

S O U T H E R N

VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

JULY 28 - AUGUST 3 / 1994

National Black Arts Festival

JULY 29 - AUGUST 7, 1994

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Oh, Freedom!

South Africa's new constitution is the first in the world to offer equal rights to gay men and lesbians

by PHILIP K. CAMPBELL

South Africa's 180-degree turn from human rights pariah to human rights beacon is now complete with the adoption of an interim constitution considered by progressive politicians to be one of the most significant human rights documents drafted in the 20th century.

The South African Constitution, formally adopted by Parliament last December, became effective April 27—the same date as the historic All Race elections that saw Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) voted into office. It is also the first document in the world to include sexual orientation in its language on equal rights protection.

However, as one South African pointed out, the language protecting gays and lesbians is only one of several issues wrapped up in his country's struggle to transform itself.

"There are so many issues at present that I'm sure that one is minor to the general public," said Hayden Proud. Proud, the curator of Paintings and Sculpture for the National Gallery in Capetown, said his big fear was the constitutional language, and that the gay rights movement could be marginalized in the two-year window leading up to the drafting of the final constitution in 1996.

"There are many people in the opposition who do not believe that there are many [black] homo-

sexuals, it's just words on paper," said Bev Ditsie, a founding member of Gay and Lesbian Organizations of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) during a recent tour of the United States. "And it's new, it's only a few months old so people don't know about it. Even gay people still don't know they are protected under the law."

Ditsie's reservations about how much the new constitution will change the daily lives of gay men and lesbians in South Africa partially stem from her experiences as a lesbian in an intensely patriarchal tribal culture that places little value on her status as a woman.

"Lesbianism in black culture is more than just a taboo, it's unheard of," Ditsie said. "And this is a global view—that women are asexual. What can we do besides hold hands and kiss?"

Ditsie and fellow gay activist Simon Nkoli toured the United States shortly before Stonewall 25, lecturing on the difficulties encountered by gay and lesbian persons of color in South Africa. They both participated in a pre-Stonewall conference on gay people of color sponsored by the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). Ditsie and Nkoli both experienced the indignities and petty arrogance of Apartheid.

Nkoli, a veteran of the Soweto uprising in 1976, said one of the biggest barriers erected by Apartheid, the restrictions on race mingling, was now ended and that activists would be able to more easily communicate with each other. Opening the lines of communication will require some inter-community work given some long-standing complaints from black gay activists over the reluctance of the white dominated gay rights groups to address the issue of permits and other race-based restrictions during Apartheid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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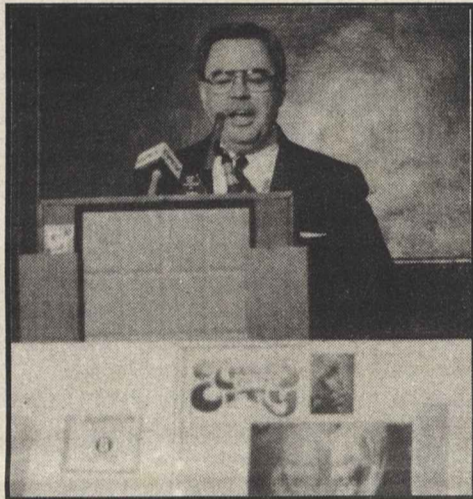
Anti-gay John Knox to face Millner in runoff

Radical Right does well in primaries; holds on to all seats

Atlanta—Round one of the 1994 election season is over, and the results are mixed—with a more definitive answer, particularly in the gubernatorial race, to come after the Aug. 9 runoff.

Gov. Zell Miller easily handled the competition in the Democratic primary, but five Republican candidates split the vote, forcing businessman Guy Millner into a runoff with former Waycross mayor and U.S. Senate candidate John Knox, who has been avidly courting the radical right vote.

Knox was the first last winter to attack



John Knox

Georgia Public Television's airing of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City," holding a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda complete with blowups of an Atlanta Journal-Constitution article about the series. Since then, Knox has made no secret of his anti-gay stands, telling the audience at a July 17 Republican candidate debate that tolerance was not the way to go on gay issues.

"I think in our society we ask people to change their behavior every day," he said. "We ask people not to drive drunk. We ask people not to beat their wives. We ask people not to abuse drugs. ... Maybe we as a society need to determine if we want to let the homosexual lifestyle become a part of our society, rather than being tolerant, which often means just keep your mouth shut until we advance our agenda and until it becomes ingrained in our culture."

But is Knox really the least acceptable of the two candidates? Probably not, says Larry Pellegrini, lobbyist for GAPAC.

"They're not equal, but they're close," said Pellegrini. "[Millner] has tried to make his position sound palatable, but they're about equally unacceptable."

Millner, the millionaire business man, owner of the temp agency Norrell, has no political track record, Pellegrini pointed out. "We don't know if we can believe him," he said, adding that the radical right is in much the same position. "He's pandered to the right wing, too, but they don't know if they can believe him either. He's tried to take a position that doesn't scare anybody on everything."

The prospect of Millner, who finished with 48% of the Republican vote to 28% for Knox, as Zell Miller's opponent gives Georgia's November election an eerily similar shine to Virginia's two years ago. In that race, Michael Farris, an avidly Christian conservative, ran for lieutenant governor while the more moderate-appearing George Allen ran for governor.

While media and voter attention focused on Farris, who had the backing of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition and eventually lost, Allen, who had more subtle ties with the far right, won the gubernatorial race.

In Georgia, anti-gay candidate Nancy Schaefer had no competition in the Republican primary, and will face incumbent Pierre Howard for lieutenant governor. Should Knox manage to win the August runoff, both Republican candidates for the state's two top offices would be from the radical right. But if Millner prevails, the comparisons to Virginia will begin.

"We shouldn't underestimate Zell Miller" should that happen, said Pellegrini. "He loves a scrappy fight."

August 9 will feature at least one other race of particular interest to the lesbian/gay community—for the Democratic challenger to Mitch Skandalakis, the Fulton County Commission Chair. In that contest, Joe Hudson managed 39% of the vote while former tax commissioner William Lee Roberts took 31%. Pellegrini said that GAPAC is likely to give the nod to Hudson at their meeting this week, but he added that both candidates are good on gay and lesbian issues.

"That's one of the bright points," he said. "Either of them against Skandalakis would be good."

There were few other bright points for progressive issues in the Georgia elections—the victories of Sen. Ron Slotin, and Reps. Nan Orrock, Doug Teper and Donzella James count as bright points, but elsewhere in Georgia, Pellegrini said that the far right appeared to have at least held their ground, and in all likelihood, gained seats in the state legislature.

"Mostly I see that the conservative candidates were successful in getting out their vote," he said. "They know how to play the game in a primary. They count on the general population to not be excited in a primary, and they get out their vote."

In a year in which nearly half of all the legislative seats will not be contested by the opposing party in November, that's bad news.

"They've held the seats they had," Pellegrini said, "even people like (Rep.) Mitchell Kaye and (Sen.) Pam Glanton, who are embarrassments to the state."

Pellegrini said that he has not completed an analysis of all the Georgia races, but the prognosis does not bode well for the next legislative session.

"It doesn't look good for progressives, except in the metro area," he said.

