

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

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Does gay mean green?

Lesbians and gay men are supposed to have a higher state of consciousness when it comes to progressive ideas. So what role are we playing in the fight to save the environment?

by KC WILDMOON

It's trash day. The week's refuse goes into plastic bags that are tied with plastic ties and thrown into herbie-kerbies on the sidewalk. Sanitation engineers roll by in that big smelly truck and dump it all in, along with everybody else's trash. Then it goes to an even larger pile, where weeks, months and years of garbage is buried under tons of dirt to rot.

Maybe. In a millennia or two.

Oh, some of it becomes part of the earth again fairly quickly. But not all that plastic, rubber, metal and other material that just sits and sits and sits, building mountains of crap. Just take a peek over the Moreland Avenue Shopping Center on the south side of town. The landscape has changed down there, where a landfill just keeps growing and growing, courtesy of the very disposable society we've created and continue to create.

What a waste. Literally.

Now wait a minute. This isn't going to be one of those do-gooder pieces, save the earth and all that, is it?

Yes and no. This little story is going to be about lesbians, gay men, and the environment. How do we fit in? Do we fit in? What do we do? Why?

And should we?

Should is a tough word. Mom and Dad gave us all kinds of shoulds growing up. The church gives us more. The government adds to the list. And like the little rebellious kids that we (well, some of us) still are, we often ignore them. After all, we've been told repeatedly that we shouldn't be gay or lesbian, but we are. And we love it.

So when we hear that we should take better care of the planet, something rankles a bit on the back of the neck. Like hell, some of us say. Why should I?

For many lesbians, particularly lesbian-feminists, a concern for the condition of the planet seems almost to come naturally with the territory. Beginning in the 1970s, as many lesbians rejected the Christian

ethic and examined the roots of spirituality, they found a closer connection to the earth and with it a deep and abiding respect for the planet that quite literally gives us life. They recycled long before that practice became trendy. They wore all natural clothes and ate all natural foods—when they could find them.

And they turned their attention and focused their energy on issues that could reverse the country's trend toward burning up, tearing down and spilling over.

"I came out at a time in the 60s when environmental problems were on people's minds," said Barbara Rose, 47. "There was a population explosion. There was pollution."

After being fired from a teaching position for being gay, Rose went through a series of jobs—and then became an active advocate for solar energy.

"We're using things that aren't sustainable," she said. "If you use coal, there's a lot of it, but there's pollution. If you use nuclear energy, there's no pollution, but—people being people and not perfect—you blow yourself up. Solar energy was the one thing that didn't do that."

Rose is no longer actively working on such issues, but she made a career choice that fit with her belief that the earth was fragile and needed better care than it was being given in the traditional world. She became a bicycle mechanic.

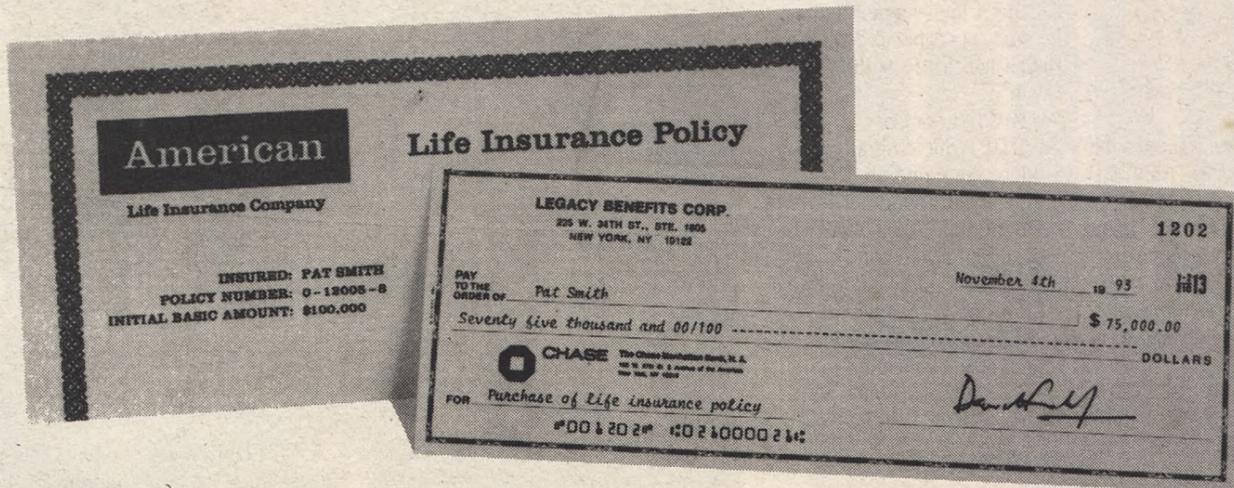
"I got into cycling, and then I put the two together," she said. "Eliminating cars would eliminate a lot of pollution."

But environmental issues are still a concern. "Nobody's catching on—we've got to quit flushing the top soil away, quit polluting the air," she said. "Nobody's catching on, so the world's going to go to hell."

Rose does what she can, but finds herself confused. "I've always felt myself to be an environmen-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

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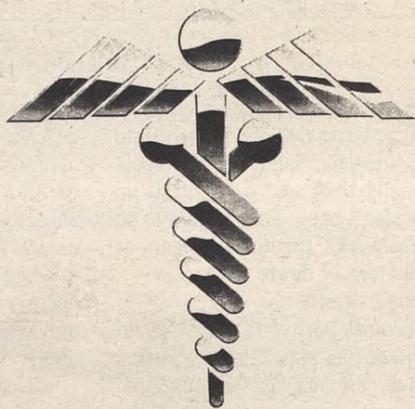
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Underground condom controversy leads to dialogue with ACT UP

Complex will consider installing condom machines and providing forum for AIDS education

Atlanta—A controversy over a suspended clown opened a dialogue between ACT UP and the management of Underground Atlanta that may result in condom machines being installed in the downtown Atlanta entertainment complex.

The problem began when the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Michael Stern, a.k.a. Stringbean the Clown, a street performer at Underground, had been suspended by its management for saying the word "condom" on "The Tonight Show," where he appeared during the Super Bowl hype.

Stern told "Tonight Show" correspondent Jimmy Brogan that he worked bars as Condom the Clown and included safer-sex education in his routine.

Underground assistant marketing director Grant Raeside was quoted in the AJC as saying that the center had "a family image to uphold" and that "we had no choice but to suspend him." But when contacted by Southern Voice, Raeside said Stern had not been suspended but that he was on probation for

other violations of Underground's rules for street performers. He also said that his remarks in the AJC had been taken out of context.

Stern later signed a statement saying that he was not suspended and that Raeside's comments had to do with "other rules that I violated."

But the controversy opened the door for ACT UP, which initially called for an action at Underground on Feb. 5 to protest its unfriendliness toward condom distribution. However, the action was cancelled when talks between the activist group and Raeside proved fruitful.

Raeside said Underground made no specific promises but would "look into" all four of ACT UP's demands. He did, however, chafe at the term "demands."

"We've had some good dialogue. More than anything there's been a misunderstanding," he said. "But there's nothing there we haven't already done or are willing to do."

Among ACT UP's demands were for condom machines in Underground's restaurants, an AIDS education campaign for Underground merchants and employees and a fundraising mechanism at Underground for AIDS service organizations.

Raeside said that Underground would investigate installing condom machines, although he added that security, maintenance and cost were issues that would have to be considered. He also said that educational campaigns and



Underground fundraisers were available for the asking.

"We've always encouraged anyone with an educational campaign to come to us," he said. "We haven't always done charities, and we don't get a lot of requests."

ACT UP member Mona Bennett, who made the initial contact with Raeside, said that she was happy with the outcome.

"ACT UP had an effect," she said. "We're looking forward to having condom machines where there were none before—in a place where adolescents hang out—and where people

can have access to them. Sure it's nice to have condoms in the bars where there's liquor and the promise of sex, but this is one way to help stem the rising tide of [sexually transmitted infections] in adolescents."

Bennett said the group was glad for the opportunity to increase education about AIDS after the clown story broke.

"There is still too much denial in this country about reality-based safer sex, which includes condoms, dental dams and cleaning one's works," she said.

KC WILDMOON

Nunn surprisingly high, Coverdell low in gay voting ratings

by KC WILDMOON

Atlanta—The Human Rights Campaign Fund last week released a scorecard on how members of the U.S. Senate voted on issues of particular interest to gay men and lesbians—and Georgia's Sam Nunn finished with a surprisingly high score.

On the nine votes that HRCF monitored to compile its ratings, Nunn voted with the gay/lesbian position 67 percent of the time. By contrast, Georgia's junior senator, Republican Paul Coverdell, fell much lower on the scale, voting with HRCF only 22 percent of the time.

"Nunn appears to be a better voter on issues close to us than he appears on the surface," said Don George, of HRCF's Atlanta office. "There are a lot of people [in the Sen-

ate] we would love to trade for a record like Nunn's."

However, in compiling its ratings, the HRCF didn't try to weigh the relative importance of the nine votes or their degree of interest to the gay/lesbian community. For example, the vote on whether to codify the military ban on lesbians and gays into law was given as much weight as the confirmation of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders. And Nunn's very outspoken opposition to allowing openly gay men and lesbians into the military made the Democratic senator a visible symbol of homophobia at work to many in the community.

"He was visible and we vilified him," George said. "But overall we have had a successful track record with this man. It's tempting to make somebody an enemy forever...but

the reality is we have to be more mature. In politics, it's issue by issue."

Of the nine votes used in the ratings, Nunn's negative votes came on a bill that prevented people with HIV from immigrating into the United States (which he supported), the District of Columbia's domestic partners ordinance (which he opposed) and the military ban. He voted in accordance with HRCF's position on another military amendment, National Institutes of Health reauthorization, Roberta Achtenberg's and Joycelyn Elders' confirmation, the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act (which includes sexual orientation) and a bill providing penalties to those who block access to abortion clinics.

Coverdell, on the other hand, voted with HRCF only twice—the NIH reauthorization bill and the Hate Crimes Act, which he co-sponsored—matching low ratings given to

openly homophobic senators such as Dan Coats, R-Indiana, Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Trent Lott, R-Mississippi.

Coverdell's record during his first year comes as a disappointment to many lesbians and gay men who supported him in his successful race against Democrat Wyche Fowler in 1992. A segment of the community actively worked against Fowler after he appeared to have abandoned his base of progressive voters.

"I don't think [Coverdell] ever said that he would [be our friend]," George said. "There were a lot of people in the community who looked at his voting record [in the Georgia legislature] and thought he would do OK."

But, pointing to Coverdell's cosponsorship of the hate crimes bill, George said that gay issues are not lost on the junior senator.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

1994 Atlanta Lesbian & Gay Pride



The Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee has selected the artwork for the 1994 Pride celebration. The design, shown above, was created by M.A. Myers and Jan Concepcion of Shiloh Studios and ties the 1994 celebration in with the 1969 Stonewall riots that marked the beginning of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

Lambda expo set for Saturday

Atlanta—The Atlanta Lambda Community Center will present an expo for and about Atlanta's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organizations this weekend.

A majority of the community's 120 organizations are expected to participate in "To Have Our Own," a day-long networking and informational gathering session for both organizational members and the general public on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The Lambda board sees the event as part of its mandate of inclusiveness and diversity. "Everyone has ownership of the dream," said Terry McDurmon, coordinator of the expo. "This is a way to bring all organizations together, to pool our talents and resources."

Each organization will have a booth offering literature, membership information and merchandise. Seminars are also scheduled, including one on leadership skills, the paperwork involved in maintaining a 501(c)(3) organization and fundraising.

"Ideas For Making Our Organizations More Inclusive," a panel discussion which will offer concrete tips on how to incorporate diversity

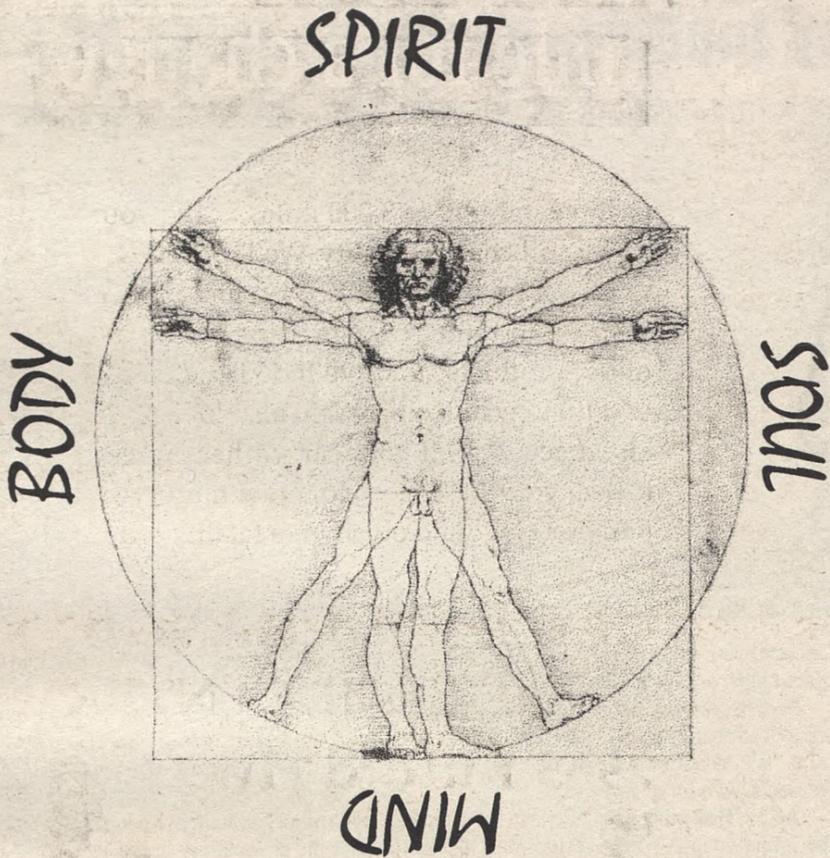
from the ground up, will be moderated by Joan Garner, director of the Fund For Southern Communities.

"We can be our own best friends or our worst enemies," McDurmon said. "We need to look in our own back yards first when we start complaining of bigotry, racism and oppression." Ten people representing various facets of the community such as youth, bisexual, transgender and retired/elderly will sit on the panel.

The Atlanta Lambda Community Center's dream, "Our Building In Our City," is closer to becoming a reality. According to McDurmon, the center will open a temporary facility by early June. A \$1 million fundraising campaign for the center's permanent building will be officially announced at the expo. The center will offer meeting space, offices for community organizations and more.

"To Have Our Own" will be held at the Holiday Inn/Midtown at Piedmont Road and I-85 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call the Lambda Line at 662-9010.

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NC Pride wins permit fight

Charlotte, NC—Organizers of North Carolina's Pride celebration have beaten back a campaign by a local church to deny them a permit for their June 5 parade and rally.

The city of Charlotte's parade committee unanimously approved the permit on Feb. 3, despite the objections of the First Baptist Church, which is located next door to the rally site in Marshall Park. The City Council could overrule the committee, but even opponents of the march think that is unlikely because of concerns such action would violate the First Amendment.

Church members objected to the permit on the grounds that the march, originally planned for noon, would interfere with church services. The parade committee received more than 30 complaints, and Mayor Richard Vinroot announced his opposition to the Pride event. Some 600 members of another Baptist church in Charlotte also signed a petition opposing plans for a march on Sunday.

"We've got some concerns they are going to have it in our back yard on a Sunday

afternoon when we'd be having activities," said Jim Cashwell, minister of students at First Baptist. "We feel this is a sin, the lifestyle. For them to have it on the Lord's Day is just a disgrace."

Charles Page, the church's senior minister and one of the state's most influential Baptist leaders, said, "The location encroaches on our church...We're just opposed to it. We don't think it represents the values system of our community." Page helped lead protests in 1992 that persuaded the City Council to kill a proposed anti-bias ordinance outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"We're not trying to interfere with anyone's right to worship," said Sue Henry of Charlotte, co-chair of NC Pride 1994, which agreed to move the parade to 1 p.m. to insure that the event wouldn't interfere with church activities.

North Carolina's statewide Pride celebration is coming to Charlotte for the first time, and the weekend-long event is expected to draw 4,000 people.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auburn sign goes up—yet again

Auburn, AL—Members of the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Association are hoping the third time is a charm.

Last weekend, for the third time, they installed their Adopt-a-Mile sign on a highway near an Auburn University fraternity.

The sign, marking the beginning of a mile of highway that association members pledged to keep clean, was first installed on Jan. 22 near the Kappa Alpha house. Within hours, it was torn down, bent and thrown down an embankment.

Two days later, members repaired and reinstalled the sign and stood an all-night vigil to make sure it wasn't destroyed. During the vigil, members were taunted by passers by who were described in an AGLA press release as "college age men in four-

wheel drive trucks."

On Jan. 31, vandals coated the sign with blue paint and several days later, a local resident, Wayne Snoddy, complained to the city about the signs. The city's engineer, who approved the original plans for the sign, then told the AGLA that it was not in compliance with the sign code.

Association members removed the sign, scraped off the paint and came up with a location for the sign that was in compliance with the city's regulation.

Snoddy, however, has vowed to get the Alabama legislature to remove the signs, which are erected throughout the state as part of a Department of Transportation highway beautification program.

Gay candidate makes Florida runoff

Ft. Lauderdale, FL—An openly gay challenger beat an incumbent Ft. Lauderdale city commissioner in the Feb. 8 city election, setting the stage for a runoff in March between the two.

Ken Wolf took 40 percent of the vote to finish first in what has become an increasingly nasty race. The incumbent, Cary Keno, came in second. Because neither can-

didate received a majority, a runoff will be held March 8.

During the race, Wolf's office received bomb threats, and the campaign reported that hundreds of campaign signs were defaced or destroyed during the last week of the campaign. The local chapter of the Log Cabin Club, a gay/lesbian Republican group, endorsed the incumbent instead of Wolf.

Library purchases anti-gay/lesbian books

Fairfax, VA—Fairfax County libraries have purchased more than 100 copies of 11 books critical of gays and lesbians after complaints by Christian supremacists that the library system's collection promotes a gay/lesbian agenda.

Julie Pringle, coordinator of collection management for the libraries, said the system recently purchased the additional titles with names such as "You Don't Have to Be Gay," and "Overcoming Homosexuality."

Karen Jo Gounaud, leader of a group of parents and conservative Christian activists who tried unsuccessfully last year to prevent the Washington Blade from being distributed in the county's 22 libraries, asked the library to buy books from her list of anti-gay/lesbian titles.

Pringle said the did not by the books in response to activists' claim that there was

a lack of balance in the system's books on the topic. She said the books were purchased because "homosexuality is a major social issue and must be reflected in the library." Library administrators said they spent about \$1,100 on the new books.

Pringle said the library relies on patrons for suggestions and that books Gounaud suggested had not previously come to the libraries' attention. She said not all of the suggested books were ordered.

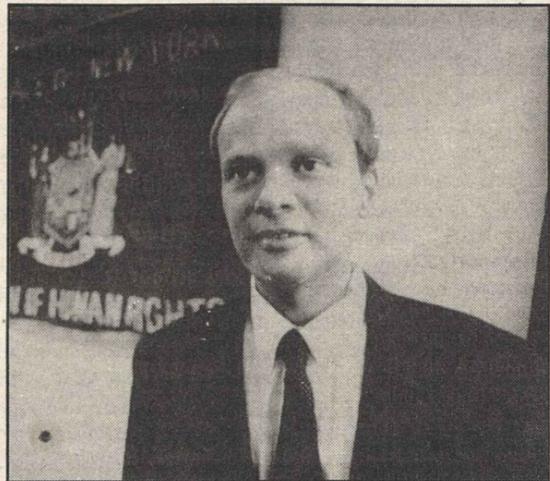
Peg McCraw, president of the Fairfax Lesbian and Gay Citizens Association, said she believes the library system is trying to win favor with conservative Christian activists by buying the books.

"I look at it as the library trying to appease vocal critics," McCraw said. "Maybe they see it as a way to quiet things down."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado To Appeal Amendment 2 Decision:

The December decision by a District Court ruling Amendment 2 unconstitutional will be appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court, Gov. Roy Romer said last week. "I believe the citizens of Colorado want this issue resolved," he said. "If necessary, we will appeal this case to the U.S. Supreme Court to answer all of the legal questions involved." Denver District Judge Jeffrey Bayless ruled the anti-gay measure unconstitutional on Dec. 14, saying it would deprive a specific group access to the political process.



Geoffrey Bowers' family is suing the producers of "Philadelphia" for \$10 million.

movie recreated conversations and events that only could have emerged from hours of "highly personal and extremely emotional" interviews with the family, said Daniel Felber, the family's attorney. The family began discussions about a possible movie deal with the movie's producer, Scott Rudin, in 1988.

Here We Go Again: The organizers of New York's St. Patrick's Day parade are again denying the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization a place in the procession. Last week's announcement marked the third consecutive year that the organizers have turned down the group's application to march. "The parade is a private exercise, a religious exercise, and we have the right to choose those we wish to have march with us," said Donald Sullivan, a spokesman for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Roman Catholic fraternal organization that sponsors the parade. Last year, a U.S. District Court judge agreed with the Hibernians. ILGO says it plans to hold a protest march along the parade route on the morning of the parade.

Military Regulations On Gays Delayed: The Pentagon says it will be a few weeks late in finalizing regulations to bar homosexual conduct in the military. The Defense Department chalked up the delay to paperwork. The new regulations, which were to go into effect on Feb. 5, were supposed to be given to commanders in the field so they would have precise definitions of homosexual conduct that could lead to a service member's discharge. A Pentagon spokesperson said he expected the paperwork on the new regulations may be ready by the end of the month.

Judge To Rule On Boy Scouts: A New Jersey Superior Court judge said he will rule in the next few months on whether New Jersey law prohibits the Boy Scouts from discriminating against gays who wish to join the organization. Attorneys for James Dale, a 1993 Rutgers graduate and former Eagle Scout and scoutmaster expelled from the Scouts in 1990 because he is gay, have asked that Judge Patrick J. McGann Jr. apply the state's anti-discrimination law to the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts have asked McGann to dismiss Dale's lawsuit and rule that the Scouts have a First Amendment right of association that supersedes Dale's rights.

Hawaii Legislature Attempting To Ban Gay Marriages: The Hawaii House approved and sent to the Senate last week a controversial measure to clarify that the state's marriage licenses are intended only for couples of the opposite sex. The issue came before the Legislature after the state Supreme Court ruled last year that the state's denial of marriage licenses to three same-sex couples was unconstitutional unless the state could show a compelling state interest for such gender discrimination. The legislators supporting the bill used historical precedent as the argument in favor, and complained that if the state allowed gay couples to marry, there would logically be no state prohibition against incestuous unions, polygamy, or any other choice.

Lesbian Wins Custody Of Sons From Step Mom: Twila Teegarden has been awarded custody of her 10 and 6 year old sons, but has been ordered not to engage in "homosexual behavior" in front of them. "I'm not sure what that means," Teegarden's attorney said. Teegarden was also ordered to "avoid" living with any woman with whom she has a sexual relationship and to obtain counseling for her and her sons to smooth the transition into their new living arrangement. Teegarden had sought custody from the boys' stepmother after their father died in a home accident.

And: James L. Mitchell has been convicted of **arson and conspiracy** for persuading his lover to burn down a Boston bathhouse he owned so he could collect the insurance...The Seattle Times began last week offering **health care benefits** to the partners of its lesbian and gay employees...James Fielding has sued the **Gay Men's Health Crisis**, claiming the AIDS agency discriminated against him because he has AIDS when it refused to offer him a promotion.

Family Sues Over "Philadelphia" Story:

The family of an attorney fired from his job for having AIDS has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the producers of the movie "Philadelphia," claiming the filmmakers stole the attorney's story. Geoffrey Bowers, who died in 1987, won the suit he filed against his former employer, Baker and MacKenzie. Bowers' family claims that the film contains dozens of similarities to Bowers' life and family. Besides the discrimination case, the

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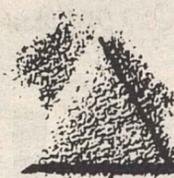
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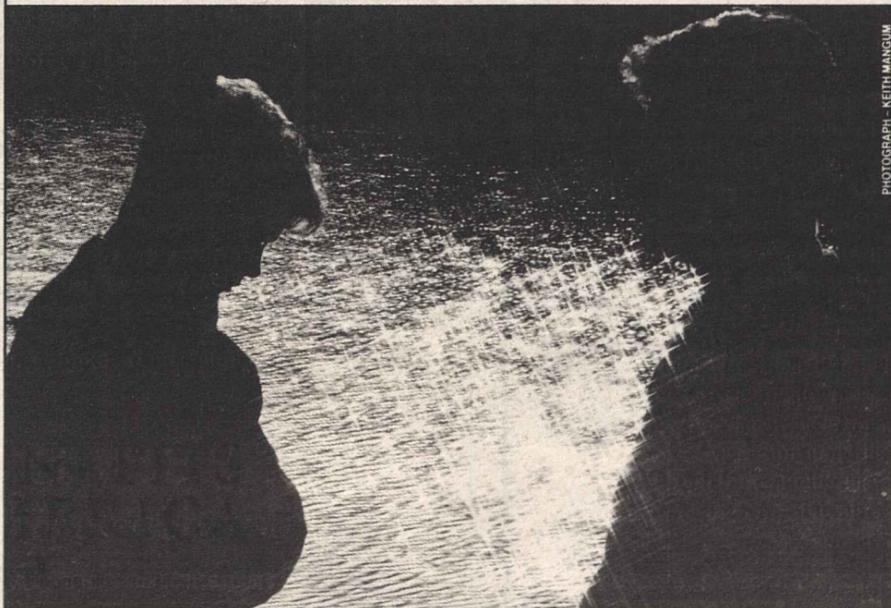


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Fighting against gay racism

National town meeting kicks off Double Exposure, a year-long project to examine the effects of racism and homophobia on African Americans and lesbians.

by ANDREA L. BERRY

Washington, D.C.—Nearly 300 people crowded into the National Press Club earlier this month to take part in a National Town Meeting on racial discrimination and inequities within the lesbian and gay community.

The forum was the kickoff event for Double Exposure, a multi-media educational outreach campaign designed to examine the effects of racism and homophobia on black gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Launched to coincide with the observance of Black History Month, the year-long campaign is being jointly produced by Gregory Adams Presents, a Washington-based media consulting firm, the Bayard Rustin Alliance, a newly-formed non-profit organization dedicated to building coalitions among the black lesbian/gay/bisexual community and other civil rights proponents, and Gay Spectrum, a weekly lesbian and gay cable newsmagazine available in the metropolitan Washington area.

Double Exposure creator Gregory Adams says the town meeting is one of several components of the campaign. The other features include Up From Our Roots, which examines the contributions of black lesbians, gay men and bisexuals to American society and culture through video packages; and Self-Appointed Judge and Jury, a series of recommended discussion topics designed to stimulate dialogue on nationally syndicated talk shows around issues of homophobia in the black community and, in particular, the views of the black religious right.

