

S O U T H E R N

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

FEB 3 - FEB 9 / 1994

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OUT AND ABOUT

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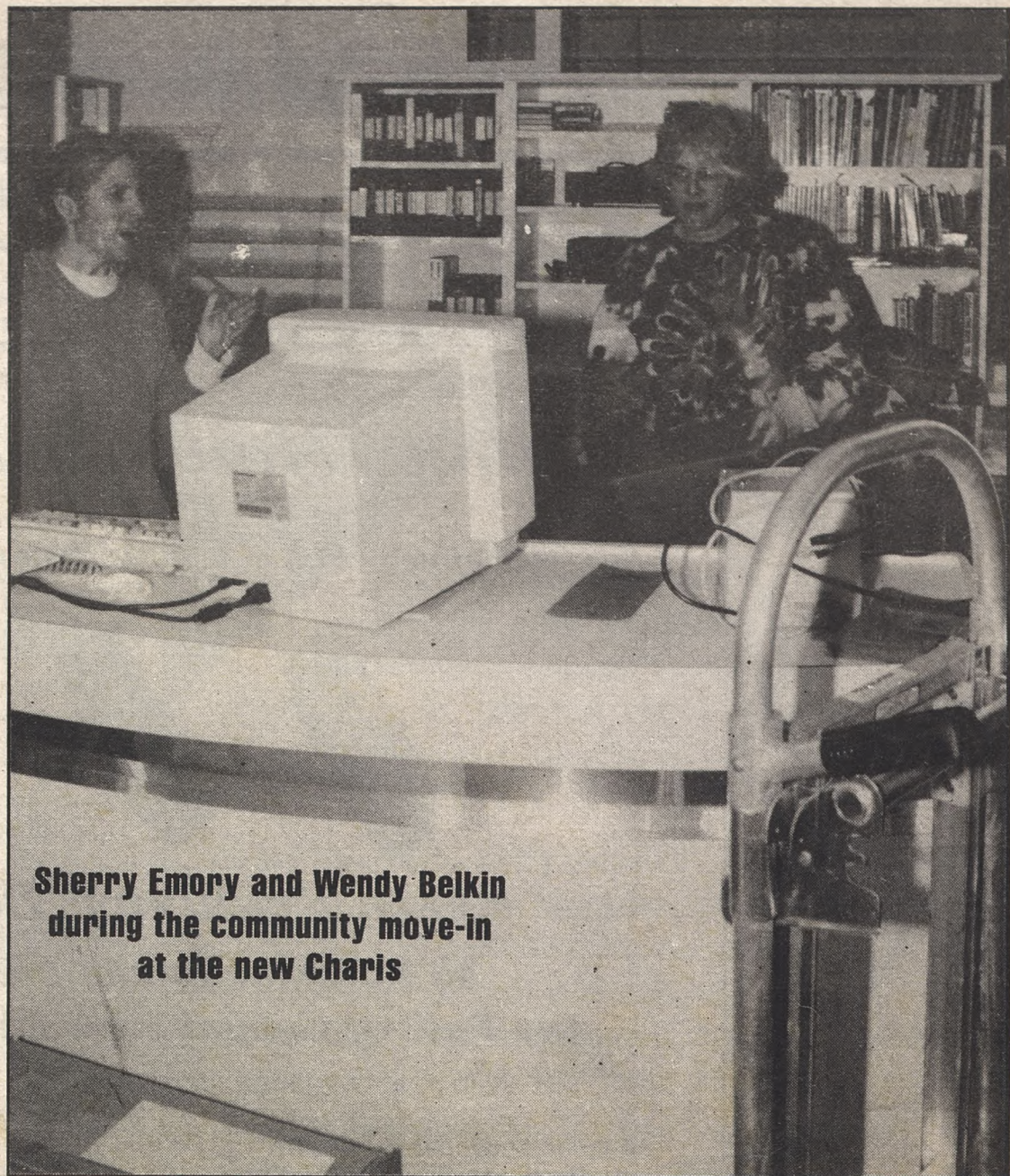
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GARDENING

Midtown will play host to the Southeastern Flower Show PAGE 29



Sherry Emory and Wendy Belkin during the community move-in at the new Charis

Charis on the Move

A loyal group of volunteers help an Atlanta institution settle into a new home

by PAMELA EVANS

Throughout much of Sunday, Jan. 23, a group of volunteers gathered in the space that had, over two decades, become so familiar to them. They helped pack books and looked on as the doors closed, for the final time, on the little bookstore at the corner of Euclid and Moreland avenues.

But later that afternoon, they looked on as the owners of Charis Books and More, Linda Bryant and Sherry Emory, opened a new set of doors, just across the street.

The doors may be different, but the dream is just the same. The new bookstore, at 1189 Euclid Avenue, will, like the old store, serve as more than just the obvious. It will be a meeting place, a performance space and a resource for information about political events.

By working together and volunteering countless hours of time, the community that has embraced and benefited from Charis—a community as diverse as the titles sold in the store—made certain the move happened quickly and efficiently, saving the cost of hiring professional movers.

In five, two-hour shifts of 25 people each, books were boxed and rolled to the new site on handcarts. Shelving was dismantled, moved and reassembled. Women and men worked diligently to replace the books in correct order, sometimes pulling them off an imperfectly filled shelf to start all over again.

Angie Love and Leigh Miller, both of Atlanta, worked the children's section, sometimes laughing as they tried very hard not to admit to their confusion about how the books should be placed. Finally, a somewhat chagrined Miller, who will display jewelry at the new store, tracked down Bryant for assistance.

Love heard about the move through the Atlanta

Women's Feminist Chorus where she is a member. "I came because I just wanted to help, to be a part."

For some, there was sadness as they watched the old location emptied of its inventory. Ginny Singletary and Alma Rivera, partners for seven years, were in and out of the original Charis throughout their relationship. "We came to say good bye and to help start the new place," said Singletary.

Other volunteers worked the night before to clean the new space or were assigned food duty, keeping the nourishment arriving in shifts. One volunteer, who was unable to help with the physical labor, instead delivered refreshments remaining from her son's bar mitzvah.

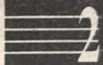
Another volunteer, when asked why she had worked so hard to help move Charis, commented she had begun coming to the bookstore before she knew any other lesbians. She would enter the store, pick up a book, sit and read. She just needed a place to be.

Bryant and Emory believe the new location will offer just that and more. They believe so firmly in that ideal that they risked purchasing the new building, which used to house therapists' offices, without too many days of consideration. Through a loan from their "guardian angel," who has been with them since the original store opened, and through neighborhood bond financing, the partners were able to close on the house in just two weeks.

"It felt so safe, so warm, so loving," said Bryant.

Ilex, Inc., a women-owned Atlanta renovation company, and decorator Maggie Enneking were then hired to work together to create the new Charis, which is sunnier, roomier and more user friendly. Talented volunteers painted, constructed and hung

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



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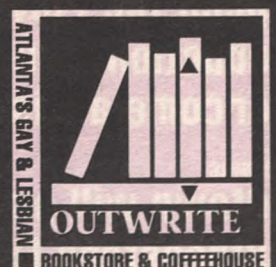
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COREU

A Display for Tolerance

The billboard shown above went up this week on I-75

Marietta—Starting this week, motorists on busy I-75 through Cobb County are seeing a billboard message urging the county commission to rescind last summer's anti-gay resolution.

The billboard, which went up Feb. 1, is located on the southbound side of I-75 between the North Marietta Loop and South Marietta Loop exits. It reads "Rescind the Resolution: Hate Can Stop Here" and is a joint venture between the Cobb Citizens Coalition and Concerned Citizens of Cobb (Network for Social Responsibility), a group operated through the Social Concerns Council of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta.

Elaine Hill, co-chair of the Coalition, said the group began work on the billboard project after another group, OutFront, erected a similar billboard in downtown Atlanta.

"If they can put one down there, we need one up here where it's happening," Hill said. "OutFront's billboard really stirred us to do something ourselves."

Hill said one of the main purposes of the billboard is to keep the issue from dying down.

"[The resolution] does not reflect well on the county," she said. "We want to keep it in the forefront up here. We don't want it to go away."

The Coalition and Concerned Citizens are soliciting donations to pay for the billboard, and for a series of smaller billboards with public service announcements such as "Hate is not a family value" and "Strength in diversity."

The Coalition is also collecting signatures

on petitions urging the commissioners to rescind the resolution.

"We need people to collect signatures," Hill said. "We have a strong core group, but we need more people."

Hill thanked Atlanta's lesbian/gay community for its support, and urged Cobb Countians to get involved with the Coalition.

"We have straight people in our group too," she said. "We're all in this, working together."

For information on the Cobb Citizens Coalition, call (404) 256-8690 or write to P.O. Box 965336, Marietta, GA 30066.

KC WILDMOON

Commission puts relations council under its control

Marietta—Just six months after the Cobb County Community Relations Council stood up to county commissioners and opposed their efforts to condemn lesbians and gays and to cut off all county arts funding, the commission voted last week to put appointments of council members under its direct control.

Commissioners deny their action was in retaliation for that stand.

Previously, 15 members of the 21-member council were nominated by council members themselves, and six additional members were chosen by the councils of Cobb County's mu-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

Mischief under the Gold Dome

Anti-partnership bill is introduced into the House, while the Senate sneaks through resolution condemning "Tales of the City"

By KC WILDMOON

Atlanta—The Georgia General Assembly began taking aim at gays and lesbians last week, with the passage of a Senate resolution condemning GPTV for airing "Tales of the City" and the introduction of a bill barring local governments from enacting domestic partnership legislation.

Surprisingly, however, the principal sponsor of the anti-partnership bill was not Rep. Billy McKinney, the Atlanta Democrat who has been on a crusade against domestic partnership ever since it was passed by the City Council last summer. Instead, the bill's primary sponsor was Rep. Mark Burkhalter, R-Alpharetta, though McKinney is a co-sponsor.

The measure, House Bill 1511, would amend the home rule sections of the state code, prohibiting local governments from enacting any ordinance that would "specify or recognize any familial or spousal relationship other than those recognized by general law."

Six of the seven legislators who signed the measure represent districts in suburban Atlanta, McKinney being the only exception. The list of co-sponsors includes two Republicans from Cobb County, Matt Towery and Bill Atkins, as well as Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Roswell and Rep. Max Davis, R-Dunwoody. Rep. Dick Lane from East Point was the only other Democrat to sign on.

The fact that most of the sponsors of the legislation are Republicans made bode well for opponents of the measure, given that Democrats hold a huge majority in the House and McKinney is viewed as something of a gadfly by his Democratic colleagues. Lane, however, is a committee chairman and House veteran.

GAPAC lobbyist Larry Pellegrini, noting the relatively small number of co-signers on the bill, said he doesn't think controversial issues such as this one will be popular during an election year.

"On a lot of the hot button issues, when people want to come down on a certain side, signing a bill is the way to do that," he said, pointing out that a bill allowing schools to

post various documents—not excluding some religious texts—of particular historical importance has 68 co-sponsors. "They don't want a hard core of opposition from either side. If they can find a way to take no position, they'll do that."

HB 1511 has been sent to the House's Judiciary Committee, and Pellegrini said he is optimistic that progressive forces will be able to kill it there.

"We're optimistic that we can argue it's not only punitive legislation, but that it damages home rule provisions," he said. "But as usual, there are no guarantees that logic and reason will win out. We still have to be vigilant on these things."

Vigilance didn't pay off for the progressive side in the Senate this week, where President Pro Tempore Pete Robinson, D-Columbus, sneaked by a resolution condemning GPTV's airing of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" on Jan. 25.

Robinson had made a public splash with his opposition to the series, railing against its "obscenity," and promising to introduce his resolution on Monday, Jan. 24, when legislature resumed its session after a break for budget hearings. But when Monday came and went with no sign of the bill, rumors circulated that Robinson was withdrawing the resolution. In fact, a spokesperson in Robinson's office told Southern Voice on Jan. 26 that she believed the resolution had been withdrawn.

But a call to the Secretary of the Senate's office revealed that it had actually been read and passed the day before. The resolution was included in a packet of "privileged resolutions," items usually limited to non-controversial commendations of individuals for community service or other noteworthy occasions. Such resolutions are not read aloud on the Senate floor and are passed by acclamation unless a member calls for discussion on one or more of the resolutions.

Apparently, no one noticed Robinson's resolution.

Sen. Ron Slotin, D-Atlanta, said that he had understood the resolution would not be introduced.

"I was looking for it to be introduced individually, because I was going to speak against it," he said. "The problem is we're short on resources here. They just kind of snuck it in and that was that."

Dr. Richard Ottinger, the director of GPTV, CONTINUES ON PAGE 17

Cove forced to move to make way for wastewater facility

Atlanta—The successful effort to save one Midtown landmark, Piedmont Park, has resulted in the closure of another, at least temporarily.

The Cove, which dates back to the early 1960s and is believed to be the city's oldest gay bar, closed its doors last week after the city of Atlanta bought the property on Worchester Drive where the bar has been located for 22 years.

This, however, is apparently not the end of the popular late night spot.

"We plan to move to a new location," said manager Ray Kerwin, "But the final contract has not been signed. But we do hope to be there in the near future."

Kerwin said the club had expected that it would be forced to move. "We've been on a month-to-month lease since last year because Halpern (the property owner) was looking to sell," he said. The city finalized purchase of the land a month ago and notified The Cove and other businesses on the property that they had to go.

The city plans to use the land, just to the north of Piedmont Park, to build a wastewater treatment facility. Originally, the city planned

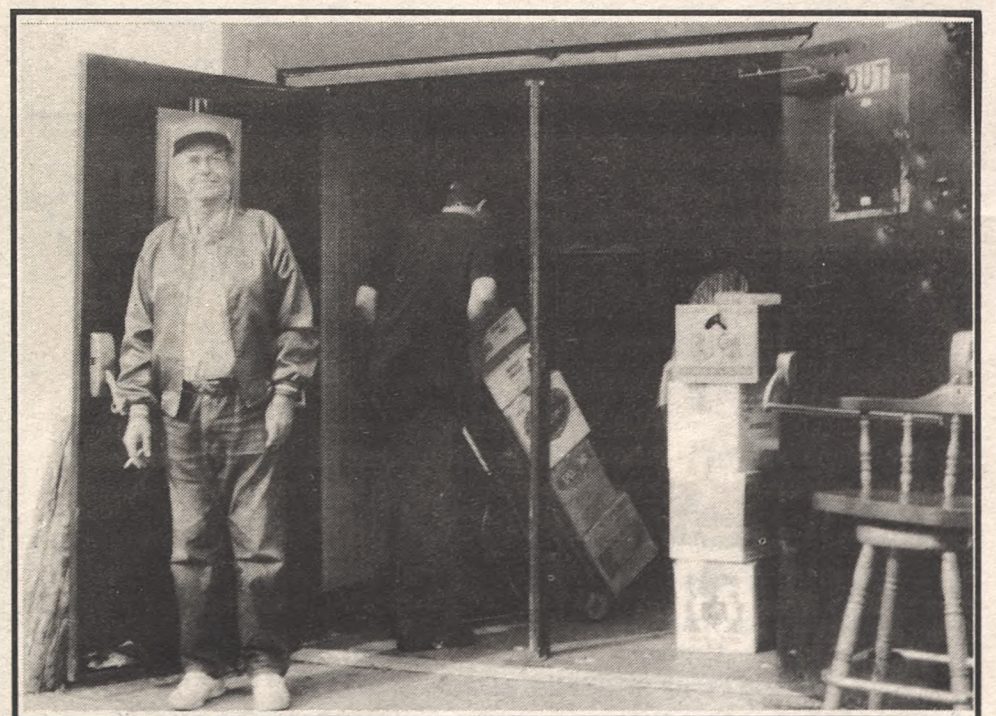
to build the facility in the corner of the park near 10th Street and Monroe Drive. But a group of outraged Midtown residents, calling themselves Sewage Treatment Out of the Park (STOP), collected signatures and lobbied extensively, opposing the construction of the facility. The city eventually decided to move it to land north of the park.

The treatment facility is designed to stop overflows of wastewater into the Chattahoochee River, which have downstream residents south and west of Atlanta grumbling. The federal government has also been levying fines against the city because of the pollution—currently \$4,000 per day.

The Cove was one of two gay bars in the city with a license to stay open 24-hours a day (Backstreet is the other). Its last call was at noon on Jan. 24, after a weekend long farewell celebration. Kerwin said the club was filled with "lots of people—couples who met here—it was a delightful weekend."

"We had no problems, just a few tears," he said. "We toasted at noon and had a last holler and a last dance."

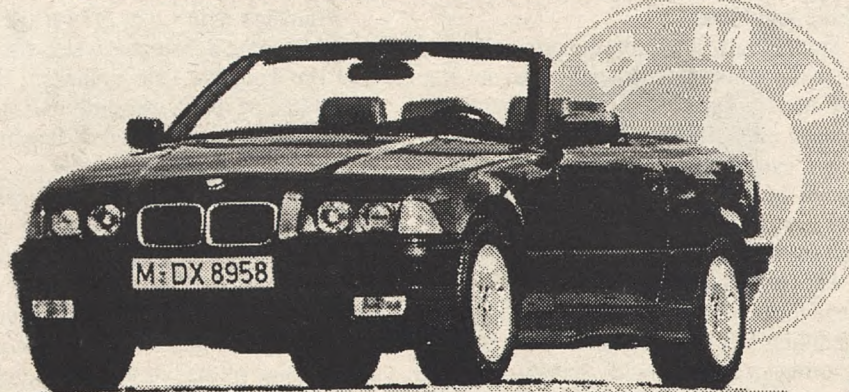
KC WILDMOON



Lloyd Russell, owner of The Cove, looks on as liquor is wheeled from the Worchester Drive club, which is moving to make way for a waste water treatment plant.

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Adopt-A-Mile sign for Auburn's gay group swiped in two hours

Auburn, AL—It took a year for the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association to get their Adopt-A-Mile anti-litter signs put up along a local highway. It took just two hours for vandals to tear one of them down.

"We're frustrated, of course," said John Bales, chairman of the group's service committee. "No one expected it to be taken in the daylight."

The association offered a \$100 reward for information about the stolen sign. The group also reported the theft to Auburn police.

A city crew put up two signs Jan. 14, one near the Kappa Alpha fraternity house and the second across from Auburn High School. The signs indicate the mile that the association had pledged to keep free of litter.

Bales said association members had planned an all-night vigil to watch the sign near the fraternity house because of fears it might be stolen. But, by 3:45 p.m., the sign already was gone.

"This was part of our visibility effort," Bales said of the Adopt-A-Mile program. "In all of the hullabaloo, people seemed to forget that we are a service organization."

Since it received its charter at Auburn University in 1991, the association has faced

fierce opposition, including passage by the legislature of a state law prohibiting the university from giving the group any support.

In recent months, its Adopt-A-Mile effort sparked some controversy on the Auburn University campus, particularly because the group would be overseeing a stretch of road near the Kappa Alpha fraternity, which until last year had staged the controversial Old South parade each spring.