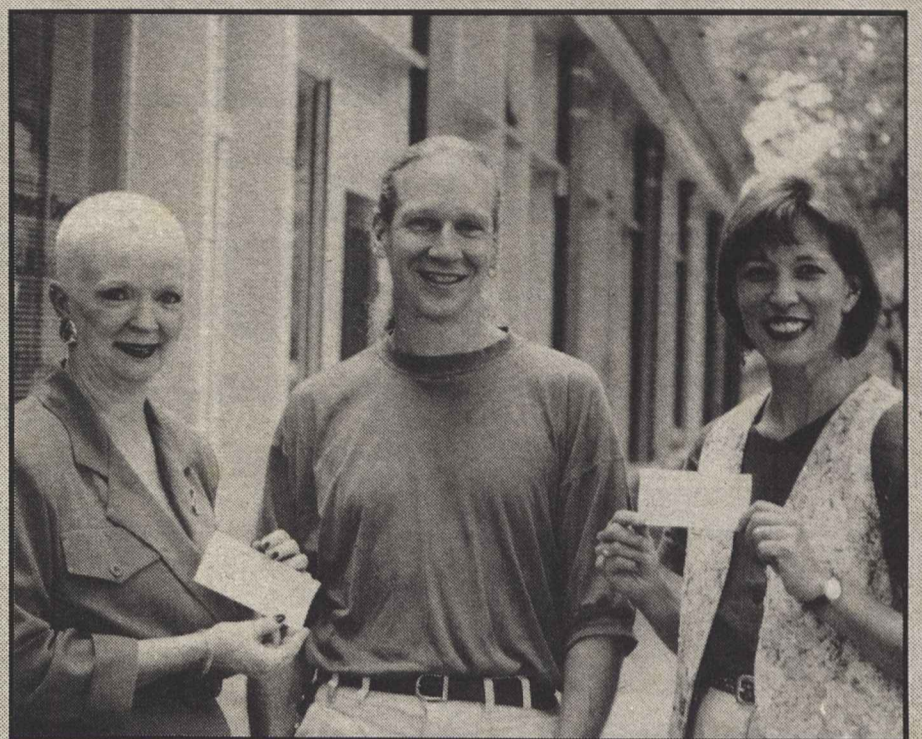
Outside the metro area, especially in the nearby suburbs, the conservative candidates begin to look even worse. Former U.S. District Attorney Bob Barr won a hotly contested race for the right to meet 7th District U.S. Rep. Buddy Darden in November, and Barr has become increasingly in debt to the far right for his support, including an appearance at a Christian Reconstructionist dinner earlier this year.

"Bob Barr has gotten to be pretty crazy," Pellegrini said. "He has daily gotten further to the right."

Also in the Cobb County area, the scene is set for November's showdown with Cobb Commissioner Gordon Wysong, coauthor with Rev. Nelson Price of the infamous anti-gay resolution. Wysong will face Democrat Bill Secrest in District 3. Secrest has pledged to vote to rescind the resolution.

"We need to put it behind us," he said. "I think if the Commission rescinded it and made an apology to anyone offended, it would go away."

KC WILDMOON



Pride Run raises \$6,000 for AIDS groups

Front Runners race coordinator Jim Struve presents checks totalling \$6000 to Betty Ciullo (left), special events coordinator for Project Open Hand, and Louise Hudak, development director Common Ground, the day activity program for people with AIDS/HIV of the Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network. The money, proceeds from the 1994 Pride Run, cospon-

sored by Front Runners and Southern Voice, was double the amount raised in the 1993 race. "We're very happy that we were able to expand our support to include two worthy community organizations," said Struve. "And we'd like to thank all the members of the community for supporting the race."

Columbus man jailed on sodomy charges

Columbus, GA—A Columbus cab driver has been sitting in jail here for over 100 days, charged with aggravated sodomy against a Ft. Benning soldier. James Cannon, 50, denies the charges against him stemming from an April 8 encounter with the soldier.

Cannon was denied bond at a preliminary hearing in early April, where he was bound over to the Grand Jury. Since that time, he has been given no indication as to when his case might come before that body.

Muskogee County District Attorney Lou Barrow told Southern Voice that he was unfamiliar with the case and could not comment.

"I'm not familiar with the facts of the case," he said. "I couldn't tell you anything."

The unnamed soldier told Columbus police that Cannon took him to several locations in the city in the afternoon on April 8, and that he later called Cannon again that evening for transportation. He said the cab driver took him to his apartment, and there forced him to engage in oral and anal sex.

"He asked me if there was any kind of adult bookstores in town, and I said 'Yes there was,'" Cannon said. "So he said do you mind

taking me over there."

Cannon complied with the soldier request, and then returned him to Ft. Benning. Later, the soldier called for Cannon again, and after a stop at a liquor store, the two went to Cannon's apartment. There, Cannon's story diverges from the soldier's. He said the two did have oral sex, but that denied that he coerced the soldier.

"He went downstairs [afterwards] to call his girlfriend, and I was still upstairs," Cannon said. "Anytime he could have left."

Cannon was arrested several hours later when the soldier called him to pick him up at a gas station. When the cab driver arrived, Columbus police surrounded him.

Since then, Cannon has been in Columbus Jail. He has not met with an attorney, although an investigator with the public defender's office spoke with him about the case on one occasion.

That investigator, Donald Snow, told Southern Voice that it was up to the District Attorney to take the case to the Grand Jury.

KC WILDMOON

AIDS/HIV patients in middle Georgia hit hard by flood

Rainbow Center needs help from community

Southern Voice and the Lambda Community Center are sponsoring a drive for donations for the flood ravaged Rainbow Center, middle Georgia's only HIV/AIDS service organization. 300 clients have been effected and need your help.

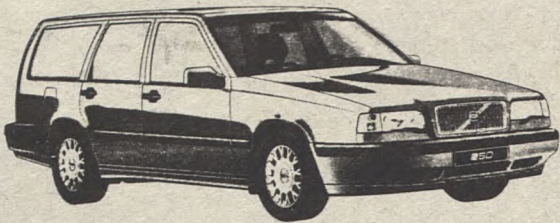
The center needs nonperishable food items, cleaning supplies, personal items (toothpaste,

soap, etc.), over-the-counter medications, rubbing alcohol, and office supplies.

Items are being collected at AID Atlanta (1438 W. Peachtree) from 8am to 9pm Monday-Friday until Monday, August 1. A truck will deliver the items to the Rainbow Center on August 2.

Financial donations may be sent to The Rainbow Center, 530 First St., Macon, GA 31201-2819. Please mark "SoVo/Lambda on your checks in order to determine how much money was raised by Southern Voice readers and Lambda supporters.

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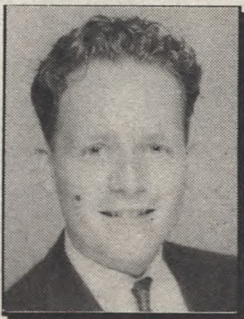
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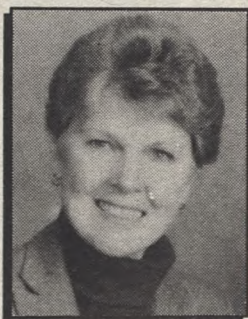
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Some 125 people packed Charlottesville's City Council chamber in support of that city's ordinances banning anti-gay discrimination in employment and city contracts.

Charlottesville, VA votes against discrimination

Charlottesville, VA—Charlottesville, the home of the University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson's hometown, has become the first Virginia municipality outside Washington, DC's suburbs to enact an anti-discrimination measure for its gay and lesbian citizens.

The five members of City Council voted unanimously on July 18 to pass the measure, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in city employment and city contracting awards.

"I believe that our gay and lesbian citizens are responsible citizens and deserve this protection in the law," said Council member Virginia Daugherty after a hearing on the matter on July 5. "I also hope we can build a community where people are not afraid to be themselves."

