demonic possession. That, and a museum to corn, and an annual Pork Queen contest—the winner's court is known as the Porkettes.

"They're having trouble getting anyone to participate," Ballew says. "Actually, there were some ways in which living in a small town was kind of nice. Everyone knew everyone, but there was an enormous pressure to conform."

That pressure to conform cost Ballew his membership in a local church.

"I wrote a letter to the editor of the Lutheran newsletter and came out," he recalls. "They held a church trial—the only one I've ever heard of—and threw me out."

He had already planned to move to Atlanta at the time, and some people in Watseka believed he had an ulterior motive: "They accused me of moving to Atlanta to become an apprentice mass murderer under Wayne Williams," he says. "But the closest I'd ever come to mass murderer was organizing a food pantry."

Despite those problems, Ballew remains a Lutheran. He has served on the Lutheran Church's Task Force on Sexuality since 1989, and served on the board of directors of

Lutherans Concerned from 1980-1990, including a four-year term as chair.

"I've been pursued and seduced by God all my life," he says. "But I believe that Christianity has gotten away from even spirituality sometimes, and much of it is not authentic Christianity."

But he doesn't believe everyone should follow his path. "The flip side is, for most of us who continue to identify as gay or lesbian Christians, we need to look for support wherever we can find it, including outside the church, or even outside Christianity."

"We think God is what we've been taught, and that is not true," he says. "Anything we can clearly define is not God. God is playful, funny, seductive, passionate and loving. I believe that God's deepest intention is to love us fully, including bodily."

Those beliefs led Ballew to Body Electric, where, in addition to his counselling and massage practice, he teaches erotic spirituality for men.

"I like to say the church got me involved with this," he laughs. "I read about Body Electric, but I didn't think I'd ever get to Berkeley (where Body Electric is located). But two months later the church sent me to a conference in Berkeley."

"That's the story of my life," he says. "There are no coincidences. That's what I mean by God seducing me because I would never have done these things otherwise."

Ballew lives a full life, with little time for relaxation—"some way to get eight hours of sleep would be nice," he says—but he is forever searching for balance.

"That's the trick for me," he says. "My life long goal."

Ballew says he's learned much about balance from his 15-year-old cat, a Russian blue named Oscar.

"Oscar has achieved it in his own life," he says. "He gets enough sleep, a warm place and enough food."

Ballew must have learned something from Oscar—he has nieces and a nephew who believe he's magic. A teacher asked one of the nieces, "Who has a beard, visits at Christmas and brings presents," and the little girl answered, "Uncle John."

Ballew smiles, a twinkle in his eyes. "I love being an uncle," he says.

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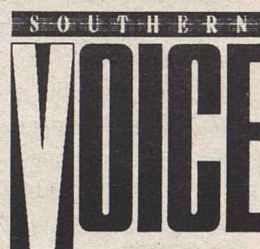
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Good Samaritan Project provides support for persons with AIDS. Support group, buddy program, clothing/food, practical support, pastoral care. 873-4589. (6.45)

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**, counseling, referral (minority cultural sensitivity). For confidential info call **OUTREACH, 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 informa-

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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)

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Little Five Points small efficient apt. Great for student. No stove. Private with own bath. Utilities included. \$275, call 581-9782. (6.45)

Buckhead Townhouse, 2 BR, 1 BA, W/D, pool, central A/H, new carpet, great location, \$700. Call 581-9782. (6.45)

FOR SALE

Virginia-Highland: 751 Frederica Street. \$183,000 - Live luxuriously in this 3-story home with 2 master suites and lots of glitz! Dinny Addison, Harry Norman Realtors, (HI) 371-1202, (Pager) 716-1592. (6.47)

ANSLEY PARK - City Chic, spacious 2 BR, 2 BA, LR/Fplc, DR, sunroom, covered parking, \$146,900. By Owner, 872-7899. (6.45)

Roommates

GWM, honest, responsible, employed. 2 BR, 2 BA spacious condo. Near Morningside/Emory. \$450 includes utilities. Deposit. 325-3459. (6.47)

Doraville at 85/285. Liberal M/F needed to share 3 BR, 2 BA home. Pet OK if dog (already have 2). \$450 incl. utilities. 448-2970 Petr. (6.46)