An anti-gay ballot measure passed in Cincinnati last year was supported heavily by black ministers and their parishioners, Adams noted. African Americans are often treated un-

fairly in the mainstream gay and lesbian community, says Adams, citing the few blacks in policy making positions in national gay and lesbian organizations. "There has been an attempt to integrate staff, but most of the positions where significant changes can be made are still controlled by gay, white men."

Panelists at the town meeting included Mandy Carter, policy advocate for the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Willa Taylor, cultural festival director of the Gay Games IV; Derek Livingston, executive director of the North Carolina Pride PAC and co-chair of the 1993 March on Washington; and Ivy Young of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Also on hand was Peri Jude Radecic, the new executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who admitted at the town meeting that most of the people of color in her organization were not in policy-making positions. Radecic made a commitment to "shake up the structure at NGLTF that has institutionalized racism, and start from scratch to address some of these equity issues," says Adams.

Many mainstream gay and lesbian leaders

feel it's politically incorrect to acknowledge existing racial and ethnic biases, says Adams. "The bottom line is that racism was written into the American Constitution and into the American judicial system 200 years ago. I'm not surprised that racism exists in all sectors of society."

In addition, gay and lesbian mainstream organizations

"We're trying to achieve a true shared power. We don't want to be invited to sit at the table just so they can say we're represented and then have no one pay us any attention," said Gregory Adams, creator of Double Exposure.

perceive requests for racial equity as a power issue, Adams adds. "We're trying to achieve a true shared power. We don't want to be invited to sit at the table just so they can say we're represented and then have no one pay us any attention."

Adams, who was communications director for the 1993 March on Washington, is also public affairs director for the National Minority AIDS Council. He believes that it is important for the mainstream lesbian and gay community to acknowledge the positive work being done by African American gays, lesbians and bisexuals. He cites drag performer Ru Paul's recent climb to the top of the pop music charts as one example of how gay black lifestyles are influencing mainstream American pop culture, adding gay black lifestyles have now become frequent discussion topics

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Does gay mean green?

Continued from page 1

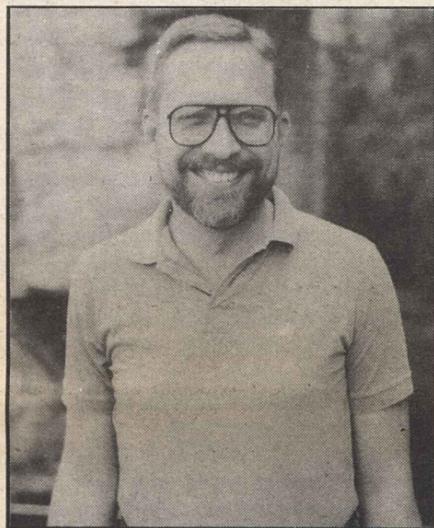
talist," she says. "But I'm not sure sometimes what I should spend my time on. I recycle, but is this really doing anything? Or is it a distraction by the waste industry? I guess I'm looking for an environmental savior to show up."

Of course, not everybody is waiting for a savior. And some of us truly don't care. The reason may be that we've just become too "urbanized," according to J. Michael Clark, a professor at Emory University.

Clark, author of "Beyond Our Ghettos: Gay Theology in Ecological Perspective," draws a direct parallel between the way society generally treats gay men and lesbians and the way humanity, if it can be called that, treats the earth and its ecosystems.

"The kinds of things that happen to us in terms of how we're treated, there's a kinship there," he says.

Clark's ideas begin with eco-feminist writers, who point to similarities in the treatment of women and the treatment of the planet. But Clark goes one step further.



Emory professor and author J. Michael Clark draws a direct parallel between the way society generally treats gay men and lesbians and the way humanity treats the earth and its ecosystems. "The kinds of things that happen to us in terms of how we're treated, there's a kinship there," he says.

"Eco-feminists talk about how women are devalued and exploited by society," he says. "But from a literal point of view, it's not that gays and lesbians are devalued, but disvalued, given no value whatsoever. That makes us disposable and expendable."

The same is true with the planet's resources, he says. We create those mountains of trash, pollute the air and water and wreak havoc on the environment as if it had no value whatsoever. Those similarities—between pollution and AIDS, irresponsible development and gay-bashing—illuminate a bigger picture for Clark, one that includes all living things as equal in value. But it's not too big a job, he says—not if you start at home.

"I'm trying to reclaim the word 'homemaker,'" he says. "We can all begin at home, revaluing the importance of making a home, a sense of rootedness."

Recycling, composting, riding a bicycle, using chemical free products—we can do those things. "Those little things like recycling, they make it more real for us getting started," Clark says. "But it's important to see it in a larger context to keep it going. Recycling is trendy, but having the larger picture helps us do the right thing whether it's trendy or not."

Laurie Francis tried being an environmental savior for a while, throwing herself into work for Greenpeace and the Georgia Environmental Project. For two years, she canvassed neighborhoods for Greenpeace, asking for money and explaining why environmental issues are important, often to people who didn't care.

"When you give money to a canvasser, you're basically paying a person to come and talk to you," she says. "If you already agree with those issues, then by giving money to that person at the door, you're paying her or she to educate everybody else. A canvasser doesn't have the best job. You're basically a teacher."

Francis also considered herself a teacher at her next job—running the Georgia Environmental Project's store in Little Five Points for a year and a half.

"And I learned things there as well," she said. "I learned so much about not using chemicals."

Francis comes by her concern for such issues naturally—"I come from a family of



Susan Owens says she started The Common Pond because she "wanted to have an effect on what's going on, bigger than recycling at home, something that everyone could do."

hippies," she laughs. "I was a real red diaper baby. My uncle was a botanist, and I was taught to respect things around me."

Francis stopped her career in the environmental movement because the pay couldn't keep up with the bills, although the interest has not waned, and she does what she can to help out.

As does Uri Vaknin, who works at the Dorothy McCrae Gallery and devotes the rest of his time to AIDS and gay activism.

"I would like to be [an environmental activist]," he said. "But I just don't have the time."

But Vaknin doesn't let ecological issues slide. He tried to start an office recycling program at the law firm he worked for in the late 1980s. The firm initially refused, but, to his amusement, it started the program after he left.

"At the gallery, we recycle everything," he says. "We don't even have a dumpster in the back. It's a little more work, but it's worth it in the end."

Vaknin believes that gay men and lesbians tend to be more environmentally conscious, although not necessarily more active, than straight Americans.

"Gays and lesbians are politically aware because we need to be," he says. "And being politically aware is also being environmentally aware. But I don't think that's true for every gay, for every queer."

So why aren't more gay men and lesbians out front on environmental issues? On some fronts, they are—the national Greens Party has a Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Queer Caucus, and locally gay men and lesbians have been seen on a number of fronts. A quick look at photo-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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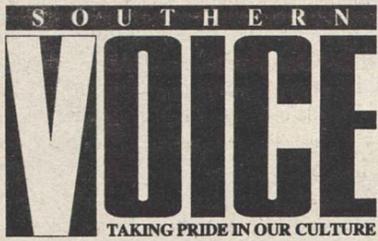
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GUEST EDITORIAL

International gay group must vote to oust NAMBLA

by RICK ROSENDALL

The current controversy over the membership of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) in the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) raises in sharp relief the question of what boundaries, if any, should be drawn around the gay and lesbian civil rights movement.

The predicament is prompted by the Clinton administration's threat to seek the revocation of ILGA's consultative status in the United States Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) if ILGA does not oust NAMBLA at its world conference in New York next June. While ILGA's leadership has stated its intention to seek NAMBLA's ouster, doing so will require an 80 percent super majority.

Fairness obliges us first to consider NAMBLA's own words. The October 1993 issue of "NAMBLA Bulletin," which I bought from D.C.'s Lambda Rising bookstore, is a 16-page, professionally laid-out publication containing news articles, letters, an interview, a first-person essay about a man meeting an abused boy of 12 on a bus trip, an ad for two photography books and several photos of boys (mostly shirtless) who appear to be between the ages of eight and 13. The masthead displays the emblems of both ILGA and the Gay and Lesbian Press Association. The following is the opening of an article titled "Where We Stand":

"The North American Man/Boy Love Association is both political and educational. We work to organize support for boys and men who have or desire consensual sexual and emotional relationships and to educate society on their positive nature. We speak out against the oppression endured by men and boys who love one another..."

The author of the first-person essay says lamentingly of society, "They would rather [the boy] go to an abusive mother than to a man who loves boys." A common thread running through this material is an utter inability to recognize a conflict of interest. These men really seem to believe that they have the boys' best interests at heart, despite clear evidence from their own accounts that they are taking grotesque advantage of troubled boys' need

for love, attention, support and freedom from abuse.

Their subtler form of abuse directs an adult's arsenal against the innocence of children and the nascent sexuality of young adolescents and, when it succeeds, calls the result consensual love. That people so selfish should presume to lecture others about love, much less portray themselves as victims, is a supreme achievement in self-delusion and gall.

The NAMBLA activists and their supporters assert that those who oppose them have simply caved in to our society's anti-sexual attitudes and "homophobic pressure orchestrated by the American right wing." This begs the question of what responsibilities we are prepared to assume along with our sexual freedom. For a long time, the idea of "consenting adults" has been one of the foundation stones of our movement. For ILGA to refuse to defend this principle against an assault from within its own ranks would be not only political suicide but an abdication of leadership at the very moment when its consultative status in ECOSOC has enhanced its opportunity to lead.

ILGA has a right—in fact, a responsibility—to defend itself and its mission. This is not to say that all efforts to reform age of consent laws should be opposed, but NAMBLA opposes setting *any* age of consent. At any rate, as U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Massachusetts, has observed, "It's not a gay issue" as long as the age of consent applies equally regardless of sexual orientation.

Recent years have seen an increase in organized efforts to protect gay and lesbian youth rather than exploit them. These include strongly youth-oriented gay and lesbian community centers in many cities, as well as D.C.'s Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), L.A.'s Project 10 and New York's Hetrick-Martin Institute.

In my hometown, for example, SMYAL provides such services as advocacy, outreach, a telephone help line and a safe space for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth to meet their peers. These organizations nurture the future of our movement. By supporting their work not only do we help to protect sexual minority youth, we serve as role models.

Tests of character seldom accommodate themselves to our schedule. In the case of NAMBLA, not to decide is to decide. By canceling the membership of NAMBLA and other pedophile organizations, ILGA would not be denying anyone's right of self-expression but exercising its own. It is time to tell NAMBLA and its kin to express their views elsewhere, without the benefit of ILGA's assistance or its name.

There is no gift more precious than the love of a child. To play with an exuberant child, to feel its physical affection and its gleeful energy is to recapture one's own childhood. Who among us has never said of a lovely child, "that one is destined to break a few hearts?" This should cause us to treasure and respect childhood, not to steal it with the seductions and subtle power plays of unrestrained adults behaving like Jupiter engulfing Semele.

In that myth, it was Semele who insisted upon seeing Jupiter in all his glory. But that did not excuse Jupiter, who knew that such a revelation would overwhelm the mortal he claimed to love.

In a press release quoted in the December 17, 1993 issue of Baltimore Gay Paper, NAMBLA states, "It is our hope that the ILGA membership will not support the secretariat's abject surrender of its basic values in order to hold on to what would then become a meaningless symbol of their own self-importance." ILGA members should ask themselves precisely which basic values are surrendered by refusing to associate with pedophiles.

Those who consider ILGA's breakthrough toward visibility and participation in the U.N. "a meaningless symbol of their own self-importance" clearly do not comprehend the magnitude of ILGA's opportunity to advance the cause of gay and lesbian civil rights in the world. Anyone who would throw that away deserves the company of the self-serving denizens of NAMBLA.

Rick Rosendall, who lives in Washington D.C., represented the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses at the 15th ILGA World Conference in Barcelona in July 1993.

L E T T E R S

Stonewall 25 missed point of gay lib by banning NAMBLA

How interesting and how ironic it was to see in the same issue of Southern Voice Al Cotton's column criticizing Bruce Bawer's book "A Place at the Table" and an article on the decision of the Stonewall 25 steering committee to ban the North American Man Boy Love Association [SoVo, Jan. 27].

When Cotton criticizes Bawer for advocating respectability over integrity, he is absolutely right. Shame on Stonewall 25 for making the same choice.

Bawer is embarrassed by leather or drag, fearing "such people have succeeded in convincing many heterosexuals that they speak for all gays and that their own less attractive qualities are inherent attributes of homosexuality." Stonewall 25 is embarrassed by men and boys who choose to have consensual relationships.

Bawer would like to get rid of those members of the community he finds inconvenient. He would like to silence them, to make them invisible. They might alienate the straights, and then Bawer might never have a place at their table. But what Bawer wants is not what gay liberation is truly about. Gay liberation is about fighting for the recognition of the validity of our lives, our table, not about squeezing

into a place at their table.

Stonewall 25 is doing the same thing in banning NAMBLA. NAMBLA doesn't advocate or engage in sexual abuse of young people. NAMBLA doesn't advocate illegal activity. NAMBLA supports men and boys who choose to have consensual relationships. NAMBLA advocates changes in the law.

Isn't it ironic? NAMBLA advocates changing the laws so that certain conduct now criminalized would become legal, even though some people find that conduct immoral. Stonewall 25 doesn't want to be associated with such a group. Instead, Stonewall 25 advocates changing the laws so that certain conduct now criminalized would become legal, even though some people find that conduct immoral.

Stonewall 25, in its quest for respectability, has lost sight of what gay liberation is about. Namely, that our struggle is about living our lives with integrity, being all of who we really are. "I kink, therefore I am" is more than just an early gay lib slogan. It is, instead, the essence of our movement. We achieve liberation by cherishing ourselves as we are, by opening all our closet doors.

Stonewall didn't happen because some respectable, politically correct, blue ribbon panel

of gay men and lesbians banded together to advocate social change and expand America's civil rights agenda. Stonewall happened because Judy Garland was dead and a handful of pissed off hustlers and drag queens decided enough was enough.

Today, Stonewall 25 finds it expedient to excise NAMBLA from the community, and very few protest, because NAMBLA is "too kinky." But it won't stop with NAMBLA. Tomorrow, someone else will try to get rid of the bare-breasted lesbians who marched proudly through D.C. on Dyke Night. Will you speak up then? Will you speak up when they go after the drag queens, who gave you the precious gift of their rage 25 years ago? If not, rest assured they will pick us off one by one, from the kinkiest one on the outer fringe to the most respectable one in the very center.

If you think they're only going after the ones kinkier than you, you'd better think again, because if you're gay or lesbian, you're already kinkier than they think anyone has a right to be. And when they finally come for you, you'd better have your bags packed, because there will be no one left to speak up.

Bob Schwartz
Atlanta

Why do we waltz around instead of just asking THE question?

We all met by happenstance. Donald and Rick and Brenda and I. Although there are those who will say kismet. But the chances of the connection were slim at best. Or preordained.

They had just come to town, bringing Fortune 500 advertising and design business with them in the new America where clients can be whole states away and bringing work home means crossing the hallway into the living room. Where the Charmin and the light bulbs transform themselves miraculously into tax deductions. Where both of you can alternate between who is going to be president of the company this week, and who gets to be CEO, for just the cost of an extra box of printed cards. Where the veins that keep the company body alive are copper, wired for voice and data transfer. ("If you'd like to send a fax, please press the start key now...") Where home is anywhere you want, and sunshine is as good a reason to set up shop as any. Especially if you, like they, come from Frostbite Falls.

"Harry" (a straight subcontractor of ours) "recommended us to them," my new work partner enthused. "They seem to have a lot of business. If we connect, they could become a good source for us. And besides," she paused for emphasis, "I think they're family."

Now Brenda and I had become a working team relatively recently, bringing big-time backgrounds, vast experience and a mutual distaste for letting too much work interfere with real life. We wanted a few good clients with the kind of money that made occasionally staying up all night, if we had to, worth the price clients were going to have to pay for the privilege of having us on their cases. A straight lady client we had in common introduced us, and we both liked the idea that we never had to



Cleaning Out My Closet

by SHELLY ROBERTS

play Monday morning pronouns to make a living. I knew hers. Susan. She new mine. Judi. Cool.

"What do you mean, family?" I asked, knowing exactly what she meant. I just meant "What were the clues?" She knew what I meant.

"Well, first of all, it's two guys. (Good clue.) They moved here together and bought a house. (Another good clue.)

"One of them's older. Our age." (What'd she mean by that? "Older"?)

"Yea..." I brilliantly intoned.

"And the other one's younger. And...oh, listen, we're meeting with them tomorrow at three. Judge for yourself."

I did.

Hmmm. Nice haircuts. Which could mean something. But straight guys can get good haircuts. Cool clothes. OK. That could mean some-

thing, too. House full of artwork. Aha. It could just be their way of setting up a "corporate office-like" environment. But, maybe not. Couldn't they just hold hands or touch a little? Then we'd know.

The work went well, but guessing was the delicious unspoken assignment. Undercurrent speculation that swirled and eddied underfoot at every conference opportunity.

Did they say "we" when they talked? Business or pleasure references? They had separate cars. What did that mean? Whose dog was it anyway? How could you tell without asking? And how could you ask? (In case you're wrong.) It was a waltz.

I tried to swing us all counterclockwise. Wore a silver hand-hewn double-headed labrys amidst my New Businesswoman ensembles. (Did guys even know what that was? Was it a proper clue in our mystery game?) I parked the car with bumper stickers rampant. I escalated to a less subtle harmony ball necklace. Cloisonne enameled pink triangle on silver. Surely soon they'd notice. Say something. How could they keep from commenting? They could. They did.

The waltz was getting dizzying. Could I just come out and ask? Why couldn't I?

"So, um, we're dykes. Are you guys faggots or what?" What if they were "or what?" What would Brenda do to me if my question put the kibosh on all the income she planned to use to buy a new 47 foot Chris Craft? I gave it serious consideration. We had business at stake here. Still, I wanted confirmation. I wanted to know for sure. I demanded proof. Something decisive. I peeked into corners. I snooped into picture frames. Snapshots are not truly definitive, but two boys and their dog should be telling me something. The office

was downstairs, and I had no good excuse to make my way up to examine whether there was a double bedroom or not.

At Brenda's studio, they casually commented that their bedroom (which I hadn't seen) was bigger than her whole living room. "Their bedroom." Brenda squealed later. "That's it. What's the question, right?" But the question wasn't answered right. Doubt ticked.

Finally, I couldn't stand the uncertainty. I made a defiant decision. Based on some pretty good clues, an instinct that we were guessing in the right direction, an educated judgment call. We'd been to their house. They'd been to each of ours. Finally on the phone I just said it. Sort of. "Uh, Donald, did you ever hear of the Frostbite Falls' Triangulator?...The newspaper?...I write a column..." (Breath held. I didn't say "gay" paper. I could get out of it. Brenda could still earn enough to buy a dingy. Pause. Pause. If they know the paper, they'll know who I am. And I'll know who they are. Pause.)

"Oh, sure." (...Everybody breathe now...)

"Rick used to write for them before we left." Phew. Well that's over. And we're all fast friends now. Working away in a kind of synchronized harmony I don't think possible with non-family members.

But, you know, it was easier to come out to the surly next-door neighbors than it was to get past the tentative guessing games we all play on first introduction. I wonder why that is?

What isn't any wonder is why straight people don't have a clue who we really are. After all, as it is, most of the time even we can't tell.

LETTERS

Cobb shouldn't get Olympic volleyball after commission's anti-gay vote

On Sunday, Jan. 30, NBC television aired a 30-minute pre-Super Bowl special that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games produced about Atlanta and the Olympics. During the presentation, I learned that the Cobb Galleria Sports Centre would be the host site of volleyball competition for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

I am very disappointed that Cobb County has been chosen as a site for such a prestigious event—an event that is intended to promote the idea of goodwill and peace between differ-

ent peoples.

As anyone who lives in the Atlanta area (and, indeed the nation) knows, in July 1993 the Cobb County commissioners passed an anti-gay resolution condemning the "gay lifestyle." As a gay man, I was very offended and threatened by that action.

By selecting the Cobb Galleria Sports Centre, ACOG is sending the wrong message. In effect, ACOG is telling the Cobb County Commission that everything is OK. They are just gay men and lesbians. It's no big deal.

It is with much hope and anticipation that I have watched the progress of the Olympic Committee, always wanting the very best for Atlanta.

I have strongly supported Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, participating in 5K races, writing letters and buying merchandise to support the effort. Since Atlanta was awarded the Games in September 1990, my enthusiasm has wavered but little. I've talked up the Olympics and bought much paraphernalia related to the Summer Games. I even paid much too much for a used Olympic flag at the Olympic Experience at Underground Atlanta—once again, to support the Games.

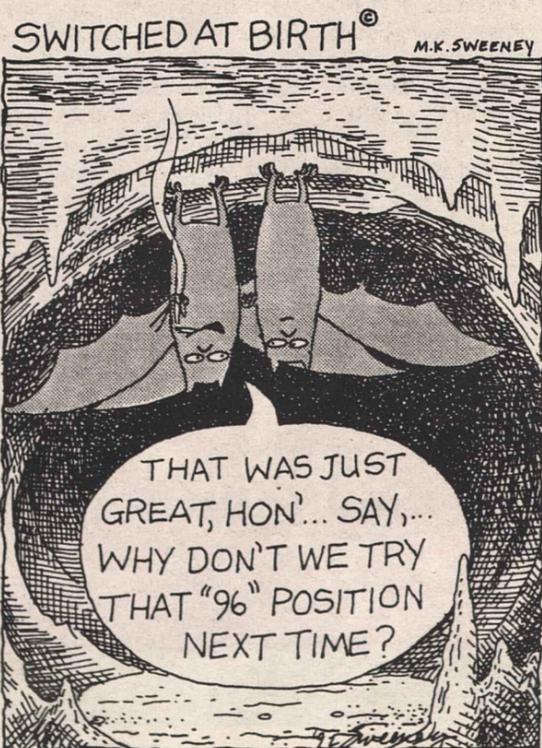
Why reward Cobb County with this spectacular event? Why spend money in Cobb County to improve this site to meet Olympic standards? Why pay sales tax in Cobb County to pay the salaries of these Cobb County commissioners? Why?

Many gay men and lesbians follow sports. Many will be attending the 1996 Summer Olympics. There will be gay and lesbian volleyball players from the United States and around the world. I don't think that they will be welcome in Cobb County. I know that as a gay man, I am not.

I was in Cobb County in Marietta in the Square those hot days last summer. I saw the looks. I felt the tension. I saw the Ku Klux Klan. I heard the people from the congregations of the religious right calling me names and damning me to hell. I saw the Confederate flag. I knew about the bomb threats from the bigots. I saw the man with the sign that said "Thank God for AIDS." I was there.

The Olympics don't belong in Cobb County.

Jon-Ivan Weaver
Atlanta



We all need to write one letter a month

The religious right is having an inordinate amount of influence on the legal and cultural status of gays and lesbians in America. How are they doing it, you ask? They call and write to their elected officials frequently, giving the officials the impression that the bigots' opinion is the mainstream opinion.

Unfortunately, our voices are not being heard nearly as well. Please, every one of you, please write to your elected officials and let them know you're here and don't agree with the hate. You have only one president, two U.S. Senators and one U.S. Representative, plus some local officials. Set a goal to write a

letter every month, or even better, every week. Write to the local school board, the governor, to gay-supportive companies, to PBS to thank them for airing "Tales of the City," whoever, and help change our society.

Southern Voice could help out by publishing the addresses of all of the local and national officials every week, much like the organizations section or the restaurant listing. We can't let the religious right dominate the public discussions that affect our lives.

Kirby J. Frank
Atlanta

OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

LACKING THAT DECORATING GENE?

Designer Shane Meder, host of GPTV's
"Interiors Today," is here to help, with
the message that there are no rights
and wrongs, only preferences

by CHRIS CASH

Do you still use the formica top table your mother gave you for your first apartment? Are posters of the Michigan Womyn's Festival or Hotlanta Expo your idea of artwork?

Don't feel bad if you think you were passed over when the interior design genes were handed out. Shane Meder, host of "Interiors Today," a new series from Georgia Public Television (GPTV), says however you decorate your home is fine—as long as you are happy with it. And if you're not, he can help.

"Interior design is purely a matter of personal taste, it reflects who you are. There are really no rights or wrongs."

Meder is in his den, surrounded by overstuffed furniture, fat floral pillows, layers of fabric, artwork of all types and photos of his dogs, Sarah and Albert. He makes no excuses for the black velvet curtains hanging between the den and the dining room.

"I love those curtains. Some people say it looks and feels like a mortuary but when I pull them, and sit in here alone, they make me feel cozy."

Cozy is one word for Meder's home. It is also very much like him—nostalgic, romantic and very Southern. He is quick to point to the South Carolina flag hanging on the porch of his 1905 Victorian mini-mansie in Candler Park.

Meder's home is called "Whistle Stop Cafe" by his many friends and guests. He has two or three dinner parties a month. On Feb. 19, he will be one of many hosts for "Who's Dining Who?," a dinner party fundraiser for the AIDS Survival Project. His theme? Fried Green Tomatoes, of course. Entertaining is really what decorating is about, and what brought him into the field.

"When I was 10 or so growing up in South Carolina, I would invite a dozen or so friends over after school," he says. "I would make the invitations, arrange the flowers and serve my guests potato chips and Cokes. Then we would move the dining room table and do line dances from 'Saturday Night Fever.'"

Meder is not only proud to be Southern and carry on its tradition of gracious living, he is also proud to be gay.

"I'm one of the few openly gay men on television in Atlanta. I like to be able to say that and to set a precedent. And I have to say that the people at GPTV are wonderful. They know and it's not a problem. It's like a family. I was there when the calls were coming in about 'Tales of the City.' I'm very happy to be working with them."

You may have seen Meder on television before, if you're an early riser. In 1992 and 1993, "Creating Style" aired at 7:30 am Saturday and Sunday on Channel 11. He also co-hosted "Noonday" with Jill Becker two days a week.

Why the switch to GPTV? "A better time slot for one thing," he laughs. "Interiors Today" airs on Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and repeats on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. The program is intended to help people who feel intimidated by designers, Meder says—to learn their lingo and get the help they need to make their homes right.

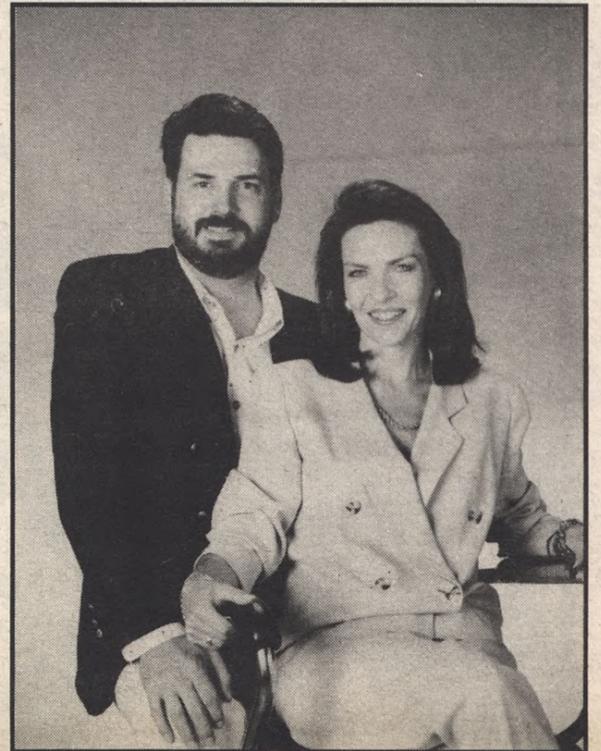
He points to the hardware at the top of a lamp shade. "Do you know what this is called? It's a finial. You can completely change the look of a lamp by changing the finial, and there are hundreds to choose from."