Supporters packed the council chambers during both hearings, with only two attorneys from the Rutherford Institute, a conservative legal foundation, speaking against the measure before the vote—and only against the contract award portion.

At the July 5 hearing, Charlottesville Republican Party Chair Thomas Hill unexpectedly spoke in favor of the measure.

The measure was proposed to council by the Charlottesville Campaign for Human Rights.

"A spirit of fear—fear of discrimination—is an overwhelming and oppressive spirit that exists in the lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual community of Charlottesville," said the Rev. Judy F. Gingerich of the Metropolitan Community Church. "We cannot feel safe if we know we are not protected by legislation that prohibits discrimination against us."

CCHR's coordinator, Dr. Mark Hertzog, gave a personal illustration of that fear at the July 5 hearing. "I believe all of you...have met the man I love and with whom I share my life," he said. "Yet I cannot recognize him publicly here because he is afraid he might lose his job."

Arlington and Alexandria are the only other two municipalities in Virginia to pass similar measures, both in the mid-1980s.

Rugby players in drag trash gay bar

Boca Raton, FL—Members of a rugby club trashed a gay bar here while wearing dresses last week, hurling insults at patrons of the bar and demanding free beer. Four were arrested after the drunken rampage, including a Broward County prosecutor.

Mark T. McHugh, 32, an assistant Broward County state attorney, could be suspended if he is prosecuted for disorderly conduct by the Palm Beach County state attorney's office.

Police said he was identified by two witnesses.

McHugh was among 10 men from the Boca Raton Rugby Club who entered the Paradise Club, a gay restaurant and bar, about 11:30 p.m. July 17, police said. They were wearing dresses, wigs and heels, apparently because they had been attending a theme golf tournament spoofing the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

Inside the gay club, the men paraded around the club singing insults at the patrons, ripped down plants and flower arrangements, tore down pictures and demanded beer, witnesses told police. One man began to strip on the dance floor and took off his clothes down to his underwear, witnesses said.

"My customers were getting up and running for the door as fast as they could," said bartender Steve Pace. "We were a

little scared. They play rugby. They're fairly big guys."

The men left, but four men, including McHugh, were arrested about 15 blocks from the club, in women's clothing.

The Boca Raton gay community reacted in outrage at the attack. The Broward County Log Cabin Club, a gay Republican group, sharply criticized area community leaders who have thus far remained silent.

"The Boca Rugby 'Gay-Nacht' cannot be laid to rest on the heads of Mark McHugh and friends alone but on the heads of religious leaders whose silence and intolerance nourish the seeds of bigotry and hate," said a statement from the group.

An editorial in the Boca Raton Herald (July 21) took the rugby players to task as well in a column subtitled "Drunks in dresses proved what gays have known for years: Bigotry lives."

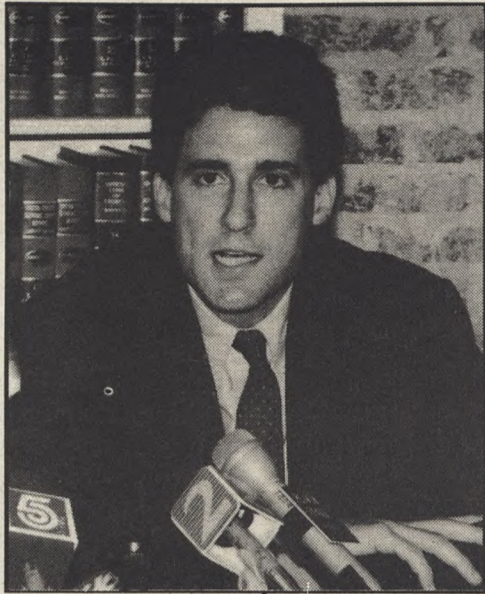
McHugh, who supervises 12 attorneys in the Broward County state attorney's felony crime unit, was suspended from his supervisory duties, said Chief Assistant State Attorney Ralph Ray.

McHugh will stay on the job until the Palm Beach state attorney decides whether to prosecute him, Ray said. McHugh declined to comment on the case July 19 except to say, "I really don't understand the nature of the charges."

AP and KC WILDMOON

Death And Threats Of Death In Nevada: A self-proclaimed white supremacist's quest for a gay man to beat up allegedly turned into murder in Reno, Nevada earlier this month. Just Suade Slotto, 21, is accused of stabbing William D. Metz to death after getting a ride from the victim. Slotto told police he slashed Metz at least 20 times with a switchblade after Metz allegedly made a pass at him. Also in Reno, a television station received a death threat aimed at a leading gay rights advocate. An anonymous caller to KRNV-TV said there would be another killing similar to the murder of Metz and identified Eddie Anderson, leader of an organization formed to combat a proposed anti-gay initiative in Nevada, as the intended victim.

Rubenstein Leaving ACLU: After four years of directing the American Civil Liberties Union's work fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation and HIV status, William B. Rubenstein has announced he is leaving his post as director of the national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and AIDS Project. Rubenstein will join his partner in Boston, where he will teach at Harvard and Yale Law Schools. "It's been an honor to work for the ACLU and to make the ACLU work better for the lesbian and gay community," Rubenstein said. "It is rewarding to leave knowing that I have helped the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, and the ACLU generally, and to be at the heart of the struggle for equality for gay Americans."



Evert Bennett

White Fasts For Understanding: Former fundamentalist ghostwriter Mel White, now dean of Dallas MCC's Cathedral of Hope, fasted for seven days at the headquarters of Dr. James Dobson's anti-gay Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "I am fasting and praying that Dr. Dobson and his colleagues will stop their current campaign against America's lesbians and gays just long enough to ask themselves, 'Are we telling the truth about homosexuals in America? Could our careless and unsupported claims against gay people actually lead to the suffering and death of innocent Americans?'" said White.

William Rubenstein, director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the ACLU for the past four years, has resigned and will teach law at Harvard and Yale.

College Security Guard Charges Sexual Harassment: A Nassau Community College (Mineola, NY) security guard is suing the college and her supervisor for \$10 million, saying she was the target of harassment and cruel pranks because she is a woman and a lesbian. Donna Lehr, who worked for the college for 10 years, said the last straw was scoring first place on a promotion exam last year and being denied the position. Her supervisor told her she complained too much. Those complaints had to do with pornographic pictures of male genitalia placed in her work mailbox and taped to her locker, anti-gay epithets scrawled on her patrol car, and the college's refusal to investigate those matters.

Manhunt For Serial Killer Turns Up Clues In Missouri: Detectives from Virginia were in Bridgeton, MO last week to examine a car they believe a suspected serial killer drove into a Wal-Mart parking lot more than a week earlier. The car had belonged to an antique dealer shot to death last month in a Richmond suburb. Gary Ray Bowles, a suspect in that killing, is also charged with murdering gay men in Savannah, Maryland and Florida, and is a suspect in another murder in Florida. "The car surfaced here, so chances are he surfaced here too," said Bridgeton Police Chief Warren Runge. "We don't know if he's still in the area. Bowles' mother lives in the Branson, MO area, and FBI officials say police there have been alerted."

Gubernatorial Candidate Backpedals On Gay Issue: Nevada Republican gubernatorial candidate Cheryl Lau, who strongly backed gay rights issues in a January speech to a gay GOP group, now says the audience misunderstood her. "I wish I was a great communicator, but I'm not," she said. At the speech before the Las Vegas Log Cabin Club, Lau said she supported legal recognition of domestic partnerships, recognition of gay and lesbian couples as families, and civil rights protections for gay men and lesbians. But in a letter to The Bugle, a gay magazine, Lau said she does not view gay relationships as families "in the traditional sense of the word," and that she opposes domestic partnership benefits for government employees. Last week, Lau continued softening her stance, telling an audience after a speech "I feel civil rights should be extended to everyone, but I don't feel they should carve out a special category [for gay men and lesbians]."