The group's efforts to keep the community's streets clean met with numerous roadblocks and delays. Bales, a math professor at Tuskegee University, said the association selected its mile in January 1993 and paid \$123 for the two signs in February. He was told it would take four to six weeks to have the signs made by the Alabama Department of Transportation and installed by a city crew.

Cheryl Gladden, the volunteer coordinator for Adopt-A-Mile in Auburn, said that when she took over the program last March, she discovered that the application had still not been sent to Montgomery for approval.

She said she then sent it in early April and told Bales the signs should be ready for installation within six weeks. They finally arrived on Jan. 13.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blockbuster didn't want to appear "gay sympathetic," suit claims

Ft. Lauderdale, FL—A former Blockbuster Entertainment Corp. manager claims he was fired for including gay examples in an anti-sexual harassment policy he developed as part of his job.

Ronald Episcopo charges his supervisor objected to written materials, calling them unrealistic, and said it would make the company appear "gay sympathetic," according to a lawsuit filed this week.

He filed the suit under a little-used provision of the federal civil rights law that protects from harassment anyone engaged in fighting discrimination.

"Male-to-female, male-to-male and female-to-female sexual harassment have each occurred between and among Blockbuster agents and employees," the suit said.

Episcopo, 47, of Boca Raton worked at Blockbuster's Fort Lauderdale headquarters from August 1991 to March 1992. The suit says he was denied promotion in January 1992 and was later fired because of the sexual harassment policy.

Blockbuster has said Episcopo was laid off during a restructuring of corporate management. Company spokesman Wally Knief said that Blockbuster's policy is not to comment on pending litigation.

The suit marks the second time Episcopo has taken Blockbuster to court. In 1992, he sued in Broward Circuit Court alleging that he had been harassed and fired because his supervisor, Dan Barr, thought Episcopo, who is gay, was HIV+. That suit is pending.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women fired because of their orientation say life's a struggle

New Port Richey, FL—Four straight women who lost their jobs at a bar when it went gay say their firings were just the start of their troubles.

"It's been a struggle for all of us since the firings," said Carolyn O'Neill, a bartender at the Late Show until it was turned into a gay bar in mid-December. O'Neill said none of the women has a full-time job yet. Three of them have found some part-time work but it isn't enough.

"From what we were making to what we are making is a big difference," O'Neill said. They have said they could earn between \$350 and \$400 a week at the Late Show.

O'Neill and Kathy Shappell, both 27, worked as bartenders; Julie Meindersma, 25, and Judy Whyte, 42, were cocktail waitresses. O'Neill has three young sons and Shappell has two. Both are single mothers.

"I've been in the service industry since I was 15," O'Neill said. "I don't know anything else. I wish I had another trade, but I don't. A cashier at \$4.25 an hour isn't enough to survive."

Their telephones ring with media inter-

view requests, but they would rather have offers for permanent, full-time jobs.

O'Neill and Whyte are working part time at other bars. Shappell is working at a gas station. At one time Meindersma was a baker and is thinking of going back to it. At least it is steady, she said.

The women have hired a lawyer who plans to file a gender discrimination complaint. The women said they were fired but two heterosexual men were retained.

"I think it's going to be beneficial getting humans rights laws passed," said Meindersma.

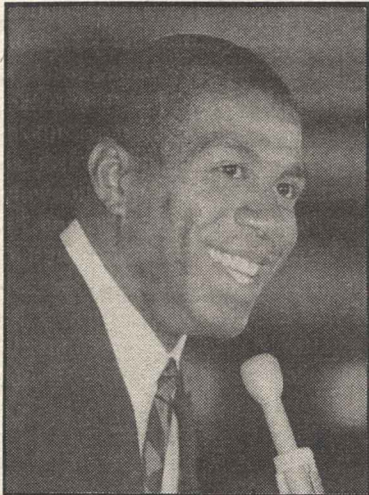
Such laws commonly have been referred to as "gay rights" laws, but advocates say they could protect the employment rights of heterosexuals, too.

"People can look at it now and say, 'Wow, that could have saved my job,'" said Meindersma.

The owner of the Late Show has said it operated in the red for the seven months she has owned it, and she turned it into a gay bar in hopes of making more money.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI Starts Investigation In Mississippi: The FBI has agreed to investigate hate mail received by Brenda and Wanda Henson of the beleaguered Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Miss. where opponents have mounted an organized effort to condemn the two lesbians and force them from the town. The Hensons received a defaced news article about themselves with a threatening message written beneath the headline. The Department of Justice agreed to the investigation because the threat had come through the mail, but said that because sexual orientation is not included in federal civil rights laws they could not investigate other threats to the safety and rights of the two women.



Magic can't play in Indonesia because he is HIV+.

Magic Johnson Refused Entry To Indonesia: American basketball star Magic Johnson will not be allowed to enter Indonesia as part of an all-star team because of his infection with HIV, a top official announced last week. "I will block his visit, because of his AIDS disease," said Roni Sikap Sinuraya, director general of immigration. Indonesian law permits the government to deny entry to people with contagious diseases. Similarly, Johnson would be denied entry into the United States if he were an Indonesian basketball star infected with HIV.

Hyatt Ads Capitalizing On Movie Publicity? Opponents of Ohio US Senate candidate Joel Hyatt (Hyatt Legal Services) are questioning whether his law firm took out ads to coincide with the debut of "Philadelphia," about a man fired from a law firm because he had AIDS. Hyatt's opponents for the Democratic nomination for the seat of retiring Sen. Howard Metzenbaum claim the ads, which depict

attorneys discussing how their jobs make a difference in people's lives, are meant to deflect attention from a 1987 case in which a Hyatt attorney won a lawsuit against the firm, claiming that HLS had tried to demote him after he revealed he had AIDS. HLS did not appeal the ruling, which gave Clarence Cain \$157,000. Hyatt's campaign manager, Melinda Swan, said the timing of the ads was a business decision made by the law firm's marketing department, not a decision by the campaign.

Pennsylvania Gays Fight Cracker Barrel: York (Penn.) Area Lambda, a gay and lesbian group with about 100 members, has sent a letter to five township commissioners urging them to reject an application to put a Cracker Barrel restaurant along Interstate 83. The letter outlined Cracker Barrel's 1991 anti-gay employment policy. A CB spokesperson, Ellen Cozart, said that the policy had been rescinded, and that "Cracker Barrel...adheres to the letter and the spirit of the law regarding non-discrimination." Discrimination based on sexual orientation is, of course, not covered under Pennsylvania or federal law. Douglas D. Warner, treasurer of the group, said that he doesn't believe Lambda's efforts will prevent the application's approval, but he hopes the efforts will at least raise the consciousness of the area's gay and lesbian residents.

Episcopal Seminary To Allow Gay Couples To Live Together On Campus: A leading Episcopal divinity school in New York is opening its seminary housing to gay couples despite church policy declaring that sex is appropriate only within marriage. Unmarried heterosexual couples are still prohibited from living together on campus under the policy adopted by the General Theological Seminary, the divinity school with the oldest and closest ties to the Episcopal Church. Bishop Craig B. Anderson, seminary president, said the policy approved last week by the board of trustees will help the church address the issue of homosexuality. "It does provide the seminary community with a realistic and open framework for living within the tension produced by the discontinuity between the teaching of the Episcopal Church and the experience of many of its members in the area of human sexuality," he said.

Colorado Health Department Tracks People With Low T-Cell Counts: Even as Colorado Gov. Roy Romer signed a measure that increased the number of anonymous HIV testing sites, the Colorado Department of Health was setting up policies that would allow them to track people with HIV. The policies require doctors and laboratories to report any blood tests in which the patient has a T-cell count of less than 500. Health Dept. officials acknowledge that the policies were put into place to track HIV patients. "There was never any intention [on the part of the state legislature] that someone could remain anonymous throughout their entire medical care," said Dr. Richard Hoffman, the state epidemiologist. State officials contend that enough precautions are in place to prevent information about HIV patients from falling into the hands of insurance agents, employers and non-government agencies.

Bond Likens Gay Rights Struggle To That Of Blacks: Former Atlanta city council member Julian Bond, a longtime civil rights activist, told a group of Boise (Idaho) State College students that current efforts by gay men and lesbians to secure freedom from discrimination are similar to the black civil rights movement of the '60s. "The people who object to the establishment of sexual orientation as a category [for protection] are really objecting to losing the right to discriminate against their fellow human beings," Bond said, speaking as part of the school's observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration. "The opposition [to gay rights] is couching its argument in the same language [as opponents in the '60s], which is 'Why should these people have special privileges?'" "I think Martin Luther King, if he were still alive, would severely disagree with this gentleman," said Kelly Walton, head of the Idaho Citizens Alliance, which is sponsoring an anti-gay ballot initiative in Idaho. Walton, a white man who never met Dr. King, said that "legitimate minorities should be alarmed at the hijacking of the civil rights movement by a behavior-based group."

Like Father, Like Son: Texas Republican gubernatorial candidate George W. Bush, son of the former president, says if elected governor he would veto any attempt by the Texas legislature to repeal that state's sodomy law. "I think it's a symbolic gesture of traditional values," Bush said at a meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary. Current Texas Gov. Ann Richards, a Democrat, has said the law "is really nothing more than statutory harassment." Chuck McDonald, a spokesman for Richards, said the governor would not veto an attempt to remove the law.

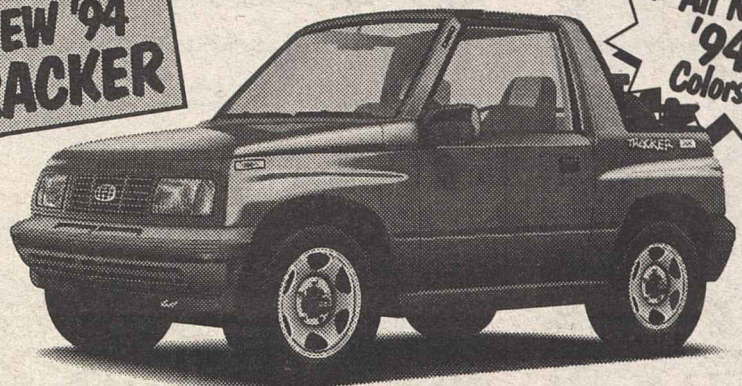
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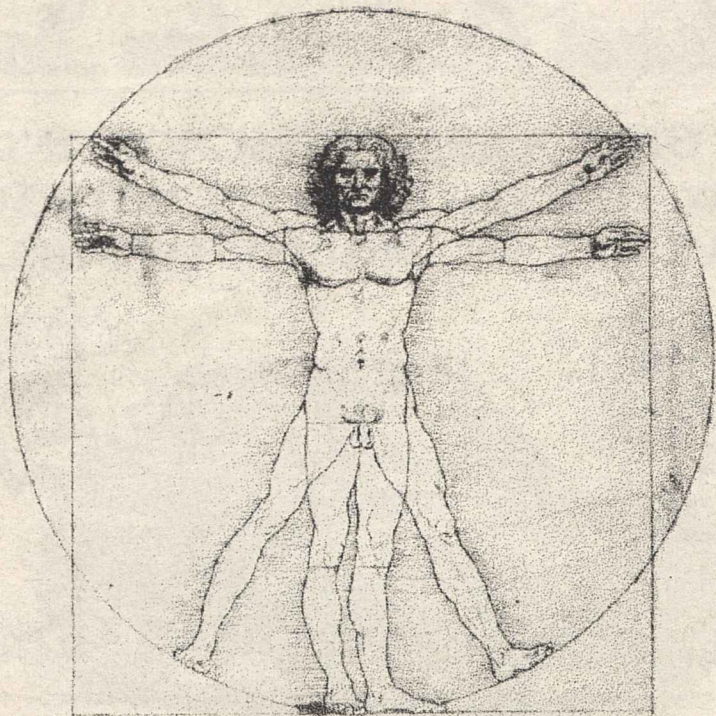
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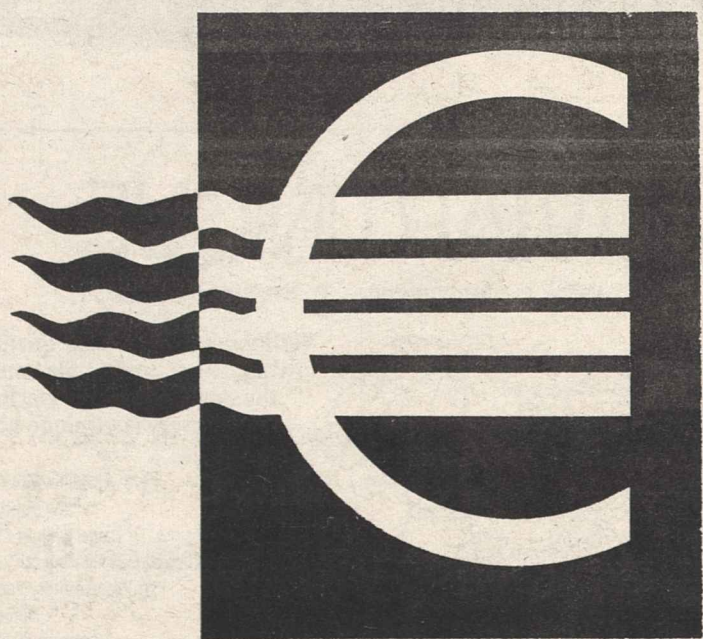
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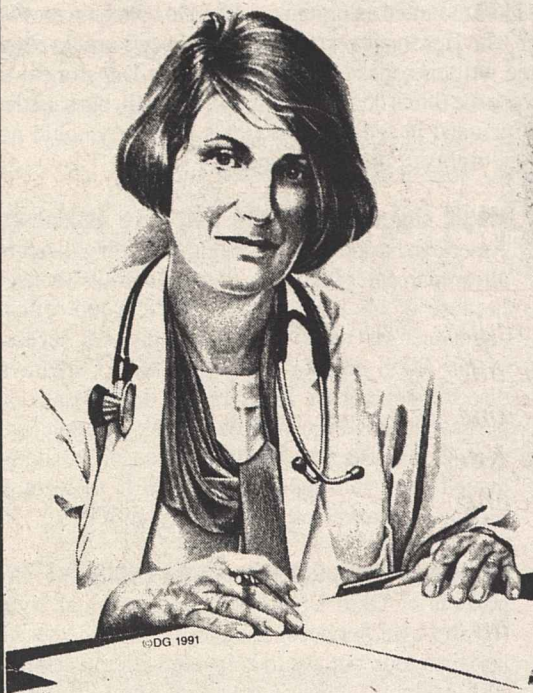
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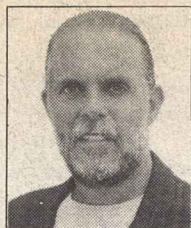
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Charis on the move

Continued from page 1

draperies and created a flower garden at the entrance. Susan Keel, owner of Iris Books, a feminist bookstore in Gainesville, Fla. acted as a consultant throughout the process.

Unlike the old Charis, the new location offers wide standing and walking aisles, more bookshelves that hold more books but are not crammed, and more space for other lesbian, feminist and community items, such as cards, wrapping paper and jewelry. Warm, glossy hardwood

floors complement the almost breezy atmosphere of the well-designed and well-lighted building. A couch and chairs will arrive in a few days for customers who have the luxury

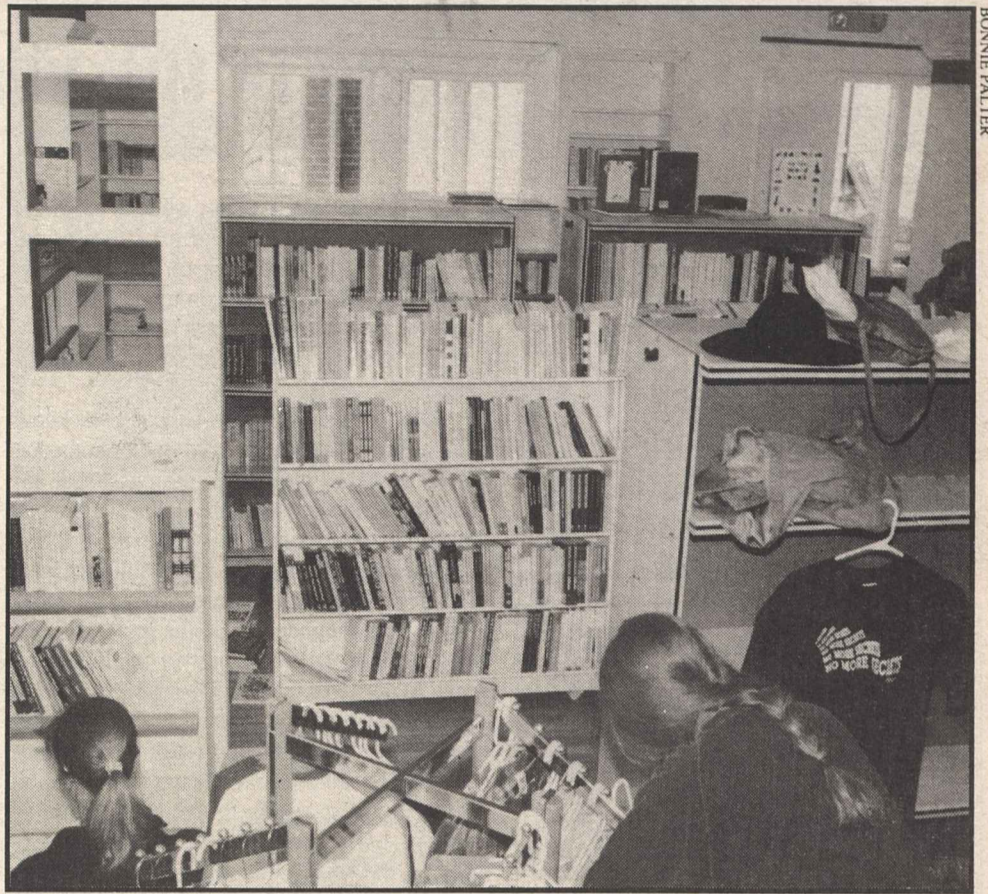
of time to spend inside the store.

A ritual to say good bye formally to the old Charis was held the week prior to the move. "Women shared stories of important moments that had happened to them," said Emory. "The girlfriends they met, the changes they went through, the laughter. There were a lot of feelings expressed, how important Charis has been to each of them."

Bryant, who opened the bookstore in 1974 (Emory joined her as a partner in

At Charis, Linda Bryant said she grew up. She adopted and raised a child. She came out. She formed relationships. Keenly aware of her emotional connection to the first location, Bryant's partner, Wendy Belkin, insisted Bryant not be alone when, on Sunday, she entered the space for the last time. She had not seen empty since it was rented 20 years before.

1986), was moved by the ritual. She at last believed in the impact she and her store had made. "I felt appreciated. Charis had done what I hoped she would do," she explained.



BONNIE PALTER

Volunteers help sort books after the move.

At Charis, Bryant said she grew up. She adopted and raised a child. She came out. She formed relationships. Keenly aware of her emotional connection to the first location, Bryant's partner, Wendy Belkin, insisted Bryant not be alone when, on Sunday, she entered the space for the last time. She had not seen empty since it was rented 20 years before.