What three things would Meder suggest if you want to give a room a face lift? "Paint the walls, add some fabric to soften the look and add or change artwork. Art is very personal. It says something about how you feel about things."

Meder stresses, however, that a house is to live in—not to look at. "There shouldn't be one room in your home where guests are afraid to sit on the furniture," he says.

A further look around Meder's four bedroom home shows he practices what he preaches. And although comfortable and warm, there are touches throughout which make Meder's home unique—a chair on top of the kitchen cabinets, a hand painted gardenia on the dining room wall, antique music boxes, a black dressing room, two of his christening dresses hanging on the wall leading upstairs. "It's my own Howard's End," he smiles.

But there are a few rooms Meder has yet to finish. Single, he fears if he completes the rooms, "I will be married to the house. There will be no room for someone else. I wouldn't



Meder and co-host Eileen Marzetti offer a weekly peek into Atlanta's best-dressed homes.

feel as open to change."

A busy man, Meder runs his own design business, writes for several local magazines, hosts "Interiors Today" and is in the planning stages of a book. "I want to call it 'The Four Seasons.' Houses need to change with the seasons. People get too locked into one look. When winter comes, add layers to the windows. In summer, remove the shutters and let the light in."

"Interiors Today" sheds light on some common and not so common design problems. Accompanied by Meder and co-host Eileen Marzetti, top designers such as Bill Stewart and Nina Campbell offer a peek into some of the most beautiful and interesting homes in the city, while offering concrete and useful information. Whether you are an expert—one of those born with the decorating gene—or just starting out, there's plenty here of value. Meder guarantees it.

Five gay-themed movies earn Academy nominations

1993 was the year in which queer cinema finally began receiving mainstream critical notice, and the nominations for the Academy Awards, released last week, reflected the trend.

Five movies that had gay characters or themes—"Farewell My Concubine," "The Wedding Banquet," "Orlando," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "Philadelphia"—received Oscar nominations. However, "Philadelphia," the supposedly groundbreaking film about AIDS and homophobia, was surprisingly shut out in several major categories.

Tom Hanks was nominated for the best actor Oscar for his portrayal of a gay lawyer battling against AIDS and discrimination, and the movie was also nominated for achievement in makeup, no doubt for the realistic way in which Hanks was rendered as a person with AIDS. Ron Nyswaner's screenplay was nominated for best original screenplay, and two songs from the movie, "Streets of Philadelphia" and "Philadelphia," were nominated for best original movie song.

But "Philadelphia" was not nominated for best film, and its director, Jonathan Demme, was not nominated in the best director category. Also not nominated was Denzel Washington, who co-starred with Hanks.

Stockard Channing, who played a socialite duped by a gay hustler in "Six Degrees of Separation," was nominated for best actress. The actor who played the hustler and created a controversy by refusing to do any kissing scenes with men in the movie, Will Smith, was not nominated.

The Taiwanese comedy "The Wedding Banquet," about two male lovers, one American and one Chinese, whose relationship is put to the test when family comes to visit, was nominated for best foreign film. Nominated in that same category was "Farewell My Concubine," a lush melodrama about the complicated relationship between two men, set against the backdrop of a Beijing Opera. "Farewell," from Hong Kong, was also nominated for best cinematography.

Filmmaker Sally Potter's complex, gender bending "Orlando," based on Virginia Woolf's novel written in protest of the oppression of women, was nominated in two categories—best costume design and best art direction.

The Academy Awards are March 21. Whoopi Goldberg is the host.

RICHARD SHUMATE

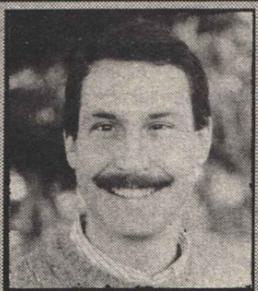


Mitchell Lichtenstein and Winston Chao played lovers interrupted by a family visit in "The Wedding Banquet," nominated for an Oscar as best foreign film.

AIDS

AT THE CROSSROADS

by Bruce Mirken



Schindler's Other List

It is a depressing commentary on the state of AIDS education in this country that the discovery of condoms by the U.S. government thirteen years into the epidemic was a major news item. Maybe in another thirteen years we'll get condom ads that actually explain how to properly use one, and include people other than heterosexuals.

Don't get me wrong. The government's new ads are a step forward. Unfortunately, it's a baby step in an epidemic that's moving at a full gallop.

But while we snipe at the feds, let's not get too sanguine about the job the AIDS organizations our own community has spawned are doing.

A couple of years ago an AIDS agency in my town put out a poster/newspaper ad that, due to a lack of proofreading, listed a particular sexual act as both "possibly safe" and "unsafe." When I pointed out the error, a chagrined spokesman said it would be fixed immediately. A year and a half later the same ad, uncorrected, was still running.

Lately, there's been growing attention to a

is in the mass media, the information most of us get about AIDS is put out by community organizations. And frankly, many of them suck.

The same agency that's doing the informationless billboard and poster campaign, for example, also distributes something called the "Safe Sex Quiz"—one of those dreadful lists in which every variation of human sexuality is broken down into three categories: Safe, Possibly Safe, and Unsafe. This particular list has been showing up in local sex clubs, where it may be the last reminder a person gets before committing The Act.

Even the best of these lists is oversimplified and at least somewhat misleading, but this one is worse. If Oscar Schindler's list-making had been this sloppy, many of his Jewish workers would have spent their summer vacation in Auschwitz.

Sucking cock, for example, is listed as "Possibly Safe." Technically that's true, but it's nearly useless without mention of the factors affecting the risk level: Whether or not you come in your partner's mouth (or vice versa), for instance, or whether there are mouth sores or gum disease present that could give the virus easy entry into the bloodstream.

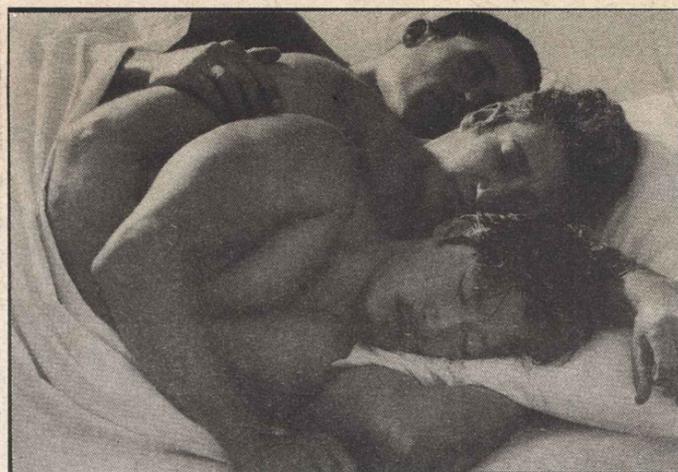
Even more problematic is the line that lists "Rimming / Scat" (lumped into one category) as "Unsafe." Now I, for one, don't find shit terribly exotic, but if I did I could imagine quite a few things to do with it that are perfectly safe. The trick, as with all other bodily fluids, is to keep it outside your body

and have it come in contact with unbroken skin only. That's not too difficult, is it?

An as for rimming, the risks for HIV exposure are nearly identical to what is involved when you suck cock: There's a chance that a small amount of virus could get in your mouth, where a break in the gums or mucous membranes could let it get into your bloodstream. It makes no sense for rimming to be listed as unsafe while cock sucking, which has the potential to give you a much larger dose of HIV, is declared "possibly safe" (yes, I know rimming can spread intestinal parasites and various other nasties, but that's another issue entirely).

The only explanation I can imagine for this listing is what might be called "the ick factor." If it seems disgusting, it must be unsafe. That multimillion dollar AIDS agencies are still disseminating this sort of inaccurate crap in 1994 is inexcusable. It not only misleads people about the specific acts involved but spreads confusion about the broader principles of HIV transmission—principles which, when clearly and consistently conveyed, are really quite simple.

We can do better. We *have* to do better, or all the flashy artwork and upbeat slogans in the world won't do a damn thing.



The pictures are pretty, but the "Outliving the Forecasts of Doom" campaign contains no explicit information about safe sex.

"second wave" of infection: Significant numbers of young gay men are having unsafe sex, and some of us on the far side of thirty may be wavering in our commitment to staying safe.

One major agency here in San Francisco has responded with a high-profile ad campaign about "Outliving the Forecasts of Doom." As flashy billboards with eye-catching art and upbeat slogans started sprouting all over the city, they formally kicked off the effort by having several staffers spend an entire Saturday at the busiest corner on Castro Street, handing out thousands of packs of postcards with more catchy art and upbeat messages, along with various other trinkets.

Funny, but this high-profile and no doubt expensive effort included exactly zero information about safe sex. None. Zilch. No literature, no condoms, nothing. They did give out a number you could call if you wanted to participate in a safe sex workshop.

Promoting such workshops is fine, but I wonder how many people they actually reach. Here's a simple experiment: Walk into your favorite bar, coffeehouse or other gay gathering spot and ask a random sample of men how many have been to such a presentation—but don't expect to be overwhelmed by the response.

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Breast Cancer, facts or myths?

Breast cancer is a frightening illness, but some of the scariest "facts" about the disease are myths—including the idea that there's an epidemic striking American women—according to an article in the current issue of "Cosmopolitan" by Gina Kolata.

The American Cancer Society predicts that about 182,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease this year and 46,000 will die of it. It ranks below lung cancer and heart disease as a cause of female fatalities.

"The word epidemic is a political term," said Joann Schellenbach, director of media relations at the American Cancer Society. She said an epidemic means "numbers of cases beyond what you would expect, a serious public health problem. I don't believe you could find a single serious cancer epidemiologist who would describe breast cancer in this way," she said.

One myth about breast cancer is its purported spread among young women. In fact, breast cancer is extremely rare in women under 35—just 2 percent of cases. Catherine Boring, who directs the statistics branch at the American Cancer Society. Boring said nearly 80 percent of all breast cancer cases occur in women over the age of 50, most of them 65 or older, and she added: "There is no evidence of increased rates of breast cancer in women under 40."

Researchers attribute the dramatic increase in the number of women over age 40 who were diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1980s to widespread use of mammography.

The heredity factor—if your mother or sister suffered from the disease, you probably will, too—has been challenged recently, too.

A new study conducted by Dr. Graham A.

Colditz of Harvard Medical School, tracked 117,988 women aged 30 to 50 for 12 years. The investigators found that while 2,389 women did get breast cancer, only 9 percent of them had family histories of the disease.

Colditz said a 30-year-old woman with no family history of breast cancer has a 6.9 percent chance of getting it at some point up to age 70. A 30-year-old woman whose mother and sister had breast cancer—the worst-case scenario—has a 14.7 percent risk factor. The risk increase caused by the aging process far exceeds any hereditary effect.

"Women have become so focused on whether anyone in their family had breast cancer, the impact of age seems to have been overlooked," Colditz said.

Dr. Mitchell Gail, who heads the epidemiological methods branch at the National Cancer Institute, called age the strongest predictor of whether a woman will get breast cancer. Women between 70 and 74 are 56 times more likely to get breast cancer than women aged 15 to 29, regardless of other risk factors.

In addition, recent research casts doubt on the theory that fat in the diet is a causative factor, and debate currently rages about whether women under 50 should have regular mammograms.

"Women are bewildered by their breast health," said Amy Langer, executive director of the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations. "Many of them find themselves giving up, saying that they don't know what to believe or what to do."

"The resources are out there. And although it's a lot to ask, it's incumbent upon women to find the facts themselves."

COSMOPOLITAN

New AIDS indicator described

Washington, DC—Measuring the blood level of a molecule used by HIV to reproduce itself may predict how fast the disease will progress in a patient, researchers say.

In a study published Feb. 8 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers in New York said that a seven year study of 14 HIV patients showed that increased amounts of messenger ribonucleic acid, or mRNA, in the blood foretells a rapid progression toward AIDS.

A smaller amount of mRNA, said Dr. Kalle Saksela of the Rockefeller University, means that a patient with HIV will spend more time in a latency period with a relatively healthy immune system.

Most patients spend months or years in a so-called latency period after they have been diagnosed as positive for HIV infection. During this period, their immune system, as measured by the levels of CD4 lymphocytes, remains healthy enough to combat infection.

Patients with high levels of mRNA showed

a steady decline of CD4 cells and experienced a rapid progression of disease within two years. Patients with low levels of mRNA keep relatively healthy levels of CD4 cells throughout the test period, Saksela said. He called the correlation "striking."

After the virus invades a CD4 cell, mRNA takes over the cell's gene factory and uses mRNA to force the cell to make new virus. By measuring the levels of mRNA, said Saksela, "We are measuring the rate at which the virus makes copies of itself."

In five of the patients, he said, the mRNA levels dropped after the start of therapy with AZT. But within 4 months, the mRNA counts went back up, suggesting the limits of AZT's beneficial effect, said Saksela.

Saksela said the test for mRNA is not now ready for routine use. "It will become a clinically useful test, but now it is restricted to more advanced laboratories," he said. "It can't be done in a basic clinical lab."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIDS Survival Project presents Dr. Bernhard Bihari in February

The AIDS Survival Project will present the second forum in their HIV Survival Series on Sunday, February 20, from 2-4 p.m. at Colony Square Hotel. Dr. Bernard Bihari or New York City will be the featured speaker. Dr. Bihari holds degrees in both Psychiatry and Neurology and is a well known clinician and researcher in the AIDS community.

Dr. Bihari will discuss "Comprehensive Ambulatory Management of HIV Infection" a subject for which he is nationally known. His research is multifaceted as evidenced by the papers he has presented at the International Conference on AIDS since 1986 covering such topics as "Alpha Interferon as a marker and a

secondary pathogenic factor in AIDS," "Low dose naltrexone in the treatment of AIDS," "Prospective neurodevelopmental outcome of infants with perinatally acquired HIV infection and their controls," "Defense mechanisms and HIV related behaviors in substance abusers," and even "Impact on AIDS clinical trials of the use of nonapproved therapies."

"Dr. Bihari devotes a great deal of his time to the ever-evolving AIDS crisis," says the Survival Project's Dawn Averit-Doherty. "He promises to be a fascinating speaker and we hope that you all will mark your calendars to join us on February 20th."

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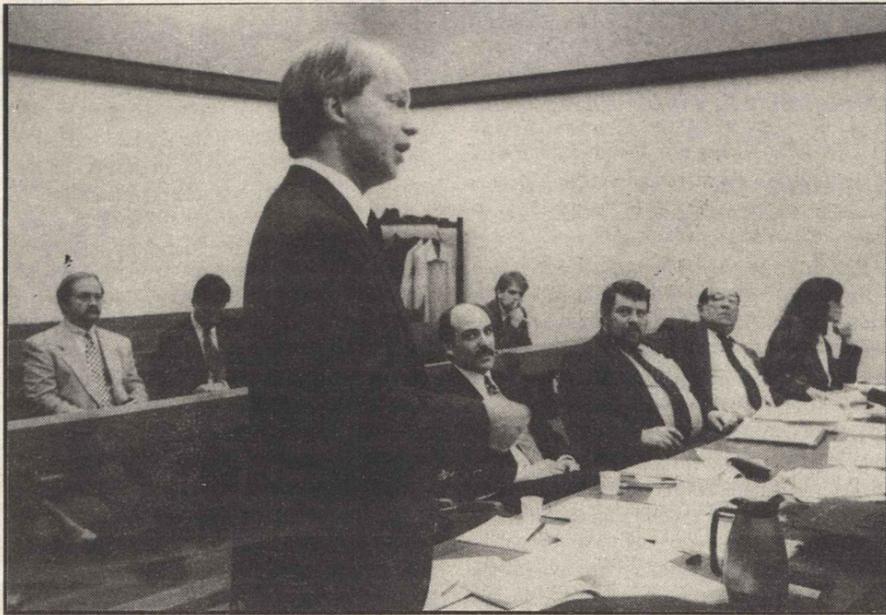
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Charles Hinkle, an attorney for the Oregon ACLU, argues in favor of a state law that prevents local governments from implementing anti-gay/lesbian rights measures.

Law stopping local hate votes is upheld by judge in Oregon

Ruling says legislature had the right to step in to protect gays and lesbians from series of initiatives passed by cities and counties

Salem, OR—A new state law aimed at nullifying local anti-gay rights measures around the state is past its first constitutional test.

Judge Albin Norblad of Marion County Circuit Court has upheld the 1993 statute prohibiting cities and counties from enacting anti-gay rights law, including measures already approved by voters in 11 cities and five counties.

The Oregon Legislature's decision to bar enforcement of local anti-gay rights measures is constitutional and valid, Norblad said.

"The issue of homosexual rights is such a substantive social issue that the Legislature may preempt" local entities, he said.

He based much of his decision on a 1978 Oregon Supreme Court ruling that state law could set terms of pension programs for local government employees. That ruling permitted state lawmakers to dominate decision-making on issues that have a "statewide substantive, social or economic or other regulatory objective."

Gay rights is one of the major policy issues facing Oregonians, Norblad said. "There is no doubt but that the Legislature has the right to, and did, preempt this area."

The judge's ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance challenging the constitutionality of the law. The OCA argued that the law infringed upon people's rights under the Oregon Constitution to initiate laws.

OCA Chairman Lon Mabon said he would appeal Norblad's ruling to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

"We will challenge it and do whatever is necessary to defend the citizens' rights," Mabon said.

The OCA sponsored the anti-gay rights ordinances that already have passed in cities and counties around the state. In nearly every case, local courts have overturned the ordinances or officials have refused to enforce them because of the state law.

The OCA also is gathering signatures to

put a statewide constitutional amendment barring anti-discrimination laws for gay men and lesbians on November's ballot. It is a revised version of an OCA measure defeated by voters in 1992.

Gay rights activists praised Norblad's ruling.

"Nobody's rights should be put up for a popular vote. I think the judge's ruling is a reiteration of that point," said Julie Davis, executive director of Support Our Communities, the group that has led the opposition to the OCA measures.

Davis said the judge's ruling sends a message that "if a local municipality is interfering with the rights of individuals, then the state should intervene."

But Steve Barber, a Sweet Home locksmith who voted for that city's anti-gay rights ordinance last fall, was dismayed by the judge's ruling.

"I don't think it's fair," Barber said. "As far as I'm concerned, the judge is denying us our rights as citizens of Oregon."

"If they are going to do that for the gay rights issue, then there might be other issues in the future that judges will overrule. Where is this going to stop?"

Norblad's ruling, however, does not prevent voters from continuing to cast ballots on the question of protection from discrimination for gays and lesbians. Several more local elections on similar measures are scheduled this spring.

The OCA lawsuit is the only direct challenge so far to the state law, with the ruling taking precedence over local court rulings, said attorney Charles Hinkle, who argued for the state law on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

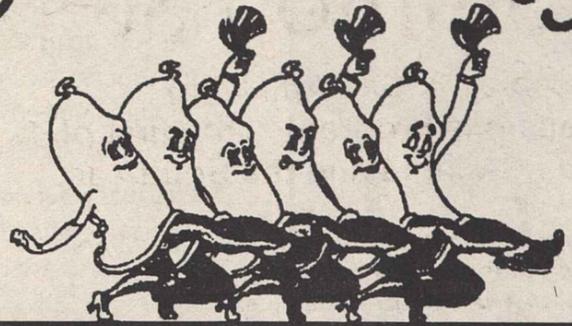
Norblad rejected arguments by foes of the state law who argued that if the law can forbid anti-gay rights ordinances, it also would also have to prohibit local pro-gay rights laws.

Portland, Corvallis and Ashland have ordinances ensuring some rights for gay men and lesbians. The Legislature has authority, Norblad said, to tell local governments "they could either do nothing or do it the way the Legislature directs."

Hinkle said the decision means "cities can protect people because of sexual orientation but can't single people out based on sexual orientation for disapproval."

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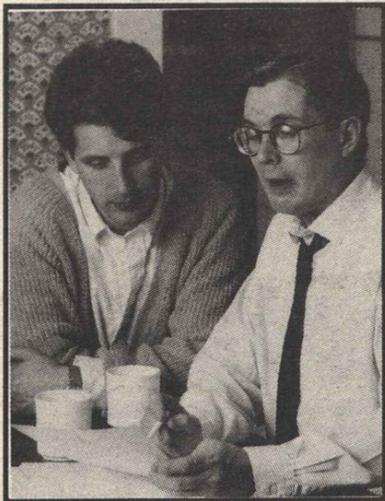
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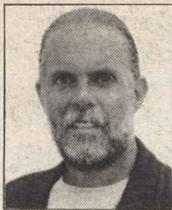
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New anti-gay group targets P-FLAG

Fundamentalist organization calls itself HOPE, which stands for Help One Person Escape

Forest Grove, OR—Fundamentalists recently turned the heat a notch higher when Christian soldiers from a newly formed right-wing organization disrupted an Oregon Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) meeting.

The two fundamentalists said they had come to find out how support groups work. But P-FLAG members thought they came to intimidate and harass anyone who would stand up for gay rights.

The fledgling P-FLAG group, which began meeting less than six months ago in the Portland suburb of Forest Grove, managed to eject the two right-wing women when P-FLAG members realized who they were. But this new tactic raised yet more disturbing questions about the methods the Oregon Citizens Alliance—which is sponsoring anti-gay ballots statewide—will use to silence anyone who opposed their cause.

"We're not going to stop speaking just because they're trying to harass us," said Mitzi Henderson, national P-FLAG president. "I think it's a sign of desperation that they want to stop us. The voice of friends and family of gays is a powerful one."

That might be easy to say from the safety of urban areas such as San Francisco or Washington, D.C., headquarters of P-FLAG. But in rural areas such as Oregon, where the battle is being fought not only city to city but door to door, fear is palpable. For more than a year, Portland P-FLAG members have endured attacks and harassment by bigots at home, on the job and on the street. Even their children have been abused, called names such as "fag" and "queer lovers" at school.

So when Brenda Saunders, county sponsor of an anti-gay ballot measure, and Ellen Brandt, a "recovering lesbian" and member of newly formed OCA-backed Help One Person Escape (HOPE), showed up at the P-FLAG meeting, it made members even more edgy.

"People are apprehensive because of the activities of the OCA," said Meg Oleson, a

minister for the local United Church of Christ and chairperson of the Forest Grove P-FLAG chapter. "People who have spoken out have received threatening letters at home, phone calls at work and harassment on the street."

HOPE bills itself up as a "moral alternative" to P-FLAG. At the founding press conference, its president, Sue Willard, encouraged "everyone to help one person escape." She asked concerned heterosexuals to mentor "a homosexual of the same gender...in a close, platonic friendship" so that anyone "trapped in the destructive homosexual lifestyle" can get out.

Not only has HOPE characterized P-FLAG as a "homosexual front organization," but it is pushing the belief that homosexuals are not born but recruited. According to Willard, HOPE knows homosexuality is not genetic because HOPE members "have watched them change" in their own families.

Some P-FLAG members feared that Saunders and Brandt actually attended the P-FLAG meeting to recruit prospects from friends and family who have nowhere else to turn for help. For Candace Steele, Northwest regional director of P-FLAG, "the damage is already being done even without these laws being passed."

Steele said that gay young people—who often turn to P-FLAG because they have no place else to go—are increasingly afraid of attending meetings for fear some adversary will find out. She said that spouses who know a child is gay but haven't told the other parent have said they also fear that the anonymity and safety of the meetings will be jeopardized.

P-FLAG meetings are run with Alcoholics Anonymous type confidentiality guidelines—no one uses last names, no one is supposed to repeat what is said at a meeting. But Oregonians know that in the past year OCA members have done everything they can to embarrass opponents in the belief that the end justifies the means. Such fanatics are unlikely to respect P-FLAG confidentiality guidelines.

"It makes it very scary for the people here," said Steele. "It's like having a member of the FBI or the CIA sitting in on a group they consider subversive. You don't know how they're going to use the information or what they're really going to do."

DELL RICHARDS

Voting records

Continued from page 3

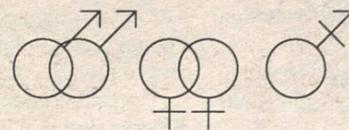
"We have to show these people that we reward our friends and try to get our enemies out of office," he said.

Among senators from the Southeast, Nunn's score was second only to Bob Graham, D-Florida, who scored 78 percent. The ratings for other Southeastern senators were

Connie Mack, R-Florida, 22 percent; Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, both R-Mississippi, both 22 percent; Tennessee's Jim Sasser and Harlan Mathews, both D-Tennessee, both 56 percent; Strom Thurmond, R-South Carolina, 25 percent; Ernest Hollings, D-South Carolina, 56 percent; Howell Heflin, D-Alabama, 33 percent; Richard Shelby, D-Alabama, 44 percent; and Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth, both R-North Carolina, both 0 percent.

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Homophobia in America

Newsweek poll finds support for equal job rights but not for marriage or adoption

The American public believes that lesbians and gays should be protected from job and housing discrimination—but should not be able to adopt children or get married.

Those were among the findings in a comprehensive poll on the state of homophobia in America by Newsweek magazine which was published in its Feb. 14 issue.

In the poll, nearly three-fourths of the respondents said that gays and lesbians should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities and 81 percent supported equal housing rights. Fifty-eight percent even said lesbians and gays should be allowed in the military, compared to 35 percent who opposed the idea.

But when asked if they supported specific legislation to guarantee equal rights for gays and lesbians, the polling sample split almost down the middle, with 48 percent saying they would support gay/lesbian rights measures and 46 percent saying they would oppose them (6 percent were undecided).

And when it came to legally recognizing lesbian and gay marriages, support plunged. Only 29 percent said gays and lesbians should be legally allowed to marry, while 62 percent opposed the idea. Ironically, though, those same poll respondents supported inheritance rights for gay and lesbian partners by a 2-to-1 margin and a majority, 55 percent, even thought partners should be entitled to Social Security benefits.

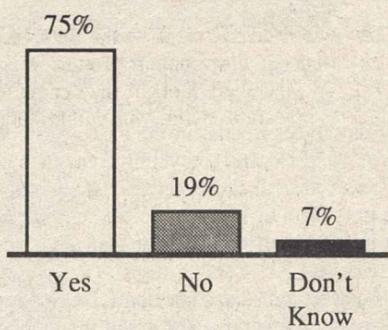
The strongest opposition to gay and lesbian rights came in regard to issues involving children. Sixty-five percent of the people polled said lesbians and gays should not have the right to adopt children, and 46 percent said they should not be hired as elementary school teachers.