Rights And Wrongs: The Eugene, Oregon City Council has adopted a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations, with an emergency clause that put it into effect immediately... Also in Oregon, the state Supreme Court must now decide whether or not the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay initiative will appear on November's ballot after the Oregon Court of Appeals sent the case to the higher court without a ruling... Washington's chief elections officer heard testimony last week that opponents of anti-gay ballot measures in that state harassed and intimidated potential signers to the petitions—two such measures in Washington failed to garner enough signatures to go on the November ballot... Project Spotlight of Montgomery County (Dayton, OH) is gathering signatures of eligible voters who pledge not to vote for candidates promoting a "pro-homosexual agenda"... 35 people gathered outside the offices of Idaho Family Forum last week, in a rally organized by the Metropolitan Community Church to urge the radical right to end its persecution of gay men and lesbians.

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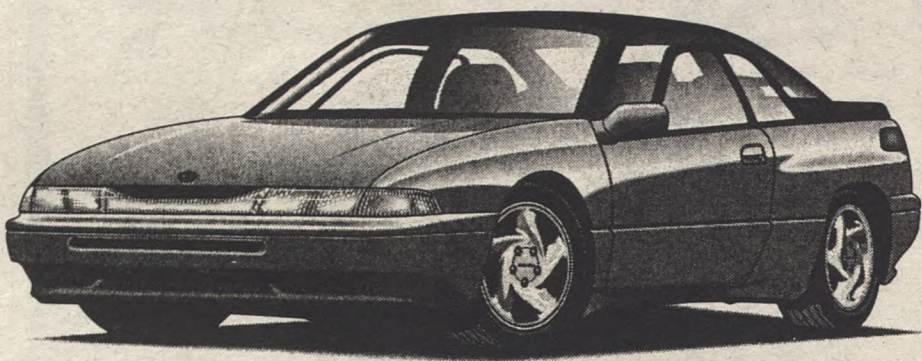
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Mayor's AIDS panel planning conference for World AIDS Day

*Some activists fear panel suffers
from lack of focus and power*

Atlanta—Mayor Bill Campbell's HIV/AIDS advisory panel is now meeting on a monthly basis and has a major project in the planning stages, but some AIDS activists are worried that the panel has too little direction to positively influence the city's AIDS policies.

The 19-member panel, appointed last April and under the direction of Ivory Kimbrough, the city's AIDS housing administrator, has begun planning an HIV/AIDS conference to be held in conjunction with World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

"The focus of the conference will be on business and religious groups," Kimbrough said. "It will be about education, basically—increasing awareness and empathy."

"It's modeled after the Business Response to AIDS project of the CDC," said Mark King, director of the AIDS Survival Project and a member of the panel. "It's of great interest to me that it includes the religious community."

"We're going to be able to do more in these two communities (business and religious) because the mayor will give credibility," said Dazon Dixon, another panel member and director of SisterLove. "Also what I think is great about it is that they were forward enough to plan it for World AIDS Day. There's never been a city-wide recognition of World AIDS Day before."

But AIDS/HIV activists and advocates hope for more out of this panel than a conference, and many fear that Campbell is not serious enough about AIDS in the city to give the group a conscientious focus.

"It doesn't seem to be clear to me what their function is supposed to be," said ACT UP's Nancy Greenwood. "Just as Mayor Jackson had a supposed liaison, as soon as a gay issue came up, that position had no power, if it ever did to begin with. The same may be true with this task force."

"With it, the mayor can pretend he has an AIDS agenda, and I don't think he does," she added.

Ava Diamond, a panel member and director of Project Open Hand, said that convening a group like this one is a difficult task, and takes some time to coordinate a coherent focus.

"Anytime you put together an advisory panel, the toughest thing is to figure out what the purpose is and what the deliverables are,"

she said. "We are really in a position there of figuring out how the whole city political process works—how to have influence with the mayor, and how to get things done."

For his part, Campbell said that the panel will serve to advise him on issues of concern to the HIV/AIDS community, and that he will be listening.

"I am very committed to seek counsel and advice from the AIDS and HIV-affected community," he said, "so as to increase awareness and sensitivity to effectively formulate the City of Atlanta's policies to address this horrendous epidemic."

But how will that translate into direct action?

"I think the effect is going to be relative," said Dixon. "It's given the community access to the city that we didn't have before. But in terms of its effect on programs and services, I don't really know. It may have a more indirect effect. It's a two-way support system. You have a group of people with the ear of the mayor. That's a plus. You'll get the trickle down."

The panel has had a effect on the city's process of releasing allocated HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) monies into the community. Earlier this year, when the process stalled, the panel demanded movement, and Campbell complied.

"At least at the city level they smoothed some of the process," Dixon said.

But Greenwood said she was concerned that it took pressure to get movement on that issue, as well as others that have passed through City Hall since Campbell took office.

"To me that makes it clear that the mayor's office has no intention of focusing on AIDS," she said.

Dixon disagreed with that assessment. While there are many areas in which the city has no jurisdiction, she said, "The mayor wants to be appropriate in ways they can be involved. And we can help improve those areas, and suggest areas that should be looked at."

As with the city's gay/lesbian task force, it may be too early to pass judgement on the value of the HIV/AIDS panel. The members of the panel certainly feel that way. Diamond pointed out the group has just broken into several subcommittees that will focus the panel's work more keenly.

"It's certainly my hope that we're going to be effective," she said, "or I wouldn't still be there."

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MARGARET LANGDELL

Some 600 people gathered in Northampton, Mass. for a candlelight vigil for a lesbian severely injured in an intentional hit and run.

"Lesbianville, USA" rocked by brutal bashing

By WILLIAM J. MANN

Northampton, MA—Northampton, dubbed "Lesbianville U.S.A." by the media in a giddy avalanche of publicity last year—has been rocked by a brutal lesbian bashing, leaving some in the community questioning whether the town's high profile is an asset or a liability.

Police are seeking information about the drivers of a car that twice deliberately struck and seriously injured a 32-year-old woman in the early morning hours of June 24. According to the victim, who is a lesbian, one of the four occupants of the car shouted "dyke" and the others laughed as the car backed up to run over her a second time.

The woman, who has requested anonymity, suffered several injuries requiring surgery at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, including a jaw broken in four places, the loss of several teeth, severe cuts requiring seven stitches and severe leg bruises.

According to police, the woman was walking on Strong Avenue after leaving the Bay State Hotel bar at 1:15 a.m. when she was struck by a white car, described as a new-model, two-door Ford Vista or Escort. The force of the impact threw the victim to the ground. Although injured, she was able to get to her knees, which allowed her to get a good look at the car's occupants, whom she described as two white women and two black or Hispanic men. According to the victim's statement to police, one of the occupants shouted "dyke" at her just before the car backed up and drove at her again, striking her head, breaking her jaw and shattering several teeth.

According to the report, the attackers laughed as they drove away from the scene and threatened to return. Police believe that the culprits came from out of town.

"This is the backlash that everyone was worried about," said Karen Bellavance Grace, who serves on the Leadership Council of the city's Community Policing Steering Committee. She is also the manager of Northampton's Pride and Joy, a lesbian and gay gift shop and an unofficial gathering place and clearing house for the community. "This is the negative side of all the publicity [Northampton received last year]."