Now Bryant is aware Charis will be able to touch even more lives. "As people celebrate, I feel so proud. The beauty we've invested the money in is so worth it. I can feel that as people come inside."

Even as they celebrate the gift of volunteer time and support from their community, Bryant and Emory are keenly aware and sometimes frightened of the financial risk they are taking. "Bookstores are always financial risks," Bryant explained. "It's obviously frightening—the amount of debt."

Rent from two separate offices at the back of the building will help with mortgage payments, but Bryant and Emory are also hoping

the community, which up until this point has supported them in every way, will step in to assist them in paying off the portion of the loan from their "guardian angel" that went toward renovating the new space, approximately \$60,000.

Bryant and Emory believe people will think the money well spent once they see and experience the space, which was designed to be completely accessible to everyone. Fundraisers are already being planned, according to Bryant, and some people have already demonstrated their generosity, helping raise close to \$6,000.

New extended hours at Charis are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; until 10:30 p.m. on Thursday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Thursday night programs will begin again in February with a special celebration of Black History Month.

On Sunday, Feb. 6, Charis will be hosting a grand opening celebration for the new store from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



The new Charis Books and More, at 1189 Euclid Avenue in Little Five Points.

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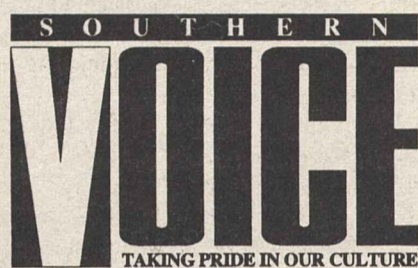
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V I E W P O I N T S

NEXT WEEK

Crazy little thing called...

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GUEST COLUMN

1994 is the year to take a stand for honesty

by WES COMBS

As the new year begins, we tend to reflect on the past year and set our priorities for the new year. In looking back on 1993, the lesbian, gay and bisexual community is faced with the grim reality that our lack of visibility directly affected the outcome of the military ban.

Every poll shows that Americans who know that a family member, loved one or someone close to them is lesbian, gay or bisexual are generally supportive fair treatment and oppose discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Having returned from the holidays with both my family and my partner Greg's family, two events reminded us of the importance of making honesty and visibility a continued priority in our lives.

Even though both of our families love and accept us, we found that most of them did not believe that in the United States you could be denied a job or a place to live just because of your sexual orientation. Even though we explained the passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado, where the denial of protection for lesbians and gays against these forms of discrimination was actually passed into law in 1993, they were still shocked that this actually happens.

We also were challenged about the need to "flaunt" our sexuality in the workplace. We explained that the simple mention of each other

in our office environments often conjures up sexual images in other people's minds about our lives. We were able to show that the same mention by heterosexual co-workers about their wives or husbands is almost always accepted and not considered sexual at all.

This trip showed us that even those of us who are loved and accepted by friends and family still have to continue to educate already enlightened families. But there are too many more families that do not know people like us, who learn about homosexuals from the lies and half-truths spread by people who teach intolerance and hatred. Our families heard these same lies about lesbians and gays before they knew we were gay. As it took us many years to accept and love ourselves, so did our families and friends come to accept us for who we are.

As the new year begins, I have made a resolution to no longer be silent and I ask you to do the same. In setting your priorities for 1994, keep our story in mind and understand

the need for everyone to make it a priority to take your next step in "coming out of the closet," step by step, day by day. It is through this process of being honest with ourselves that we are able to show our family, friends and co-workers that we actually are their children, their friends, their co-workers, their parents, their bosses and their fellow citizens.

We cannot sit back and criticize a president, a Congress, a county board member, a family member, a friend or a co-worker for not doing more for us than we are willing to do for ourselves. How can we blame others for not understanding gay, lesbian and bisexual issues if we do not educate them. There will always be excuses, reasons not to be honest with yourself and others. If you live in states where initiatives against gays and lesbians will be on the ballot in 1994, those in Colorado whose voice was not heard should remind us of the cost of silence.

Even though both of our families love and accept us, we found that most of them did not believe that in the United States you could be denied a job or a place to live just because of your sexual orientation.

Wes Combs is manager of National Coming Out Day, a project of the HRCF Foundation.

L E T T E R S

Mohr columns show that SoVo is run by gay Uncle Toms

It has long been obvious that Southern Voice is dominated by privileged, gay Uncle Toms that are pushing their own narrow agenda at the expense of the rest of the community. The constant articles lauding the party of Patrick Buchanan, while castigating the only president to ever be an advocate for gay rights, have made this obvious. Yet Richard Mohr's shallow and historically inaccurate guest editorials have taken Southern Voice to new and extraordinary lows.

Mohr mistakenly asserts that political activists have exhausted the resources of the gay community while producing no lasting results. He apparently does not know that the struggle against Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign galvanized the gay community in the 1970s. This struggle enabled Harvey Milk to successfully counter a California initiative to ban gay teachers. Harvey Milk's success led to the establishment of national gay political organizations and the election of gay people across the country. Luckily, Harvey Milk ignored experts like Mohr that told him that political campaigns were dangerous and fu-

tile. Mohr advocates that gay people stop lobbying Congress and discontinue campaigns against hate initiatives such as Colorado's Amendment 2. He believes that because politics is a rough and dirty game, gay people should refrain from participating in it. His argument is that gay people should ignore those that are attacking us and instead seek solace by joining cultural and religious groups.

Just how joining these groups would directly help the victims of homophobic aggression is a mystery. Would he tell the lesbian mother whose children have been wrenched from her home to attend a gay play? Would he tell the gay man whose military career has been destroyed to join the Gay Men's Chorus? Would he provide the gay youth that has been brutally beaten by the police with a reading list of gay literature?

Politics is the crucible in which our rights and liberties are forged. Controversies, from the showing of "Tales of the City" to gay parenting to AIDS education, show that our ability to speak freely through the arts, our

ability to keep our families intact, and even our safety and existence depend on our becoming a viable political force. We must not let anyone, from Pat Robertson to Richard Mohr, stand in our way.

Rick Maher
Atlanta

Stonewall is great but she's not involved

I'm writing to clear up a misstatement contained in the recent Outlines article about me. The article stated that I devote my spare time to Stonewall 25 and ACT UP, when in reality I have not worked on Stonewall 25. I support Stonewall 25. I agree with its focus and I hope to attend, but I should not receive credit for work I have not done.

There are many people in Atlanta and across the country who are working diligently to make Stonewall 25 something special, something great. I believe that those individuals deserve our support and our appreciation—I'm just not one of them.

Nancy C. Greenwood
Decatur



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.

Lesbians in the bedroom? In January? It can only mean...football

It was the fourth annual All Girls' Barbeque, the kind of party the seasonal Northerners throw for themselves in their South Florida winter homes to celebrate the fact that the only things they have to shovel off their driveways here in the middle of January are bougainvillea leaves and palm fronds. And, as happens annually, some of us year-rounders were included in the invites.

(By the way, if I haven't convinced you by now that you should be considering giving up shivering for a living and shifting to some South Florida sunshine, the Ft. Lauderdale-Is-A-Great-Lesbian-Destination Club will be coming around to tear up my contract as newsletter editor. Come on down.)

Anyway, this was my fourth year at it. I'd been to every AGB so far, and I know all the dialogue by heart.

"Lookin' great! How was the summer? Business is great. The market is better. Is the market better? How're the dogs? Is the boat in the water? When are you closing on the house?"

This year, I decided I'd done all those conversations already, and it was time to put a little more excitement into it.

You see, every year at the AGB, some time after the "Hi-how-are-you's," a major chunk of the party turns up missing. They all disappear into one of the bedrooms. Ooooooh. And, this year, I wanted to join them.

Now, those of you who speak fluent lesbian know exactly what was going on. For you uninitiated, let me pass you a clue. At weekend parties in January with over-30 lesbians, when that many women disappear into the bedroom, (Oh, you have such a dirty mind) it can mean only one thing.

Right. Football.

This year one of the football queens must



Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

have won the coin toss, because the TV was set up in the living room. Unheard of. But not disastrous to a Ft. Lauderdale party, because every house here comes equipped with what they call a "family" room, and which we all refer to as the "dyke den." Parties happen in the den. Living rooms are for walking through to admire how exquisitely they're decorated. We'd all long since admired the life-sized rattan baby giraffes and the signed Kate Millet litho, so this unused space was available.

Football. In a public room. It was a diversion too intriguing to pass up, especially since I'd already learned the states of the bond, flower, stock and real estate markets.

Now, I am not what you normally call your average girl jock. Oh, sure, I do have some butch tendencies, but I pretty much keep them under a couple of coats of high gloss

Revlon Pinkety Pink. Unless there's an emergency ceiling fan to install, or roof to pressure-clean. I know an inning from a quarter, a TD (touchdown, for those of you of the absolute femme persuasion) from an RBI (ask your girlfriend, girlfriend). On a Christmas or New Year's, I have been known to hunker down in front of a set to watch grown men with buns and assorted other apparatus clearly defined by very tight, very revealing clothing, throw themselves at each other without benefit of a Donna Summer tune or a revolving, mirrored, ceiling ball.

I could be cool. I could be with it. I could walk the walk, talk the talk, fit in with the gridiron gals.

"Hey," says I, pulling up an O'Doul's and an easy chair. "I recognize that black and silver shield. It's the Oakland Raiders. Cool. But who are they playing?"

Well, did I get hoots over that, or what? "Oakland? Oakland? Where have you been, woman?! It's the L. A. Raiders."

"Really? When did they move?" (Open mouth, insert foot, bite down.)

More hooting. "Eight or nine years ago," I was informed. Oops. What did I know? So I'd missed a few quarters. They let me stay anyway. Although I did almost blow the privilege again a little later, when I asked who we were voting for. We were, it seemed, voting for the Broncos, which no one in the group seemed at all concerned were from...Denver...in the dreaded state of Colorado.

It was a thoroughly enlightening and somewhat surprising experience. Several of my sisters could spout stats. Impressive. They knew quarterbacks by actual name. Last and first. They could cite their injuries.

It was an interesting afternoon. Football

wives carried on conversations in distant rooms, and came by occasionally to cuddle their honeys. Or to get them chips and dip refills. The Pigskin Pollys punched each other on the upper arm and cheered good blocking. Many of them spoke actual English in between quarters. At half time, they arose as a group, leaving cap/sweater/program markers to keep their reserved seats reserved, and joined the rest of us in light supper conversation.

Then, someone blew the whistle for the second half, and let the games begin. Again.

I asked a number of dumb question of the group, such as "Um, so whatever happened to the Rams?" which were given all the same tolerance I used to get from hetero dating when my oh-you-great-big-handsome-date-decider brought me along to see, oh, say, boxing. They all thought I was cute. And answered my silly inquiries with studied patience, never making eye contact which would require removing their eyes from the actual action.

When the score hit 35 for the Not-Coloradians, and a Serves-You-Right-For-Living-There-In-Homophobes'-Heaven 24 for the Broncos, I got up to go back to the rest of the party. Football wives had wound themselves into conversations of other interests, and, glancing over my shoulder at their tube-tied mates, inquired the score. "Almost all over but the complaining," I responded. "Ah," they all echoed, hopefully, and returned to their Moscoarpone and sun dried tomato dip.

It was an eerie flashback to thousands of other parties I'd attended alongside Whatisname so many years ago. It made me wonder what was actually so different now than what I was doing then. And then I remembered. The sex is better.

Go team. Rah.

L E T T E R S

Gays shouldn't show Stars and Bars

Just why are we turning a blind eye to those individuals in our community who espouse racism?

On the Sunday evening before this year's scheduled Martin Luther King march and rally, someone (white in color) decided to carouse at a local gay bar wearing a tacky shirt prominently displaying on the back the Stars and Bars. Now, admittedly, he's got a constitutional right to wear whatever he wants within the scope of the local obscenity code. My black lover, also, has a constitutional right to express himself, and he did just that. To my partner's question of why would he want to wear a shirt like that in a gay bar knowing that it may offend some people, the jerk inanely responded that "it's the only shirt I have that is clean." (This, after he pirouetted in a modeling session when one of his friends regarded it as a conversation piece.)

Moments later, I got disgusted enough to confront this idiot. I told him that I didn't care if it was the only shirt he owned. Since we really need the support of African-Americans in attaining our goal of equal rights as gays and lesbians, I think it is virtually stupid of him to even possess an item that slaps them (my lover included) in the face. Or is he kissing up to the likes of heritage-proud white Georgians [such as] J.B. Stoner and Lester Maddox, thinking they will help us in the end? Right.

If this moron is reading this letter and still cannot understand, let me spell it out for him. The lesbian and gay community, widely perceived as white-led, gets criticized by black leaders like State Rep. Henrietta Canty, D-Atlanta, for not being there for the black civil rights movement when they most needed our help. (Witness the historical processional or-

der of the annual Martin Luther King march. As long as this policy remains in effect, the lesbian/gay contingent—like it or not—will always be at the end of the parade because we were among the last identifiable groups to support black civil rights.)

The insensitive display by a gay or lesbian of a symbol associated with racist hate-mongers only buys into Rep. Canty's argument. It really discredits us. Moreover, it doesn't do a heck of a lot to encourage our black gay/lesbian brothers and sisters to unite with us against homophobic oppressors of all colors in the rainbow.

Maybe this insensitive creep is content with living as a second-class citizen. I'm not.

D. Marlin Knapp
Atlanta

Central Presbyterian supports justice

There are two "communities" to which I belong that I become very defensive about whenever either of them is threatened. One—the gay community—chose me 45 years ago. The other—Central Presbyterian Church—I chose more than 20 years ago. The unfortunate, although accurate, phrase in your article about the Georgia General Assembly [SoVo, Jan. 13] needs some clarification to put it in the proper perspective.

The statement was in reference to Nancy Schaefer's Family Concerns Inc. group, which you accurately reported met at Central Church. What needs to be noted, and what I hope you will communicate to your readers, is that this group reserved space at the church under the guise of a "prayer group," and as soon as our clergy learned of their true agenda, they were

immediately asked to leave.

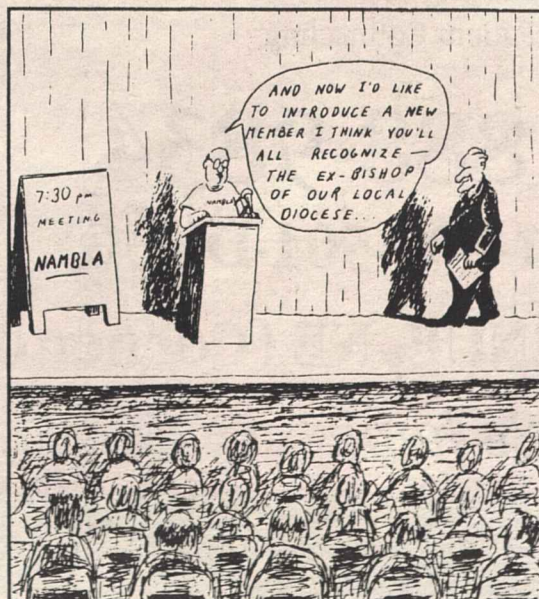
Central Presbyterian Church has a tradition in our denomination and in our city for its support for human justice and civil rights. Flanked by the county courthouse to its back, City Hall to its side and facing the State Capitol, Central has continued to sound the alarm at injustice, just as it did when its bell warned Atlanta of Sherman's approach in 1864. Its support of textile and farm workers in their quest for fair business practices, its 70-year-old health clinic serving the poor and, more recently, its joint AIDS ministry with St. Joseph's Hospital, its phenomenal outpouring of love and concern at the death of Martin Luther King Jr., its racially and economically diverse Child Development Center, its night shelter, are documented examples of Central's ministry to the city. The fact that both President Clinton and President Bush visited Central during the campaign speaks to its commitment to the human condition rather than bipartisan politics.

As a staff member of Central Church for most of the last 21 years, I want the other community in my life to know the openness and acceptance I have found in the midst of that congregation and how vehemently I will come to its defense. I applaud the action of our clergy in evicting this group as an "outward and visible sign" of the intolerance of abuse which I have found is "central" to this historic old church.

Michael Morgan
Atlanta

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



Lesbians will be targeted by federally funded cancer screening program

Activists score yet another victory in getting the medical establishment to recognize the unique health care needs of lesbians

Washington—On Monday, Jan. 21, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) met with lesbian health care leaders to explore ways to include lesbians as a special population for the CDC breast and cervical screening programs across the country. This is an important acknowledgment by a federal agency that lesbians are a population that should be targeted in early detection programs.

Susan Hester, president of the Mary-

Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, was asked to assist the CDC in organizing the meeting. She attended both as a representative of an organization that services lesbians with cancer and as a member of the National Coalition of Feminist and Lesbian Cancer Projects. Other participants included representatives from the Lesbian Community Cancer Project of Chicago, Lesbian Health Project in Maine, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Whitman-Walker clinic of Washington, DC, Illinois State and New York City Departments of Health and several other health provider organizations.

"We are pleased to be entering this relationship with the CDC. We believe we can identify the barriers to health care that lesbians experience and ways to overcome these barriers," said Hester. "If we can be successfully included in this cancer screening program, it will serve as a model for other programs to target lesbians for health care ser-

vices.."

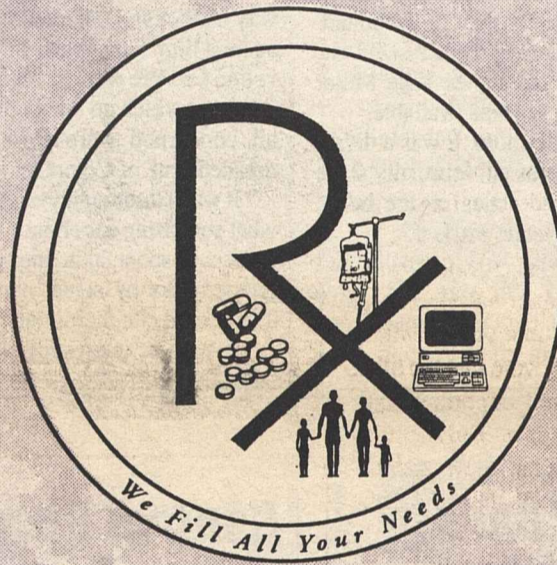
Kevin Brady, acting section chief, Program Services Branch, represented the CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, which oversees the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The division gives grants to state health departments to conduct cancer screenings of uninsured or underinsured women, particularly older, minority or American Indian women. The CDC programs are currently conducted in 45 states, and in two states, Illinois and Maine, lesbians have been participating in the program.

Brady said the decision to target lesbians was based on requests from some of the states that conduct the screening programs. He stated that most lesbians don't bear children, which may put them at greater risk for breast cancer, that most lesbians typically don't use birth control and that many don't seek health care exams as often as heterosexual women.

Another factor that can be a barrier is that lesbians are fearful of revealing their sexual orientation to their providers. These factors qualify lesbians as special population for health prevention screening programs.