Now in Atlanta! Bunk Buddies, Atlanta's premier roommate / relocation service, in and out of Atlanta. Call 874-9097 for details today. (6.49)

GWM seeks same to share house in Decatur area. 2 BR, 1 BA, fireplace, close to Marta, \$300 + 1/2 util. 377-6259, Steve. (6.45)

GWF needs GWF or GWM to share 4 BR house in Lilburn. \$300 + 1/2 util. 564-0850. (6.46)

Kennesaw - Seeking responsible GWF to share large house in suburbs. Finished basement apartment with private entrance. Reasonable. 427-2454. (6.46)

2 GWFs seek 3rd to share 3 BR home on wooded lot off 85/285. Comfortable home with all amenities. No smoking. No pets. \$350 includes utilities. Call Shelly, 493-3966. (6.47)

Couple in long term relationship looking for stable female or female-friendly male as housemate. Must like animals. In country setting. Non-smoker. 20 minutes to I-5P. South of Decatur, 2500 sq. ft. home in quiet neighborhood. Rent \$350 includes utilities 1/2 month deposit and references required. Call Mo or Cindy at 808-6283 or 388-7568. (6.46)

Live well! GWM seeks same to share new Victorian home in Tucker/Stone Mtn. Close-in. Neat, professional, non-smoker, W/D, garage, fplc. Lots of room & storage. Avail immed. Call for more info. 501-0116, messages returned promptly. (6.46)

Decatur. Mature GF wanted to share 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA home. \$375/mo includes utilities. Deposit. No drugs or smoking. 292-2791. (6.45)

Travel

LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 Lovely rooms, 100 mountain acres, hot tub, cross country ski trails, fireplace, peace, privacy. Highlands Inn, Box 1185V, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. Winter Wonderland! (6.51)

THE OLD MILL - Bed, Breakfast & Browsing, Bat Cave, NC! Relax by rushing mountain stream near Asheville. Phone 704-625-4256. (6.47)

Volunteers

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)

Voice Connection

WOMEN

GWF, 42, feminine, educated, professional, passionate, affectionate, honest and adventurous. Seeks warm heart, intelligent mind, playful spirit for quality relationship. 1095

GB fem seeks an educated, professional, aggressive GB female for friendship, possibly more. No bisexuals or fems. 1088

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 womyn 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 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, funloving, adventurous, professional, honest, attractive, seeks similar ladies who have high ideals, are reliable and not promiscuous. 1020

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DEADLINE: Tuesday, 5pm for following week's issue.

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Category _____ # of issues _____ Text (Please print): _____
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Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

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PERSONALS

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

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, spiritual, 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 femme 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, 5'11" 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 sensuous 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, gentle 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

MEN

KROGERS

You: Wisconsin sweatshirt, jeans, work boots and baseball cap, December 15th at fourish. Love to give you full, erotic body massage. P.O. Box 77874, Atlanta, GA 30357. (6.46)

25 y.o. GWM, hard worker/player, professional, attractive, fit. Brn/blu, 185, 6'3" seeking WM, 23-30 to brighten my day. ☎ 1093

Third Musketeer wanted. You're sincere, submissive, leather trainable with TLC and ready to make 100% permanent commitment. No fats/fems. ☎ 1097

GBM, 42, attractive, professional, outgoing 5'10, 175, HIV+, very healthy seeking men under 44 for friendship, fun and possibly more. No fems please. ☎ 1094

Lonely incarcerated black male age 26, 5'7", 185 lbs, brown eyes seeks correspondence and long lasting friendship from anyone. #101582, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (6.48)

GWM, 39, seeks companionship for theatre, movies, etc.: I am 6'11", 185, bi/bl (balding), professional. Enjoy cooking, gardening, and (of course) theatre. ☎ 1092

BM seeks masculine, persistent and assertive BM. When he wants service, he calls and gets it. Day or night. ☎ 1091

GBM, 30, tall, slim, light complexion. ISO GWM/Hispanic male for friendship/relationship under 32 y.o. ☎ 1081

Wanna Wrestler? - GWM, 33, seeks hot gym body, swimmer's build masculine male for discreet fun. Let's work up a sweat. ☎ 1011