The attack first stunned and then galvanized the quiet college town. Despite a record-breaking heat wave, more than six hundred

people—lesbians, gay men and others—gathered for a candlelight march down Main Street on the evening of July 8 to protest the bashing. What was intended to be a peaceful march down the sidewalks turned into a huge procession that required one lane of Main Street to be closed off.

Such a gathering is unprecedented in Western Massachusetts history except for Northampton's annual pride festival, participants said. While much of the route was orderly, with many laying flowers on the site where the woman was hit, others shouted angry slogans: "Someone's got to do some time, we won't stand for no hate crime." Others chanted: "Stonewall, Stonewall."

One woman who asked not to be named said the media spotlight that picked Northampton out as a "lesbian town" had actually served to lure gay bashers. "These guys see Northampton as a hunting ground now," she said. "It's like shining a light so all the homophobes out there know where to find us."

Following a segment on ABC's 20/20 in late 1992 that focused on Northampton as a haven for lesbians, a torrent of "lesbian paradise in the Berkshires" articles appeared in the media. The National Enquirer dubbed Northampton "Lesbianville U.S.A." Newsweek featured the town in its lesbian cover story, and several national gay magazines ran profiles of the burgeoning dyke community.

Officially, the assault is being categorized by police as a hit-and-run, although it could be upgraded to the status of hate crime under Massachusetts law when more information is available.

A collection is being taken among local businesses and individuals to raise funds for the victim's medical bills, and a local dentist has volunteered her services for any corrective work she needs done.

"We are looking to find out what her needs are," said Bellavance Grace. She adds that there is talk of creating a Victim Assistance Fund so that in the event of future assaults, money will be available to the victim.

"We will," she says, "do we what we need to do."

William J. Mann is publisher of *Metroline*, the gay and lesbian newsmagazine for Connecticut and Massachusetts.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Gays in America are winning the cultural war

by RICHARD D. MOHR

This period tumbling between the celebration of gay being at Stonewall 25 and the Fall elections is perhaps an apt time for general reflection on the state of gays in America. What are we doing? What is to become of us? Where are we headed?

I in particular have been prompted to such musing because a number of gay pundits—people I respect—have found my political writings unwarrantedly gloomy. The pundits are right to point out that some progress, gradual progress, is being made here and there in lots of different, if sometimes small ways.

But gays are naive if we adopt the American myth that the future is a single, unbent, unwavering vector of betterment. For we know, should know, from history that gay life can take hairpin turns for the worse, as occurred during the early 'thirties both under Right Wing populist ascendancy in Germany and under Left Wing populist ascendancy in the U.S. led by F.D.R. It is ironic—which is to say totally predictable—that gays should have had our worst political year since Stonewall during the very year that another populist Democrat took the White House—this time with massive organized gay help.

Yet, despite the military disaster and the referendum drives, change is in the air. Paradoxically, America has experienced some sort of ground shift on gay issues over the last couple of years. What is it? To sloganize: gays are winning the cultural wars, even as we are losing the political ones. The good news is that in the long run social practices, political power, and received opinions align themselves with broader cultural forms and values—the general body of ideas by which a civilization defines itself and whose maintenance constitutes a civilization's life.

Take, for example, the changing relation between the Bible and the institution of slavery. When slavery was a defining part of culture, certain passages of the Bible were interpreted as supporting the social practice; slavery didn't stop because people ceased interpreting the Bible as approving of it; rather when civilization gave up on slavery, people ceased using Bible passages to justify it. The

passages became cultural deadletters—addressee unknown. The Bible didn't change, the culture did. The bad news is that, in general, culture is a slowpoke.

Still, the clearest sign that gays are winning the cultural wars is the near total collapse in the mainstream of the taboo covering the discussion of gay issues. The New York Times now carries more gay news than does the Advocate. Everybody—except Bill Clinton—is talking about gay issues. The effect of this structural change in public life cannot be overestimated. Taboos encourage, indeed enforce, the aping of opinions from one person to the next, causing them to circulate independently of both critical assessment and authentic feeling. With the collapse of the taboo, straight people can for the first time really listen to gay lives, change their views, and in turn express publicly their own real feelings.

Also with the taboo's collapse, for the first time there will be a press toward the development of coherent, rational public policy on gay issues. Public policy, like God, abhors a vacuum. And reason, argument, and justice are all on the side of gays. In this cultural shift, the role of gay ideas and of arguments for gays' justice is not so much to change Average Joe's beliefs but to provide a seed crystal around which a new configuration of cultural forms and values may grow. Then Average Joe will change his mind.

The Right senses and fears the cultural shift underway. Just look where Christian Supremacists and other Rightists are investing their energies. They are not trying to "punish the sin" by restoring sodomy laws to states without them. Rather they want to get "the sinner" to shut up. They need to reestablish the taboo, seeing it as essential to their world. Thus, they focus on representations of gay life. They target museum exhibitions, public television, school curricula, gay books, and our presence in parades. Their referendum drives too are part of this pattern—attempts to sweep the whole "gay thing" off the political agenda, out of the arena of public discussion. But, however successful as politics, their strategies necessarily trip over themselves as a cul-

tural project. For the more they talk about things gay, the more the taboo collapses. The more they debate in public, the more they have to appeal to the tenets of reasoned discourse.

Our own political strategies can be improved, if we understand that political results follow cultural norms. We should view politics not narrowly as a means of garnering votes but broadly as a way of transforming culture. A placard that says "No on 2: Stop Discrimination" does no educating, changes no culture. Placards that say, "I'm gay" or "My son is gay" or "Straights for Gay Rights" do both.

In this broad view, much that we might not at first think of as political actually is so. Urvasi Vaid recently moaned that gay youth, though leading open lives, are completely apolitical. But these brave youth are key to culture's change on gay issues. Thanks to them, nearly everyone now knows someone for whom being gay is an issue. Their measure has made the gay movement achieve critical mass.

And some gay critics rued the fact that virtually all the mainstream media coverage of Stonewall 25—though extensive—was "soft news": personality profiles and entertainment coverage, nothing political, nothing about gay rights. But "soft news" changes culture. A newspaper feature in "Lifestyles" about a lesbian couple who run a real estate business is at least as culturally important as a gay parade pictured on page one. The parade is the extraordinary; the lesbians are America's neighbors. To acknowledge their everydayness is to change the everyday.

Will Rogers was probably right when he said, "People's minds are changed through observation, not through argument." Certainly arguing Bible passages with Fundamentalists has no point or prospect. But I think Will Rogers was wrong when he also claimed that "We do more talking progress than we do progressing." On gay issues at least, America is taking the talking cure.

Richard D. Mohr is the author of "A More Perfect Union. Why Straight America Must Stand Up for Gay Rights."

LETTERS

Be careful of the girl out there

Our community has had to acknowledge that the wake up call to HIV/AIDS was heard too late—only after thousands of gay men had succumbed. Now the straight world is just beginning to heed the message. And the rate of HIV among young adults, teens, is growing at epidemic proportions. The "them, not me" mentality is fully intact.

My great fear is that the very last group to heed the wake up call—after the gay men, the IV drug users, the adult straights and then the teens—will be lesbians.

Perhaps my own wake up call can bring this message a little closer to home. After beginning a relationship with a woman whom I met through a lesbian social group, and whom I had known only a month, she informed me that two years prior she had tested positive [for HIV], then negative six months later. This was four months into our relationship. Then she told me that her doctor was verging on certainty that her current symptoms were HIV related.