The poll numbers reinforced previous polling data that showed that people who said they knew gays and lesbians were more likely to support equality. Across the board in the Newsweek survey, a higher percentage of people with gay and lesbian acquaintances responded positively.

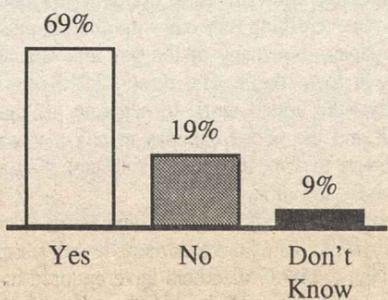
"These results confirm the importance of gays and lesbians [revealing] our sexual orientation to non-gays," said Wes Combs,

What Newsweek Found

Should gays and lesbians be protected from job discrimination?



Should gays and lesbians be allowed to marry?



Source: Newsweek poll; margin of error is plus or minus 4 percent.

project director for National Coming Out Day. "We need to remember that most American people are ignorant and confused about who gays and lesbians are."

Another bright spot in the poll data was that younger people, those 18 to 29, were substantially stronger supporters of gay rights. In that age group, 61 percent supported lesbian and gay civil rights legislation, 45 percent supported marriage rights and 42 percent supported adoption rights.

For the Newsweek poll, the Princeton Survey Research Associates interviewed 750 adults by telephone on February 3 and 4, 1994. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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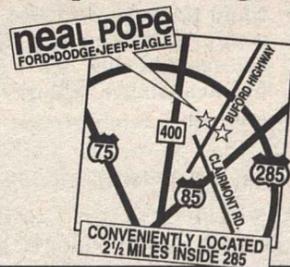
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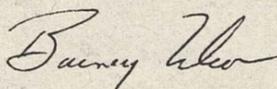
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Does gay mean green?

Continued from page 7

graphs of people chained to trees during the fight over the Presidential Parkway will show that. Vaknin believes that the scarcity of time keeps many gay men and lesbians out of environmental activism.

"Three or four years ago there was only ACT UP doing gay activism," he says. "But now people are realizing it's OK to be a gay activist. We have too much on the plate already. A lot of us consider ourselves environmentally sound, and we don't tend to be activists. We leave that up to the 'straight' activists."

Consider ourselves environmentally sound? How do we do that? Do we recycle? When trash day comes around, are our black (or green, if we live in Decatur) recycling containers on the street next to those kerbies? If we don't live in Atlanta or Decatur, do we separate all that junk and carry it off to the DeKalb Farmers' Market?

Answer: some do, some don't. Drive down any street on trash day and count the number of recycling bins on the sidewalk. The number may surprise you—even in some neighborhoods considered progressive.

And businesses have a peculiar problem, because that sidewalk pickup doesn't apply to businesses. Outwrite Books and Charis both recycle everything they can—cardboard, plastic, paper—but many of the gay and lesbian bars in town don't. The reasons? Two-fold, really—the added work to separate all that trash and the added expense to pay a waste company to come pick it up. For many, it's too much for too little gain.

But over in Virginia-Highland, there's one business that is as environmentally conscious as they come—The Common Pond, an environmental store that makes it possible to live,

at least a little, on an ecologically correct level.

Susan Owens sells natural cotton clothes and sheets, shoes made entirely of recycled material, natural cleaning products...the list goes on. She opened the store, she says, because she "wanted to have an effect on what's going on, bigger than recycling at home, something that everyone could do."

"You have to make it easy. And that's what this store is about," Owens says. "Our life is being destroyed by pesticides and pollution. There are all kinds of pesticides on cotton—and we all wear clothes."

Owens is taking the environmental message to the streets—or rather to the schools and parks. She is starting an educational foundation to promote environmental education in schools, and on April 30, The Common Pond will sponsor Georgia's biggest Earth Day celebration ever at the Abbotts Bridge Road entrance to the Chattahoochee Recreation Area, hoping to draw 10,000 people to celebrate the planet and learn more ways to save it. Mary Chapin-Carpenter is scheduled to perform, with Indigo Girls making a special appearance.

"We won't have an environment if we don't do something immediately," she says. "We're at a point of panic."

The moral of these environmentally conscious gay men and lesbians' stories? Do what you can, but do *something*. And keep doing it. And Michael Clark points out a similarity between the environment and gay men and lesbians—one that ties the earth to our community in a more positive way.

"A lot of what we do as a community is to talk about diversity," he says. "Diversity is so important in an environmental and ecological sense. We need to be about the business of defending diversity—for ourselves and for the planet as an ecosystem."

Fighting against gay racism

Continued from page 6

on national talk shows.

Though the policy of carding has been eliminated at most bars, Adams says few African Americans hold responsible positions in gay bars across the United States. "Even though San Francisco has a major congregation of bars and gay social activity, only a handful of black bartenders are able to maintain employment," he notes.

Though some might argue that more can be accomplished by working within mainstream organizations than by forming separate organizations, Adams says, "right now, we need both approaches. What we have now is a group of organizations that are supported to represent [gays and lesbians of color] nationally, and who happen to have the financial

resources to do the work that's necessary. We have to work toward the day when the needs of all people within [the lesbian and gay] communities are addressed from the top."

Adams says a videotape of the National Town Meeting sponsored by Double Exposure is available to interested community organizations and individuals. Organizations in San Francisco, Tampa and New York have already made commitments to organize discussion groups using the videotape.

For additional information on the Double Exposure campaign contact Gregory Adams, 718 Sixth Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. Telephone: (202) 546-7188. Fax: (202) 546-7190.



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The kiss that has ABC shook up

Network cans episode in which Roseanne shares a kiss with Mariel Hemingway

Los Angeles—Roseanne and Tom Arnold are in a battle with ABC over an episode of "Roseanne" in which her character kisses a woman.

After the producers sent the show, scheduled to air March 1, to the network, ABC asked the Arnolds to delete the scene. When they refused, ABC refused to air the episode.

Tom Arnold, who is co-executive producer of the show along with his wife, branded the decision as misguided and homophobic. He quoted Steve Weiswasser, senior vice president and general counsel of ABC, as saying the scene "is not the lifestyle that most people lead" and might be misinterpreted by children who saw it out of context.

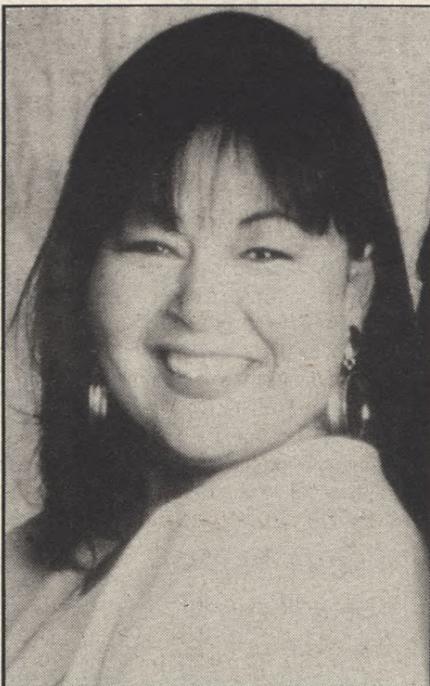
In the disputed scene, Roseanne goes to a bar with her lesbian friend Nancy, played by Sandra Bernhard. After dancing with a woman (played by Mariel Hemingway), Roseanne makes a wisecrack that is misinterpreted—and draws a kiss.

"Roseanne is shocked," says Tom Arnold. "The second act is her dealing with her feelings....She finds out she's a bit of a hypocrite, that she wasn't comfortable and she's not quite as cool as she thinks she is."

Arnold defended the episode as thoughtful and non-exploitative, adding that he believed ABC ultimately will air it uncut.

"It should air as scheduled," said Lee Werbel, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Los Angeles. "It's wonderful to see the honest portrayals of life that the 'Roseanne' show continues to present. The kiss, which seems to be causing so much concern, is just a moment, but is an integral moment to the storyline."

ABC may have to pay a high price for its homophobia. The network is currently involved in contract negotiations aimed at retaining the highly rated series for three more years. The Arnolds are not yet threatening to bolt, but last year, after Tom Arnold's sitcom "The Jackie Thomas Show" was cancelled by ABC, they did threaten to take the show to another network.



Roseanne Arnold

"Roseanne" stayed on ABC, and the Arnolds later signed a multi-year contract to develop new series and specials for the network. But Tom Arnold will star in a CBS sitcom, "Tom," which debuts March 2, and the deal does not tie "Roseanne" to ABC after this year, when a contract between ABC and production company Carsey-Werner ends.

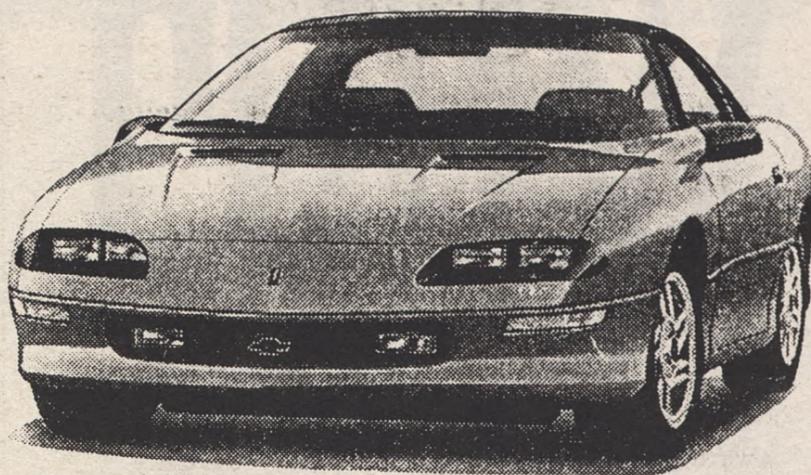
"I try not to let it affect our relationship," Tom Arnold said. "But it is odd timing, considering they have another week in the negotiations left."

The network had no comment, said spokeswoman Sherrie Berger.

While the network has generally been supportive of "Roseanne" when it focuses on controversial topics, Arnold said this is not the first time the network has expressed reservations about a lesbian-positive scene. In a previous episode, the network insisted that a kiss between Bernhard's character and guest star Morgan Fairchild could only be implied, not shown.

"This is all about underestimating the audience," Arnold said. "But they (ABC) said it's going to cost us over \$1 million in advertising."

"I said, 'That's not really my business to get the advertisers. I know the show has made you many hundred millions.' There's a certain point you've got to draw the line and not let people dictate what you do."



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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARY

Laine Morgan and Sue Anne Morgan celebrated the first anniversary of their commitment ceremony on Valentine's Day. The couple celebrated by buying a home together.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Romeo D'Nae, who will celebrate two dozen glamorous years on Feb. 18.

Happy belated birthday to Scott (Photo Queen) Davis, who turned 23 on Jan. 29.

Nancy Wilkinson's 40th birthday was on Feb. 12.

EMPLOYMENT

Marilyn Hughes of Decatur Hospital's gay and lesbian substance abuse treatment program has been named inpatient coordinator of the hospital's entire substance abuse and eating disorders program. Congratulations, Marilyn.

In addition to being on the front cover of a new book (see Dish), Sherry Siclair, currently housing coordinator at AID Atlanta, has accepted a new position with the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corpo-



A most happy birthday to Romeo (of Rome) D'Nae.

ration, part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She'll be flying around the country to four different communities in a national demonstration project to improve conditions among low income residents. Congrats.

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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Bihari to speak at HIV/AIDS forum

AIDS Survival Project and the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta will be co-sponsoring a free public forum for those affected by HIV on Sunday, Feb. 20 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel at 14th and Peachtree Streets.

The forum, "Comprehensive Ambulatory Management of HIV Infection," will feature well-known researcher and clinician, Dr. Bernard Bihari.

Bihari is co-founder and former executive director of the Community Research Initiative

in New York City, a community based organization created to do clinical trials of those AIDS therapies that had low governmental priority. He has spent much of his time since 1985 involved in clinical trials of various AIDS therapies, including immune modulators and rifabutin.

He will discuss his trials on various immune modulators and prophylaxis, as well as his experiences treating more than 450 men, women and children with HIV/AIDS during the past seven years.

Pride Market accepting vendors

The 1994 Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee is now accepting applications from vendors, artists and organizations for the Pride Market, which will be set up in Piedmont Park during the Pride event in June.

Anyone interested in participating should call the Pride Line at 662-4533.

AIDS Survival Project seeks volunteers

The AIDS Survival project, a non-profit HIV/AIDS advocacy, counseling and education organization, will be conducting an orientation for new volunteers on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.

"Opportunities here are enormous," said Liz England, volunteer coordinator. "We can use the time and talents of people in so many ways—in our library, performing clerical tasks or acting as peer counselors. We are definitely a 'volunteer driven' agency, and right now,

we could use some more drivers."

The orientation will be held at the offices of AIDS Survival Project, 44 12th Street in Midtown. The orientation will make participants familiar with the agency and acquaint them with the areas where they may be interested in serving. Anyone interested in helping is invited, regardless of their experience with HIV/AIDS, and no reservations are required.

For more information, call (404) 874-7926.

GAO looking for employee bias victims

The U.S. General Accounting Office is conducting a study to determine whether federal government agencies are denying or revoking security clearances from civilian government employees and contractors based on their sexual orientation.

As part of the study, the GEO is trying to contact people who, within the past three years, were subjected to anti-gay/lesbian bias during the investigative or revocation process.

Anyone with information should contact Elizabeth Mead at (202) 512-3945.

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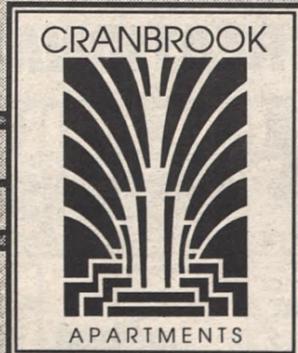
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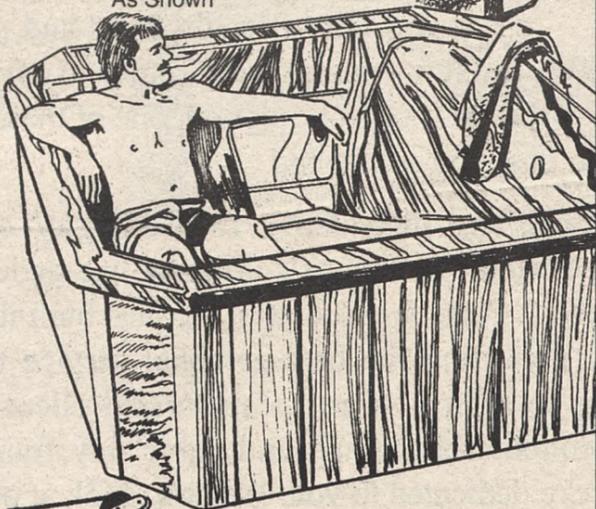
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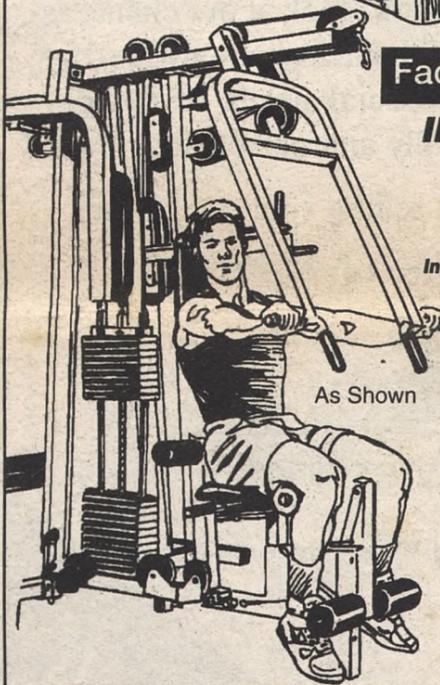
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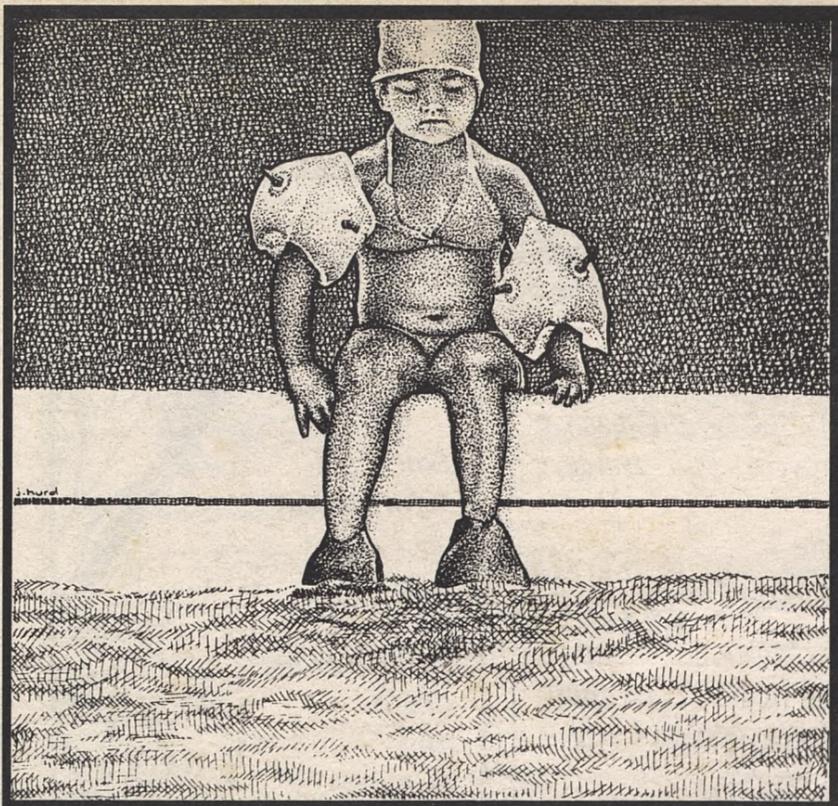
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by CHRIS CASH

Do you still use the formica top table your mother gave you for your first apartment? Are posters of the Michigan Womyn's Festival or Hotlanta Expo your idea of artwork?

Don't feel bad if you think you were passed over when the interior design genes were handed out. Shane Meder, host of "Interiors Today," a new series from Georgia Public Television (GPTV), says however you decorate your home is fine—as long as you are happy with it. And if you're not, he can help.

"Interior design is purely a matter of personal taste, it reflects who you are. There are really no rights or wrongs."

Meder is in his den, surrounded by overstuffed furniture, fat floral pillows, layers of fabric, artwork of all types and photos of his dogs, Sarah and Albert. He makes no excuses for the black velvet curtains hanging between the den and the dining room.

"I love those curtains. Some people say it looks and feels like a mortuary but when I pull them, and sit in here alone, they make me feel cozy."

Cozy is one word for Meder's home. It is also very much like him—nostalgic, romantic and very Southern. He is quick to point to the South Carolina flag hanging on the porch of his 1905 Victorian mini-mansie in Candler Park.

Meder's home is called "Whistle Stop Cafe" by his many friends and guests. He has two or three dinner parties a month. On Feb. 19, he will be one of many hosts for "Who's Dining Who?," a dinner party fundraiser for the AIDS Survival Project. His theme? Fried Green Tomatoes, of course. Entertaining is really what decorating is about, and what brought him into the field.

"When I was 10 or so growing up in South Carolina, I would invite a dozen or so friends over after school," he says. "I would make the invitations, arrange the flowers and serve my guests potato chips and Cokes. Then we would move the dining room table and do line dances from 'Saturday Night Fever.'"

Meder is not only proud to be Southern and carry on its tradition of gracious living, he is also proud to be gay.

"I'm one of the few openly gay men on television in Atlanta. I like to be able to say that and to set a precedent. And I have to say that the people at GPTV are wonderful. They know and it's not a problem. It's like a family. I was there when the calls were coming in about 'Tales of the City.' I'm very happy to be working with them."

You may have seen Meder on television before, if you're an early riser. In 1992 and 1993, "Creating Style" aired at 7:30 am Saturday and Sunday on Channel 11. He also co-hosted "Noonday" with Jill Becker two days a week.

Why the switch to GPTV? "A better time slot for one thing," he laughs. "Interiors Today" airs on Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and repeats on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. The program is intended to help people who feel intimidated by designers, Meder says—to learn their lingo and get the help they need to make their homes right.

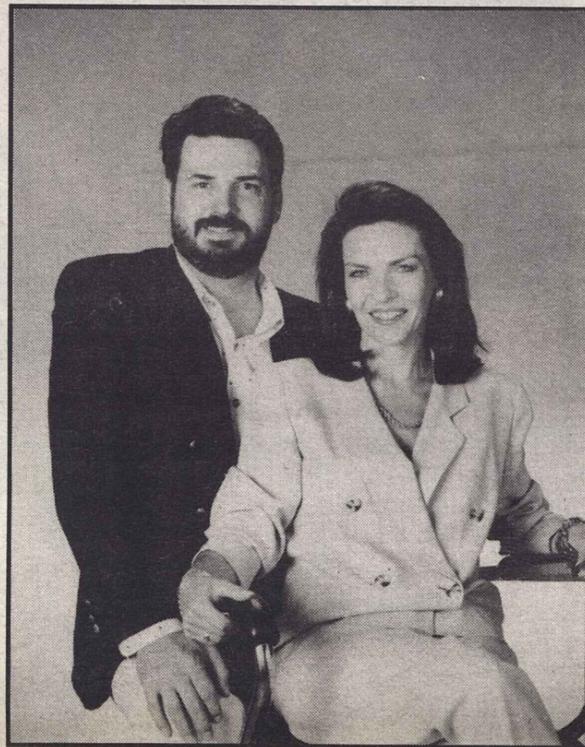
He points to the hardware at the top of a lamp shade. "Do you know what this is called? It's a finial. You can completely change the look of a lamp by changing the finial, and there are hundreds to choose from."

What three things would Meder suggest if you want to give a room a face lift? "Paint the walls, add some fabric to soften the look and add or change artwork. Art is very personal. It says something about how you feel about things."

Meder stresses, however, that a house is to live in—not to look at. "There shouldn't be one room in your home where guests are afraid to sit on the furniture," he says.

A further look around Meder's four bedroom home shows he practices what he preaches. And although comfortable and warm, there are touches throughout which make Meder's home unique—a chair on top of the kitchen cabinets, a hand painted gardenia on the dining room wall, antique music boxes, a black dressing room, two of his christening dresses hanging on the wall leading upstairs. "It's my own Howard's End," he smiles.

But there are a few rooms Meder has yet to finish. Single, he fears if he completes the rooms, "I will be married to the house. There will be no room for someone else. I wouldn't



Meder and co-host Eileen Marzetti offer a weekly peek into Atlanta's best-dressed homes.

feel as open to change."

A busy man, Meder runs his own design business, writes for several local magazines, hosts "Interiors Today" and is in the planning stages of a book. "I want to call it 'The Four Seasons.' Houses need to change with the seasons. People get too locked into one look. When winter comes, add layers to the windows. In summer, remove the shutters and let the light in."

"Interiors Today" sheds light on some common and not so common design problems. Accompanied by Meder and co-host Eileen Marzetti, top designers such as Bill Stewart and Nina Campbell offer a peek into some of the most beautiful and interesting homes in the city, while offering concrete and useful information. Whether you are an expert—one of those born with the decorating gene—or just starting out, there's plenty here of value. Meder guarantees it.

Five gay-themed movies earn Academy nominations

1993 was the year in which queer cinema finally began receiving mainstream critical notice, and the nominations for the Academy Awards, released last week, reflected the trend.

Five movies that had gay characters or themes—"Farewell My Concubine," "The Wedding Banquet," "Orlando," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "Philadelphia"—received Oscar nominations. However, "Philadelphia," the supposedly groundbreaking film about AIDS and homophobia, was surprisingly shut out in several major categories.

Tom Hanks was nominated for the best actor Oscar for his portrayal of a gay lawyer battling against AIDS and discrimination, and the movie was also nominated for achievement in makeup, no doubt for the realistic way in which Hanks was rendered as a person with AIDS. Ron Nyswaner's screenplay was nominated for best original screenplay, and two songs from the movie, "Streets of Philadelphia" and "Philadelphia," were nominated for best original movie song.

But "Philadelphia" was not nominated for best film, and its director, Jonathan Demme, was not nominated in the best director category. Also not nominated was Denzel Washington, who co-starred with Hanks.

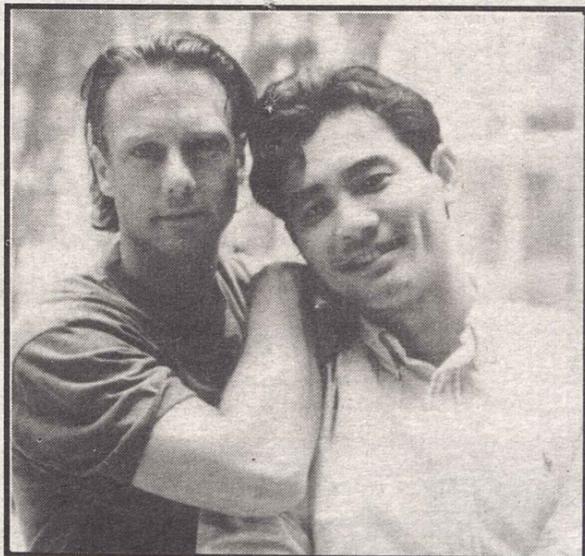
Stockard Channing, who played a socialite duped by a gay hustler in "Six Degrees of Separation," was nominated for best actress. The actor who played the hustler and created a controversy by refusing to do any kissing scenes with men in the movie, Will Smith, was not nominated.

The Taiwanese comedy "The Wedding Banquet," about two male lovers, one American and one Chinese, whose relationship is put to the test when family comes to visit, was nominated for best foreign film. Nominated in that same category was "Farewell My Concubine," a lush melodrama about the complicated relationship between two men, set against the backdrop of a Beijing Opera. "Farewell," from Hong Kong, was also nominated for best cinematography.

Filmmaker Sally Potter's complex, gender bending "Orlando," based on Virginia Woolf's novel written in protest of the oppression of women, was nominated in two categories—best costume design and best art direction.

The Academy Awards are March 21. Whoopi Goldberg is the host.

RICHARD SHUMATE



Mitchell Lichtenstein and Winston Chao played lovers interrupted by a family visit in "The Wedding Banquet," nominated for an Oscar as best foreign film.