"Lesbian health care advocacy has realized several gains in the past few months, and I am optimistic that we can sustain the momentum," added Hester. "Our inclusion in the Health and Human Services Secretary's Conference to Establish a National Action plan on Breast Cancer certainly helped us gain the visibility we needed with the CDC, and we will continue to move forward from here."

The Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer was formed in 1990. It educates health care providers about the special concerns of lesbians with cancer and advocates for lesbians on health issues in the local and national arena. For more information call 202-332-5536.



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LONG TERM SURVIVING

DAVID STANLEY

Remembering my brother, Phil

Last month, Alicia, a staff member at the AIDS Survival Project, casually asked how I was handling my brother's death from AIDS almost two years ago. I mumbled something, I forget what, but the question stayed with me.

Phil and I weren't as close as we could have been, but we were close enough that if I had a need to gossip, I could call him for a conversation that would give us both a fit of giggles. I miss him terribly.

When I entered clinical trials for AIDS research in 1986, my main concern was for myself. A year of full blown AIDS with absolutely no therapy available was a frustrating as anything I had yet faced. I wanted to fight for my life and these trials finally presented me with some weapons. Whether they would work was completely unknown, but at least I had some weapons.

As I responded well to the combination of AZT and alpha Interferon I began to see the possibilities that the research in which I was involved might also benefit Phil, who had also tested positive for HIV. There had been talk of the possible role in genetics in one's ability to fight the virus, and I hoped, even though Phil and I didn't resemble each other very much, that maybe we shared the genes that mattered for immune systems.

When one is a big brother, I think that it's instinctive to want to be protective of younger siblings. I know I hoped that by going through all the shit involved with testing new drugs, Phil wouldn't have to go through the same shit. I wanted enough to be learned from my experiences, that Phil's life would gain some protection.

Unfortunately nothing I went through proved any benefit whatsoever to Phil. Once his CD4 count dropped below 500 the disease became a bulldozer that nothing could stop. Nothing we tried would slow it down.

When Phil started weakening, my frustration got so bad that I felt compelled to write. I felt that if, after all the crap I had gone thru, I couldn't help Phil, I could surely

help someone.

Phil was only able to read the first couple columns I wrote before his dementia started. I was always the jock and technically minded member of the family, so Phil was surprised that I had it in me to express myself on paper. He respected my writing, which meant a lot to me. It's important for brothers to respect each other.

When Atlanta NAPWA first formed, I went to a couple meetings, but for one reason or another, I didn't get active until this past year or so. Working with them, now as the AIDS Survival Project, and writing this column makes me feel that I can help others. Phil is gone, but I can do this now and feel that big brother feeling.

Phil was totally non-athletic, but he had an intellect and an understanding of the arts that I could never hope to match. I never thought of these as differences, but as ways in which we complemented each other. If there was something that one of us couldn't understand or do, chances were that the other one could. We also shared important similarities: we were both gay; we had identical moral, ethical, and political view and beliefs; and we both could laugh at the same things.

Loosing Phil left a void in my life.

I have tried to fill that void with my writing and my activism. I feel that when I express myself, it is not just me that I am representing, but also Phil. His opinion is still important and, I hope, is still being expressed through me.

I'm relating all this because January 29th was Phil's 40th birthday. I want it to be remembered and can imagine the celebration that we would have had. Phil inspired me when he lived, and he inspires me still. He was special to those who knew him, and I would not be the man I am without the experience of him.

So, to Phil Stanley, wherever you are, happy 40th birthday. You were a good man who will not be forgotten. I hope that you still have fits of giggles like we used to.

I do.

There had been talk of the possible role in genetics in one's ability to fight the virus, and I hoped, even though Phil and I didn't resemble each other very much, that maybe we shared the genes that mattered for immune systems.

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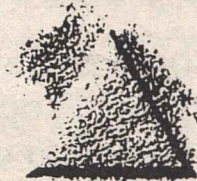
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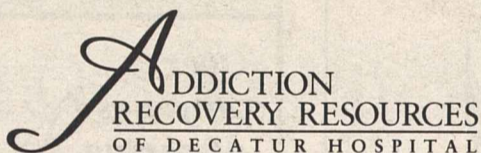
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Exercise combats a host of women's middle age ills

Middle age doesn't have to make women feel suddenly old. Exercise can help retain strength and vitality.

"Exercise decreases risk factors for coronary artery disease, decreases the risk of osteoporosis, strengthens pelvic structure and improves mood," said a report in *The Physician and Sportsmedicine*, a medical journal.

Studies find that taking up aerobic exercise can increase endurance, according to the article by Kathleen M. Hargarten of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Diseases of the heart are a special concern to women at menopause because diminished estrogen production robs them of that hormone's apparent protective effect against cholesterol increases, the article said. But exercise seems to increase production of high-density lipoproteins, which sweep away low-density lipoproteins, the cholesterol component that can lead to artery-clogging buildups of plaque.

"There are indications that even relatively low- to moderate-intensity exercise can produce significant increases in HDL cholesterol," Hargarten wrote in the January issue of the journal.

Her personal prescription leans to the moderate end, calling for a minimum of three vigorous 20-minute aerobic exercise sessions per week. However, some researchers have found that even daily walking can improve HDL levels.

Reduction in estrogen also can lead to the brittle-bone disease known as osteoporosis. But exercise puts stress on bones, which stimulates them to become stronger, the article said. Estrogen replacement is considered the best therapy against bone loss in postmenopausal

women. But "recent evidence suggests that exercise also helps prevent and possibly reverse bone loss caused by aging," the article said.

This may be overstating the benefits, said Barbara L. Drinkwater, a researcher on osteoporosis.

Some women will think that exercise, combined with adequate calcium, the raw material of bone, will protect them—but there's no evidence to support this, said Drinkwater.

Exercise can, however, prevent a bad thing from getting unnecessarily worse, said Drinkwater, a research physiologist at Pacific Medical Center in Seattle. "It would prevent the bone loss that would occur from being inactive." But the value of exercise alone "is not really very impressive," she said.

There's no evidence that exercise can help a woman control hot flashes, the article said. However, exercise can fight atrophy of the muscles and ligaments of the pelvis—an important point, because atrophy can increase the risk of prolapse, Hargarten said.

Hargarten praises Kegel exercises—tightening of the pelvic diaphragm muscles—to fight these problems. Women should first learn how the muscles function by stopping urine midstream, she said. She recommends 20 Kegels twice a day, for up to 10 seconds per contraction.

Some studies have also found that middle-age women who exercise regularly showed less anxiety and depression than did women who didn't exercise, the article said. And exercise can give a person a feeling of accomplishment, it concluded.

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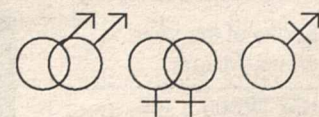
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Army opens AIDS vaccine trials

Meriden, CT—The U.S. Army is inviting pharmaceutical companies to compete with MicroGeneSys Inc. in a \$20 million trial of AIDS vaccines, a Pentagon spokesman said Jan. 21.

The Army will put out a request for proposals for funding other vaccine research projects over two to four years, said Maj. Bill Buckner. The application deadline is March 15.

"Anyone can apply for this," Buckner said.

The Army's request for proposals will force the MicroGeneSys biopharmaceutical company, based in Meriden, to compete for funding against developers of half a dozen other AIDS vaccines. Initially, the Army had planned to test only the MicroGeneSys vaccine.

"Definitely, it is something we would be interested in," said Geoff Teeter of Genentech Inc., a west coast vaccine developer. "From the beginning, we have advocated multi-vaccine trials."

MicroGeneSys Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Frank Volvovitz said it was premature to say if his company would participate. "We'll have to take a look at the solicitation," he said.

The \$20 million allocation for AIDS vaccine testing has been bounced back and forth among government agencies and proposed uses for 16 months as scientists and AIDS advo-

cates protested the lobbying effort mounted by MicroGeneSys to secure the money.

In April 1993, the money seemed destined for a competitive trial of four or five different vaccines, including the vaccine manufactured by MicroGeneSys, under the direction of the National Institutes of Health. But MicroGeneSys refused to donate its vaccine as required by NIH, so the trial never materialized.

Later, the Army once again announced plans to proceed with solo trials of the MicroGeneSys vaccine. But tests were torpedoed when researchers and the AIDS community again brought pressure, this time with the assistance of the White House.

The MicroGeneSys vaccine has shown promise in trials now under way in Sweden by helping control several diseases that accompany AIDS and do the actual killing. However, the results are preliminary and based on too small a patient sample to provide real proof.

MicroGeneSys, which was founded Jan. 30, 1984, has yet to market a drug or generate revenue.

"I'm sure MicroGeneSys will not only survive, but will evolve from this," said Dr. Harvey Sadow, one of the company's directors.

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Country stars launch AIDS fight

Washington, DC—Some of the biggest names in country music are launching an AIDS-awareness campaign, warning that the disease is spreading quickly in rural America and promoting the use of condoms.

The "Break the Silence" campaign, aimed at the 50 million Americans who say they are country music fans, was unveiled in mid-January by singer-songwriter Mary-Chapin Carpenter and music industry officials. Carpenter and singer Mark Chesnutt are co-chairing the effort, which urges the use of condoms and frank discussions between parents and children.

In one newspaper advertisement, Chesnutt says, "AIDS ain't just some big city problem. Did you know that AIDS is increasing twice as fast in rural areas as in urban areas?" It also notes, "AIDS isn't somebody else's problem, it's everybody's problem."

Carpenter, the 1993 Country Music Association female vocalist of the year, says in

another newspaper ad that using a condom helps prevent the spread of HIV. "But you have to use them properly, and that means every time you have sex, from start to finish."

Similar versions were recorded for television and radio, along with other announcements featuring Garth Brooks, Johnny Cash and about 40 other musicians.

The conservative Family Research Council said the campaign ignores facts and twists statistics.

"The materials do not tell people that the vast majority of AIDS infections are in the homosexual and IV drug-using populations in metropolitan areas," said Robert Knight, the council's director of cultural studies. "If country music stars want to 'break the silence' surrounding AIDS, they should start by being honest about the kinds of behaviors that could result in your death."

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Reticent doctors get HIV guides from AMA

Washington, DC—Seeking to overcome the reluctance of doctors to treat people infected with HIV, a government panel offered primary care providers new advice Jan. 20 on how to treat patients with early HIV infection.

A 1990 survey of general-care physicians found that half would not treat people with HIV if they had the choice and almost one-third saw nothing wrong with withholding treatment. Cornelius A. Baker of the National Association of People with AIDS said one survey found 24 percent of people with HIV said health care workers were afraid to care for them.

The 196-page paperback book of guidelines distills the latest scientific wisdom on drug treatment of HIV patients, how to ward off opportunistic infections, detecting and dealing with tuberculosis, syphilis and other problems.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research also published two consumer guides aimed at people with the virus and parents of children with HIV.

Kristine Gebbie, the national AIDS policy coordinator, said too often doctors refer HIV

positive patients to distant, advanced medical centers for treatment.

"There are simply not enough infectious disease specialists to care adequately for the growing numbers of people living with HIV," concurred Dr. Philip R. Lee, the assistant U.S. secretary for health. Lee said half the estimated 1 million Americans who carry HIV do not know they are infected.

The American Medical Association applauded the new guidelines and has sent a 25-page booklet offering similar advice on early treatment of HIV to all 192,000 primary care doctors across the country. The group's guidelines cost about \$100,000 to develop, aside from printing and mailing costs, which are being paid by the Burroughs Wellcome Co., which makes the anti-retroviral drug AZT.

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Free copies of the guideline, "Early Evaluation and Management of HIV Infection," and consumer booklets are available by calling 1-800-342-2437. Copies in Spanish are available by calling 1-800-344-7432. Information is also available by fax by calling 1-301-594-2800.

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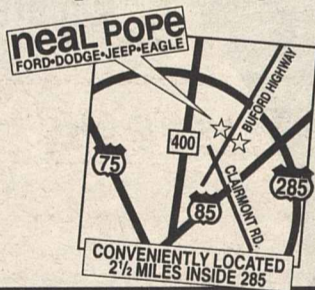
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Scathing report calls HIV drug testing effort "a house of cards"

by BRUCE MIRKEN

A scathing report from New York's Treatment Action Group, released in December but virtually ignored by the media, calls the government's primary structure for testing AIDS drugs "a house of cards built on a foundation of quicksand."

The report, authored by TAG member and longtime activist Mark Harrington, says anti-HIV drug trials conducted through AIDS clinical trial groups, or ACTGs, are badly designed, based on unproven assumptions and produce data that is nearly worthless.

Other AIDS advocates, even when disagreeing with some of Harrington's specific points, generally agreed that the ACTG process has serious problems. And TAG's recommendations have a history of being taken seriously. The key proposals in its 1992 analysis of National Institutes of Health AIDS research (co-authored by Harrington and again largely ignored by the media) were incorporated almost verbatim into legislation passed by Congress last year.

The new document, titled "The Crisis in Clinical AIDS Research," plunges into the nuts and bolts of recent and ongoing clinical trials of anti-HIV treatments. Author Harrington uses three examples—the Army's gp160 vaccine research, the AZT/ddC combination therapy trial known as ACTG 155 and the recent "convergent combination therapy" fiasco—to illustrate the kinds of poor trial design and occasional willful misinterpretation of data that he charges are at the heart of the system's problems.

The studies of "convergent combination therapy"—the simultaneous use of three drugs

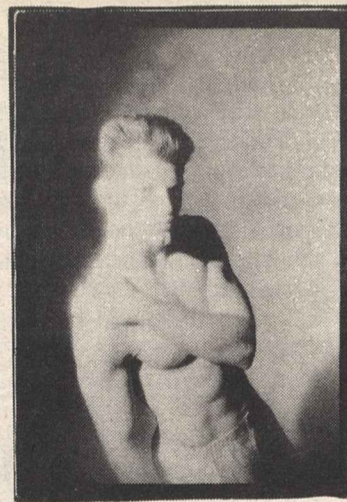
that all target the HIV enzyme known as reverse transcriptase—draw much of Harrington's fire. Early last year, a testing protocol known as ACTG 241 was approved. The methodology of the study is questionable, Harrington argues, because it uses a combination of AZT and ddI—commonly used in daily practice but about which there is little clear data from controlled studies—as the "control" against which to compare an untried drug combination of AZT, ddI and Nevirapine.

That was problematic enough, Harrington argues, but things went nuts when a wildly (and, it turned out prematurely) optimistic lab report was published in the journal Nature last February indicating that the three-drug combination could shut down HIV replication entirely. The report—which came from the lab of Dr. Martin Hirsch, chair of the ACTG's Primary Infection Committee (the group which coordinates tests of anti-HIV drugs)—was hyped by the institutions involved and trumpeted in the media.

With Hirsch's name attached to the encouraging data, the size of ACTG 241 was quickly doubled and the AZT/ddI/Nevirapine combination was added to another trial. "No scientific rationale for expanding the study was presented," Harrington dryly observes. Between the media hype and Hirsch's clout, none was needed. And thanks to the publicity, even the expanded study was swamped with far more would-be participants than could be enrolled.

The hype came crashing down last summer, when the researchers in Hirsch's lab found

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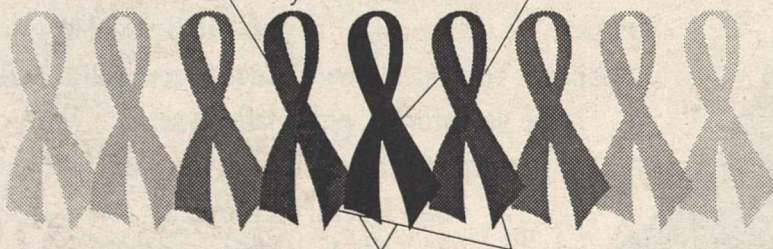
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TAG report

Continued from page 14

an error in the optimistic February report. They hadn't found HIV's "Achilles Heel" (as they had described it) after all.

But by then, an array of other "convergent combination" studies were in full swing and there was no move to curtail or modify them. "Sometimes the belief in combination therapy seems to overtake the need for a careful exploration of how best to study it," observes Harrington, who has been participating in ACTG meetings for four years. "Having failed to show that two drugs are better than one, we are now comparing three drugs to two as though the issue were settled... Within the ACTG there is no true peer review in the Primary Infection Committee, and too little oversight by the Executive Committee. Therefore, it was smooth sailing from the first for a catchy hypothesis that more careful work would have doomed from the outset."

Reaction to TAG's analysis by other AIDS treatment advocates has been generally positive, although some criticize Harrington for devoting relatively little space to proposing constructive solutions to the problems he outlines. Marty Majchrowicz, manager of the Treatment Education Program at AIDS Project Los Angeles, calls the report "fabulous. There are some major problems and they haven't been addressed. The ACTG keeps plugging along as if everything is OK, and it's not."

Project Inform founder Martin Delaney gives Harrington's analysis a mixed review. "I don't think it's Mark's best effort," he comments, noting that previous TAG reports have put more emphasis on "constructive criticism" and concrete suggestions for improvement.

One conclusion that brought widespread agreement was that the ACTG has not been good at putting together phase three and four studies—large scale trials designed to fine-

tune the use of a drug that has already been shown to have some effectiveness. The studies of this type that have been done, Harrington argues, have been too small to give clear answers about the fairly subtle differences between drugs like AZT, ddI and ddC, and have not done well at conducting long-term follow-up of participants.

Harrington suggests moving such studies out of the ACTG system, based primarily in large university research centers, and into the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA), which is centered in community-based clinics.

"I absolutely agree," says G'dali Braverman of ACT UP/Golden Gate. Braverman thinks that "the CPCRA could be a very good place to do phase three studies," but notes that trials involving "very intensive virology and immunology" might still need the ACTG's scientific infrastructure.

Delaney goes a step further. "In general, if you were going to ask me, I'd disband the ACTG," he says. "I don't think the drugs we have warrant this huge bureaucracy we've created"—a bureaucracy, he notes, that often duplicates other existing research structures and that has created "a lot of hungry mouths to feed, regardless of whether there are any drugs worth testing." Delaney agrees that if the ACTG structure is preserved, it would be better used to develop early stage, "high tech" trials designed to identify worthwhile treatments instead of "these me-too AZT/ddI/ddC trials."

Delaney thinks the time has come for a "serious, top-to-bottom assessment of how the resources are being used" in AIDS research, conducted by independent analysts not connected with the federal AIDS effort, and broader in scope than TAG's effort. "I don't think a good analysis has yet been done of all this," he concludes.

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New gay/lesbian rights group sets platform, announces plans

Washington, DC—After meeting in Washington over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Gay and Lesbian Americans, the latest national political organization formed to advance the cause of lesbian/gay liberation, adopted a platform and announced plans to organize local and state grassroots chapters across the country.

"We can't rely on a small handful of elite Washington lobbyists to gain the freedom of millions of gay and lesbian Americans," said Steven Reichert, who is serving as GLA's interim national network coordinator. "Our challenge will be to empower people to speak for themselves, shout at their elected officials and have a voice in their own liberation."

Gay and Lesbian Americans burst onto

the scene last year after President Clinton decided not to honor his promise to lift the military ban. In an advertisement in the Washington Blade, the GLA took existing lesbian/gay political groups, in particular the Human Rights Campaign Fund, to task for being timid and ineffective in the face of the assault against lesbian and gay rights.