You can imagine how I felt. This woman

had been married to a promiscuous man. This woman told me she had been only with women for over two years, yet I discovered a box of condoms and a list of men and accompanying notes from the sex ads of Creative Loafing. To make a long story short, suddenly the HIV diagnosis came to naught and this "lesbian" is now in a new relationship with someone who knew her for only a week.

I want to tell you, my dear lesbian sisters, that it only takes one such woman, a "lesbian" who's been with a number of women in the last two years and possibly men, to allow this disease to get our community in its clutches. I, along with a good number of you out there, am in total denial about a lesbian's ability to lie about her sex life, especially when it comes to someone we're interested in. Many of us begin relationships with women we know little about, and that knowledge is based solely on what she elects to tell us. Even when we see the red flags, we truly do not want to admit the possibility of outright deceitfulness is out there. But in our community there are women who are experimenting—lesbians for a week.

HIV is on the horizon for us. Let us heed the wake up call NOW. Do you know the HIV status of the woman you're with? Have you seen the actual clinic report? All it takes is a

small blood sample and a two week wait. It's no longer a matter of "them, not me." The them is us.

Yeah, the girl is out there, BUT.

Pat

Last name withheld by request

STONEWALL RIOTS

BY ANDREA NATALIE



It's summertime and the Cotton is on vacation

Summer doldrums, vacation-motivated deadlines and a dearth of big topics leads me to write some bits and pieces this week. They may just seem like recycled old columns to you, but these are all subjects of special significance to me. And there always seem to be plenty of topics not worth 1,000 words, but worth a few.

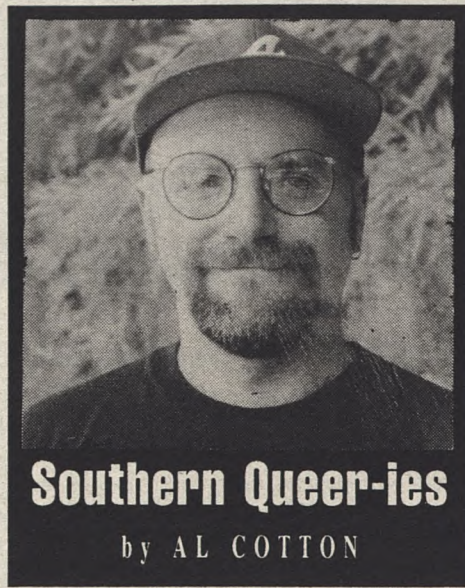
The New Girl in Town. As a recent critic of the not-so-dear but departed Journal Constitution columnist who shall remain forevermore nameless in this space, I feel obligated to note when I see good coming from his replacement. Rheta Grimsley Johnson now holds forth where the Good Ol' Homophobe once did, and what we've gotten from her is, blessedly, not more of the same.

Some of those who read her first column—where she talked about her family's decades old connections with Georgia—were left unsure if we'd gotten a Columnist Upgrade or not. One friend called it "the same old shit, just coming from someone who should be staking out her position as a woman of the New South, but isn't." Pretty abrupt judgment from one column, I thought.

Then came her second column, which was an interview with Doug Stevens (of Out Band fame). Now, simply the fact that G... (oops) was replaced by a woman at all would be enough to cause him to roll over in that recently-dug grave. But to see her do a sympathetic interview with a gay, HIV+ country/western singer in his old space must have had the Goddess watching out for pigs in heaven.

What distresses me is the feeling that Johnson's willingness to express Southern nostalgia so easily generates skepticism about her motives in the gay community, that there should be an inherent gay distrust of anyone who remembers things Southern with any fondness. True, many people with a nostalgic perspective are bigots—there's not a lot of Good Ol' Gay Boy tradition in the South. But by the same token, many a Southern gay man has turned a homemade ice-cream churn in 95 degree heat, or caught lightning bugs at dusk, or helped Grandmother kill a chicken for dinner (I didn't like to watch, but I always ate the chicken).

And many of us have supportive families and friends. Neither a Southern accent nor a Southern childhood certifies anyone as homophobic. And just as we want gay people to



Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

be judged by our actions as human beings, and not our status as gay people, we need to deal with straight people in the same way.

Old Sour G... earned his reputation through many years of spewing hatred and ignorance, and our distrust of his particular brand of Southern nostalgia was justified. But I hope I get the chance to read Ms. Grimsley Johnson for many years to come. It will take at least fifteen for the AJ/C to burn off all those bad karma points her predecessor bestowed upon them.

New Age Jury Duty: "Hi, My name is Neil. It's really special that you all have chosen me as your foreperson." Now, let's all hold hands, take three deep, cleansing breaths, and try to get in touch with our Inner Criminal, OK?

Rainbow-mobiles. Atlanta's status as Rainbow License Plate Capital of the World continues unchallenged. No other city in the country has our percentage of gay people concentrated in a small area who are not dependent on public transportation.

And while my joy at seeing us display our pride is great, I also get paranoid sometimes. A friend reported that he'd heard of rainbow-festooned cars being targeted for vandalism. Just anecdotal evidence, but logical, if you assume that those outside-the-Perimeter brickthrowers will eventually figure out what the Rainbow flag means, and then decide to express an opinion about our existence.

I have personally noticed an increase over

the last year in the number of people who shout unintelligible words at me as they drive by. Perhaps I shouldn't automatically assume they're yelling "faggot" at me." It could just as easily be "What kind of gay man are you? Wash your car, you slob."

My most memorable recent experience in this vein came on my birthday this year, when stopped at an intersection, I saw a 60 ish-year-old man in a beat-up, 1970-something Oldsmobile, who got real bold and stuck his tongue out at me. I started to get mad, then just laughed; I was still laughing five miles further down the road. Can you spell "lame"? I knew that you could.

And flying our colors has its irreplaceable moments. Ms. Grimsley Johnson talks about how she no longer has to stick her index finger up laconically and wave at every car she meets on the road, in the traditional, rural Southern automobile greeting, like she used to in Iuka, Mississippi. Well, my gay license plate on the front of my car causes the opposite. I get horns honked at me and fingers raised all the time—and I mean the good fingers.

I see it as one of those daily, ongoing acts of personal bravery that brings us one step closer to changing the world. And it sure does look pretty on the front of my black truck!

Homeowner's Update: Plumbers!! Termites!! What have I gotten myself into?

And finally, the Award for Best 180-Degree Turn in a Publication's Attitude Toward Queers goes Tina Brown's New Yorker. Ten years ago, printing David Leavitt's prim and proper short stories was considered a bold step forward for a magazine to take; this past June, its wedding cover consisted of a drawing of two grooms. That's a remarkable lesson in never giving up hope that change will come.

But it's a very heterosexual story that they told that had me in hysterics. It comes from a Laotian soccer game, where halftime entertainment consisted of a person in a penis head-dress at one goal, and a person in a vulva head-dress at the other. The participants could not see where they were going, but simply by walking forward and using the cheers and whistles of the crowd, consummation occurred at midfield in less than the halftime's 15 allotted minutes.

Hmmm... Does Billy Payne still need a theme for Opening Ceremonies? 1,000 walking vulvas in hoop skirts...

LETTERS

Out on ice

The Gay Games ice skating medalists standing on a podium who appeared on the cover of Southern Voice on June 30 were the winners in ice dancing, level 3, not same-sex pairs as was stated in the caption. And there is a story behind each couple.