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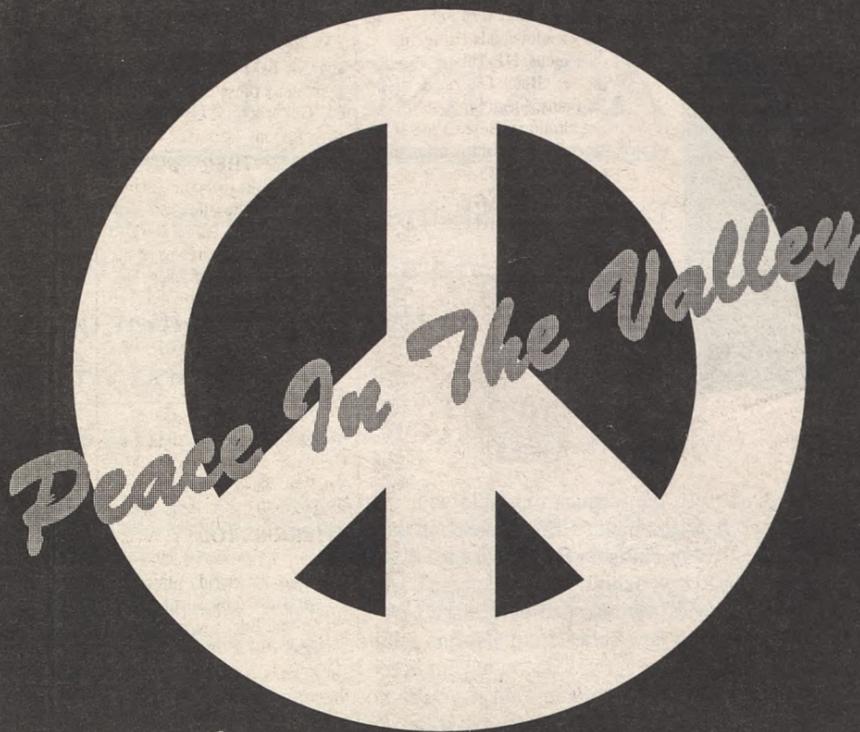
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17 THURSDAY

WOMAN FORUM. Atlanta's original women's radio program, still going strong. 6-7pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.
GAY GRAFFITI. Out and loud lesbian and gay radio. Tonight: S. Faybell Ma-Hee. 7-8pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE. Today thru Feb 21 at the Meadowlands Hilton in Seacaucus, NJ. This year's theme: "Black Gays and Lesbians: From Silence to Celebration—Beyond the 28 Days." Scholarships may still be available. 213-964-7820.
PEARL CLEAGE. The Atlanta playwright and author

helps Charis continue its celebration of Black History Month. 7:30 pm, 1189 Euclid Ave. 524-0304.

LIONA BOYD. The Atlanta Symphony presents a concert by "Guitar's First Lady." 8pm at Symphony Hall. 817-8700.
YOUR MOTHER'S BUTT. Art Attack presents the Atlanta premiere of Marietta playwright Alan Ball's story about a man who dreams of his mom's behind. Two other one act plays, "Bachelor Holiday" and "Power Lunch," are also on the bill. 14th St. Playhouse thru Mar 6. 881-6304.

ATLANTA BALLET. The Ballet presents its Spring Spectacular thru Feb 20 at the Civic Center. 8pm tonight thru Sat, 2pm Sat & Sun. \$36.25-\$55. 892-3303.

INTERIORS TODAY. A six part, locally produced series exploring the world of interior design. Hosted by Shane Meder and Eileen Marzetti. Tonight: Bill Stewart. 8:30pm, GPTV, Ch. 8. Also Sun at 4pm.

LAUGHING MATTERS. Comedy improv troupe performs Thurs & Sat at Manuel's, 8pm. 717-4714.



18 FRIDAY

ATLANTA SYMPHONY. The Champagne & Coffee concerts feature classic music from classic films. Darryl One conducts. 8pm. Also tomorrow at 11 am & 8pm.
AGNES OF GOD. DramaTech presents the play that raises questions about the nature of faith, the possibilities of miracles, and the relationship of science to God. Thru Mar 5. \$6 & \$4. 894-2745.

19 SATURDAY

OUTLOOK. Radical talk for revolutionary intellectuals—feminist, Afro-centered and pro-gay radio on AM, with Alicia Banks. New time: 3pm-7pm. WIGO, 1340AM.

TO HAVE OUR OWN. A community organization fair and celebration sponsored by the Atlanta Lambda Community Center. Booths, seminars, discussions, and Gay Bingo. What more could you ask? Holiday Inn, Midtown (I-85 & Monroe). 10am-3pm.

WHO'S DINING WHO? A benefit for the AIDS Survival Project (formerly Atlanta NAPWA) offers a twist on the usual dinner party benefit. Space may still be available. \$50 includes dinner, drinks and a dessert reception at Nexus Contemporary Arts Center. 874-7926.

WOMEN IN FOCUS. Thru Mar 19. An exhibit of women photographers at the Red Light Cafe, 553 Amsterdam. Opening party tonight, 7-9 pm.

STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON. A dazzling solo puppet performance by Dallas' Fred Curchack begins where "The Tempest" ends and turns it into something rich and strange. 8pm and tomorrow at 5pm. \$14 tonight & \$11 tomorrow. 18 & over only. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 873-3391.

BACK TO THE BIG CHILL. Wachovia sponsors this Big Chill dance at the Holiday Inn Decatur Conference Center to benefit Decatur's Concerts on the square. Music by the Bill Patton Band. 371-8386.

20 SUNDAY

LES CHANTEUSES AFRICAINES. The musical and literary voices of African women, with host Alicia Banks, who offers a unique perspective that includes the lesbian point of view. 1-4am. WRFG, 89.3 FM.

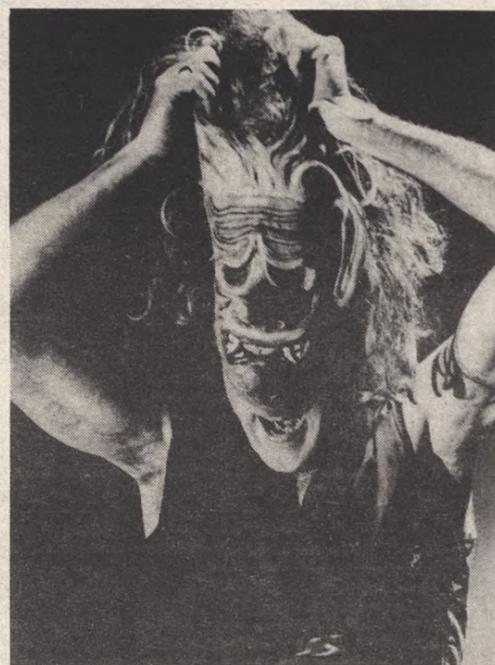
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE. GAPAC fills you in on what's going on under the Gold Dome, currently challenging Texas for Strangest in the Country. 1049 Hudson Dr. in VA-HI. 872-8095.

SONGWRITERS' NIGHT. DeDe Vogt, Jan Smith, Kevin Danzig and Elise Witt light up the stage at Eddie's Attic in Decatur from 8-midnight. Broadcast live on WRFG 89.3 FM.

ATLANTA CHAMBER PLAYERS. The chamber group presents "Mozarts & Moderns," featuring music from Mozart, Crumb, and Debussy. 3pm at the Georgia State Concert Hall. \$12. 651-1228.

21 MONDAY

STILL AIN'T SATISFIED. Music and interviews from a lesbian perspective. Cool



music for any queer or interested other. 7-9pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

OUT IN ATLANTA. Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program featuring interviews, news, arts & entertainment and more. 10:30pm and again, Wed 5:30pm. Cable Ch. 12.

DYKE TV. Activist television from a dyke perspective. 9:30pm, People TV. Cable Channel 12.

ELISE WITT. The golden voice entertains at Oxford Acoustic Cafe with special guests. 8-10pm. Oxford Books on Pharr Rd.

KATHERINE HEPBURN: ALL ABOUT ME. Film narration of Hepburn's life story, followed by "State of the Union," with Spencer Tracy & Hepburn, directed by Frank Capra. GPTV Ch 8. 8pm.

RYAN IDOL. The gay porn supermodel returns to Velvet. 10pm. \$5. 21 & over only.

22 TUESDAY

LINCOLN CENTER JAZZ ORCHESTRA. The absolute hottest in jazz!—18 member orchestra conducted by David Berger highlights the music of Ellington, Basie, Morton, and more more more. GA Tech Theater. 894-9600.

23 WEDNESDAY

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

LA BETE. David Hirson's side-splitting comedy about a troupe of actors in the service of a prince who has become infatuated with a preening, blithering phony—the beast of the title. Opens tonight thru Mar 20 at the Alliance. Tu-Sa 8pm, Sun 2:30 & 7:30pm. 892-2414.

AFRICAN AMERICAN GARDENS IN THE RURAL SOUTH. A slide-illustrated lecture at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. 7pm. \$5, \$3 for ABG members.

PICTURED:

ABOVE: Fred Curchack's "Stuff As Dreams Are Made On" plays at the Center for Puppetry Arts Feb 19&20.

LEFT: Greg Ansley and Susie Caldwell star in Art Attack's "Your Mother's Butt" at the 14th St. Playhouse, opening Feb 17.

BELOW: The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra hits the stage at the Georgia Tech Theatre on Feb 22. Photo by Jack Vartoogian

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

SOAP. Comedy Central has the controversial 70s TV series. 2pm & 7:30pm, Mon-Fri.

DYING WITH OSCAR—THE ACADEMY AWARD MURDERS. Agatha's Mystery Dinner Theatre opens its first production of 1994 tonight with murder during the Academy Awards ceremony. Tu-Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 7pm. \$33-\$38 includes 5 course dinner and the deadly show. 875-1610.

PRESENT LAUGHTER. Thru Feb 19. Noel Coward's witty portrayal of matinee idol Garry Esendine is packed with witty repartee. A perfect antidote to February's grey skies. At the Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 W. Trinity Place in Decatur. Thurs.-Sat 8pm, Sun. 2pm. 373-5311.

JESUS CHRIST SUPER-STAR. Thru Feb 20. Ted Neeley and Carl Anderson, stars of the movie version 20 years ago, reunite as Jesus and Judas at the Fox in this biblical extravaganza. \$10-\$37.50. 249-6400.

JULIUS CAESAR. Thru Feb 20. Non-traditional casting makes Jomandi's production of the Shakespeare classic unique, at the 14th St. Playhouse. In addition to the "different" cast, the play is set in the 60s. 873-1099.

THE NEAREST EDGE OF THE WORLD: ART AND CUBA NOW. Thru Feb 26. Young Cuban artists' work is displayed at Nexus Gallery, along with "Contemporary Parallels with Dante's 'Inferno,'" painting by Larry Edwards and Greely Myatt. Reception from 8-10 pm, exhibit on display. 535 Means St. 688-2500.

LOVE LETTERS. Thru Feb. 26. Mariatta's infamous Theatre in the Square offers up

A.R. Gurney's touching work about 50 years of correspondence between childhood sweethearts whose lives take different paths. Starring Atlanta legends Mary Nell Santacroce and Frank Wittow in their first ever performance together. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3&7pm. 422-8369.

EAT YOUR HEART OUT. Thru Feb 27. Onstage Atlanta presents the comedy about an out of work actor who waits tables for a living. Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm. 420 Courtland. Actor/waiters get special deals for this show. 897-1802.

MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE HE DIED...AND HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS. Thru Feb 27. Contemporary Southern Gothic comedy-drama about a wife and secretary who tries for perfection and fails—even after she attends the Living Loving Marriage Weekend. Sounds like a candidate for dykedom to us! At Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. Thurs-Fri at 8pm, Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. 5pm. 584-7450.

SPEED THE PLOW. Thru Feb 27. Actor's Express presents David Mamet's wicked comedy about the moral travails of a Hollywood screenwriter. Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm. Tickets \$12-15. 221-0831.

OUTWRITE BOOKS. Thru Feb 28. The gay and lesbian bookstore has a double whammy this month: the art of local artist Lee Bonhoff, with proceeds going to the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, and a book drive to benefit Jerusalem House. Book donations will go toward a library for residents and volunteers. 607-0092.

YOUR ARTS DESIRE. Thru Feb 28. A contemporary collection of the finest in handmade crafts and intriguing gifts at the City Art Works, 2140 Peachtree Rd. 605-0786.

A SALUTE TO AMERICAN BALLET. Thru Feb 28. The Heath Gallery presents works by photographer George Platt Lynes. 262-6407.

VIBRATING COLORS OF WE. Thru Feb 28. Virginia's Coffee House (1243 Virginia Ave) celebrates Black History Month with the work of Atlanta artist Karla Reid. 712-9198.

WITH OUR OWN EYES. Thru Mar 5. Works from the Atlanta College of Art's Georgia Artists' Registry are on display at the City of Atlanta's City Gallery at Chastain. 257-1747.

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

MY CHILDREN, MY AFRICA! Thru Mar 13. The Athol Fugard play returns to 7 Stages. Wed-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm. \$12-20. 523-7647.

RUSSELL WHITING: MODERN CLASSICISM IN SCULPTURE. Thru Mar 19. Works of the Louisiana sculptor are on display at King Plow Arts Center's Human Arts Gallery 887 W. Marietta St, Studio J-103. 724-9141.

HOWARD COOK: THE AMERICAN SOUTH. Thru Mar 19. The Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art presents an exhibition of works by Howard Cook, a WPA (New Deal Art Program) and regionalist artist. 424-8142.

Malcolm and Muriel Bell in the 1930s—are on exhibit at Emory's Schatten Gallery of the Robert W. Woodruff Library. 727-6861.

MACBETH. Thru Mar 27. Shakespeare's classic Scottish tragedy plays at the Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree. Stars Janet Metzger and Dirkan Tulaine, who appeared together in "Dr. Faustus." Thurs-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 5:30 pm, thru Mar 27. 874-5299.

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

TREASURES FROM THE AFRICAN KINGDOM OF BENIN. Thru Apr 24. Royal treasures of brass, ivory, terracotta and wood from the ancient kingdom are on view today at the High Museum. 898-9284.

KAY GARDNER and NURUDAFINA PILI ABENA. An International Women's Day concert at the 1st Existentialist Congregation. Mar. 8, 7:30 pm. Also workshops on Mar. 9 at the Arts Exchange. Workshops: \$20-\$30. Concert: \$8/adults, \$4/children under 12. 523-7455 or 624-1590.

THE WHO'S TOMMY. The Tony Award winning sensation comes to the Fox Mar 15-20, starring former MTV VJ Steve Isaacs. Tues-Fri 8pm, Sat 2&8pm, Sun 1&5pm. Tickets \$10-\$36.50. 817-8700.

HEARTLIGHT AFFAIR. Mar 19. An evening of dinner parties followed by a Dessert Extravaganza at NationsBank Plaza's 26th floor to benefit Jerusalem House. To host a dinner, call 527-7627 before Feb 15.

THEATER

MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA!

Isabel describes herself as "the rebel in the family." Mr. M is a teacher who not only teaches the curriculum he's proscribed to teach but also a subtext of rebellion. Thami is one of his students who not only picks up on that subtext but carries it to a horrifying extreme.

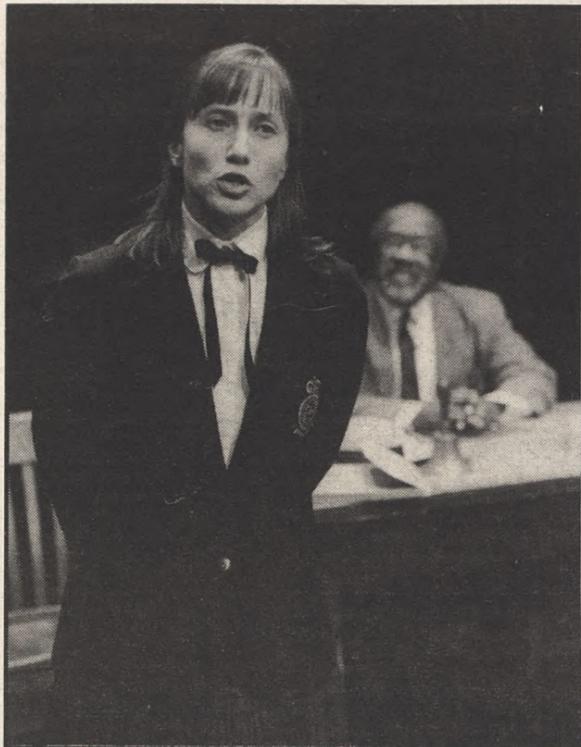
"My Children! My Africa!" currently enjoying a revival at 7 Stages in Little Five Points, is a play filled with harrowing images, uplifting dialogue and three perfect performances by a wildly talented cast. If you missed it in its first go-round two years ago, it is now time to pay the play a visit. If anything (and in light of recent events unfolding in the news), the drama by Athol Fugard is more relevant now than before.

The play is set in a small city in South Africa in 1984, just before the beginning of the huge boycotts which would change that country's course. Nelson Mandela was still in jail, apartheid was still officially fostered and the idea of majority rule was not even under consideration. Against this background, Isabel Dyson (Carolyn Cook) and Thami Mbikwana (Saul Stacey Williams), two high school seniors, are brought together as partners (and soon friends) by Mr. M (LeRoy Mitchell, Jr.), a middle-aged teacher who is dedicated to the "old-fashioned" idea that Africans and whites can live and work together.

Over the course of two-and-one-half hours, we are presented with one of Fugard's most cogent, intelligent and humane pieces of writing. It certainly captures the dilemma of South Africa in microcosm—Mr. M wants to see change come

before the beginning of the huge boycotts which would change that country's course. Nelson Mandela was still in jail, apartheid was still officially fostered and the idea of majority rule was not even under consideration. Against this background, Isabel Dyson (Carolyn Cook) and Thami Mbikwana (Saul Stacey Williams), two high school seniors, are brought together as partners (and soon friends) by Mr. M (LeRoy Mitchell, Jr.), a middle-aged teacher who is dedicated to the "old-fashioned" idea that Africans and whites can live and work together.

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Carolyn Cook plays a South African student whose consciousness is raised by her black teacher in "My Children! My Africa!" now at 7 Stages.

by working slowly and purposefully toward that end; Thami wants change to happen immediately; Isabel, as a white person sympathetic to both sides, is clearly confused by the events surrounding her. Although it appears Mr. Fugard was most sympathetic to Thami's passions for change, history seems to have proved Mr. M was the harbinger of things to come (with elections for all South Africans coming in just a few weeks).

Yet in many ways, Fugard does make Mr. M the hero of the piece. He is a man whose life consists of going "from one matchbox to the other matchbox," from his tiny room to his

tiny classroom. All he knows is to teach, no matter what, no matter when. Even a violent boycott of the schools by the Africans does not stop Mr. M from coming to his classroom. At one point—the most poignant in the play—he reads the roll to an empty classroom, calling out the names one by one. But instead of asking, "Are you present or absent?" he asks, "Are you living or dead?" It is a moment of high theater.

In the wrong hands, Athol Fugard's words could easily sound preachy or didactic. But 7 Stages has entrusted "My Children! My Africa!" to four very capable people—director Del Hamilton and an extremely talented cast.

Perhaps because Cook, Williams and Mitchell have all worked on this play before (they were in the first production), they feel extremely comfortable on stage with each other. That elusive quality for which all productions strive, chemistry, is easily achieved. They know their rhythms, and they make this play flow smoothly from scene to scene, confrontation to confrontation.

Carolyn Cook is easily one of the most talented actresses in town, whose versatility has been proven time and again. In "My Children! My Africa!" she displays a depth of dramatic power and emotional tenacity which commands our attention. Saul Stacey Williams is a star in the making. His Thami is exciting and gripping, a wide ranging performance swinging from clowning comedy to rabble rousing intensity (his closing speech at the end of the first act is a fervently delivered call to arms).

LeRoy Mitchell Jr. is the powerhouse of the evening (if that's possible, considering all three actors are perfect for their roles). He infuses so much warmth and good-feeling into the confused nature of Mr. M. We see the tortures this character faces played out on Mitchell's open face, and he even makes us fully understand and value the character's final decision to walk into the proverbial lion's den.

Director Del Hamilton has done an exemplary job in recreating "My Children! My Africa!", making it more powerful this time around (the show seems more cohesive). Perhaps the only quibble would be about some of the odd staging forced upon him by the uncredited set designer (often, the actors have to upstage themselves when taking full advantage of the stage area). Yet even at its extended length, Hamilton never lets our interest in Fugard's words and ideas flag.

MICHAEL KAPE

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Atlanta Ballet steps into spring with trio of pieces

Program features Atlanta debut of Lynne Taylor-Corbett's thought-provoking "Code of Silence"

by JAMES FITCH

Choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett got involved with Amnesty International the same way many other people do—she wrote a letter on behalf of a political prisoner. Subsequently, Corbett met a woman at a party who had just spent 10 years as a prisoner in China. Her crime—she choreographed a ballet that had offended Madame Mao.

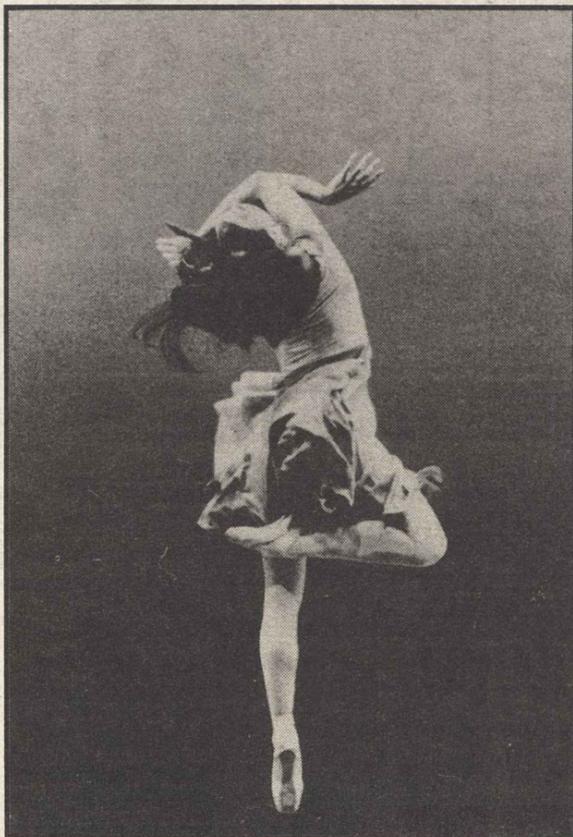
Spring Spectacular, a medley of dance pieces by the Atlanta Ballet, will run Feb. 17-20 at the Atlanta Civic Center. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

That woman's vivid account of political malice inspired Corbett to create. She developed "Code of Silence," a ballet dedicated to Amnesty International, which premiered at the Pennsylvania Ballet in 1989.

This month, as part of the Atlanta Ballet's deftly balanced "Spring Spectacular" program,

"Code of Silence" gets its Atlanta premiere. From her home in New York, Corbett took some time recently to talk about the piece.

"I'm intense about all of my work, but 'Code of Silence' has been a very special experience for me," she said. "Once you fully understand what's going on out there, it's so horrifying that you have to act...A lot of times we just reflect the human experience as we see it in a personal sense. You know, relationships, or fairy tales...Dance is non-verbal, so it's a



KIRKO GUEST

The Atlanta Ballet will bring "Code of Silence," "Intermezzo" and "Palm Court" to the Civic Center.

little more difficult to tackle something so complex."

"Code of Silence" does not follow a succinct storyline. Rather, it is dependent upon imagery, sound, feeling and emotion. The ballet begins with five men caught in a spotlight, twitching. As they explode outward, they take viewers through flashbacks of struggling and personal moments in their lives.

Corbett describes it as a "huge human movement...a swelling, a revolution, the rising up and joining together of people." But in the end, the five dancers split apart and end up back where they started.

The music, composed by Arvo Part, is performed on a piano and violin, providing a chilly, frantic feeling. The second movement utilizes 11 cellos and deep, resounding bell sounds.

"You hear cascade after cascade; amazing musical textures," Corbett said. "The dancers really just have to listen to swelling and ebbing. There's no pulse there, and it's very challenging for them."

Corbett said the typical response to "Code of Silence" is an emotional one. She attributes part of the piece's power to its ability to bring forth issues of human struggle and human rights without focusing on a particular historical incident.

"It's not topical," she said. "It's not about Sarajevo. It has a universal eternal."

As a ballet, Corbett considers "Code of Silence" a daring one, and she commends Atlanta Ballet artistic director Robert Barnett for including something so risky in the program.

The two other pieces that will be performed in the spring program are more traditional. "Palm Court," a much airier ballet, takes a look at turn-of-the-century ballroom dancing. It's set in an era of tea dances for tuxedoed men and women in flowing gowns. The music draws from a selection of light pieces played by small orchestras from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Eliot Feld's "Intermezzo" closes the program. It's also a classical ballet—but with a contemporary twist. Christine Sarry was an original "Intermezzo" dancer when it was first premiered in 1969. Sarry has worked with the Atlanta Ballet on past performances of "Intermezzo" and was in town last week to set the piece, or oversee efforts on Atlanta's set. She took some time to comment on the Atlanta performance.

"I think that they do the piece very, very well," she said. "They're true to the choreography and...It's probably looking better than ever. I'm an original person. The piece was choreographed for me in 1969, so I've seen a lot of people do the ballet."

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"Mother's Butt" is Atlanta debut for gay Marietta native Alan Ball

Art Attack puts on the playwright's one-act drama about self-indulgent psychotherapy, along with two other works

by MICHAEL KAPE

If nothing else, the title, "Your Mother's Butt" is enough to grab you.

And indeed, playwright Alan Ball's one-act psychotherapy comedy does concern that portion of the main character's mother's anatomy. The play, along with two others by

Ball, "Bachelor Holiday" and "Power Lunch," will have their Atlanta debut this Thursday, February 17, at the 14th Street Playhouse in Midtown, presented by Art Attack.

Ball is a gay Marietta native who lives in New York City. This production marks the first time any of his works have been done in the Atlanta area, but he is building a strong reputation for himself elsewhere. His most recent play, "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," just completed a successful run off-Broadway, and it is currently being made into a movie by Columbia Pictures/Rastar Productions. His new musical, "The Amazing Adventures of Tense Guy," which he also directed, just had its debut in Washington, D.C.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 28



The cast of "Power Lunch," one of the plays in Art Attack's trilogy at the 14th Street Playhouse.

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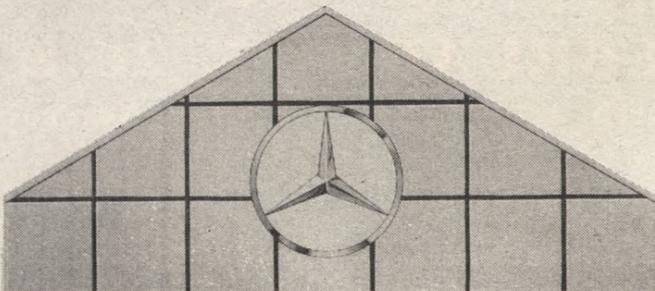
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Chicago filmmaker's "Sisters in the Life" looks at first love

by KC WILDMOON

With "Philadelphia" at the top of the movie box office, and "Tales of the City" making headlines during its recent run on PBS, gay men and lesbians are making a visible mark in the entertainment realm across the country.

But those two offerings are just the tip of the iceberg, as a quick glance at the schedule of any lesbian/gay film festival will show. And making its mark at festivals from New York to Hong Kong is a short video from Chicago filmmaker Yvonne Welbon—"Sisters in the Life: Young Love," originally created as a pilot for a television series about a "thirtysomething black lesbian."