GWM, 20s, clinically depressed, reclusive, shy. Seeks same for companionship or pen pal. PO Box 7653, Atlanta, GA 30357. (6.47)

Tall, slim, attractive, intelligent, honest, 37; seeks endowed, caring senior male. ☎ 1082

Life is Wonderful! Attractive, athletic

GWM, 31, is looking for a masc., stable WM to share the great times. ☎ 1083

Healthy, fit, trim country gentleman seeks clean-cut, versatile young weekend company. Glad to make it worth your while. ☎ 1084

Here in the real world, the boys don't always WANT the girls—Healthy HIV+ GWM, 34, loves cowboy boots, button-downs, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and for too long has missed the Georgia moons. Looking for serious partner to be the final notch on my bedpost—to help me paint life's sunset, but never ride away. What I have to offer isn't found in storybooks...mine is a life yet to be told, but destined to be shared. ☎ 1085

GBM, 30, 5'10", good looking, 185 lbs., HIV-, endowed top seeks GWM 18-35 for hot safe fun action sessions. ☎ 1086

Nice guy, attractive, 30's, aggressive in bed, safe, playful, romantic. Brown hair, mustache, PO Box 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324 or call ☎ 1087.

WM, 31, 5'8", 135, HIV+, healthy outdoors guy. Like to make friends in Atlanta. Write T. Ray, 1009 Wesleyville St., Nashville, TN 37217. (6.47)

My Sir says we can play if...I can find a hairy construction worker, trucker, or wrestler type bodybuilder with 30" thighs who enjoys bursting balloons...are you out there? ☎ 1089

Bear GWM, 40's, seeks hairy similar GWM, any size. Husky, no games, no drunks, reliable man desired. ☎ 1090

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, bi, gm, 5'8", 140, seek new friendships, hot times. ☎ 1070

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

Fuzzy teddy bear, youthful, sensitive, hopeful romantic, GWM, 41, bald/brn, 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 gym 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 frindship/relationship. ☎ 1061

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

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

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 nice-bodied 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

VOICE CONNECTION

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DIRECTIONS

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

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

GWM, 29, bn/gm, 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

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

LEGS IN THE AIR?? attractive top, 38, brown hair, blue eyes, Scotch/Irish seeks cute hot bottom for safe fun. ☎ 1007 (6.42)

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-bom, 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, endowed 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 (6.41)

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 piece 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 trogas. ☎ 1776

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

WANTED: ASSWORK. Handsome hairy autless NE Georgia GWM 26 seeks similar but enthusiasts for indepth recreation. Couples welcome. Ideas encouraged. ☎ 1782

GWM, 34, handsome, 6'2", 175, Red/green, swimmer. You are 30+, tall, bright,

PERSONALS

adventurous and stable. ☎ 1781

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

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

Atlanta's Hottest GWM—best dancer, most fashion conscious, great personality, great looks — need support to attain your full potential? Let's talk. ☎ 1743

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 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, br/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 sensuous handball. ☎ 1642