The GLA also criticized national gay/lesbian groups for being too oriented toward federal issues and having an inside-Washington viewpoint that didn't represent the ideas and concerns of lesbians and gays throughout the country.

The main players in the GLA at that time were Reichert and activist Michael Petrelis, a controversial figure long critical of HRCF. Since then, however, the GLA has broad-

ened its organizational leadership with a number of other prominent activists from New York, Kansas City and Colorado.

The HRCF has since come out with its own plan to build a national grassroots network—a plan HRCF officials say was already in the works prior to the birth of GLA. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, too, is planning to move further beyond a Washington focus, according to its new executive director, Peri Jude Radecic.

Still, the GLA can probably be expected to have more of an activist point of view than either of HRCF or NGLTF. In fact, the GLA lists "direct action" as one of the tactics it will use to push its platform.

The platform adopted in Washington calls for the GLA to advocate for passage of gay/

lesbian civil rights bills—on both the federal and state levels. The group will also push for support of the AIDS Cure Act, a piece of legislation recently introduced in Congress that would set up a "Manhattan Project" to find a cure for AIDS. And the GLA will also push for repeal of sodomy laws in states that still have them.

The group's first public demonstration is planned for Valentine's Day, when a nationwide, simultaneous series of press conferences will be held at state capitols across the country to advocate for gay/lesbian-specific local issues. The event is called "Queers Across America."

For more information about the GLA, call toll free (800) 889-5111.

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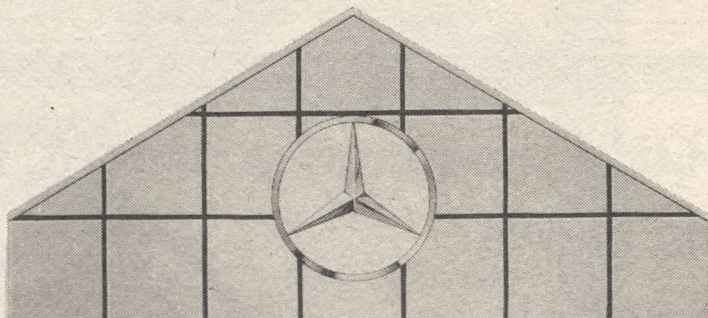
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OCCASIONS

BIRTHDAYS

If you happened to be at Cowtippers the night of Jan. 22, there is an explanation for all that commotion coming from the back room. Scott Meehan was celebrating his 25th birthday and as usual could not keep his friends corralled. A "maavalous" time was had by all.

Happy belated birthday to Walter Simpson who turned 21, *again*, on Jan. 24.

Dancer/choreography/all around artist Jim Chappelleaux had a birthday Jan. 6

Steve Alper called to say that 40 is fantastic. He hit the number on Jan. 25 and says he's not getting older, just better.



Joanne DeMark and Chris Parrish get into the butch/femme swing of things at the recent Lesbians for Just Desserts/Websters get together.

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy seventh anniversary to radical lesbian Cajuns and one time Atlantans Kelly "Dita" Prejean and Roxane "Rox" Smith in the Big Easy on Feb 3. Louisiana expatriates QP and Mona Love, et al, hope they soon wrest control of the Louisiana Banana Republic from Gov. "Fast Eddie" Edwards and run that state right. And happy Mardi Gras.

SAY AMEN

Hallelujah. Pastor S. Faybell Ma-Hee starts preaching at the Reformed Faith Worship Center in Veterans' Hall of Georgia State University's Alumni Hall at noon on Feb. 6.

Congratulations, and let the church say "Amen."

BOOKISH DELIGHTS

The Lesbians for Just Desserts book group recently enjoyed their second annual joint celebration with Websters (a lesbian writers' group). The theme of the party was butch/femme, inspired by the book they're currently reading: "The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader" edited by Joan Nestle.

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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GLAAD/Atlanta works in a proactive way with the media and the community to provide more fair, accurate and diverse representations of gay & lesbian persons.

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Survey seeks gay/lesbian greeks

Were you in a fraternity or sorority when you were in college? If so, you may be interested in participating in a confidential national survey of gay men and lesbians who are either undergraduate or alumni members of a traditional social fraternity or sorority. To obtain a copy of the survey, write to Fraternity Research, PO Box 15863, San Diego, CA 92175.

The research project is being conducted by Douglas Case, a gay political activist in San Diego, Calif. The five page survey con-

sists of 32 short-answer questions covering a variety of topics. Respondents are asked why they joined and what they got out of the greek experience. There are questions about sexual identity and activity while in college, homophobic attitudes or behavior within their fraternity or sorority chapter and any homophobic activity within the chapter.

The survey is strictly confidential, and the published results will not contain any names or information that might identify a particular individual.

Pride board elects 3 new members

Three newcomers have joined the board of the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee after the election for the board of directors at the general meeting on Jan. 20.

Judy Siff, a well-known lesbian activist and one of the organizers of The Dyke March '94, was elected to the board, as was Rev. Jay

Neely, district coordinator for the MCC Church. Phillip Davis, corporate secretary for the Atlanta Executive Network, will also join the board.

Two current members were re-elected—Richy Howard and Tom Whitehead.

Leather community plans bake sale

The Leathermen Atlanta, Panther L/L, and The Heretic are sponsoring a bake sale and giveaway on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. during "Kathleen's Gospel Hour." All proceeds from the food and ticket sales will benefit Jerusalem House.

The Heretic, located at 2069 Cheshire

Bridge Road, will offer a complimentary buffet beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the Jerusalem House party. Tickets are on sale now for prizes to be given away during the event, and you do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available at The Heretic.

Cobb Commission

Continued from page 3

municipalities. Now, all 21 members will be chosen by county commissioners, and their terms will run concurrent with the commissioner who appointed them.

The measure, which passed 5-0 on Jan. 25, was sponsored by Commissioner Gordon Wysong, author of the anti-gay and anti-arts legislation this summer. While denying that he was trying to retaliate against the commission, Wysong did tell the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the changes would make the council, which advises on issues concerning the county's various communities, "our agents instead of our adversaries."

The Community Relations Council had been the only remaining county board not under direct control of the commissioners. Members of the council say that it remains to be seen how it will be affected by the change.

"The true test of it will be who they appoint," said Mike Harrison, a council member whose term had expired and whose reappointment was on hold until after the

commission's vote. "The key is the make up of it. The diversity of the [council], the awareness of the council, is very important. They did have the right, certainly, to change its structure."

Noel Lytle, co-chair of the Cobb Citizens Coalition, organized in response to last summer's anti-gay activity, attending the second of two public hearings on the issue, and said that it was clear the commissioners had no intentions of listening to opposition.

"The 10 speakers were unanimous in opposition," he said. "But they voted to put the [council] directly in their control. It was like none of us had spoken there."

But Lytle said he was pleased that members of his group, the council itself and the Network for Social Change, an organization under the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, were visible at the hearing.

"I think the commissioners were made aware that this was something they were not going to squeeze through without controversy," he said.

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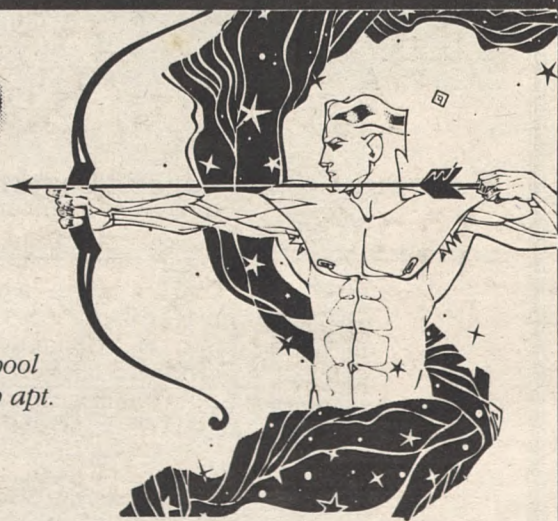
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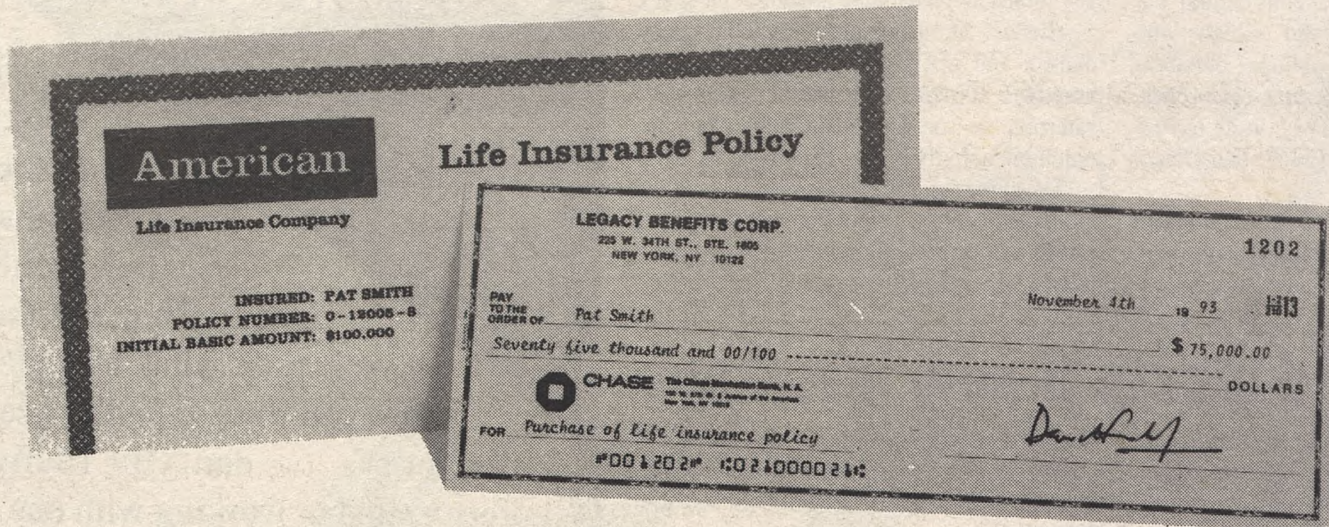
Along the way, she also helped pioneer women's rights to own property, organize unions and the right to sue, to name a few.

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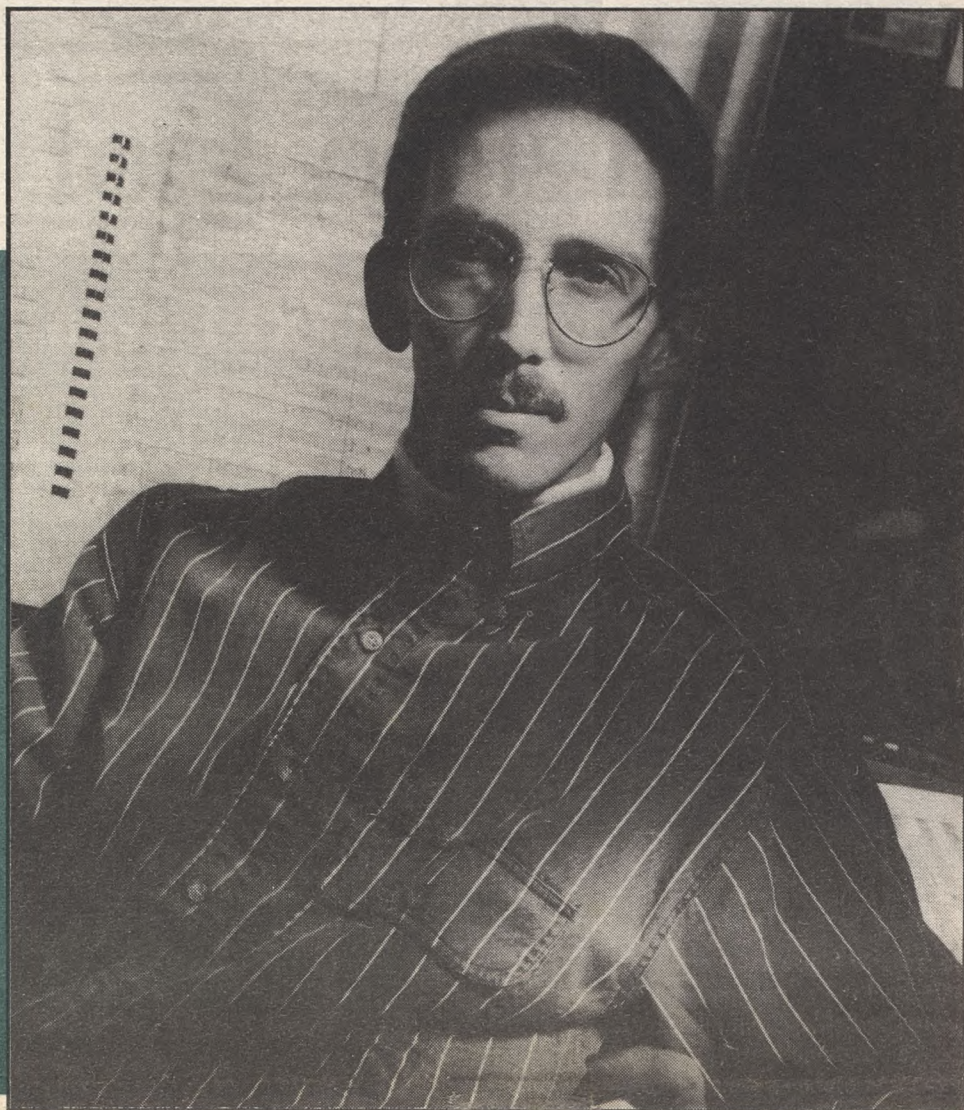
By BRIAN COCHRAN

In his music, Lee Gannon wins the battle of his life. The plaintive line of a clarinet, representing HIV, is bested by the most unlikely of foes, a toy piano. In another work, a strong, rigid line of notes seems to be unstoppable but, in the end, cannot endure in a competition with a floating passage, representing the composer himself.

Gannon, who lives in Nashville, has been HIV positive for seven years. He explains the unusual choice of the sound of a toy piano in his piece, "The Time Was Gold," as representing his feeling that "answers to difficult questions are found in unexpected places." In Gannon's opinion, the answer to the AIDS virus will come from a similar, unexpected place.

For Gannon, composing music is the most effective way he has of dealing with being HIV positive. Through it, he can assert his strength against the disease by writing notes on the page, which transfers to his own outlook about his health. He

The
music of
Nashville
composer
Lee Gannon
is a place
where HIV
never
triumphs



Nashville composer Lee Gannon, who is living with HIV, says his music helps fuel the positive outlook he needs to survive.

finds the necessary ingredients to survive—courage, power, the will to live—in creating his art. Nothing is more effective.

"All of my music is either about [HIV] or about escaping from it," he says. "In my music, I get the opportunity to overcome the virus."

Gannon's work will be featured this week in a performance by Thamyris, an Atlanta-based contemporary chamber music ensemble. The concert, "A Tribute to Those Living With AIDS," which will be held in the acoustic splendor of Spivey Hall at Clayton State College, is designed to explore, through music, the way our lives have been affected by AIDS and will include a pre-concert talk by Gannon and Seattle composer Janice Giteck.

Other composers whose work will be performed during the program include Michael

Torke, Joji Yuasa and David Liptak.

Thamyris is known for its innovative interpretations of modern works, as well as for trying to increase knowledge about modern music as a genre. In fact, the seven-member group was founded by percussionist Peggy Benkeser and keyboardist Laura Gordy out of frustration with the lack of outlets for modern music artists in Atlanta.

Thamyris will perform two of Gannon's works. The first, "The Time Was Gold," echoes Schoenberg's archetype for new music ensemble compositions, with the clarinet line representing HIV serving as the basis in the piece. Gannon describes it as a very "visceral" work. Though the clarinet solos convincingly, the composer takes his final revenge on the virus that invaded his life by having the ensemble completely destroy it.

The second piece, "Derelict," is even more intimate, retelling the very personal story of how Gannon had to give up playing his instrument, the flute, due to his illness.

In this piece, which is written in three sections, the virus is represented by a set of seven notes which are very structured, academic and regimented ("like the virus itself," says the composer). The first section reveals the virus by itself, strong and unbeatable. The second, which is much more expressive, slower and floating, represents Gannon. Finally, there is a battle between the two in the third section—a battle the composer wins.

In addition to his musical work, Gannon is active in several Nashville AIDS organizations. He is also proud of the fact that he recently was elected to the vestry of his church.

The fusion between Thamyris and Gannon is a first, but the group is certainly known for its unorthodox performances. By exploring cross-cultural trends, employing collaborative performance structures with other creative arts and by commissioning new works written by local composers, former programs by the group have been as diverse as the sounds generated by the musician's instruments.

Former programs included "Portraits of Madness," a musical journey through insanity, "Can We All Get Along?" written by African-American composer William Banfield in response to the L.A. riots, and a whimsical program featuring pieces like "Twango," a takeoff on the tango.



The members of Thamyris, an Atlanta-based modern music ensemble.

A Tribute to Those Living With AIDS

a concert by Thamyris, will be held Sunday, Feb. 6 at Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton State College in Morrow. The pre-concert talk begins at 2:30 p.m. and the concert at 3:00pm. For ticket information, call 961-3683.

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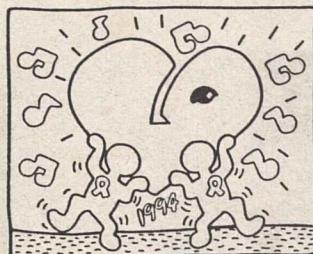
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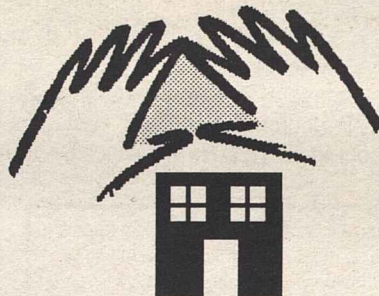
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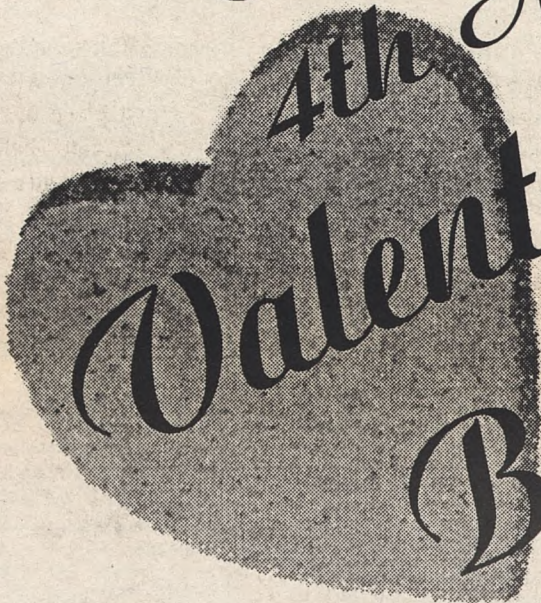
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THEATER

SPEED-THE-PLOW

There are those who revere David Mamet as the savior of American drama. But though his facility with words is fascinating, and his ear for dialogue is positively electric, there is not much to like about the people who populate his plays. And it would be a challenge for anyone to name any woman Mamet has created who has been shown in anything closely resembling a favorable light.