"It's an experimental narrative/documentary looking at first love," said Welbon of her film.

"Sisters in the Life" takes a look at the experiences of Donna Rose as she recounts her first experience with love—at 14 with her best girlfriend, Karen.

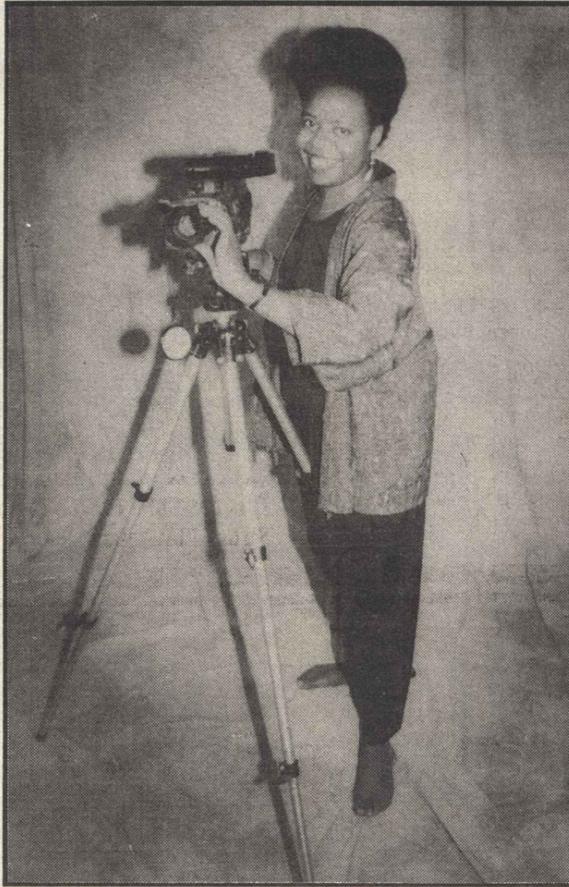
"The first part is a [documentary style] interview with Donna Rose," Welbon said. "All of the stuff she talks about is real. And the flashback [to age 14] is based on her life. She really had a boyfriend named Felton, who really was the father of her son."

And Rose, like Welbon and many other lesbians, had a best girlfriend. "She spends all this time with her girlfriend," Welbon says. "And all the time the boyfriend tries to get her attention."

In her case, Welbon says, she was too afraid to express the love she felt for her girlfriend. "I wasted all of my adolescence dating boys," she says. "I think if I had seen a video like 'Sisters in the Life' I wouldn't have waited until I was in college to come out."

That's one of Welbon's reasons for making the video—to give voice to the stories of the lives of lesbians. "You just never see two girls crushed out on each other on the screen," she said. "But you know it happens."

Welbon, 31 and an MFA candidate at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has only recently come to film and



KENNY GUEST

Yvonne Welbon originally created her acclaimed film as a TV pilot.

video work as a mode of expression. After graduating Vassar with a degree in history, she moved to Taiwan, "because I wanted to learn Chinese. I wanted to be bilingual."

Intending to spend only a year in the island nation, Welbon

founded an art magazine and began a relationship. One year turned to six. But a serious motorcycle accident stopped her forward progress, just as she was beginning to consider putting the magazine into video form. She returned to Chicago, her hometown, and started school to pursue her newfound interest in video and film.

"Sisters in the Life" is not Welbon's only work to date. A short piece, "Monique" deals with her first experience with racism as a 6-year-old, and a work in progress, "Remembering Wei Yi-fang, Remembering Myself..." for which she received an NEA regional fellowship and a Sidney Poitier Emerging Black Filmmaker fellowship, deals with her experiences in Taiwan.

"The premise of the piece is that with the motorcycle accident, I killed my Chinese persona," she says. "It's about being a black American woman in Taiwan, where I didn't have to deal with racism on a daily basis like I do here. This film explores my coming into being Wei Yi-fang and losing touch with this black American person that I am."

"Sisters in the Life," which was not accepted as a television pilot for a cable station in California, has nevertheless been very successful on the gay/lesbian film festival circuit, drawing raves in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles and recently Hong Kong. And Welbon plans to continue producing work that is "close to my heart"—a feature film in works, "Teen Dyke," chronicles the true story of a black lesbian expelled from an all-girls Catholic school in the early 1970s and her unsuccessful fight—with her mother's help—to come back to school.

And she hopes other filmmakers continue their work to bring these stories, and others, to the screen. "We need everything," she said. "I want to see more work about our lives."

"Sisters in the Life: First Love" is available for home video use. To order a copy, send your name, address, and a check or money order for \$20 to Our Film Works, PO Box 10509, Dept. SV, Chicago, IL 60610.

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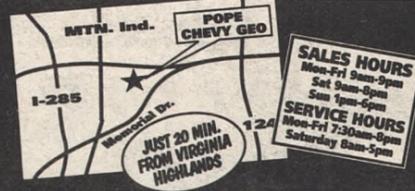
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“Your Mother’s Butt”

Continued from page 26

Theatre in the Square in Marietta has expressed interest in producing “Five Women” next year. That might prove to be an interesting turn of events, since the most normal person in the play is a lesbian.

“Your Mother’s Butt” is a two-character play about a young man and his female therapist. The patient has experienced difficulty in connecting with other people. His most meaningful relationship is with a sweater, and the therapist’s main contribution to the conversation is to keep asking,

Your Mother’s Butt runs from Feb. 17 through March 6 at the 14th Street Playhouse in Midtown. For ticket information, call 881-6304.

“How are you feeling?” The young man admits to experiencing a recurring dream about his mother’s butt, something that was set off by a childhood experience during which his mother bent over him in a bathtub and exposed herself to him.

“[The play] turned into a satire on how self-indulgent therapy can be, both for the [patient] and therapist,” Ball says. “It surprised me because I’m a big proponent of therapy. I was in therapy for four years, until I got tired of talking about myself. I actually had the dream—there’s a little bit of me in all my characters—though the rest of the play is fiction. But I do remember my therapist once saying, ‘I’d like to get back to your mother’s butt,’ and my thinking that I had something here I needed to explore further.”

According to Greg Ansley, Art Attack’s

artistic director, the patient in “Your Mother’s Butt” (which he plays), “is very disturbed. He has a fetish about clothing...and the therapist is trying to discover why he has the problems he has. The play is very short, but it’s hilariously funny. It brings in everything—clothing Barbie dolls. I mean, the man’s insane.”

Ansley is directing the other two pieces. “Bachelor Holiday” is a slice-of-life play about three Generation X roommates and their odd interaction on the day in question. “Power Lunch” is a story about two businesspeople, a man and a woman, and the waiter and waitress who serve them. (Actually, the waiter and the waitress are the same person; he just has a sex change operation in the middle of the play. It’s all very surreal.)

“I think anyone who’s ever had a male roommate will identify with ‘Bachelor Holiday,’” says Ansley. “I think anyone who’s known any men is going to identify with this. These three guys—they seem pretty normal. They all just happen to be home this one morning. The play shows how these guys act. It’s really funny to watch the different groupings that take place. They play this game like, ‘You’re the daddy, you’re the mommy, you’re the baby,’ and they keep switching back and forth. They try to fill traditional roles in a household filled with just the three guys.”

“Power Lunch” covers a larger landscape. “It’s the story of interaction between men and women, men and men, women and women,” says Ansley. “Every aspect of sexuality is covered.”

Art Attack, formed by Ansley, Boyd Baker and Walker Scott, burst onto Atlanta theater scene last year with its presentations of Charles Busch’s “Psycho Beach Party” followed by David Mamet’s “Sexual Perversity in Chicago.” This marks the group’s first full season. It will be following “Your Mother’s Butt” with “Love of a Pig,” the rights for which were just released.



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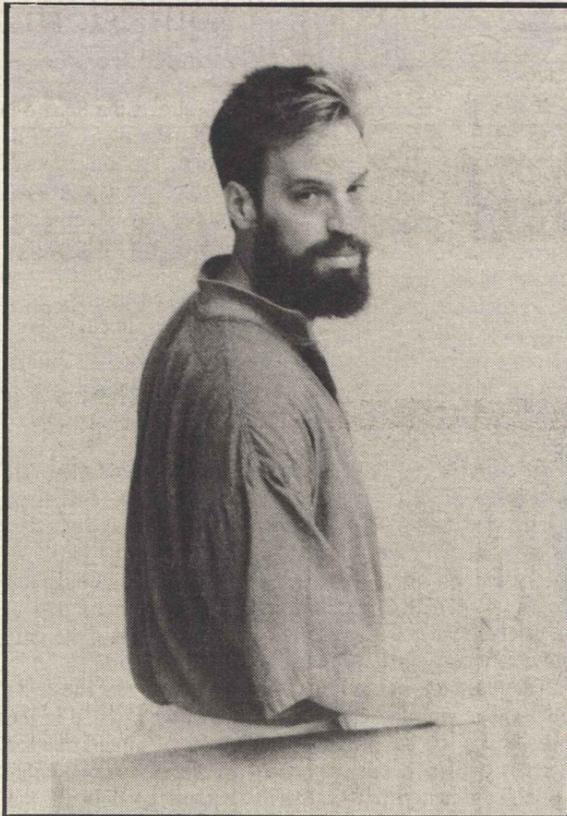
Coming-of-age novels seem to be replacing coming-out novels as the genre of choice in gay and lesbian literature. And Lev Raphael's "Winter Eyes" is one of the good ones.

It is about growing up with secrets. It is about growing up gay, but it is also about growing up in a family afraid to admit even to their son that they are Jewish. It is about growing up in a divorced family so dysfunctional that you prefer to let your friends believe that your uncle is your father. But it's also about finding creative ways of coping with the secrets and the craziness. It's about a young boy who finds that through the piano, he can experience beauty, peace and confidence that the outside world denies him.

Raphael's book of short stories, "Dancing on Tisha Bav," was a 1991 Lammy winner. "Winter Eyes" confirms his talents. The novel's hero, young Stefan, grows up in a home where many languages are spoken, though he is only taught English. He recognizes Polish and Russian, but finds that his parents and uncle suddenly also speak a new language that he doesn't recognize. He is isolated by his inability to understand the family conversations. He is also isolated by his lack of knowledge of his family's background.

Stefan's parents refuse to answer his questions about other family members. He discovers that he has an aunt who was once a part of his family, but no one ever mentions her. In fact, they get angry for no apparent reason if he so much as asks about her. He learns to be quiet and wait for his parents to give him what little they will.

Stefan is also vaguely aware that his parents have little to give each other. There is little affection but much tension in his home. The boy's only joy comes when his uncle Sasha agrees to teach him to play the piano. Stefan learns to lose himself in the music. He is a diligent student who becomes



GESHEN KAUFMAN

"Winter Eyes" is author Lev Raphael's story about coming of age as a possibly gay man and as a Jew.

quite good quickly.

Though he is also a good student in school, Stefan gets little pleasure there. He learns that it is safer to fade into the shadows than to engage with the other children. He sympathizes with a Jewish boy who is mercilessly teased, but they are unable to create a friendship. Stefan learns to be quiet and reserved at school, much the way he is at home.

Because of his own lack of history, however, Stefan studies history ravenously. He learns the history of Poland, to develop some connection to his parents' birthplace. He ea-

gerly soaks up the history of New York City, where he lives. Even as a young boy, he reads the New York Times daily to know what is going on in the world.

When Stefan's parents finally divorce, they give him the option to choose which parent he will live with. Much to their frustration, he chooses to live with Uncle Sasha. Apparently trying to make up for past mistakes, Sasha respects the boy's intelligence and seems to put few restrictions on him. Though he is not a wild, unruly boy, he is becoming an adolescent. Stefan meets an Italian boy in the apartment building that he finds attractive. He is attracted to the young man physically, but Stefan is also attracted to his friend's ability to be open and expressive. The boy's family teaches Stefan that it's possible for families to be more accessible and more giving than his own was. The boy teaches Stefan about sex.

When Stefan goes away to college, he meets a girl that he brings home to mother. He has become more confident socially, thanks to his college roommate, his girlfriend and his friends. He is also better equipped to cope with his parents, both now remarried, and his step-parents. But he also obviously has more learning and experimenting to do before he is truly comfortable with himself. He tells his young girlfriend about his past gay encounter, and she tells him a similar story. They speculate about whether these experiences make them gay. However, his girlfriend has a very healthy answer that we could have all benefited from at that age: "I don't have any idea, babe. Does it matter? And do we have to figure it out tonight?"

Raphael's story of growth and discovery is familiar and enlightening at the same time. Though there are times when the story stalls out briefly, the novel is beautifully written, overall, and clearly expresses the angst of a boy who only needs exactly what he is denied. However, Raphael also demonstrates that even a frustrating childhood in a dysfunctional family can harbor a few pleasures.

One small frustration about the novel was the author's refusal to confirm that dear old never-married Uncle Sasha is gay. In fact, there seems to be some inference that he is not. But Raphael's most outstanding accomplishment may be the reminder that growing up often involves varied sexual experimentation. Will Stefan grow up to be gay? We, of course, hope so.

DEBBIE FRAKER

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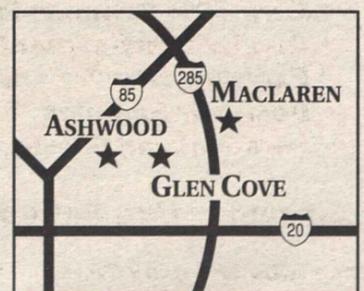
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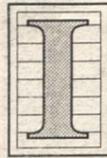
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It is my firmest belief that our planet approaches a most critical juncture in terms of the sustainability of the entire ecosphere. And I believe with equal firmness that whatever intelligence animates the universe (Creatrix, God/dess, Gaia, et al), this force strives to ensure biophillic survival.

Hence, a new—but then again, very old—breed of gardener has come into being, dedicated to walking in harmony with what we find and grow upon the breast of our Mother. We seek to understand what we can, and accept as great mystery that which we cannot, and treat each with reverence.

For me, part of that process involves uncovering what people knew centuries or millenia ago and adapting that knowledge to our lives today. February is simply a most opportune month for that purpose.

The name derives from Februa, Latin for purification. Before the change of calendar from Julian to Gregorian, Feb. 1-2 (Candlemas) and Feb. 14-15 (Juno and the Lupercalia) were on the same dates.

Forget the grafted-on story of St. Valentine, martyred in the 3rd Century, and the church's Feast of the Purification. Go back much further, to the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. They were suckled by a she-wolf, who fiercely defended them as well as fed them. The Lupercalia (from the Latin for wolf) was a festival celebrating this primal energy of life, a vital aspect of the Goddess.

As all festivals began with moonrise the night preceding the festal day, the 14th came to be known as Juno's day. She was not only the queen of all gods, but she represented the sacred female mystery, the yonic Cauldron of Transformation. The heart symbol recognized today is actually a stylized rendering of the Goddess' vulva, which is why it always pointed downward. Which is also why the pink triangle should be, too, because it too is such a goddess symbol.

In an agricultural society, we know that life is an unending cycle, and that the changes which make it so manifest within the body of the mother. Seed springs forth; the dead are laid

down to return again; we are all suckled by the fruits of her body.

In order to maintain this cycle and ensure its continuance, human behavior had to add to these energies. We had to concern ourselves with the most fundamental mysteries of life, particularly manifesting in ritualistic sex magic. Specific festivals at critical times arose to fulfill this need. Candlemas is a cross-quarter day, i.e., it lies midway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, and it is a portal into a warming, sun-filled, renewed life. So it is indeed very important.

As part of the festival, Romans drew lots, and then had ritual sex with the person whose name was drawn. Priests of Faunus, clad in furred loincloths, ritualistically beat women in the streets across the Mound of Venus inside the palm, to make the power rise. Devotees carried red candles through the streets, chanting, dancing, making holy. The entire thrust of the celebrations was to raise that life-power within the citizenry, so it could be transmitted to the natural world.

The idea here was to lose the individual, so that she or he could merge with the divine. In so doing, we assisted in the return of life and light from the barrenness of winter. In what became Candlemas, this symbolism reflects in the ritual lighting of all the candles and hearths in the home, encouraging the Son's return. According to Fiona Morgan in "Wild Witches Don't Get The Blues," "we burn red candles, to symbolize the passion that is felt and expressed at this time. It is a time to understand the power and the powerfulness... of letting go of the Ego and getting in touch with your essence; that very spark of life that keeps you moving on your path, learning, growing, and becoming."

Also known as the Feast of Brigid or Bride, people would make a "Bride's Bed" out of spent materials. This would be the repository for a figure—constructed by the women from the last sheaf of wheat or corn sheaves, for the Spirit of the Grain resided therein. This Corn Mother or Corn Bride (re-

member, corn was a generic term for grains) was dressed as a bride, and placed into her bed with a priapic wand across her. The two figures formed an "X", the place where their energies combined being sacred.

All night long, the women kept the fires going, imbuing this figure with fertilizing powers. Once powered and transformed, the doll was undressed and hung over the doorway, in the same place the solstitial holly wreath had been.

In fact, the Brigid fires were lit with the last remaining greenery from the Solstice, as a sign of purification and of making a clean sweep. Not surprisingly, Candlemas is also the time for eliminating all in your life with encumbers you, From old clothes to worn-out dreams. As "The Witches' Almanac" puts it, "Just as candles illuminate the darkness, (we) seek to penetrate the hidden recesses of the mind and soul in order to meet Aries (i.e., the equinox) happy and free from fault."

Following the rededication to life and light, "mundane matters such as settling debts, returning borrowed items, and catching up on correspondence are attended to during early February. A systematic clearing out of drawers, cabinets, and closets eliminates unnecessary articles which accumulate over a year's time. Apprise all your possessions to determine what should be discarded or passed on. The Aquarian stage of Candlemas custom subtly increases the power of decision and prepares us to examine thoughtfully the very fabric of our individual lives.

"Are you as happy and fulfilled as you might be? Perhaps your work, your mate or the place you live no longer satisfy, but it seems easier to disregard the problems rather than face the stress of change. Begin to rid your life of disharmony; suffering indignities corrodes the spirit and poisons the soul. An effort must be mounted to purge your psyche as completely as you have cleaned your house. Call upon supernatural help..."

So what does this have to do with gardening? Everything, actually. No plant can thrive without a decent root system. Essentially, most of us have been cut off from our roots. We know about the valentines and groundhogs, but not the life-affirming essentials which lie beneath those prettified and bled-dry remnants.

Undoubtedly, we'd be better off if we routinely sought to discover and strengthen the roost. Even in simple little things.

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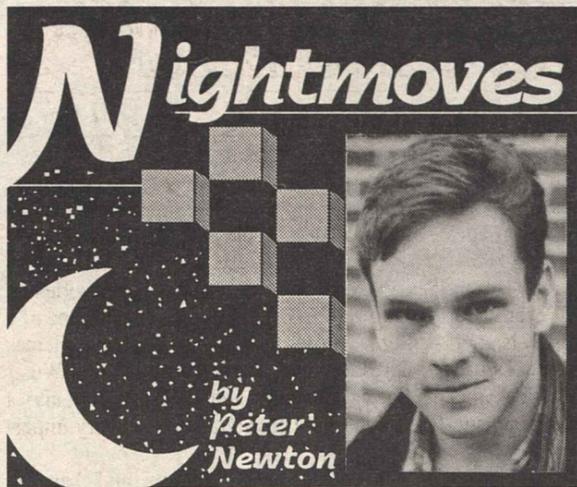
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While channel surfing the other day, I realized that every other program seemed to be about a cause. From celebrities to nobodies, people were talking about what they are doing to preserve the Hopi sacred grounds or rescue catatonic polar bears from our nation's zoos. After a few hours of such a barrage of social responsibility, I was convinced I had to do more. Let me suggest a few ways to go out this week, have a great time and work toward positive change.

AIDS Benefit '94 kicks off Thursday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. at Variety Playhouse. **Marcia Ball, Caroline Aiken, Rusty Johnson and The Marc Stowe Group** will lend their vocal talents for the annual event. (404) 521-1786.

Another benefit going on this week is a variation on the theme of dinner parties, called **Who's Dining Who**. Organized to help the folks at AIDS Survival Project, the new name for the National Association for People with AIDS, or NAPWA, the series of dinner parties will introduce you to new faces as well as spoil you with great food. Saturday, Feb. 19 is the date. Call (404) 874-7926 for more



information.

One of the greatest female *a cappella* groups, **Sweet Honey In The Rock**, will be performing a benefit concert in Atlanta for The Fund for Southern Communities at Sisters Chapel at Spelman College on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. (404) 577-3178.

Sweet Honey's founding member, **Bernice Johnson Reagon**, took the group's name from a song of the same title. It tells the story of an old parable about a land so fertile that when you broke open the rocks honey flowed from them. The group is on its 20th anniversary tour and has an album called "Still On The Journey" and a book, "We Who Believe in Freedom," to accompany their big celebration. Sweet Honey sings a message of liberation and social responsibility. But you don't think about that when you're in the audience. They are a quintet of singers who redefine harmony and, in general, make the world a better place to be.

But after you've done your bit for social responsibility, you might head over to **Velvet** for some more, ahem, primal entertainment. Porn star **Ryan Idol** will be making an appearance on Monday, Feb. 21 at 10 p.m.

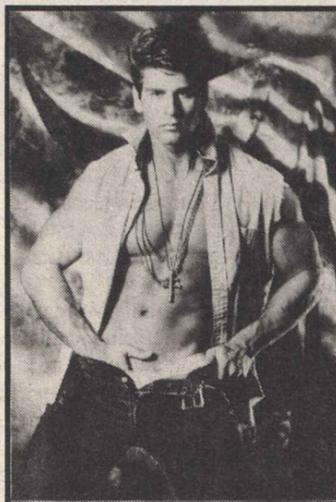
In other club news, there is word that **Axys** that is reintroducing the Sunday night gigs made infamous by the

predecessor in the club's Midtown location, Petrus. The folks at Axys are billing it as a "new concept" for Sunday night. What might that new concept be? No cover? We'll just have to wait to see.

You can catch **Caroline Aiken** at the **Red Light Cafe** Saturday, Feb. 19 starting at 10 p.m. She's a one-woman band and a great songwriter. The Red Light will feature Aiken every other Saturday night. Look for her again on March 5. Her CD, "Live at the Attic," was released last Fall. If you like what you hear, it's available in local record stores.

A new play hits town this week and there's nothing but fun in store for theatre goers of "**LaBete**." The play, by **David Hirson** runs at The Alliance Theatre Feb. 16—March 20. It's a wildly stylized Broadway comedy of manners, complete with rhyming couplets. Never before has 17th Century France looked more outrageous. The little flyer the nice people at the box office gave me says, "you'll swoon over the day-glo wigs and leopard knickers, not to mention the pompous pink and purple prince. Expect the unexpected." OK. (404) 892-2414.

If you're interested in what gives a poet that Pulitzer Prize winning punch, check out **Louise Glück**, winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for "**The Wild Iris**." Glück will read from her books of poems Thursday, Feb. 24 at 8:15 p.m. The event is part of Emory University's Creative Writing Program Reading Series and will be held at 206 White Hall on the Emory campus. (404) 727-4683 will get you more information on upcoming authors.



Ryan Idol at Velvet



Sweet Honey in the Rock at Spelman

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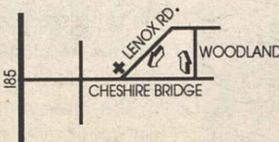
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Babette's - Country European informal fine dining. Cassoulet to Coqauvin. Entrees \$8-16. Tue-Thur 6-10, Fri-Sat 6-11, Sun 11:30-9.

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MORE ON PAGE 34

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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Could I be abandoning my curmudgeonly ways? My altogether happy recent experiences at the Buckhead Diner and the Atlanta Fish Market (after years of feeling put off by the intense attitude slung in most Buckhead Life restaurants) has urged me on to revisit some other eateries where I've liked the food but felt besieged by some sort of attitude or ambience problem.

Where better to start this trek than **Pung Mie** (5145 Buford Hwy. 455-0535). Everybody raves about the food at this northern Chinese, homestyle place. The dumplings are legendary. The san shan seafood noodle soup—rich, spicy and soothing—is one of the city's most amazing curatives, and the prices are reasonable.

I do, however, know plenty of folks—myself high on the list—that have found the small, crowded and often smoky dining room very uncomfortable. The attitude of, and communication with, servers can also be *tres* trying, especially if you don't look like you know what you want or might be too spooky to order a big platter of braised sea cucumbers with pig leg.

Thus imagine our collective joy when four of us hit the place on a recent Saturday night, were seated immediately and treated like stars of the Beijing Opera—even though we didn't order the dread shredded jellyfish salad. Two different waitrons and the owner/manager took pains and time to explain the menu; the room was mercifully free of smoke; and the lack of a crowd was such that we felt no-compunction at all in sitting, sipping tea, and chatting for an hour after we finished eating.

Add to all this treats like roast chicken Tsing Tao style, a whole bird, anointed with five-spice, hacked into small pieces and served room temperature. The whole mess is sprinkled with cilantro leaves and served on a bed of just-pickled cucumbers and is so good that we had a minor tiff about whether we should eat it all or save some to take home.

The take-home contingent won because we had already stuffed ourselves with a plate of ethereal ginger-laced snow pea greens. Not as strong as spinach or as grassy as nida (the spring onion-like green that is much in evidence here), the greens are nonetheless very distinctively flavored and provide an excellent counterpoint to dishes that sport more complex flavors.

Like sauteed shrimp with hot tomato sauce—which turns out to be a devilishly complex mixture of hot, sour, and sweet flavors tinged only with the tomato's color and acidity. The medium shrimp are tender and so plentiful that I didn't even bother to count them—pretty amazing for \$8.95.

Asparagus beef is similarly priced, equally generous in portion and only slightly less fun. Both meat and asparagus are perfectly cooked and their flavors and textures contrast nicely, but the whole dish lacks sparkle. If you want to chow down on meat here, indulge yourself and order the wickedly greasy and delicious fried "house special meat balls." Or try the beef with pickled mustard greens or pickled cabbage, both of which should do a better job of slicing through the rich brown sauce.