The silver medalists, Trevor Cruse and James Craik of Team Toronto, were boyhood friends who last skated together when they were ever so much smaller, in an ice show as Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

One of the two gold medalists on the podium, Charles Stenk, was not even registered as an athlete. He hadn't brought his skates (so what did he compete in? More on that later). He was only there to coach a pair of women ice dancers representing Team Albany.

Stephane Vauchon's (of Team Edmonton) partner was supposed to have been Benoit Venne. But Venne had gotten sick at the last moment and was unable to compete. Shortly before their scheduled practice, Vauchon had an announcement made over the loudspeaker asking if anyone in the audience knew the two set dances which were to make up the competition at that level. Stenk, who teaches ice dancing for a living at his home rink in Lexington, Mass, stepped forward. A pair of figure skates

(which are quite different than ice dance skates) were borrowed, and he and Vauchon promptly began their practice, with Vauchon taking the "boy's" part because he was taller. They danced like they had been dancing together for years. Then there was the matter of finding costumes. The metallic tunic which Vauchon can be seen wearing was actually the dress of one of the two women Stenk had coached, with Stenk himself in the other dress. They thus (literally) waltzed off with the gold medal, Stenk doing it backwards and in borrowed figure skates. Quite a story to tell his girlfriend. Yes, Charles Stenk is straight.

My favorite skater (as a volunteer both days I got to see all 100 skaters) was John Lincoln, gold medalist, Level 1B. Team Atlanta has much to be proud of in him. Other skaters jumped higher and spun faster, but no one was more lyrical on ice and no one showed more joy in his skating.

Marianne G. C. Seggerman

And justice for all

Like millions of Americans I celebrated this July 4th at a cookout with friends. After eating everyone was watching television and

talking when someone started telling a joke. One of the first words in the joke was "nigger." I was sitting next to the guy who said it. I reached out and touched him to get his attention, and asked "please don't." Somewhat shocked, he stopped.

As we sat there on the day we were celebrating the 218th anniversary of our country, I tried to understand why is it that we in the gay community, a minority ourselves subject to discrimination and cruel jokes, seem to perpetuate bigotry and hate against other minorities. Is it the human need to always feel that there is a group of people below you? As we struggle for our place in society and our rights as members of this country, have we accomplished anything if it means we move ahead by pushing someone else down?

Let us not forget what this country stands for, "liberty and justice for all"—not just straight, white males. Also let us not forget all those men and women who fought and those who died to protect and serve this country, the black, the white, the gay, the Hispanic, the Asian, the Jewish, the Muslim, "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Randall Veal
Atlanta



GLAAD News

by CARL LANGE

Ob-Knox-ious Politics

While GLAAD cannot endorse candidates or lobby, we can comment on the defamation that occurs in the public arena. And there has been plenty of it in this year's Georgia primaries. Most notorious have been the comments of Republican governor candidate John Knox. In his television commercial he comments on "Family Values" by stating "we don't need a gay curriculum in our schools." (As if the two had something to do with each other.) He has publicly stated that he would support a state-wide resolution like the one in Cobb County and compared homosexuals to alcoholics and drug users. It is clear that Knox and other political candidates believe that telling lies about gays and lesbians will win them votes. They also believe that not many people will care. Prove them wrong. Their statements must not be left unchallenged! Write Letters to the Editor, Atlanta Constitution, PO Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30302; fax 404-526-5686 or write your local publications.

Peace, Love and . . . Homophobia?

International musician Shabba Ranks has been included amongst the planned lineup of singers for the 1994 Woodstock Reunion Concert. In December of 1992, Ranks appeared on a teen television show "The Word" and declared that lesbians and gays "forfeit the word of God" and "deserved to be crucified." He also agreed that it would be "absolutely right" to shoot gay men.

After much protest, Ranks finally apologized for his homophobic crusade and pledged to make a public service announcement condemning anti-gay violence. However, he has reneged on that promise. Reportedly, Ranks continues to preach the gospel of hate.

Given what Woodstock represents, Ranks is an exceedingly poor choice of performer. Share your thoughts with Michael Lang, Woodstock Ventures, 4 Churchland Road, Saugerties, NY 12477.

Gay/Lesbian/Bi Teens

Alyson Publications' Gay and Lesbian Letter-Exchange Program offers a confidential way for gay, lesbian and bisexual teens to correspond with each other. This service has provided invaluable support to thousands of teens and for many "this service literally saved my life."

For information about joining the program, write to: Letter Exchange, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston MA 02118. Participants must be 21 years old or YOUNGER.

A crucial new book for gay teenagers is available free to libraries through a special offer by the publisher. "Two Teenagers in Twenty," is a new edition of "One Teenager in Ten," originally issued by Alyson Publications in 1983. The highly praised collection of essays by gay and lesbian youth reflects the realities of being young and gay in the 1990s. Requests must be made on library letterhead by July 30 and are limited to one book per library. Write: Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston MA 02118.

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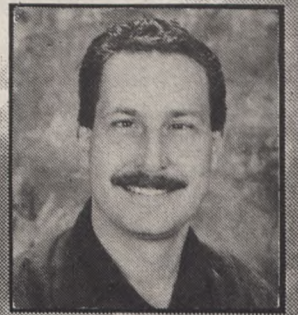
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AIDS

BRIEFS

by Bruce Mirken



Controversy Over Expanded Access: A few years ago AIDS activists fought like hell for "expanded access" or "parallel track" programs—a mechanism for giving people with AIDS access to drugs that look promising but haven't quite finished making their way through the licensing process. They also battled for "accelerated approval," allowing the FDA to give interim approval to drugs for life-threatening conditions on the basis of less-than-ironclad data—approval that can be withdrawn if further studies are disappointing. The logic is hard to argue with: That people facing death should have the option of trying medicines that might help, even if those medicines aren't one hundred percent proven.

Now the Treatment Action Group (TAG), an outfit started about three years ago by Mark Harrington and others who had been core members of the ACT UP/New York Treatment and Data Committee, has alarmed their fellow activists by asking the FDA not to invite Hoffmann-LaRoche to apply for accelerated approval and expanded access for their protease inhibitor, Ro 31-8959 ("Saquinavir"). The first in a new generation of anti-HIV drugs, Ro 31-8959 has looked fairly promising in the studies done so far.

TAG argues that the studies done thus far are inadequate and that unless a long-term controlled trial is done (in which thousands of patients would get a placebo rather than the real drug), we'll never have enough information to know how well Ro 31-8959 really works. That, they fear, could set a dangerous precedent as other companies' protease inhibitors start moving through the approval process.

Although reaction is just starting to come in, it looks as though many other activists are furious at TAG. Although they acknowledge the need for better information on new drugs (nobody was pleased with the muddled data used to approve d4T), they don't believe that denying a promising treatment to people with few other options is the way to do it. This is going to be a critical debate, with many thousands of PWAs' access to new treatments hanging in the balance.

Treatments for PML: Of all the opportunistic diseases that a person with AIDS can get, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) may be the scariest. This relatively rare viral brain infection can cause rapid deterioration of brain function, and death often comes within weeks or months. It doesn't get much more horrible than this. There are no FDA-approved treatments, and doctors will often say there is nothing that can be done.

In fact, there are experimental treatments that have shown some promise, some of which have been described in the medical literature, though formal trials generally have not been done. The most complete source of PML treatment information is a book called "Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML): Case Studies and Potential Treatments," privately published by its authors, Peter and Lisa Brosnan. The Brosnans are lay people who began researching PML when Lisa's brother was diagnosed with the disease in 1988. The brother died in just a month, but the Brosnans continued their work. To order a copy, write to Peter Brosnan at 1709 N. Fuller Ave. #25, Los Angeles, CA 90046. The price for doctors and institutions is \$30, for people with AIDS \$20. In cases of financial hardship he will supply a copy free.