So given that Mamet is a misogynist, and also given that he writes about people you would rather not encounter under *any* circumstances, how do you approach a play like "Speed-the-Plow," which is currently having its Atlanta premier at Actor's Express?

Very carefully.

Speed-the-Plow runs through Feb. 27 at Actor's Express, 280 Elizabeth St., inman Park. For information, call 221-0831.

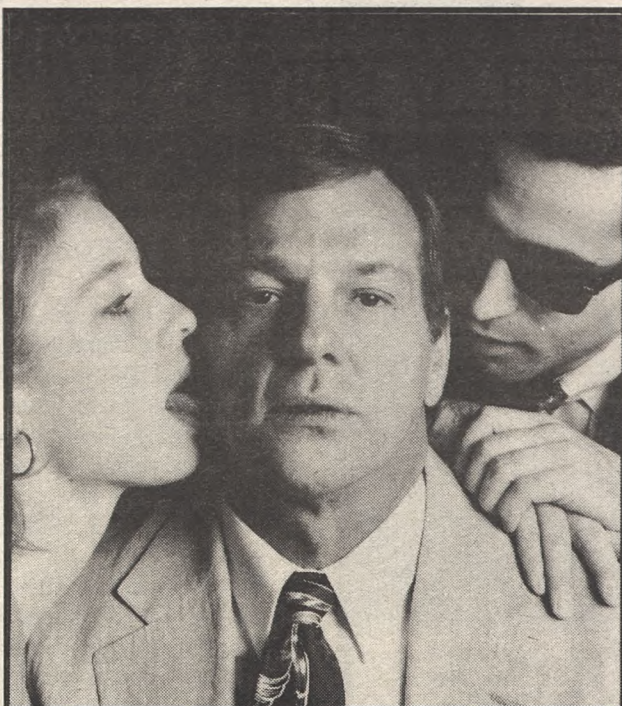
"Speed-the-Plow" is Mamet's insider look at the den of thieves he calls Hollywood. In this world of deals, counterdeals, contracts, options, greed, sex, corruption and just a touch of physical violence, we meet three unsavory people—Bob Gould (Frank Roberts), a studio executive, Charlie Fox (Gared Simon), one of his underlings, and Karen (Pamela Kerlin), a temporary secretary (she doesn't even rate a last name from Mamet) who would like to be one of the power brokers.

In "Speed-the-Plow," each one of these three characters takes a shot at having the upper hand. Bob "green lights" a movie project brought to him by Charlie. Karen

uses sex to seduce Bob into agreeing to a different project. Charlie literally strong-arms Bob and reduces Karen to nothing. Each manipulates the other.

There is nothing wrong with watching disagreeable people on stage. After all, in many plays, we root for the villain more often than we do the hero (Iago, for instance, has always been far more fascinating than Othello).

But when faced with unredeeming characters on a constant barrage of invective, it all gets rather tiresome. Actor's Express has done the best possible job with "Speed-the-Plow." Director Luann Purcell has captured all the necessary Mamet rhythms and nuances. The dialogue sparkles under her guidance. The play moves re-



Pam Kerlin, Frank Roberts (middle) and Gared Simon star as playwright David Mamet's ruthless trioka in "Speed-the-Plow" at Actor's Express.

lentlessly, never flagging or failing to hold our interest for a moment.

All three members of the cast put forth a valiant effort. Frank Roberts infuses the most humanity on stage into the role of Bob. He alone lets us see any vulnerability in one of these characters. Unfortunately, we soon learn that moment of weakness was really just his ego and his libido taking control over his sensibility ("She said I was a good man," he tells Charlie). Roberts also gets to display the widest mood swings, and he attacks these with all deliberate speed, taking his own good time to go from hustler to hustled and back again.

Gared Simon is a vastly talented and versatile actor who is a bundle of nervous energy on stage as Charlie (a marked contrast to his last role, at the late, lamented Southern Fried Production's, in "Talley's Folly"). He schmoozes and oils his way around the stage, finally coming to full fury in the play's closing scene.

Pamela Kerlin has the most thankless role in "Speed-the-Plow." She does her best to convey a wide-eyed innocence, which is soon transformed into a viper's gaze. And she does both very well. She makes us believe she is the epitome of naivete at first, that she doesn't even realize she's being seduced by Bob. However, she soon unleashes a hitherto unseen fire in the second act as she slithers (literally, like a snake) and slides and gets her own way with Bob—using sex as the weapon of choice, of course.

So here's the dilemma. On one hand, you have a polished, professional production of a well-known play. On the other hand, you have this sexist piece of well-written tripe (Mamet's penchant for staccato dialogue and brilliant wordplay being very much in evidence here) that is utterly offensive.

When it's over, you might not know whether to hail Mamet or slap the shit out of him.

MICHAEL KAPE

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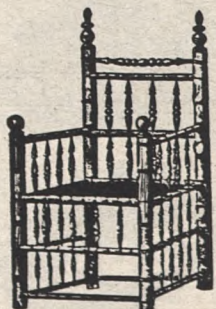
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Who's dining who?

AIDS Survival Project puts a twist of mystery into their fundraising dinner

Fundraising dinners that benefit groups fighting HIV/AIDS are, unfortunately, still necessary after all these years. Many of these events are fancy dinners at the usual locations with the usual people—an auction theme where you make sure you have checkbook in tow or a nightclub ambiance featuring a drag or fashion show.

But the Atlanta's AIDS Survival Project (formerly NAPWA) is trying out a new twist on things by injecting a little mystery—and a little lottery—into the dining process.

Called, appropriately enough, "Who's Dining Who," the event on Feb. 19 will feature a series of 23 dinner parties, hosted by individuals at various locations around the city. The twist is that ticketbuyers won't get to decide which of the parties to attend. Instead, their names will be put into a hat and the guest lists for each party will be drawn by lottery.

Tickets will be sold in blocks of two, for \$50 per ticket. The two tickets will be bound together for the drawing, so you'll know at least one person at the party, namely your date. But other than that, it will be a strictly guess-who's-coming-to-dinner affair.

If you're interested, you need to buy your tickets early because the drawing is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5. Once the ticketholders are assigned to their prospective dinners, they will be advised of the theme for their party.

And there will be a different, nutty theme for each of the 23 soirees. Some of themes include "Mildred Pierced," "I'll Eat My Hat" and "Disco Inferno," just to name a few. Once the guests know the theme of their assigned destination, they are expected to attend in some fashion that will compliment said theme.

The most interesting part is that the participants will have no idea who will be at their dinner. Mark King, the executive director of the AIDS Survival Project, produced a similar event in Los Angeles last year (titled, appropriately enough, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"), says the event is a great way to expand social circles and strengthen friendships among people who share a common goal of caring for people living with HIV. The event was a hit in Los Angeles, says King, and he believes it will be a success here as well.

Don't expect dessert to follow immediately after the main course, though. You'll have to drive a bit. The evening wraps up with an extravagant dessert reception at the Nexus Contemporary Arts Center, with desserts provided by some of the city's finest caterers. And while diners are busy breaking enough New Year's resolution diets to provide Jenny Craig with an army of "before" pictures, they will be entertained with music and more.

Anyone interested in attending "Who's Dining Who" can purchase tickets—it is not an invitation-only event. Simply call the AIDS Survival Project at 874-7926 for more information. If the event has not sold out by the time of the lottery, prospective ticketbuyers can still attend and will be assigned to one of the dinners at random.

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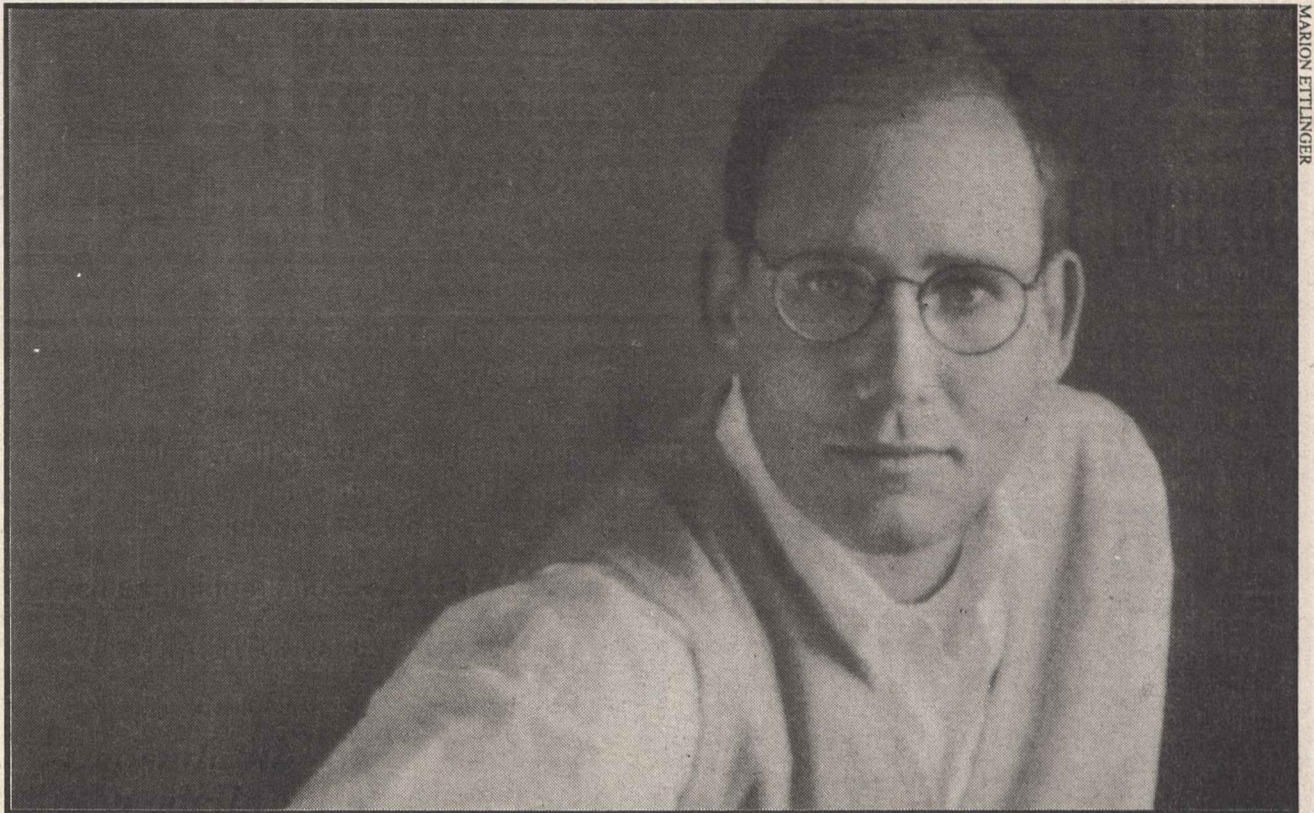
WHILE ENGLAND SLEEPS

The characters of Brian Botsford, a young writer, and Edward Phelan, a London Underground Transit employee, tenderly clash in David Leavitt's newest novel, "While England Sleeps."

The historical novel, set in the Europe of the 1930s, retells an all-too-familiar, but complex, love story. A simple tale of boy meets boy, and boy falls in love with boy, is immediately transformed into an intricate tragedy. Even though Brian and Edward come from diverse backgrounds, the instant passion and bond one has for the other becomes the predominant element of their relationship. Brian's reluctance to accept that he is gay, and Edward's secure understanding of who he is, significantly contribute to the paradox of their friendship. In spite of their differences, they flourish spontaneously and genuinely, until Brian condescends to his benevolent Aunt Constance's favorite pastime—matchmaking for her nephew.

The chosen candidate is Phillippa Archibald, the seemingly innocent and naive niece of one of Aunt Constance's friends. Their ensuing affair provides further fuel for Brian's personal and sexual confusion. Coupled with guilt as a result of his deceit with Edward, Brian embarks on a road toward unhappiness. The untimely conclusion of Brian's involvement with Phillippa finally affords Brian the opportunity to clearly see his love for Edward. Yet, as with the fate of many romantic novels, it appears the protagonist has seen the error of his ways too late.

While the prospects of living as a gay man still frighten Brian, he realizes it could not be worse than a life built around delusion. Seizing this philosophical opportunity, Leavitt speaks eloquently, through the inner voice of Brian, about the dangers of lies: "Lies corrupt you;" "You hurt people in order to protect your lies;" and finally, "The problem ceases to be that you cannot live without your lies so much as your lies cannot live without you." In the process, the reader sees that it is Brian's lies that have pushed his lover into irrevocable actions.



MARION EITTLINGER

David Leavitt's novel is the story of a passionate love between two men, set against the backdrop of the rise of fascism in Europe.

In the meantime, Edward has volunteered as a communist brigadier in Spain and leaves England. As the chaotic situation becomes more apparent, Brian sets off across Europe to find Edward. The heroic attempt to save Edward provokes Brian's face-to-face confrontation with the confusion of the "theater of his own personal life," and it indeed appears to be bleak and hopeless. Edward's imprisonment in Spain grants Brian the chance to redeem his past mistakes and lies. Brian's attempt to carry out a somewhat valiant rescue of Edward results in near failure. Only later does he confess, to a rescued Edward, his cowardice and reluctance over the entire ordeal.

The novel concludes in Los Angeles with an epilogue dated 1978. The main character, Brian, has journeyed on in a

life filled with some regrets. "His guilt has become manageable," and his past personal grief has become buried in a "mostly peaceful" 31-year stint.

Leavitt's "While England Sleeps" will cause the reader to reflect upon the melodramatic complexities of the pilgrimage of life. The tender portrayal of the primary characters provides an in-depth study of real human beings, with all their virtues and vices. The reader may not have to look too hard to see the reflection of oneself mirrored in this successful and perceptive novel.

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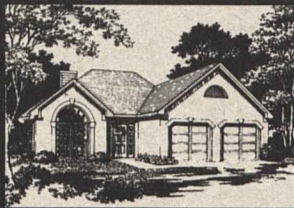
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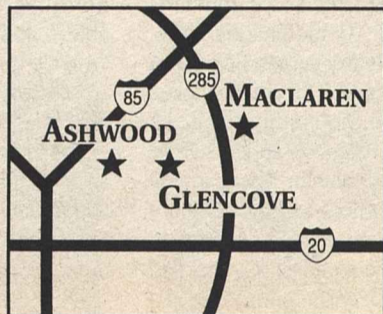
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Black gay writers left out in cold

by DELL RICHARDS

While gay and lesbian authors are making it in the mainstream publishing world in record numbers, their black brothers and sisters often find themselves left out in the cold.

A few African-American authors make it big each decade—witness such successes as James Baldwin and Langston Hughes—and although author and activist Essex Hemphill recently was picked up by a mainstream press, he is the exception, not the rule.

Most gay African-American authors run up against insurmountable barriers. For the majority, starting their own press is the only answer.

"So many lesbians tell us they took their manuscript to a black press," said Mattie Richardson of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. "But they don't publish gay women or they don't even publish women. Or they take their manuscript to a white feminist press and are told they already have enough women of color."

According to Michelle Karlsberg, a literary publicist for gay and lesbian authors, whether the press is straight or gay, mainstream or independent, the rule is the same—one person of color is it.

"Look at the big anthologies. One person of color gets chosen," said Karlsberg. "In the mainstream, if you include just one, that makes it OK. Not two, but one. Now they have their token."

Karlsberg tries to counter this by including unpublished authors of color in the readings she organizes, so that poets like Marvin White, whose work recently was seen in the theater group Pomo Afro Homo or in anthologies like "The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets," have the chance to be heard.

Tired of waiting for mainstream presses, African-American authors are opening the doors for writers whose work would never be seen otherwise. Black lesbian presses, such as Kitchen Table in Latham, N.Y. and Women in the Moon in Cupertino, Calif., saw the need more than a decade ago. But the vast majority have geared up recently in response to the dearth of African American voices heard. Sister Vision, Orange, Vega and Galleons Press are a few of the recent startups trying to fill this much needed void.

Writer and photographer Vega published his first book, "Men of Color," not only to showcase his own work but to show other artists that it could be done. Since that 1989 book, he has published an anthology and a book of photography as well as calendars and T-shirts.

"I published 'Men of Color' about black male couples because there wasn't enough out there for African Americans," said Vega, founder of Vega Press. "It's very important for African Americans to take responsibility for their own images, to dispel the negative images out there. We are not all muggers and thieves. This is not a true picture. We are also artists and writers."

"Instead of just saying this stuff, I wanted to do something."

By doing so, people of color have total control over the way they are portrayed, unlike mainstream presses, which are more concerned with profits than anything else.

"A lot of it is market-directed instead of content-directed. It's marketed well, but there's nothing about political struggle or changing the society we live in," said Kitchen Table's Richardson.

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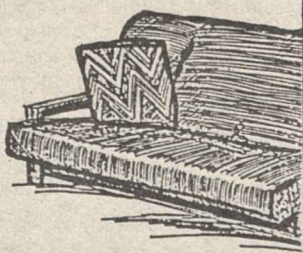
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Southeastern Flower Show brings flora and fauna to Midtown

By JAMES FITCH

In the midst of such a volatile winter, any reminder that spring is coming is a welcome one.

For gardening and flower enthusiasts across the Southeast, that reminder will come Feb. 9-13, with the Southeastern Flower Show at Ponce Square in Midtown (across from City Hall East). The show will bring together the region's best landscape designers and horticultural experts to benefit the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

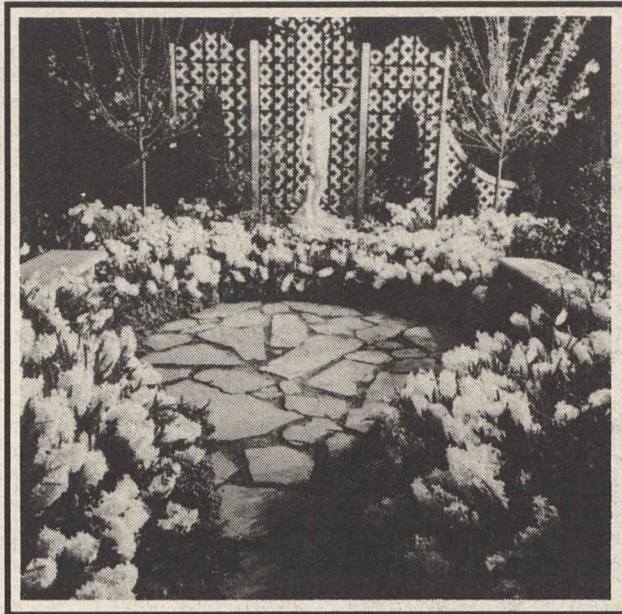
"It's really a prelude to spring," says Ann Hill, chairman of the flower show. "It's going to be visually very beautiful and hopefully will provide an inspiration for all different kinds of folks in all different kinds of ways."