Our only disappointment (and I use the term loosely) turned out to be the usually fabulous steamed dumplings. Their pork and scallion filling was light and luscious as ever, but the dough wrappers were distressingly tough and sticky. Still they're head and shoulders above what you'll get most anywhere else in the city. Be sure and ask for the spe-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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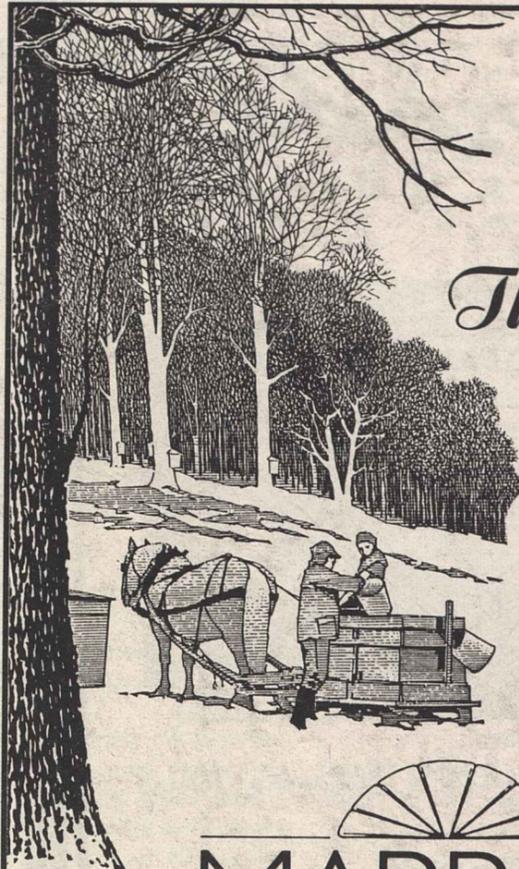
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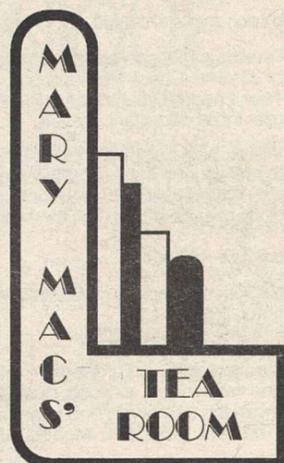
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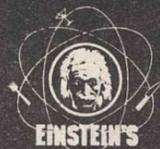
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224 Ponce de Leon Ave • 876-1800

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 5-11p.m.
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1829 Peachtree Rd N.E. B'head • 350-6755

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870 N. Highland Ave • 875-7775

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2196 Cheshire Br Rd • 636-9447

Surin of Thailand - Chef Surin brings to VA-Highland the cuisine for which his native country is famous in his own superb style. Mon-thur 11:30-10:30. Fri 11:30-11:30. Sat/Sun open at 12.
810 N Highland Ave • 892-7789

EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

cial garlicky dipping sauce that does not come automatically.

Probably the most miraculous thing about Pung Mie are the prices. While some dishes get into the double digits, plenty of knock-down good stuff is available for \$6-9 a plate and five plates will fill four people to the brim. That's \$9-11 a head for some of the most satisfying Chinese food in the city. Get thee there soon.

On the Other Hand

Stay far, far away from **Chop Chop Chinese to You** (at way too many locations around the city). These spiffy new green-and-wood takeout/delivery parlors seem to be everywhere I turn, and while the food doesn't taste as downright awful as the late (and unlamented) Mr. Ching, it's pretty sad.

I'd spoken to at least a half dozen folks who tried Chop Chop and warned me to avoid it like the plague, but I ventured in the door anyway.

A too-greasy-for-words eggroll was just plain awful and an insult to competent fry cooks everywhere. A good-sized serving of chin loy chicken stir fry (with onions, carrots bean sprouts, bok choy and celery) in a flavorless brown sauce tastes like the something fresh out of June Cleaver's kitchen. Yuk. (If you happen to like this particular kind of Chinese-American, try the Lotus Garden on Buford Highway.)

To be fair, the ingredients in the stir fry were fresh and not overcooked. There's no obvious MSG, and the salt and grease content seemed well within bounds for this kind of food. But at prices that range from \$6-8.50 a plate, you deserve food that tastes better.

Fast, Easy...and Almost Healthy

I've been waiting to print this recipe from Better Homes and Gardens for a couple of months now, when the weather felt right—cold. Well today looks like spring, but by the time you read this, who knows?

Pork, well trimmed, is pretty low in fat and still mightily flavorful. For a break from conventional barbecue sauce, try this mix of salsa and cranberries.

- 3 pounds boneless country-style pork ribs
- 3/4 cup hot salsa or picante sauce
- 3/4 cup whole cranberry sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons finely shredded orange peel
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon fresh mint (or 1/2 teaspoon dried)

Trim excess fat from the pork. Season with salt and pepper, place in a shallow baking pan, cover with foil and bake at 350 F for one hour. Drain off fat.

Stir the other ingredients together, spread over the drained meat and bake, uncovered for 40 minutes or more until the meat is tender, spooning the sauce over the meat occasionally. Of course if the weather is nice, you could also finish them on the grill.

Makes six servings of with but 350 calories, 12 grams of fat and 309 milligrams of sodium each.

Winter in the Tropics

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Pig of my heart

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No-No to J&J: Consistent with the chaos and insanity that surround the issue of public acknowledgment that some men actually do have sex with other men is the fact that Johnson & Johnson has announced that they are now producing a variety of KY Jelly that contains nonoxynol-9. It's being marketed as a "spermicidal lubricant" with no mention of the fact that nonoxynol-9 is also widely recommended as a second line of defense (after condoms) against HIV. That's cool, but why then did J&J send a box of the new stuff (with the tag line: "Because intimacy in the '90s gives couples enough things to think about") to a queer newspaper? Dish wants you to use condoms, with a water-based lube, and one that contains nonoxynol-9. But we wouldn't have our feelings hurt if it wasn't KY.

Yes-Yes to Mayer Labs: In fact you might consider giving your condom and lube business to Mayer Labs (Kimono & MAXX condoms and Aqua Lube) who have agreed to become corporate sponsors for Gay Games IV in Gotham this summer. Mayer also puts their mouth where their money is stating that the company supports gay/lesbian equal rights, universal access to healthcare, sex education in schools and abortion rights. If Dish had a boyfriend with whom to use condoms, they'd be Mayer's. And, no we won't make the obvious allusion here to Oscar Mayer...

Miracle in Marietta...Almost: Regular readers know that Dish has for some years sent more than a little snide invective in the direction of the Marietta Daily Journal and its good ol' boy publisher Otis Brumby. The number of horror stories surrounding Mr. B and his paper's attitude towards folks who are not native-born, white, middle-class and male is legion. But Mr. Brumby's daily has proffered an editorial calling for the Cobb County Commission to "remove its self-inflicted black eye by voting to rescind the [anti-gay] resolution." The same editorial allows that, "what people do in the privacy of their bedroom is their business—not the government's" and "gays have the same right to live and work

Dish

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



The Grand Czarina graces cover of new photo book.

NANCY ANDREWS

in Cobb as anyone else." The piece goes on say that arts funding should *not* be restored and doesn't suggest that the state's heinous sodomy law be fixed, but it's progress. Slow, tortuous progress maybe, but the kind of stuff that makes Dish think that there's hope in the world.

Disaster in Ann Arbor: We hope that you haven't spent any of your hard-earned food bucks at Domino's for some time now. (Owner Tom Monaghan is a high-rolling rabid right-winger who makes the Coors clan look progressive.) But lest you need any support in moving your pizza business elsewhere (may we suggest Milano's, which is gay-owned, or

Avondale Pizza?), please know that Domino's has presented their "Humanitarian Award" this year to none other than James Dobson, who is president of Focus on the Family, which is headquartered in Colorado Springs and which fully supported that state's illegal and immoral Amendment 2. If you want to tell Domino's how you feel about their inability to distinguish between a bigot and a humanitarian, write to Tim McIntyre, Director of Public Relations, Domino's Pizza, P.O. Box 997, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0997.

Progress in Hollywood: The Washington Blade reports that Hollywood Supports (a group that works to counter gay and AIDS phobia in Hollywood) reports that there are at least 20 gay or AIDS focused film projects in various stages of production, pre-production or development in Tinseltown. We've already mentioned most of the titles—"Angels in America," "Conduct Unbecoming," "The Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer Story" (starring Glenn Close), "The Normal Heart," "The Celluloid Closet," "The Dreyfus Affair" (from Disney), "Falsettos" and "The Mayor of Castro Street" (don't hold your breath). New to us: "Boys on the Side," starring Whoopi Goldberg as a lesbian lounge singer and thing of beauty, about dyke supermodel Gia who died of AIDS. Hollywood gossip maven Ted Casablanca has suggested k.d. lang and Cindy Crawford for the leads.

And Famous in Decatur: Some of you may have met Washington Post photographer Nancy Andrews when she cruised through town last year in search of subjects for her book "Family: A Portrait of Gay and Lesbian America." Nancy called Dish before she came to town and asked who we would nominate for photo immortality. Our first suggestion was the infamous Digging Dykes of Decatur. Lo and behold, guess who should appear on the cover of the promo pack for "Family"? None other than DDD Grand Czarina Sherry Siclair (with Lisa Mount, Darlene Drury and Laurie Kezh in the background.) The book is due out in June. Dish can't wait.

FEBRUARY 17-FEBRUARY 23, 1994

The sun joins Mercury, Venus and Saturn—a very interesting combination—in Pisces on Feb. 18, setting the stage for greater expression of our feelings and emotions as well as the potential for more compassion and understanding in all relationships.

ARIES, your 12th house of dreams, visions and the collective unconscious is certainly active right now with Mercury, Venus and Saturn. Your dreams may be more vivid and easier to remember. You also may need more quiet time to sort out these unique images. **TAURUS**, you can have an important impact on the world around you. If you have been hanging out at home, thinking you didn't have much to offer the greater community, then you need to change your thinking. Your patience, tenacity and practical approach are needed. **GEMINI**, have you temporarily lost your sense of humor? If so, find it quick. Co-workers, friends and your own self may be getting far too serious with dear ol' Saturn in Pisces. Your bright and funny perspective on life is definitely needed.

CANCER, if you are worried about friends or loved ones who lead somewhat destructive lives at the moment, then you may

STARSIGNS

need to tell them of your concern and then release them to live their own lives, so you can get on with yours. Be creative this week. **LEO**, you may find yourself up to your ears in transforming situations this week. It could feel a little bit of overwhelming, but the good news is that you are growing and developing parts of yourself that are very, very important. **VIRGO**, for the next several weeks you may be more social and more involved with close friends. Take the time to enjoy the special people who are in your life. Let others know how much they mean to you and how they have contributed to your life.

LIBRA, how is your life going for you? Are you content, or do you feel as though you are putting on a show for others some of the time. Remember that you are very sensitive to beauty and harmony and need these qualities in your life to be really happy. **SCORPIO**, your inherent sensitivity, sexuality and creativity may be amplified for the next several weeks. Do your

best to relax, let it all flow and enjoy this very stimulating surge of energy. Let yourself really expand and thrive. **SAGITTARIUS**, how is life in the fast lane? If you are having some difficulty keeping up with yourself, then you may need to set priorities and stick to them. This may not seem easy at first, but you can do it and your life will be much easier.

CAPRICORN, Uranus and Neptune are still moving through your first house, although not with the same intensity as before. It is important for you to stay flexible, open to new ideas and experiences and continue to participate emotionally with others. Happy birthday **AQUARIUS**. Hopefully you have had a very wonderful birthday month, celebrating and doing lots of fun and delightful things. If it hasn't been as much fun as you would like, then make sure to schedule lots a good stuff this month. Happy birthday **PISCES**. As the Sun moves into your birth sign on Feb. 18, you can expect wonderful new energy and experiences coming your way. Carefully consider how you would like your life to be in the next year and nurture your vision.

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

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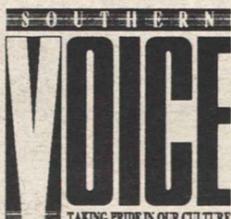
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- AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
- AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728
- AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
- AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—872-2246
- AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
- AIDS and Substance Abuse Speakers Network—977-7797
- AIDS SUPPORT—Jewish Family Services—888-6400, #76
- AIDS Survival Project (formerly Atlanta NAPWA)—874-7926
- Atlanta Buyers Club—874-4845, or POB 77003, Atl, 30357
- Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network—874-8686
- Atlanta Lesbian AIDS Project—250-8177
- Childkind—936-9655
- Common Ground—874-6425
- First MCC AIDS Ministry—325-4143
- Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network—1-800-551-2728
- Good Samaritan Project—873-4589
- Grady Mem. Hospital Infectious Disease Program—341 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atl, 30308, (404) 616-2440
- Jerusalem House—527-7627
- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—876-0105
- The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
- Outreach, Inc.—(404) 346-3922
- People's United Pet Support—370-0178
- Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)—876-PALS
- Positive Impact—885-9040
- Positive Outlook On Health—872-9954
- Project Open Hand Atlanta—525-4620
- Sister Love—753-7733

Arts/Entertainment/Culture

- Atlanta Diversity Chorale—607-1146
- Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—438-5823
- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—POB 771144, Atlanta 30357
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing—POB 7032, Atlanta 30357, 876-1060
- Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble—872-3135
- "Funny...That Way"—875-2275
- Gay & Lesbian Marching Band—872-9763
- Gay Musician's Meeting Post—SASE to GMMP, PO Box 250336, Atlanta 30318
- Pen-draggin' Poets—523-3639
- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.—609-9590
- Southern Country Atlanta—938-0609

Bars

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

Direct Action/Political

- ACLU of Georgia—523-5398
- ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
- ACT UP—44 12th St, NE, Atlanta 30309-3979, 874-6782 (O)
- Atlanta Greens, Green Party USA, Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Queer Caucus—368-7137
- Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
- Cobb Citizens Coalition—POB 965336, Marietta 30066, 256-8690
- Dykes & Faggots Bash Back—P.O. Box 14531, Atlanta 30324, voice mail 908-5369
- Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—605-7477
- Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atl, 30312
- Georgia Committee for the 1993 March on Washington—(404) 662-4199 or POB 5282, Atlanta 30307
- GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
- Human Rights Campaign Fund—Field Committee, 231-5751
- LEGAL—605-7476
- National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
- National Organization for Women, Gay & Lesbian Rights Task Force—636-7435
- Neighbors Network—257-5550
- Out Front—PO Box 12369, Atlanta 30355
- Queer Nation—605-7396
- Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324, 239-1679
- Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
- STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

National

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

Professional

- Atlanta Entrepreneurs' Club—Dr. Bravy 457-6347
- Bar Owner's Assn—POB 15114, Atlanta 30333-0114
- Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
- Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (GLPEN)—POB 580397, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0397
- GA Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
- LEAGUE ATLANTA, Inc. (Employees of AT&T)—404/351-8322
- Nat'l Gay Pilots Assoc.—PO Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542, (703) 660-3852
- Nat'l Lesbian and Gay Journalists Assoc.—634-7429
- Nat'l Federation of Career Women—(404) 659-0315
- OUTstaff (Emory)—727-2787 (Donna)

Young Women's Branch Network—
Carolyn, 294-4233.

Spiritual

- All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—622-1154
- Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—876-0631
- Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
- Congregation Bet Haverim—642-3467
- Emergence/Atlanta (Christian Scientists)—565-2126
- First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta—378-5570
- First Metropolitan Community Church of Atl—325-4143
- Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (Quakers)—370-1340
- Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)
- Gay Spirit Visions—378-7224
- Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church—627-6221; 575 Boulevard SE
- Hosanna African Unity Life Center—872-9055
- Integrity (Episcopal)—642-3183
- Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—636-7109
- New Age Gays—434-7338
- Oakhurst Presbyterian Church—378-6284
- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—373-5830
- Unitarian Universalists—634-5134, George at 688-2242

Sports/Outdoor/Hobbies

- Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
- Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
- Atlanta Women's Lacrosse Club—303-1160, 888-6738
- Atlanta Women's Social Tennis—662-GAME
- Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
- Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—851-2882 (voice mail)
- Hotlanta Soccer—876-7372
- Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl, 30324, 873-4061
- Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
- Lambda Car Club—POB 11705, Atlanta 30355
- Luring Lesbians (fishing club)—932-5236
- Mountain Catalyst—POB 199, Demorest, GA 30535
- S.E. Gay Rodeo Assn—POB 7881, Atl, 30357, 760-8126
- Wilderness Network of GA—SASE, POB 55156, Atlanta 30308
- Women's Outdoor Network—624-3418
- Women's Rugby—659-6916 or 761-8939
- TRICKS Bridge Club—2980 Cobb Pkwy, Suite 192-172, Atlanta 30339
- Underwater Escapes—289-0696

Service/Support/Social

- About Crossdressing—Janet, 624-3770
- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
- Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—223-3718
- American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (eve)
- Asians & Friends—Atlanta—876-0090
- Athens Lesbian Information—LSG, POB 7864, Athens, 30604
- Atlanta Corporal Punishment Club—Box 11863, Atlanta 30355
- Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
- Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
- Atlanta Gender Exploration—875-9846
- Atlanta Lambda Community Ctr—POB 15180, Atl, 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance—POB 5502, Atl, 30307, 378-9769
- Atlanta Lesbian Singles Organization (ALSO)—294-4558
- Atlanta Prime Timers—APT, POB 29487, Atlanta 30359
- Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
- BiAtlanta—256-8992
- Bisexuals of Atlanta Resource Network—908-3413
- Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
- Caregivers to PWAs Support Group—874-1109 or 875-6109
- Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
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- Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
- Gay/Lesbian AA & Al-Anon—881-9188
- Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America—623-4099
- Gay/Lesbian Task Force to the Public Safety Comm. of City Council—330-6504
- Georgia Girth & Mirth—POB 9678, Atl, 30319, (404) 621-5710
- Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
- Gwinnett Lambda—POB 464848, Lwrnc'ville 30246, 871-GAYS
- Hospitality Atlanta—627-0520
- Interact of Atlanta—984-9875
- John Howell Park Project—876-0105
- Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
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- Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—378-6935
- Lesbian Narcotics Anonymous—703-3897
- Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
- Lesbians Considering Parenthood—908-1704
- Lesbians Over 50—908-6119
- Lesbians With Children—740-1729
- Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 31107, 523-5804
- Name the Violence Support Group for Battered Lesbians—822-9570; Crisis Hotline—688-9436
- Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)—892-5868
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—296-0830 or 875-9440
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chatanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
- Positive Black Lesbians United (PBLU)—294-4377
- Queer Youth—P.O. Box 54032, Atlanta 30308; 605-7396
- Real Gay World BBS—404-266-0856
- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
- Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 350-0456
- Survivors of Incest Anonymous—POB 2502, Decatur, GA 30031; 239-8018
- Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
- Women In Kaboots—(WINK) 438-1421
- Women of Wisdom—289-8819
- Wordsmith Society—Chris at 498-0137
- Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
- Zami—908-3356

Students/Alumni

- Agnes Scott Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance—Box 501, Decatur 30030; 373-1632
- Alliance of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of GA State—605-7681
- Bi, Lesbian & Gay Student Union of West Ga. College—706-834-3569
- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
- Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Comm. College 423-6246
- Georgia Tech Gay Alumni Group—POB 50291, GA Tech Sta., Atlanta 30332
- Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union c' the Univ. of C.—POB 2438
- Athens 30612-0438 or call 404/549-9368
- S.E. Alternative Lifestyles Association—248-9307
- Univ. of Ala. Lesbian/Gay Alumni Assoc.—284-3479

OUTLINES

CELESTE TIBBETS

Age: 38**How long in Atlanta:**
6 years**Relationship Status:**
Best Ever**Last Book Read:** "Johnny's Girl: a Daughter's Memoir of Growing Up in Alaska's Underworld" by Kim Rich**Pet Peeve:** Stereotypes about librarians

That Celeste Tibbets is sensitive about librarian stereotypes is no surprise. She is one, plying her trade—helping library patrons find what they're looking for—at an intown library.

"Librarians are social reformers," she says. "I get really corny about it, but it's really a cool place to work. When I first started working at a library, it struck me what a radical place it is. There's so much stuff you can get if you're responsible with your library card. It's the most satisfying thing I've ever done, when I help somebody find something and they're glad. I'll never make a lot of money at it, but there's a high job satisfaction."

Oddly enough, Tibbets came to being a librarian by a circuitous route, although the seeds of that profession were always there, hidden away. Born in Bainbridge, Georgia ("Georgia's first inland port"), she lived for a time in Gainesville, Florida and then, when Tibbets was four, her family moved to California.

"I lived in California for most of my language training years, which is why I don't have a Southern accent," she explains.

At 16, the Tibbets family moved back to Bainbridge. "It was very weird going back to south Georgia," she explains. "They treated us a little like celebrities because we'd been to Disneyland. This was before MTV flattened the culture, and before Disney World."

After high school, Tibbets attended the University of Georgia, majoring in radio, television and film journalism. For a time, she alternated school with spending time with her grandparents in Hawaii.

"[In Hawaii] I was Bingo [from the Banana Splits] on a local TV show," she says with a laugh. "I was a very bad dancer but it didn't matter. I had to put on this big costume and bump around."

Later, she took a job with "The Don Ho TV Show—the world's worst and crassest game show," she says. "But once I got to buy Kenny Rogers a cheeseburger and deliver it to his hotel room and once I gave

Mel Tillis a ride to his hotel."

Back in Athens at UGA, Tibbets came out. "As soon as I came out I started writing," she remembers.

The OutLoud Collective was a project of Tibbets and a few other women in Athens in the late 70s and early 80s, holding "non-boring" events like poetry readings. "We had the first Southern women's music festival," she says proudly. The OutLoud Collective's Coming Out Celebration of Our Arts in These Parts featured bands like Moral Hazard, the comedy group Sisters of No Mercy, and other local performers.

At the same time, Tibbets was coming into her own as a feminist. "In Athens we were doing all these groovy things, but I kept reading about these women in the north and I thought I was an armchair activist. So I went to New York, had a New York experience, and found out we were as radical as they were. More so, in many ways, because we were creating culture."

But she didn't return to the south right away. She moved to New Haven, Connecticut, and after an unsatisfying experience at a battered women's shelter, started library school.

"I was volunteering at a women's bookstore, and I kept saying 'I ought to be a librarian,'" she says. "I used to think you had to go to a state that began with an I or an O to be a librarian. And then they told me there was a library school right down the street."

Being a librarian, Tibbets says, "is a great way to pull the parts of myself together. The writer parts of me are happy, the AV parts of me—the film and video parts—are happy, and the detective parts are very, very happy."

And she's beginning to find time to write again. "When I moved to Connecticut, it was too cold, or I got hurt too many times, or something, but I just froze up," she says.

But that's changing now. Since moving to Atlanta, she's been a part of a lesbian writer's group, and now she's doing art therapy. "I'll draw a little, and then write furiously for hours after that. It's great."

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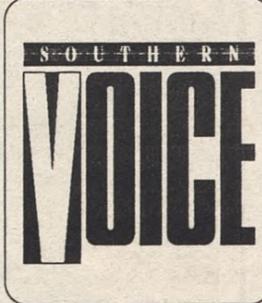
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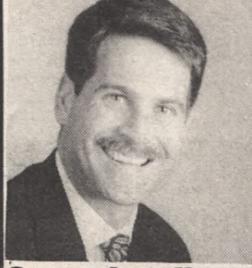


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CLASSIFIEDS

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AIDS Survival Project offers free services for people living with HIV, by people living with HIV. Peer counseling (by HIV+ volunteers), advocacy, HIV education, the best HIV treatment library in the South. Mon-Fri, 874-7926. For 24hr. recorded info 874-0384.

GAPHR - Support group for physicians and dentists. Contact Dr. Nix 634-0672.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Announcements

For the Love of Music. Needed: family who play violin, viola, cello, and string base to form ensemble. Non-pressure, non-performance. Ed 885-9025. (7.3)

TAKING POWER

A support group for women who are changing our world. Vent your frustrations and take pride in your accomplishments. Free. 636-7435. (7.1)

Harold's Barrel - an open healing circle/support group for persons with HIV, cancer or other life-threatening diagnoses, facilitated by the Rev. Ellie Harold of Unity Midtown Church. 2nd & 4th Tues. 7:30-9pm. Use rear night entrance at Academy of Medicine Bldg., 7th & West Peachtree. 874-1937. (7.1)

HELP!! ROOF!! ROOF!! and hot meals for HIV/AIDS persons. Wolf's Hollow, ULC a new non-profit organiz. working to provide caring housing & services for those with HIV/AIDS. Any donation amount greatly appreciated-tax deductible. c/o 803 Powdersprings Rd., Suite 2-110, Marietta, GA 30064 - Thanks!! (7.3)

12-Step Group for those seeking insight and practical tools to cope with emotional difficulties. Decatur meeting for gays & lesbians, 925-4825. (7.2)

The Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble is seeking new members, especially woodwinds and percussion. Audition not required. Call Frank Steele at 872-3135. (7.1)

GG medalist wants to play on Atlanta men's basketball team at GG IV. Are you out there? Jim 941-5247 eves, 436-5815 message. (7.3)

Autos

91 GEO Metro LSI Conv./Whit w/blk top & gry/blk int, low miles, x-tra CLEAN, EXC-COND, Air, air bag, am/fm cass, vcr

every 3,000 miles, loan val \$7,000, asking \$6,900 or B/O. Student from Atlanta relocated to Florida. 1-813-972-0959 (7.1)

Employment

PART TIME

Administrative Assistant. Part time. 10-15 hours/week. Start \$7. Good typing/communications skills. Advertising agency. PO Box 13162, Atlanta, 30324. (7.1)

Weekend Manager needed wknds manage AESM House, for men & women with HIV. Prefer non-profit social service bckgd, HIV re. Group home setting exp. or like exp. a plus. AIDS Education/Services for Minorities is an EOE, agency. Pls send resume to AESM, PO Box 87277, Atl., GA 30337. (7.3)

Outreach Workers needed late evenings & nights (20 hrs/wk) to pass out HIV/AIDS risk reduction materials and info. targeting patrons of Black gay night spots, will train. Persons should be comfortable with frank talk about HIV/AIDS & Sex. Pls send resume & ltr to AIDS Education/Services for Minorities, PO Box 87277, Atl., GA 30337. AESM is an EOE employer. (7.3)

Part time. Executive Admin. Asst. up to 20 hrs/week. Suitable for business or health administration student. Assist in preparing business plans and demographic studies. Also assist with member services of a large community group. Need car. Call 842-0023, 2-5pm. (6.52)

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Southern Voice is looking for imaginative photographers interested in working on a freelance basis for the South's leading gay and lesbian newspaper. Strong composition skills and the ability to meet deadlines are musts. Darkroom processing equipment not required. Send letter, resume and two photo samples (non-returnable) to Richard Shumate, editor; Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

Cleaning Service has part time work available 15-25 hrs a week daytime. \$5.25/hr. Must have a clean-cut appearance. Call 351-3931 between 4p.m.-7p.m. (7.1)

APPOINTMENT SETTERS:

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Resident Coordinator, live-in needed for evening and night time coverage. AESM House, for men & women with HIV. Prefer non-profit social service bckgd re. HIV. Group home setting exp. or like exp. a plus. AIDS Education/Services for Minorities is an EOE, agency. Pls send resume to AESM, PO Box 87277, Atl., GA 30337. (7.3)

HAIR DESIGNER NEEDED for Aveda Concept Salon. Booth rental or great commission in progressive atmosphere. Near Gwinnett Place Mall. Call Jeannie 279-7768. (7.1)

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Finance

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THE RECOVERY NETWORK

Do you want change but you're stuck in the past? Do you want to grow but need help? Get A Life! Support group forming. Call 873-1113. Find the real you! (7.1)

Providence Counseling Center, Inc. offers HIV+/AIDS case management, psychological and addiction counseling. Office hours Mon-Fri 8:30a.m.-6:30p.m. and Sat. Call 241-2799. (7.1)

MASSAGE

Instruction

Insurance

Legal

Merchandise

For Sale: Drafting table w/vinyl cover, parallel bar, lamp and stool. Priced to move! Call (404) 634-0502 after 6pm. (7.2)

Australian Body Works 8 mo. membership \$275. Zenith 19" TV \$75. Walnut deco dresser \$200. Stereo receiver \$75. CD player \$75. 237-5551. (7.1)

GE Refrigerator, 14.3 cu. ft. (apt. size) 2 yrs old, very good shape - \$225 or best offer. 876-8326. (7.1)

King Size Bed. Used less than 1 month. All bedding included. 1/2 price. \$900. Call 292-2791. (7.1)

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There aren't enough homes for them all...PREVENT A LITTER. SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET. The Humane Society of the United States, Washington, DC 20037.