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

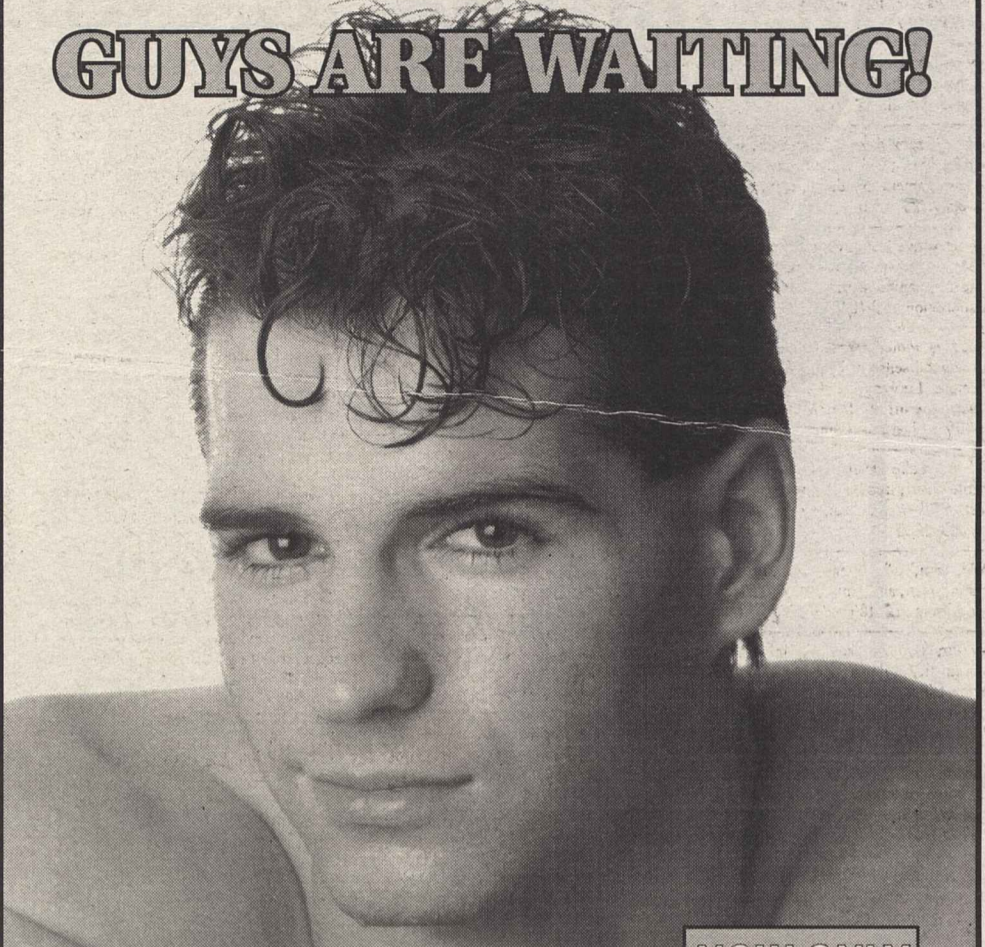
WANTED: fellow traveler(s) to go Dutch with bi guy 65 on land/sea/air jaunts worldwide. Leave your message anytime. ☎ 1844

Tall attractive BiTV seeks attractive tall Bi W/M over 40 for friendship and possible relationship. Sincere only. ☎ 1831

BM married, 54, great shape, seeks mature shapely BiF (30-50) for very discreet safe encounters. ☎ 1570