The show will give local landscape designers the chance to show off their creativity through 1000-square-foot-plus displays of lush landscapes incorporating green grasses, rocks, streams, forest plants and spectacular floral arrangements.

Though Atlanta has hosted a flower show of this caliber for the past six years, the Southeastern Flower Show, by name and organization, is new. It is put on by the same volunteers who worked with the Atlanta Market Center to do the Atlanta Flower Show in the past. But those volunteers have split from the Market Center and joined the Botanical Garden in creating the new show, which, according to Hill, will continue as an annual event to benefit the Botanical Garden.

"[The Atlanta Flower Show] has stopped for the moment," Hill said. "The Market Center retained the name, so we decided to try and reach a larger audience in a larger region. We named it 'Southeastern' in an effort to pull in exhibitors from outlying states."

As it stands, this show is recognized as a "major flower show" by the Garden Club of America organization—a



The Southeastern Flower Show features several large scale garden recreations by some of the region's top landscape designers.

status awarded to only three others in the country, in Philadelphia, New England and New York. All of those shows are more than 100 years old.

"We feel like we've come a long way very fast," Hill says.

Highlights of the Southeastern Flower Show will include Gibbs Landscape Company's depiction of Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass," with water, forced bulbs and annuals. Arthur A. Jones and Associates will adapt Van Gogh's "Orchard in Bloom with View of Arles" with evergreens, large blooming trees, a pasture of flowers in full bloom and a walk-through area.

Cole & Company will arrange a tribute to Beatrix Potter with a Southern backyard fairy tale, incorporating rabbits and a vegetable garden. And the Atlanta Botanical Garden will show a Southern folk-art garden with traditional elements and old-fashioned garden plants.

The show will also feature speeches and appearances by some of the top professionals in the world. Michael J. Skaff, the White House florist, will give several presentations, including a demonstration on Thursday to show how to create a romantic mood or room using flower shapes, textures, colors and fragrances.

Other guests will include British landscape gardener Rosemary Verey, general garden planner for such clients as Prince Charles and Elton John.

Besides being a spectacle, Hill says the show is also an educational experience for people to learn about eco-friendly types of planting, recycling and composting. Several speakers will address topical issues like attracting bluebirds and planting gardens that are water efficient. A beekeeper will lecture on the importance of bees to our existence.

Hill explained that the landscape exhibits introduce new plant material to the area and provide a look either at using new materials or using old materials in new ways. They also give the industry a chance to show new techniques in hardscapes (non-living components, such as fountains, patios, decks and fences), and to introduce new varieties of plants, such as disease resistant plants or heartier strains of plants.

Hill says, "One of the most rewarding aspects of this particular event is the broad spectrum of people that participate. The volunteer force is wonderful—like a common thread of love of gardening and love of flowers, which draws a very diverse group together."

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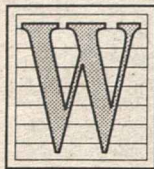
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MARIA HELENA DOLAN

THIS OLD HOE
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I've had a shudderingly nightmarish January, with temperatures just now beginning to warm up. By this time last year, I already had peas and lettuce coming up. I'll be plowing the little lettuces, kale, onions and collards under soon, because they just couldn't take the freezing. I believe I'll wait to put in peas until next month, fearing some repeat of this intemperate madness.

I've had to make do with indoor seed starting, so the plants will be ready to go out in a month or so—loving, cabbage, lettuce. Onions, collards and brassicas would be in order now, too, but I may pass. I'm concentrating on cleanup chores. You need to pick up fallen branches and limbs now, as well as spray fruit trees with dormant oil.

It's certainly not too late to manure beds. If you've soil tested and discovered that you need lime for beds or lawn, now is the time to apply it. Dolomitic lime is best, because it also contains magnesium (and it's a Georgia product, easily and cheaply obtained).

One of January's compensations is the fact that it is primo plant porn time. Talk about cheap thrills. I just live to salivate over those color pictures, which are guaranteed to make you want those babies, to have them in your possession...well, it is possible to experience a little heat in the dead of winter, now isn't it?

Of course, a cool head may prevail in terms of ordering everything in the seed catalogs if you have a plan for the garden. Even a back-of-the-napkin sketch is preferred to no plan at all. Why not go for broke, though—actual measurements, and taking into account amount of sun, wind exposure, soil types, etc.

Happily, this is the best time to plant bare-root rose bushes. Yes, Georgia is hard on roses. No, I never spray mine. I want birds and earthworms to continue contributing to the cycle of life. Unfortunately, divorce now separates me from my fragrant beauties. I shall simply have to plant more.

I do so love the ancient associations involving this plant.

The symbol of the rose has been identified in cuneiform inscriptions at Ur. Back in the Old Kingdom. The rose was sacred to Isis, and garlands adorned her altars. Rose water and Rose of Attar squeezings perfumed bodies, clothes, hair, tables, baths.

The Greeks cultivated the rose, too, and you could find them in "gardens of Adonis," growing in silver pots for the mother's lover. And, as might be expected, the island of Cythra (or Kithira), center of Aphrodite worship, was renown in the ancient world as the home of the rose.

Laura Martin, "Garden Flower Folklore," maintains that Rhodanthe, "a woman of exquisite beauty had many, many suitors. She showed little interest in any of them and sought refuge in the Temple of Diana. Her suitors were persistent, however, and followed her there, breaking down the gates to get close to her. Diana became incensed at this and turned Rhodanthe into a beautiful rose and the suitors into thorns." Draw your own conclusions from this tale...

But the most obsessive ancient rose lovers were the Romans. According to Leslie Firth in "The Rose," "They wore them in garlands, as crowns and in sweet-smelling sachets. They slept, sat, and even walked on them. Roses were given as prizes for victories and festooned or scattered on tombs. They were used in jellies, honey, medicines, bath essence and wine.

"On one famous occasion, Queen Cleopatra gave a dinner for her lover Mark Antony and commanded that the floor of the banqueting room be covered in roses up to the guests' knees; they sat on rose-filled mattresses and wore wreaths of roses on their heads."

Early xians, seeking to expropriate powerful symbols, settled on the rose as the flower of Mary. In fact, rosaries originally were made from pressed rose petals or dried rose hips, or beads carved in rose shapes. Invoking her protection, rose water was used to ward off plague in medieval life.

As Firth noted, "Pope Leo IX instituted the Order of the Golden Rose. Originally, this was a reward for virtuous women;

the Order was later extended to include cities, churches, organizations and people who had rendered particular service to the Papacy. The fourth Sunday in Lent, the day on which the Pope traditionally blesses the Golden Rose, is sometimes called Rose Sunday."

The Elizabethans made the stylized Tudor rose the symbol of Sovereign and country. The rose was one of the first things English, Dutch and French colonists brought to these shores. Josephine Bonaparte, an exceptional gardener, is said to have more than 200 varieties of roses in her gardens.

The Victorians in their turn were all mad for the rose, as were even the most modest cottage-dwellers in this country. Italians and other later immigrants brought roses with them, too. (I noted this legacy in Boston, where even the tiniest postage stamp yards invariably bear a lovely rose bush.) It is in fact the nation's flower, adopted by Congress in 1986.

However, Georgia soils and hot summer weather are not very hospitable to this plant. We have to live with black spot, rust, leaf drop, mildew, aphids, Japanese beetles, etc. But even so, she's worth it. Everyone knows that a home with a rose in her yard bears the blessings of the Goddess. There isn't anything more magical than her pervasive scent perfuming the midsummer garden.

If you're thinking of taking the plunge, consider buying only two-year old field-grown, number 1, budded stock. With the rose, you'll get what you pay for. Think of it as a lifetime investment, and don't skimp on the plant, the price, the siting or the soil preparation.

Roses need good air circulation, plenty of sun (8 hours a day preferred) and lots of humus and well-rotted compost in well-drained, slightly acidic soil. If you start her off right (digging in the amendments and preferably letting the spot settle for a couple of weeks prior to planting) and give her good food and weekly deep watering during her growing season, you will be well rewarded.

In the language of flowers, the rose represents strength, beauty and love. A single rose signifies simplicity. A white rose stands for purity and spiritual love. The yellow rose means unrequited love, heartbreak or infidelity. The red rose represents the ecstasy of passionate love; the cabbage rose is known as the ambassador of love; and the musk rose means capricious beauty. And no matter what, a rose is a rose is a rose.



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The Roches also provided back-up vocals on the Indigo Girls' rights of passage tune, "Airplane." If you're one of the devoted followers of the sister act, or if you're willing to learn, go to Variety Playhouse Saturday night, Feb. 5. Plunk your money on the counter and Terre, Suzzy and Maggie Roche won't let you down. Especially if you're in that "I



ALISON ROSA

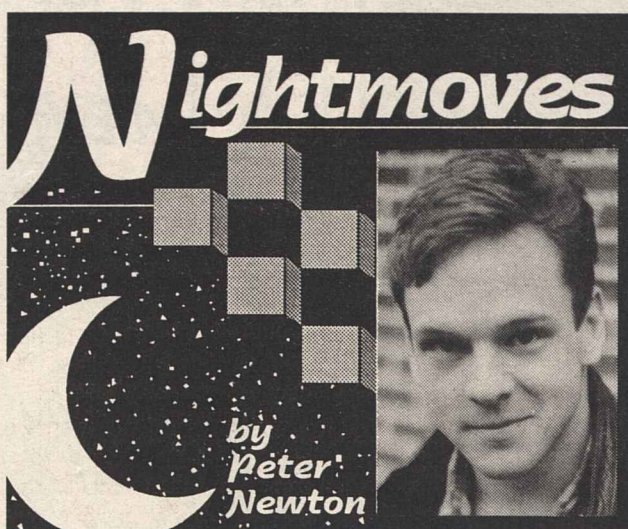
The Roches play at the Variety Playhouse on Feb. 5.

want to hear an indelible three-part harmony acoustic sibling act who've been on the road more than 20 years and can still toss spontaneous oddball quips out into the audience" kind of mood. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

R u s t y

Johnson with his down-to-earth talent makes for a great local opener. His recently released CD, "My Dad's Got A Barn," is a favorite.

Still others will want to laugh uncontrollably on that same evening. **Jim Carrey**, of "In Living Color" fame, will bring his various characters to life at Georgia Tech's Theatre for the Arts for one hilarious show. From buck-toothed amazon Vera de Milo to Captain extraordinaire James T. Kirk. That's this Saturday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m.



Last Call: "**Dancing at Lughnasa**" (LOO-na-SAH) at the Alliance Theatre closes Sunday, Feb. 6. Two hours and forty minutes of Irish brogues that translate into one great story. It won the 1992 Tony for best play. See last week's SoVo for a rave review. Or see it and be surprised.

Masquerade. That's the AIDS benefit, not the haunted-looking nightclub on North Avenue. It's happening this Saturday night, Feb. 5. Dress up in feathers, leather or both for this fifth annual fundraiser for Project Open Hand. At The King Plow Art Center, 10:00 p.m.

"Rebecca." You've played this game before. You have the answer, now what's the question? What is Alfred Hitchcock's first American film? The 1940 flick is being shown at Rich Auditorium at the High Museum of Art, Friday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Each month, the High shows several quality rare films in the Rich Auditorium. Rebecca concludes the five-part series, "Painting With Light: The Great Cinematographers." Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier star.

Cinefest at Georgia State University is showing a series of short films, "on the homosexual experience from a variety of gay perspectives." The compilation of 16mm shorts is called, what else, "**Boy's Shorts: New Queer Cinema**" and Thursday, Feb. 3 is your last chance to see

it. Five showings, for your viewing convenience: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, and 9:45 p.m.

Sylvia of **Sylvia's Art of this Century** talked with me recently about her month-old art supply store by day/bohemian pleasure palace by night, located at 112 Hurt Street in Inman Park. "I was looking at shoes I couldn't afford in SoHo," she begins, trying to recapture the moment she first thought of opening her multi-purpose establishment. On bringing her dreams to life she says, "I don't have any money, but I know how to make things happen."

Things are definitely happening at Sylvia's. Live music every Friday and Saturday night, art shows and plenty of crayons and paper plates for everyone add to the refreshing atmosphere. Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 2 and every Wednesday thereafter, live models will pose from 7:30-9 p.m. Bring your sketch pads.

Also at Sylvia's on Friday, Feb. 11, there will be an opening for the art of **Duane Marcus**. His photo-collages incorporate undertones and overtones of erotica. Fantasy meets art. Later that evening, **Kodac Harrison** will play, followed by a band called **The Delta**. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the music getting underway by 9 p.m.

KaLo's Coffee House in the Emory Promenade is three months old. And what better way to celebrate than with three of the finest male musicians in the city. KaLo's will host the trio of acoustic virtuosity on Sunday, Feb. 6. **Don Conoscenti, Gerard McHugh** and **Matthew Kahler** each have die-hard local followings. Come hear why. 9:00 p.m.

As you may or may not know, The Cove closed last week after 22 years of business. But they are in the process of relocating. Where? Well, that's the question.

Reminder: **Charis Books and More** invite all to their new location at 1189 Euclid. That's the yellow house next to Good Ol' Days. It's bigger, it's better and to misquote Virginia Woolf, "it's a room of their own." Housewarming is Sunday, Feb. 6, from 5-8 p.m.

Screaming Cheetah Willies. I know absolutely nothing about this band that will be playing at The Cotton Club, Friday, Feb. 11, but you've got to hand it to them on their name. Sounds like a breakfast cereal. Here's hoping they don't turn out to be some gay-bashing thrash band. If so, I withdraw my endorsement.

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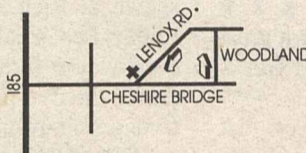
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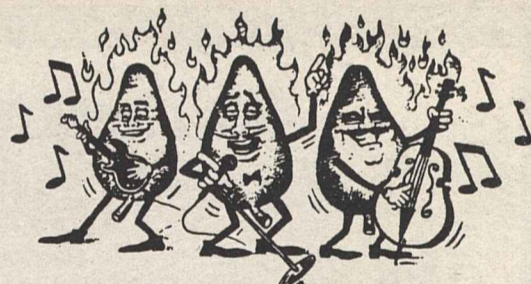
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MORE ON PAGE 34

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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

I should explain that I was married for more than a decade to a woman who would go ballistic if I dropped so much as a gum wrapper in the floor of our car. Would that her psyche or our relationship had been so neat.

As soon as I got divorced, my car became a pig pen. Fried chicken boxes, beer cans, magazines, socks—you name it—filled the floorboards and made the back seat uninhabitable. I assumed that my (over) reaction to 10 years of brutally enforced neatness would gradually subside.

But it hasn't.

The chicken boxes have become cello carrot packages and Evian water has replaced the Buds, but the mess remains. Most of the time, I don't even think about it. Like the other night when I flew into the valet parking slot at the **Atlanta Fish Market** (265 Pharr Rd. 240-6664) late for dinner with a friend. I opened the door, the interior light came on, and the parking dude blanched. I quickly made fun of my mobile trash dump by asking him if he'd ever parked a messier car.

His look of horror turned quickly to a grin and he shot back, "I'll let you know when you pick the car up, sir."

(After my near joyous experience at the Buckhead Diner a couple of weeks ago, I'd decided to check out the Fish Market to see if the atmosphere there was equally as relaxed—not an attribute I've come to associate with the palaces of haute cuisine proffered by Pano and Paul.)

The new Fish Market looks great. Designed to replicate the growth (over several decades) of a small fish shack and bar into a major restaurant, the concept is witty, efficient and fun. The bar and it's porch (the smoking area) are suitably dark and boozy feeling—remember the old Joe Dale's on Maple Drive? The main dining room is cavernous, decked out with huge potted palms in mosaic pots and watched over by a huge WPA-style mural that includes the visages of Atlanta's movers and shakers. The mural is pug-ugly, but that's the idea. Finally there's a very '90s low-ceilinged front porch done up in shades of brown and furnished austere with office chairs and no decor save some very innovative alabaster light fixtures.

The front porch is the most comfortable place to eat. From its cozy confines you can watch the theater of the big room without experiencing its cacophony. Avoid the booths if possible, their seats are impossibly soft, causing us short folks to sit with our chins on the table.

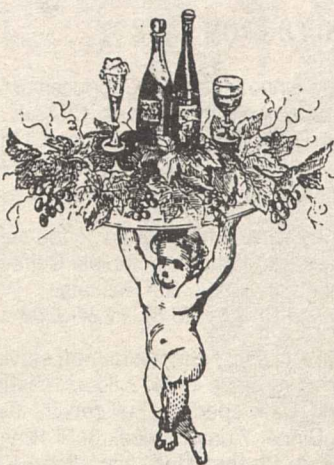
The menu is as much fun as the space, offering choices from simple (raw oysters and boiled shrimp) to precious (swordfish with roasted cashew and cracked pepper crust on white corn cheese grits, garlic butter, lobster sauce).

What's not to like about this?

Only three things—almost anything fried, too few wines by the glass and too many (but not all) of the desserts.

I'm bumfoozled how the same folks who serve the best fried calamari in town just blocks away at the Buckhead Diner could produce a product as tough, greasy and with-

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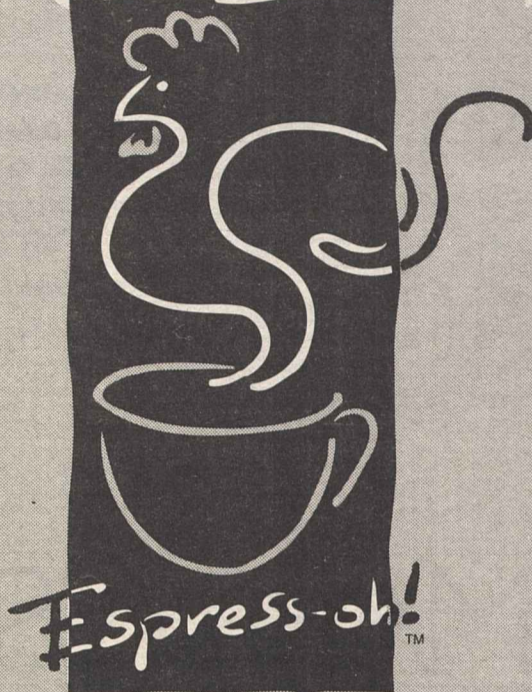


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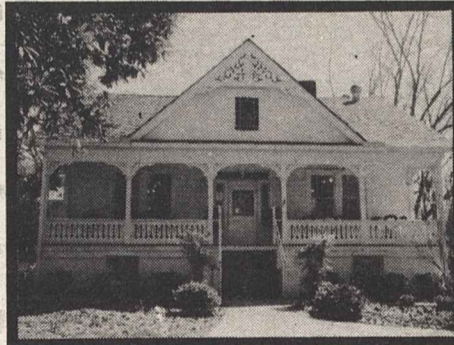
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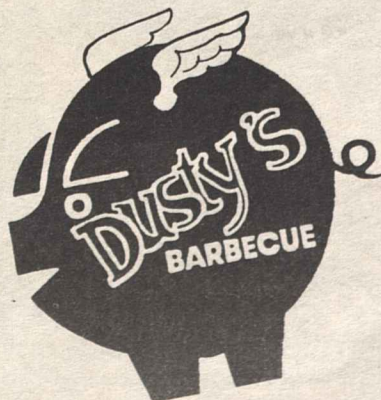
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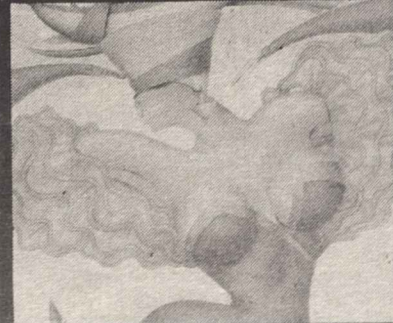
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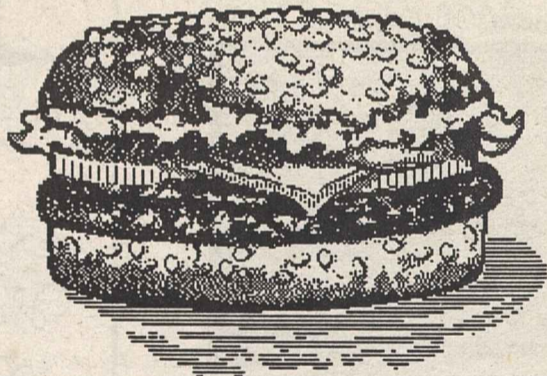
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Restaurant Listings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

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Mick's Mick's restaurants have been serving our community for 20 years. Check the hours and menu of the Mick's nearest you. Lunch & Dinner, and don't forget those decadent desserts.