Publications

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National Gay Pilot's Assoc., Newsletter, chapters' events, P.O. Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038. (703) 660-3852. Totally Discreet. (7.19)

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Lake Burton 3.64 acres - Total Privacy. Beautifully Lake Overlook. Possible owner financing. \$64,500. Call Shea Embry/Owner-Agent 378-9069. (7.3)

N'Lake 4 BR, 2 BA complt., mstr st, grdn tub, kitch w/sky lts., exer rm, l/p, fncd yd., sec. gate, pool w/deck. 325-0046/908-8529. (7.1)

SHEA EMBRY, RE/MAX METRO ATL. representing our community will donate 10% of her commission from each closing when this ad is mentioned to a charitable organization for AIDS research or support. Call today 321-3123.

Roommates

KENNESAW - Seeking responsible GWF (non-smoking) to share large house in sub-

MORE ON PAGE 42



CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

(404) 876-1819

TO PLACE AN AD:

In PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Southern Voice offices (M-F, 9-5pm) 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta.

By MAIL: Mail completed order form with payment to Southern Voice Classifieds, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.

By PHONE: Call in with completed order form to (404) 876-1819.

By FAX: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds (404) 876-2709.

AD POLICY: Southern Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Ryan Publications' standards. No refunds for early cancellation.

MISPRINTS: Southern Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

ADS MUST BE SUBMITTED by Tuesday, 5pm to appear in the following week's issue.

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

INDIVIDUAL

- AIDS Services
- Announcements
- Employment-Seeking
- Pets-Free or Lost & Found
- Roommates
- Volunteers

BUSINESS

- Autos
- Employment-Part Time
- Employment-Full Time
- Finance
- Health-Fitness
- Health-Massage
- Health-Personal Growth
- Insurance
- Legal
- Merchandise
- Pets (For Sale/Training)
- Publications
- Real Estate-Financing
- Real Estate-For Rent
- Real Estate-For Sale
- Services
- Travel

VOICE CONNECTION

- VOICEbox
- Written Response

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Category _____ # of Issues _____

Giant Headline (optional)-not to exceed 14 characters/spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Text _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST



INDIVIDUAL RATES

Up to 20 words for \$3.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words	\$3.00	
___ additional words x 50¢		
Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk.		
SUBTOTAL		x _____ # issues
TOTAL =		

BUSINESS RATES

Up to 20 words for \$12.00 per week. Additional words at \$1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words	\$12.00	
___ additional words x \$1.00		
Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk.		
SUBTOTAL		x _____ # issues
TOTAL =		

VOICE CONNECTION

Up to 20 words & VOICEbox **FREE**

___ additional words x 50¢	
Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk.	
SV forwarding box \$10.00/wk.	
Other P.O. Box \$5.00/wk.	
SUBTOTAL	x _____ # issues
TOTAL =	

CHECK ENCLOSED _____ CHARGE MY MC/VISA _____
_____ exp. _____

urbs. \$250 + 1/3 util. Deposit/references required. 427-2454. (7.3)

GWM, 31, seeks same to share 2 BR, 1 BA apt. in Lenox area. Clean, responsible, no smoke. \$375 incl. util. 325-8276. (7.3)

DECATUR—GF seeks quiet, professional roommate to share large home. Must love animals — I have 2 dogs and 2 cats! Own room and bath. W/D, deck, fireplace and more. No smoking. \$450 includes utilities. References & Deposit required. 870-1220. (7.1)

GRANT PARK — GM to share spacious 4 BR, 2 BA home w/3, washer/dryer, \$300/mo. incl. util. + \$100 dep. 622-0384. (7.1)

Needed by 3/1/94 — GWM seeks early twenties/thirties GM for Decatur 2 BR roommate. \$260 + 1/2 util. 636-3256. (7.2)

Little Five Points/Kirkwood GWM seeks same 3/1 house w/D microwave, Marta, cable, dog. \$200 + 1/2 util. Garage, fireplace. 378-8355. (7.2)

BUNK BUDDIES

Thanks, Atlanta for making Bunk Buddies your #1 call when finding that perfect roommate. 874-9097. (6.52)

Now in Atlanta! Bunk Buddies, Atlanta's premier roommate/relocation service, in and out of Atlanta. Call 874-9097 for details today. (6.52)

Services

TEAMWORK

Contact Derick Appleberry at (404) 288-6395 for excellent house cleaning and lawn services to Abide. (6.52)

FREE AD

Serving Georgia. Discreet services for Gay/Bi men. For ad form and information send SASE: CLARK, Box 121, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201. (6.52)

TAX OWL — 655 Highland Ave., Suite 7C. Expert income tax preparation. Member National Association of Tax Practitioners. Call for appointment. Roger 522-7668 or 396-6397 (7.1)

Travel

THE OLD MILL — Bat Cave, NC. B&B on banks of rushing mountain stream near Asheville. \$45 thru March. Call (704) 625-4256. (7.5)

Volunteers

AIDS Survival Project is a volunteer-driven agency for people living with HIV/AIDS, and we need YOU as a driver. Office/clerical, special events, peer counselors are special needs. No experience needed — just come ready to make a difference! Find out how to offer your time and talents by calling 874-7926.

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

Voice Connection

WOMEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

GWF 30's, attractive, professional, 5'4", blondish, blue-eyed, feminine Scorpio. Works out, participates in sports. Loves humor, music, travel, spontaneity & living life to its fullest! No bi's or smokers, instead feminine, active, mature & sexy professional. ☎ 1635

Attractive White lesbian, 40's. Seeking school teacher who is honest, sincere. Do you like camping, fishing? Nature lover? No drugs. ☎ 1644

Do you pack a zucchini? Radical academic dyke seeks low-maintenance, queer-acting libido babe, 20's. Light SM, mucho bondage. POB 23052, Atlanta 30322. (7.3)

GWF, 36, wants to meet others to go 2-stepping. Enthusiasm more important than experience. ☎ 1646

Marriage Minded? Handsome French GWM, 38, seeks GF for non-sexual marriage. You get French Citizenship, he gets the right to live here. Some fluency in French desirable. ☎ 1632

GWF, 30, 5'10", 130 lbs, fit & healthy. I'm looking for a playmate, best friend and partner. I enjoy life, the outdoors, traveling, sports, animals, movies, dining out, reading and people with a positive attitude. Call me, it'll be fun! ☎ 1591

GWF, very attractive, fun, seeks F 18-30, preferably petite, for friendship, fun, and more. ☎ 1598

Spring on the beach? GWF, seeking attractive fun-loving female, 40-55, for quality friendship. Active, intelligent, stable, adventurous, gentle please. ☎ 1602

Depth, integrity, intelligence, compassion, independence, sensitivity, humor, humor and more humor! GWF, 38, seeks same. Dog lovers encouraged to respond. ☎ 1604

GBF, 29, feminine, attractive, reliable, hard-working — theatre, walking, travel and housebroken seeks GBF feminine 30-35 for friendship and possible relationship. ☎ 1223

GWF, 41, married to a man, invites responses from all gay females in similar situation looking for quality friendship, mutual support, understanding and more. Any age, race and faith. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Don't hesitate — there's so much more we can do. Box 2109, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 or call ☎ 1220

Women are wonderful and friendship of any kind is hard to find. Would like to meet kind, smart, gentle women for lunch. ☎ 1219

GWF Professional seeks feminine companion, 35-45 who loves the arts, outdoors; honest, non-smoker; no butch; no bis. ☎ 1198

GWF, 37, int. opera, dining, animal lover, hugger, emotionally and financially stable are just a few of my features. If you have same features, I would like to talk to you. ☎ 1211

GWF, 31, cute, athletic, non-smoker, professional desires fun-loving relationship. Loves tennis, movies, the beach, cats, and sports. ☎ 1207

GBF, mid 30's. Attractive, professional, established, seeks same for dining, music, the arts, good laughter, outdoor fun, indoor fun. Friends, maybe more! No Bi's/Butch. ☎ 1195

GWF, 37, feminine, attractive, fun-loving, professional. Seeks same. Enjoys conversation, outdoors, tennis, beach, cuddling, adventure, fun, romance and more. No dykes, bi's drugs. 33+. ☎ 1192

NO EUPHEMISMS! Fat, 30-something writer nerd, half baby, half intellect wants to meet like-minded women. Political incorrectness will be encouraged! ☎ 1180

BiWF, 21, 5'7" writer, singer, creative spirit, individual — cigarettes, coffee, kaspel, Biafra, music, poetry. Sing While You May! ☎ 1182

GWF, young 40s, New Age attitude, enjoys intimate rainy days, movies, hiking, community involvement, laughing with friends and dancing, seeks GWF for fun, friendship & romance. ☎ 1175

BiWF

26, 5'4", 117#, blonde, nude dancer. Seeks attractive Bi-Females, 18-35 for Hot times. Bi females only. No men, heavies or couples!! Andrea, POB 2257, Forest Park, GA 30051. Must include photo, phone and S.A.S.E. for reply!!

Attractive GWF, 30, with a big heart and warm embrace, is ready to leap into your heart. Forever yours, E. ☎ 1157

Sexually dominant Aquarian lesbian seeks sexually submissive Pisces lesbian for possible commitment or special friendship. No alcohol abuse, drugs, bisexuals. ☎ 1162

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

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

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

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

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

GBF seeks same for conversation & friendship. ☎ 1029

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

GWM, 26, br/br, 170#, handsome swimmer's build type. Seeking discreet encounters with someone who needs their back scratched...If you'll scratch mine! ☎ 1650

Blake's Gospel Hour 2/6. You: tall, blond, Savannah, New England, water. Me: blond, seated, California, Heinenken. Let's talk some more. ☎ 1638

Hot NY Latino GM, 31, seeks GBM 25-40 for friendship plus. Non drinker preferred. ☎ 1641

GBM, HIV+, seeks totally masculine GBM male 25-40. Versatility a plus. Must be ready for whatever happens. No fats or fems. ☎ 1642

Surprise!!! Didn't expect me here. GWM, tall, dark, handsome, muscular, 32 yr. old Italian professional seeks healthy professional all-American jock. ☎ 1633

Asheville Teddy, 5'7 1/2", 137 lbs, dk hair, moustache looking for hibernation or springtime playmates. Hairy & cuddly. ☎ 1660

Wanted: muscular All-American type who is very oral & submissive for good-looking muscular, healthy safe & sane GWM. ☎ 1634

GWM, 5'8", 150, blond-brown hair, 24 yr. old seeks honest friend and one-on-one relationship. Age 30-45. M.C., PO Box 703, Dalton, GA 30720. (7.1)

GWM, 25, 6'1", 180 lbs. bottom seeks sexy top GWM for hot oral service — no age requirement — all answered. ☎ 1647

GWM couple, hot, handsome, muscular, endowed 5'10", 155, 6'2", 185 seek same in bad boy(s) for fun, safe, no-strings sex-captives. ☎ 1648

GWM, 24, 6 ft. 180 lbs needs GBM, 25-40, for hot french service. Me: bottom. You: hot top man. ☎ 1649

Is there a GWM in this city, 25-40, hairy, good body seeking love? I'm 39, 6'2, 200, smooth, UC. ☎ 1637

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Check each week's paper for ads which interest you. Choose ad(s) with the symbol ☎ and call 1-900-370-4099. The system will guide you to the recorded message of your choice. Listen to the spoken ad and then leave your response. Cost to you will be \$1.50 per minute charged to your phone bill.

LATINOS WANTED: Me; WM, 35, blond, moustache, 150, 5'8". You; moustache, not fat, masculine. For friendship, fun. ☎ 1643

Attention!!! Real Men 30-45, Tops seeking a fun loving Bottom 33 for a hot fun time. Fuzzy +. ☎ 1645

HIV+ ONLY

Handsome GWM seeks same for dating and possible relationship. I am a healthy 40, 6 ft., HIV+, 178 lbs., blonde, blue, many interests, Financially Secure. Take a chance and call. No games please. ☎ 1109

GWM, 40 plus — professional artists. Into Victorian houses, antiques, and old world charm. Looking for mature GBM with same interests for long term one on one. ☎ 1221

Do you want to sweat? How about a workout? Wanna wrestle? GWM, 33, seeks hot body for discreet fun. ☎ 1224

GWM 38, 5'10, 160#, HIV+, into swimming, philosophy, nature, politics. Seek similar 25-40 yo. Se habla Español. No fumar. ☎ 1623

I need it bad. Desperately seeking sex with muscular WM stud under 35 who isn't too picky. ☎ 1601

Watersports enthusiast seeking other GWM into sessions of giving and receiving golden showers. Let's get wet together! ☎ 1222

True country fag seeks other urbanized males. Come play in the dirt again. ☎ 1597

Horny, attractive, GWM, 35, 5'11", 175, br/br, mustache, seeks other masculine, versatile men or couples for fun, frolic, hot times, kissing and cuddling. ☎ 1596

GWM, 32, 5'8", 145, goodlooking, muscular, safe, wants to be manhandled by hunky man. Make me serve. Leave message ☎ 1594

Like me you're 30+, tall, fit, handsome, bright, passionate and versatile. You enjoy travel, stimulation and companionship. We deserve bliss. ☎ 1592

VGL, GWM 5'11", 170, sincere seeks same 25-40, prefer slender, smooth, clean shaven college type for friendship, safe/hot fun. ☎ 1590

GWM Professional would like to meet a gorgeous young (20's) gentleman to share "honeymoon" in Hawaii. ☎ 1630

Mature business owner seeks attractive, sincere, mature GWM early to mid-20's to spoil, possible relationship, no drugs, non-smoker. ☎ 1631

GWM Leather Daddy seeks leather boy. Attractive young man to share life & the leather experience. No drugs, non-smoker. ☎ 1629

Models, GWM, 18 to 25 y.o., nude to formal wear. I'll help develop your portfolio. Expense paid travel, no experience necessary. ☎ 1627

Master seeks attractive young GWM slave boy for light S&M, piercing?, B&D, personal services, must be a serious bottom. ☎ 1626

GWM mature professional seeks goodlooking young man for dining out, travel, shopping, relationship. Not into

drugs/smoking. ☎ 1625

Amateur photographer, WM, seeks built, exhibitionist BM for fun nude/semi-nude photo sessions. Discretion assured. No strings. ☎ 1204

GBM, 5'9", 148, educated, 34, handsome, healthy, humorous, non-smoker, seeking similar partner to share life's pleasures and pains. ☎ 1203

GWM, 30, 6'2", 180, blonde/blue, HIV+, attractive, Episcopalian, native Atlantan seeks quality GWM 25-35 for romantic relationship. ☎ 1202

Tired of being alone. Handsome, romantic, well-groomed BGM 30ish, 5'10" seeks BM 30-40 with varied interests to share quality time. ☎ 1201

Light-skinned GBM 34, with stocky build seeks GWM 25-40 masculine with stocky build for friendship/relationship. ☎ 1200

Good-looking, masculine GWM, 32, 6'2", 185 lbs, br/gr, bodybuilder, bottom, HIV+, healthy. ENJOYS movies, working out, quiet time and being in good company. ISO similar gdlkg, masculine, relationship-oriented top guy between ages 28-38. No heavy drinkers, drug users, bar flies. Serious replies only. ☎ 1199

Horny, hairy cowboy/bearcub, 34, 5'8", affectionate, intelligent, sexy, seeks hairy nonsmoking dominant cowboy/bear w/ brains, libido, facial hair. ☎ 1197

Masculine 30yo GWM, physician from Indianapolis, attractive, 6'0", 180#, HIV+ but asymptomatic, into sports, movies, travel looking for GBM also HIV+ and masculine with similar interests who might consider relocating. Doesn't matter if you're employed or not, just be sincere. Joe, Box 2105, 1189 Virginia Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (7.1)

GWM, 39, 5'7", 140, versatile leather playmate willing to try almost anything once as long as it's safe. Looking for morning/daytime action. ☎ 1209

Versatile GWM 39 seeks daytime f... buddy for all types of kinky hot sessions. Expand my limit. ☎ 1208

Curious BM, 29, 6', 175#, laid back, runner's build, seeks tall masculine aggressive WM, 25-35, for relationship. No fats or fems. Serious only. ☎ 1206

Versatile young working, slim preppie WM wanted by GWM as exclusive live-in companion with home duties. Must have car. ☎ 1205

Boyish GWM 30 still believes in fairytales and happy endings, seeks GAM prince. Must be masculine, honest and caring. ☎ 1216

GWM, 30, 5'10", 175#, brown/hazel, Auburn graduate student, seeks Zeusman-type buddy for rough weekends. Tobacco/drug free only. ☎ 1217

ATTRACTIVE WM 37 seeks other HIV+ WMs for cuddling & watching movies — most of all friendship. No bar types please. ☎ 1213

All work, not enough play. GWM couple, 28, 5'8, 145, bl, gr and 34, 6'0", 175, br, br, seek new friends for hot/safe fun. ☎ 1210

GWM, 28, smart, handsome, outgoing...loves travel, reading, Little Five, music, workouts, healthy cooking. ISO 23-35...dates, maybe more. ☎ 1218

Great-looking, muscular GWM, 6 ft. tall, 180 lbs., HIV-, college swimmer working in Atlanta soon. Looking for great-looking hot black males (21-40) for safe, hot fun. No relationships. You won't be disappointed. Responses w/pix get fast reply. AE, 1572 W. Gray, Box 107, Houston, TX 77019. (6.52)

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

GWM, 6'3", 190 lbs, 40's, a romantic who likes to receive and give affection to that special person who is 28-45, physically & mentally fit and loves life. ☎ 1194

Gay Asian man, 5'10", 145, sincere, clean-cut, hot, seeks WM/AM up to 30. Top, non-smk, trim, safe for relationship. ☎ 1193

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

6' top, 30's GWM, 170 lb. brunette, HIV+, seeks 6' blond bottom for friendship (classical music, movies at Screening Room...). HIV+ ONLY. ☎ 1156

Masculine WM, 33, gdlkg, hairy, private, seeks attractive, ultramasculine, private black man for very private, masculine activities. ☎ 1191

GWM, HIV+, very healthy. 5'10", 160, brown, blue, late forties. Successful, trim. Attractive, looking for someone to share life's exciting & unpredictable journey, non-smoker. ☎ 1190

Masculine GWM, 43, 5'9", 150, blond, in Atlanta monthly. Seeking well-endowed masculine party buddy, under 45, who likes to be orally serviced. No reciprocation necessary. PO Box 1867, Bonita Springs, FL 33959. (6.52)

GWM, 33, 6', 178#, Br/Br, above avg., seeks similar BiWM/GWM, 25-39, for discreet daytime encounters. I-75/285 area. Respond to Boxholder, PO Box 723192, Atlanta 31139. (6.52)

Masculine, intelligent, muscular, Italian, young looking GWM, 47, bl/br, 165, 5'7", leather bottom seeks masculine endowed HIV-, leather top. ☎ 1179

Into bodybuilding? Well-built 35yo GWM, 5'10 1/2", solid 190 lbs, seeks similar for friendship, workouts and safe/hot fun. ☎ 1184

'94 Black Accord, S/C plates, NationsBank Ansley. Tag on Piedmont. Saw again at K-Mart Lindbergh. Interested in talking? Call!! ☎ 1173

Unconventional — Nonconforming, GBM — Bewitchingly Attractive, seeks very masculine GWM or Hispanic top, relationship-minded for romantic and eventful times. ☎ 1178

GWM, 40's, youthful, fun, likes music, gardening, long mornings under heavy quilts, hiking & hot tubs. Seeks sincere, intelligent laughing men. ☎ 1169

Enemas/Water Play turn me on. 35yo attractive white male seeking hot others into same. ☎ 1183

Shy at first, 6'2" bld/blu GWM seeks romantic monogamous relationship with tall/shrt non-fal/fem GWM w/Blk/As/Lat 20-35. "I love strongly, steadfastly, & exclusively." Serious romantics only! ☎ 1181

PERSONALS

Italian/Creek/Latin 29-40 sought by A#1 handsome Southern GWM 35, 5'10", 170 - into weights, movies, romance! ☎ 1177

WM, 36, blond/blue, mustache, HIV-, 6'4", 230. Attractive professional seeks Mr. Right. Is it you? Will answer all. Call today! ☎ 1176

Kuddly Koala Bear, moustached, hairy chested. 40 something hoping to find 30 something companion and playmate. Discreet preferred. ☎ 1174

GWM, 32, 5'9", 170, Bi/Bl, looking for serious relationship. 5'9"+, 30+. Varied interest. Masc. & serious only pls. ☎ 1172

GWM, 42, 5'9", 160, Gray/Blue, ISO GWMs 35-45 for friendship, possible relationship - enjoys movies, dining in/out. ☎ 1171

VGL GWM 33, 5'8", 145 lbs, bl/br, smooth, masculine, work out, swimmer's body, prof., romantic, non-smoker, seeks same for dating, possible relationship. ☎ 1170

GWM 40 PLUS - into old houses and old world charm seeks GBM 40 plus - a man for all seasons - to share quiet times. ☎ 1160

BGM, 5'8", 160, 30 muscular trim professional seeks discreet BM 27-35, 5'8"-5'11", w/hard body for dating. Blue collar types preferred. ☎ 1166

Looking for some fun? Call ad #1012, especially responsive to ads 1093, 1011, 1070, 1017, 1087, and 1735. ☎ 1159

Tall, medium dark BM 29, slim, seeking to meet a dark skinned Bi or GM topmen who know what he wants. ☎ 1168

Are there any other young, slim, attractive, professional, athletic, masculine, mature, healthy HIV+ men in Atlanta besides me? ☎ 1167

Handsome, intelligent, humorous, Top WM, 30, 6'1", 210 seeks humorous BM with big, beautiful butt, smooth skin. No fats, fems. ☎ 1165

Top GWM, 35, 5'7", 135 lbs. Br/Br/beard seeks bottom GWM for monogamous relationship. No smokers/ barflies/one nighters. ☎ 1163

2 easy going to be this goodlooking, 5'10", 160, 30" Levi's for hot boys & men 30339, 30080, 30001. ☎ 1161

Recently seperated WM, 40, attractive, new in Conyers area, seeks GWM, French active, Greek passive, for evening fun and friendship. ☎ 1158

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BM seeks masculine BM for uninhibited times. ☎ 1006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GBM, 29, 6'1", 240 lbs, competitive body-builder, professional, masculine, discreet, seeking BM with similar characteristics and interests to spend time with. ☎ 1836

Looking for you! Me: Handsome, sexy, 5'8", 165 lbs, workout, professional, romantic, adventurous. You: sexy, my size or bigger, well-built, romantic, adventurous. Call to talk! Big arms, big heart preferred! ☎ 1828

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

GWM, 39, 5'7", 135 lbs., beard, versatile, daytime playmate for all types of action. Seeks 25-45 GWM into playing hard. ☎ 1829

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

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

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

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

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

GWM, 36, 5'11", lean, attractive, seeks similar GWM into movies, conversation, "Star Trek," safe sex and low-key lifestyle. ☎ 1826

TV/TS

Pretty TV, 41, single, size 11, 36A, seeks permanent position as maid or houseservant to dominant female. ☎ 1212

BiWM, mid 40's, 6'4", 200 lbs, professional, intelligent, seeks BiWM, well-endowed, fem, cross-dresser preferred. Send photos, no fats, druggies, smokers, HIV-. Box 2106, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (7.1)

BM, Top, discreet seeks TV/TS/G bottom for special friendship, discretion assured. Race unimportant. Hurry - Hungry ☎ 1164

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

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BISEXUAL

MBiWM, 47, submissive seeks dominant assmaster, G/F/C for daytime training session. French lessons exchanged, HIV-, safe play. POB 567421, Atlanta, GA 31156. (7.2)

Attractive, trim, white, professional couple seeking BiWF for safe, creative encounter of fun and fantasy. ☎ 1593

BiWCouple, 40+ professionals, 6'4" athletic, she 5'3" blonde, attractive, seeks same for mutual pleasure, send photos, no fats, smokers, druggies, HIV-. Box 2107, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. (7.1)

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

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

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

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

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

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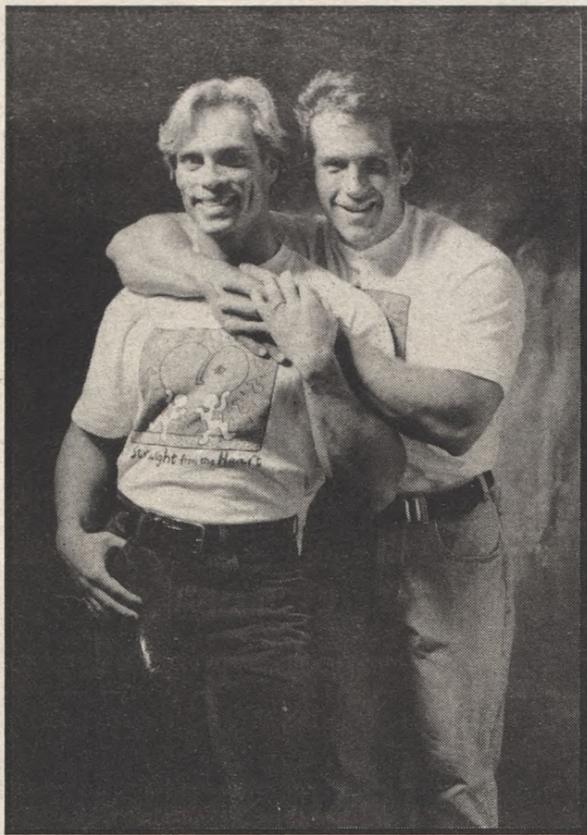
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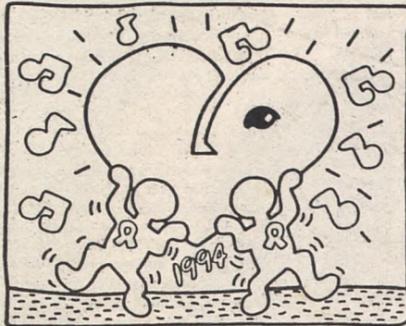
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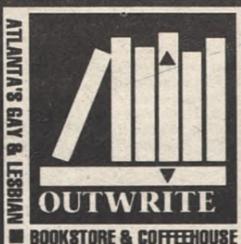
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