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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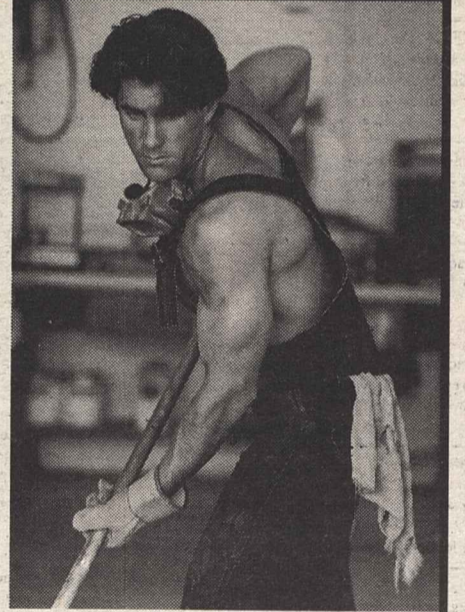
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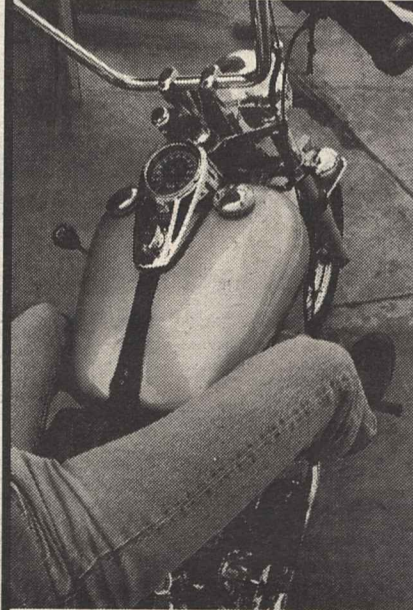
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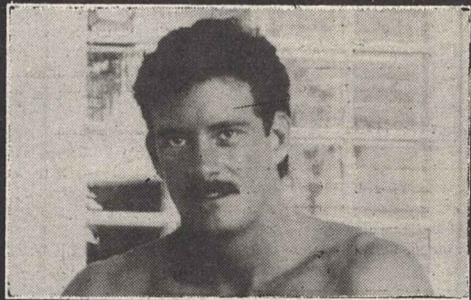
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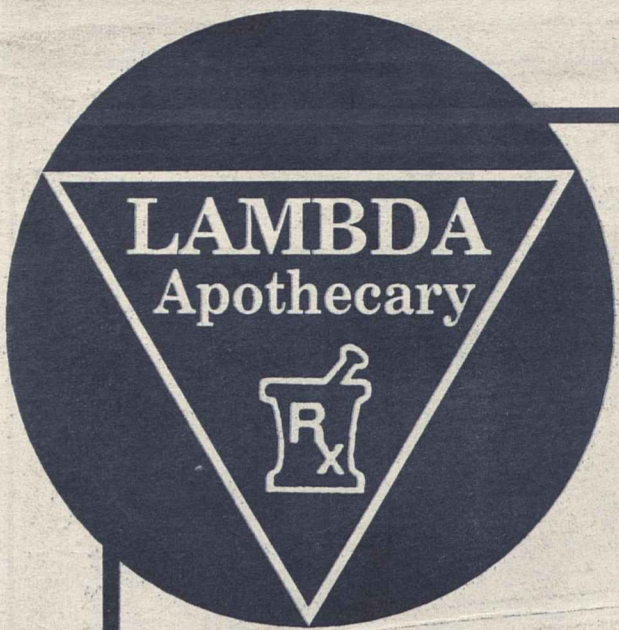
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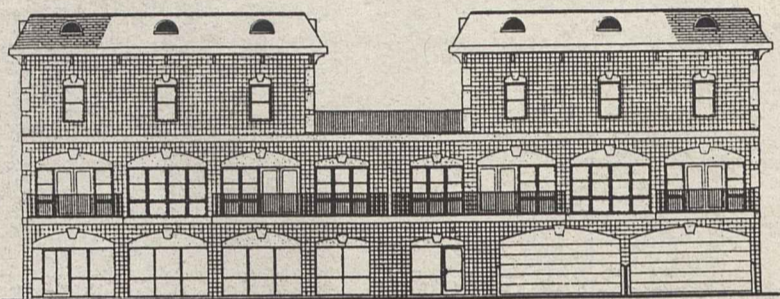




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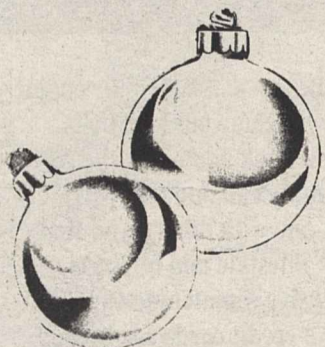
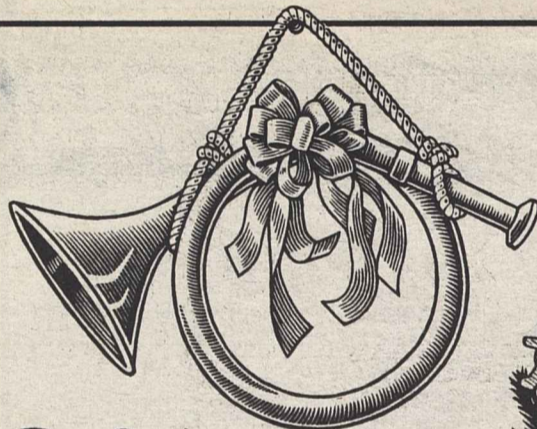
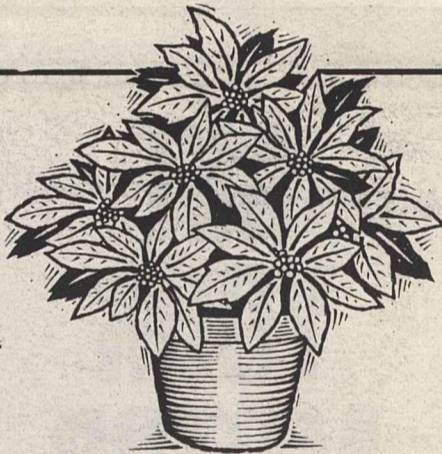
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