Mid City Fish This casual neighborhood meeting place feature peel-your-own-shrimp, priced right crab cakes and a "we shuck 'em - you suck 'em" oyster bar. Happy hour daily 5-7 p.m. Dinner daily 5-11 p.m. 961 Amsterdam Ave • 872-0114

Milano's Pizza & Subs Complete menu, salads to desserts. Common Market Place. 736 Ponce de Leon • 874 CALL (2255)

Peasant Restaurant & Bar Casually elegant dining in the heart of Buckhead, The Peasant Restaurant & Bar is the perfect place for a relaxed Sunday Brunch. And now with beautiful weather upon us, lunch or dinner outside on the patio is yet another great reason to visit The Peasant Restaurant & Bar for any occasion. 3402 Piedmont Rd. NE • 231-8740

Petite Auberge Featuring 18 years of family directed qualified service in an elegant atmosphere. Continental French restaurant with a wide range of Food Festivals. German specials on Fri & Sat. 2935 North Druid Hills Rd. • 634-6268

RJ's Uptown Kitchen and Wine Bar Enjoy Chef Scott's creative menu while dining on the patio or in the cozy dining room. Largest selection of wines by the glass in Atlanta. Great vegetarian selection. Dinner 7 nights. Brunch Sunday. 870 N. Highland Ave • 875-7775

San Gennaro The home of award winning fried calamari and hearty Italian cooking. Two patios allow dining "al fresco." Full service bar. Separate banquet facilities available. 2196 Cheshire Br Rd • 636-9447

EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

out redeeming value (except its appearance) as the fried squid appetizer here. Fried scallops, shrimp, oysters, and fish don't arrive in the same pool of oil, but their breading is way too thick and possessed of far too much flavor of its own.

On the other hand, the deep fried deviled crab is near perfect—an exquisite blend of flavors that support rather than overwhelm the crab.

Also near perfect is most anything that comes from the charbroiler.

A fat salmon trout fillet, lightly anointed with a bit of butter and wine, is as good as any I've ever eaten—including my own. Broiled scallops (not on the menu, but only a request away) are sweet, tender and bursting with that just-caught salinity that makes really good seafood so much fun. Broiled entrees arrive just a mite undercooked, which is cool in my book, but you may want to request more time on the flame if that makes you nervous.

The broiled stuff comes with sublime, light mashed potatoes and a saute of veggies that is a delight to the eye but nowhere near as good as a serving of slender French green beans tossed with mushrooms. Ask that the latter be substituted for the mixed stuff.

Steamed stone crab claws are also mighty fine if a tad on the expensive side. I like them way better than lobster, and they are probably the most PC animal protein going—the trapped crabs have only one of their claws broken off and are returned to Florida's warm waters to grow new claws, make more stone crabs and be trapped again another day. Would that cows and chickens could be treated similarly.

I've only tried one of the menu's complex "specialties." New England cod topped with a thin potato crust and served atop a wad of mashed spuds that have been laced with green onions and aioli is major comfort food. Again the fish is pristinely fresh and perfectly cooked, the blending of flavors and textures sublime.

Pineapple macadamia nut upside down cake and Oreo-crusteds cheesecake are also swoon quality stuff. On the other hand, key lime pie, walnut cranberry tart, and chocolate toffee crunch pie are just plain ordinary.

The wine list is well balanced and reasonably priced, but way short of selections by the glass—something I can almost forgive when you can buy a bottle of Bonny Doon's witty Pacific Rim Reisling for a mere \$12.50. It's not the most complex stuff in the world, but the inscription on the label is worth half the price.

Service is fast, easy, affable, even fun. Which pretty much describes how I feel about the Fish Market on whole. Despite a majority clientele of folks who look like they wish George Bush was still president and too few homos, this is an easy and fun place to eat. Very limited reservations are accepted (and they go fast), so arrive before 6:30 p.m. or prepare for a long wait.

Prices are moderate for such glitzy surroundings. You can eat for less than \$20 a head, but you'll have more fun at \$25-30.

And, yes my car was the messiest he'd ever parked, but we both laughed about it. I'll be back.

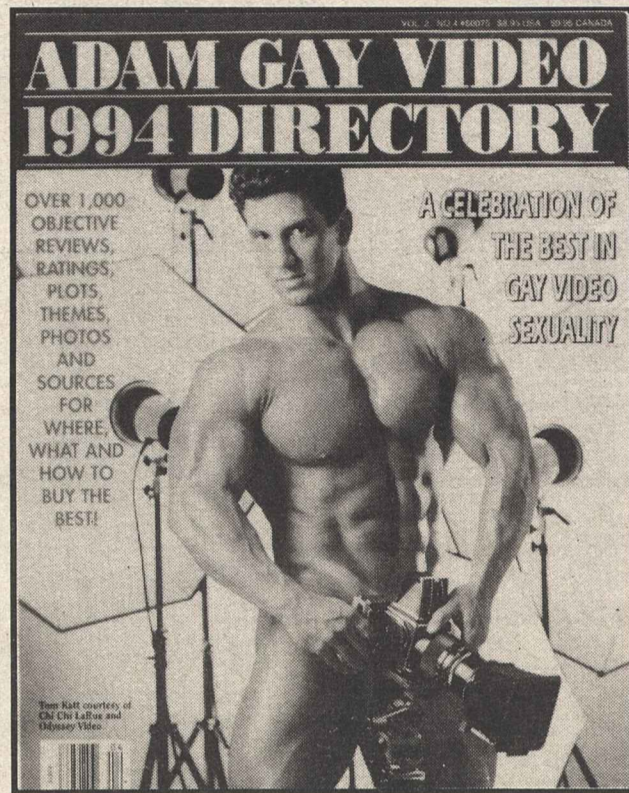
Quality, Not Quantity: Dish is indebted to the eagle-eyed women at the Lesbian Connection magazine for catching this in the "Advocate," which we do not read. It seems that the National Women's Hall of Fame asked 100 professors to list the 20th Century's most influential US women. Eleanor Roosevelt topped the list (her "intimate friend" Lorena Hickok who shared Eleanor's digs in the White House for four years was not mentioned). Other lesbians in the top ten: Nobel laureate Jane Adams and anthropologist Margaret Mead. Lesbian historian Lillian Faderman says this casts a whole new light on the controversy about how many dykes there are in the world. Quoth Ms. F.: "Perhaps it's not the number that's important. Perhaps it's the impact."

Tell us Where to Buy One: Also via Lesbian Connection (originally from Lesbians on the Loose) comes word that a feminist bookstore in Auckland, New Zealand carries T-shirts that sport the words "Dip Me in Chocolate and Throw Me to the Lesbians." Which was pretty cool until an employee refused to sell one of said shirts to a man who wanted to wear it himself. The city's Human Rights Commission sided with the guy, and the shop's owner has hidden her remaining stock of the shirts.

Is That A Hasselblad, or Are You Just Glad...: The photo that accompanies the press release for the Adam Gay Video 1994 Directory is pretty funny, we think. Why, if this is a video directory, does this man have an (albeit expensive) still camera thrust into his crotch? We think you know the answer. Even funnier we think is this line from the press release: "Three pluses are awarded to those few videos that gave the panel of reviewers big boners for the duration of the production. These are few and far between." What? The videos? Or three men who find the same stuff erotic? Or men who refer to their erections as "boners," a quaint term that Dish hasn't heard since the 6th grade, back when Ike was president.

Dish

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



Why is this man hiding behind the camera?

Petty or Pretty?: Dish is in receipt of a fax which claims that two outgoing city councilpersons (we'll let you guess who) stripped their offices absolutely bare when they left, leaving not so much as a post-it note. The issue of larceny aside (we assume that taxpayer's money paid for the stuff they took), we're ambivalent about this maneuver. Would you want to sit in the same chair, write with the same pens or look at the same art that thieves and embezzlers used? We sure wouldn't. And we hope that the new occupants burned bushels of sage before they moved their own stuff into these highly contaminated offices.

Signs of the Times: More than one Dish fan has called to tell us that they are *most amused* by the fact that the city's many Minit-Lube stores have recently been reincarnated as "Q-Lube" outlets. Dish wants to know, is Q-Lube compatible with latex? And is it available laced with nonoxynol-9? We also wonder if the owners of an Ansley area store named Signature Baskets have given any thought to the implications of *that* handle. And we spotted a disabled man trucking down the street in Va-Hi on one of those electric carts the other day. Nothing unusual here—except the fact that the cart sported a rainbow bumper sticker. Finally, we spotted a humongous black pick-up cruising through Decatur last week, its rainbow license plate decorated with a big ol' Georgia bulldog. You go, gay dawggies.

I Wanna Hold Your Hand: It wasn't too long ago that queer activist groups would descend on Lenox Square and do radical things like walking around holding hands and smacking lips with each other. Well, in the first days of 1994, we spotted two male/male couples traipsing through the South's largest mall (one in Rich's and one at Neiman's Last Call sale) holding hands. The guys in Rich's were young, leather-coated activist types, but the men in N-M were definitely A-List material. Thanks, dudes, you made our day.

February 3 - February 9, 1994

ARIES, your need to participate in social change may be very strong right now, so be sure to use your very fine mind to analyze potentially explosive situations before you jump in with both feet. If you are already there, then check the territory. **TAURUS**, are you feeling slightly overwhelmed by new experiences or from having someone new in your life? Intimacy is an amazing place to be, having its own very special rules and point of view. Relax, enjoy and share your wonderful warmth. **GEMINI**, having some difficulty making choices lately? Feeling overwhelmed with too many options or too much information? Then you definitely need to pull out of your conscious mind for a few days, relax, take a mental break. **CANCER**, how are your personal priorities coming? Do you have a clear sense of direction or are you feeling somewhat adrift in the sea of mild discontent and unease? Back to basics. What do you really like to do with your time and energy? **LEO**, you may have many opportunities in the next week or so to put your diplomatic talents to work. As you instinctively know, teamwork is what counts, so use your

STARSIGNS

abilities to bring people together in a new and enlarged sense of cooperation! **VIRGO**, how's your love life? Are you enjoying and expressing your lovely sensuality (safely of course) or are you buried in work and obligations? Time to get out into the natural world. Breathe fresh air, feel the sun, the sky and the trees. **LIBRA**, are you feeling expanded, lighter than air, free as a bird and maybe a little romantically inclined? If so, then relax and pat yourself on the back. You are definitely overcoming some of the negative programming on this planet. Good. **SCORPIO**, mulling things over and over, staying buried in the past, no matter how comfortable and familiar it is, will not get you where you want to be. Shake off the sludge, climb out of the swamp and get reacquainted with the present moment. **SAGITTARIUS**, ready for more fireworks, more change and

excitement? Well, ready or not, here it comes. Graceful change is definitely the sign of the times and others will be looking to you for ways to deal with the stress. Spread your optimism. **CAPRICORN**, work, work, work, and then what? Be sure to schedule some kind of play/recreation/relaxation every day; that's what daily schedules are for. Also do your best to arrange for physical exercise at least twice a week. You'll feel much better. Happy birthday, **AQUARIUS**. Make time for your friends and the special things you really love to do. Relax and allow others to love and nurture you. You actually deserve it. Something new and exotic for your wardrobe would be an excellent idea. **PISCES**, with several planets in your 12th house of dreams, visions and your doorway to the collective unconscious, you can expect vivid dreams, strong intuitional flashes and forewarning of earthquakes. Keep your focus on beauty, harmony and light.

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

Dykes To Watch Out For



OUTLINES

GENE HOLLOWAY

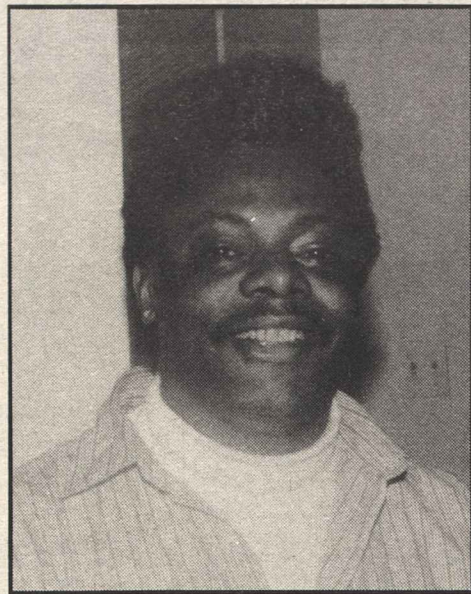
Age: 36

How long in Atlanta: 20 yrs, 5 mos.

Relationship Status: wonderfully single

Last Book Read: "Secrets of a Sparrow: The Diana Ross Story"

Pet Peeve: people who think that nothing matters



He doesn't look the part, and his age belies the status, but Gene Holloway is something of an elder statesman in Atlanta's gay/lesbian community. He laughs at the suggestion, but the man who is a charter member of Black & White Men Together, an original member of ACT UP Atlanta, a charter member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Gay and Lesbian Organizations, a former board member of LEGAL and the Atlanta Gay Center, and a long time Atlanta Pride volunteer (including chair in the mid-80s) definitely fits the bill.

These days, Holloway doesn't belong to many boards or organizing committees, but he's always there when the call comes out.

"I write letters to my congressman, or make a phone call," he says. "I go to events now, rather than organize them. It's a lot of work."

He laughs again, recalling the 1985 Pride celebration. "We were down to the wire," he remembers. "I was so stressed, I woke up crying. And then I got a phone call from an elderly man, who asked me what Stonewall meant. I told him."

That man, then about 70, told Holloway a tale that brought chills—how he'd lived in Macon and his secretary had found some male porn magazines in a locked file and told his wife, breaking up a 20-year marriage.

"He said 'I'm too old to march, but I think I'll be there,'" Holloway recalls.

And he was. After Holloway's speech, the elderly man approached Holloway and identified himself. "He had tears in his eyes," Holloway says. "It meant a lot to him to see all the people—even though there were only about 800 of us—dancing, hugging, loving in the streets. Right then I knew it was all worthwhile."

"I've always said the reason I've done what I've done is for the younger ones," he continues, "but it's also for the ones who don't come out until they're 40. Because it matters."

A lot matters to Holloway, who grew up in Daytona Beach, Fla., with a Pentecostal preacher stepmother and a deacon father. He

came out at 14 and came to Atlanta at 16.

"I was literally a kid in a candy store," he recalls of those early days. "There was a gay section of the beach where I hung out. I'd ride my bike, or sometimes hitchhike."

His parents learned he was gay by accident—they intercepted a letter from his "first love."

"[My mother] read how much he loved me, how he wanted to hold me, how much he missed my touches," Holloway remembers. "She was not a happy Pentecostal preacher. I got hellfire and damnation."

That was then, though, and now he says his relationship with his mother, now in her 80s, is much better. "She's told me it doesn't matter," he says, "that I'm not a bad person and she loves me and I've always been a good son."

That's important to him. Love, he says, is the key to life. "I have an incredible capacity to love," he says. "Love never disappears. It never gives out. The more you love, the more you feel love. It's limitless. That's what should drive us."

To illustrate the point, Holloway tells another story, this one about the time his best friend died of AIDS.

"I went in to work that day, and my supervisor told me I had to train a new employee," he says.

He did so, but his heart wasn't in it, and on the second day of training, he apologized to his new co-worker, and explained what was going on.

"I hadn't been rude," he remembers, "I just wasn't myself. Well, he just took my hand and said 'God took one friend, but he gave you another. I cried.'"

It's almost been the story of Holloway's life, friends that come and go. In fact, he says, that network of friends is what keeps him in Atlanta.

"I have such a support group around me," he says. "It would be hard to give that up."



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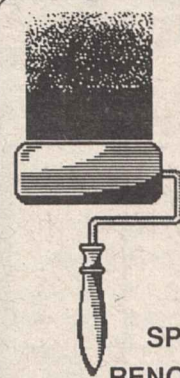
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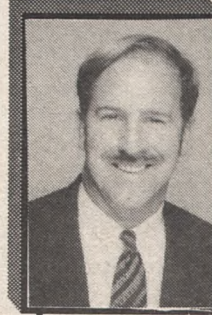
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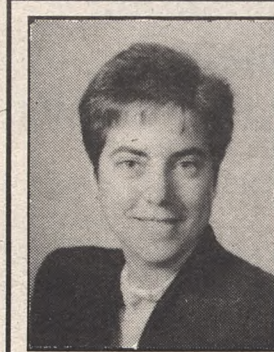
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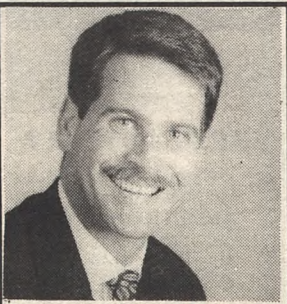
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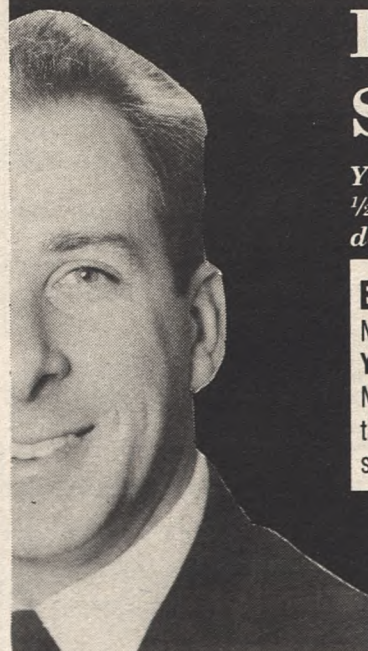
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