Needle Exchange Marches On: Despite the failure of the Clinton administration to fulfill the President's campaign promise to back needle exchange programs, which stem HIV infection among drug injectors, needle exchanges continue to spread. Newsworks, the newsletter of Point Defiance AIDS Projects in Tacoma, Washington, reports that new programs have sprouted within the last year in Minneapolis, Dallas and Milwaukee.

Meanwhile, California's Alameda County (including the cities of Oakland and Berkeley) continues to arrest or cite needle exchange activists for violating the state's drug paraphernalia law, though every case that has so far come to trial has ended in acquittal.

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STOSH OSTROW, M.D.
General Practice

Bias against women in drug trials is barrier to AIDS cure

Arlington, Va.—Government regulators allow scientists to discriminate against women in trials of promising AIDS drugs, even demanding they be sterilized if they want to participate, a lawyer asserted July 19.

The Food and Drug Administration neither requires scientists to test drugs for safety in women nor stops them from blocking women's access to experimental drugs because of liability fears, said Theresa McGovern of the HIV Law Project.

In one trial, the FDA—fearing birth defects—demanded women get sterilized to participate. Another said women could only enroll if they got intrauterine devices, or IUDs, to prevent pregnancy—blocking women with advanced cervical cancer who could use other contraception but physically couldn't get an IUD.

An estimated 80,000 U.S. women of child-bearing age have HIV. Scientists fear experimental AIDS drugs could cause birth defects if the women became pregnant, so those that do allow research on women demand they take contraception.

That in itself isn't bad, McGovern told the National AIDS Task Force on Drug Development.

But some researchers use reproductive fears to keep women from drugs that could prolong their lives, and even make burdensome contraception demands of lesbians. Men aren't blocked from drugs that could affect their reproductive system, she added.

"It seems to be a big mess and women are paying the price," said McGovern, who researched the issue as part of the task force's look at barriers to an AIDS cure.

FDA is addressing the issue, said Commissioner David Kessler. It issued new guidelines last year encouraging companies to include women in early drug trials.

McGovern, who two years ago spurred the Centers for Disease Control to include more women's diseases in its definition of AIDS, said that's not enough. FDA must enforce its guidelines, forcing doctors to comply, she said.

"You raise a number of good points," conceded Kessler.

The task force, a coalition of top U.S. officials, AIDS researchers and activists, also agreed to uncover what drugs scientists in the government, universities and industry are developing. Now, such research is typically kept secret until scientists are ready to report results.

LAURAN NEERGAARD

Elizabeth Taylor cancels AIDS benefit

Los Angeles—Elizabeth Taylor canceled an AIDS foundation benefit dinner because the full price of some tickets would not go directly to the charity.

The benefit was to be held in Dodger Stadium July 16 after the "Encore: The Three Tenors" concert featuring opera stars Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation had arranged to obtain 1,000 tickets to the concert to be sold along with tickets to the dinner as a package, said Joseph Panetta, a spokesman for Miss Taylor.

"I had assumed that all amounts generously pledged for the dinner would go to ETAF. I did not realize that the \$1,000 face value of

each concert ticket would not reach ETAF," Taylor said in a statement.

She also noted that the "availability of other tickets to other post-concert dinners impeded the sale of tickets to my benefit. For these reasons, it was mutually agreed that a cancellation would be in the best interests of all concerned."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Americans acknowledge debt to French for HIV test

Washington, DC—Hoping to end a years-long dispute over development of an AIDS test, American health officials agreed July 11 to give more of the patent royalties to France and acknowledged that a French virus was used to invent the test.

Under terms that revise a 1987 agreement, the French Pasteur Institute will receive millions of dollars more from the jointly held patent on an HIV test that is used worldwide.

The agreement acknowledged officially, for the first time, that the laboratory of American scientist Robert Gallo developed the AIDS test

using a virus that had been isolated by a team headed by Luc Montagnier at the Pasteur Institute.

"The new formula is intended to remedy an imbalance that has given the U.S. approximately \$20 million and Institut Pasteur approximately \$14 million in royalties," Dr. Harold Varmus, head of NIH, said at a news conference.

Gallo, who attended the foundation meeting and agreed to the official settlement, left before the news conference was held.

PAUL RECER

School board bans Ryan White autobiography

Rensselaer, Ind.—Scott Potts didn't think it was appropriate for sixth graders to read about safe sex and said the autobiography by AIDS crusader Ryan White shouldn't be added to their curriculum.

The Rensselaer School Board agreed with Potts and voted 7-0 to ban "Ryan White: My Own Story" from the curriculum July 19.

White, of Kokomo, died of AIDS complications in April 1990 when he was 18 years old. He attracted national attention during his battle to attend public schools during the mid-1980s and became a leading spokesman in

AIDS awareness.

Potts led the fight to have the school board reconsider its May decision to approve the book. The state Department of Education provides White's book in its resource materials.

Potts said he was opposed to the book's contention that using a condom is safe sex. He believes only abstinence is safe.

None of the board members could be reached to comment on the vote.

The book was recommended by the HIV-AIDS Curriculum Advisory Committee for Rensselaer schools.

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AZT and acyclovir combination prolongs lives, study shows

Baltimore, MD—A drug used to treat fever blisters and related herpes simplex virus infections can significantly prolong the lives of HIV-infected patients already taking the drug AZT, according to a new study.

Test subjects already taking AZT who also took acyclovir after developing AIDS had their risk of dying decreased by 44 percent, according to a study published in the July 15 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

"It's not a cure but it's a significant advance," said Dr. Neil M.H. Graham, associate professor of epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, an author of the paper.

The study confirmed earlier research that the combination of antiviral drugs can work together to defeat HIV.

Researchers at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Northwestern University, the University of Pittsburgh and the Albany (N.Y.) Medical Center found that the longer acyclovir was used without interruption, the more strongly it helped to increase survival.

However, acyclovir did not delay the onset of AIDS in men who were HIV-positive.

"Not only does the study suggest that acyclovir prolongs survival in AIDS patients, but the dose needed appears to be no more than that required to suppress a herpes simplex infection," said Dr. Daniel Stein, director of the clinical pharmacology studies unit at Albany Medical Center and senior author of the paper.

The study included 786 HIV-positive men who began taking AZT before being diagnosed with AIDS. Of those, 488 subse-

quently took the anti-herpes drug acyclovir either to treat herpes infections or to treat AIDS or HIV, and 242 used acyclovir only to treat AIDS or HIV infection.

For men who started acyclovir one year after developing AIDS, 93.9 percent survived for two years, compared with 86.2 percent who never used acyclovir.

For sicker patients, the results were more dramatic. Men who started acyclovir only after their CD4 cells, a type of white blood cell, fell below 50 cells per milliliter, meaning that their immune systems were severely impaired, had two-year survival rates of 69.8 percent compared with 31.4 percent among those who never used the drug.

"This observation provides important information on the potential benefit of using acyclovir and zidovudine (AZT) in combi-

nation in treating AIDS patients," said Dr. Lewis Schragar, medical officer in the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which funded the study.

"It will be important to study this further in controlled clinical trials," he said.

The study duplicates findings of European and Australian researchers made about five or six years ago.

"We were kind of skeptical at the start, we were unsure we would find anything," Graham said.

Researchers believe that the herpes virus increases the replication of HIV.

"We think acyclovir suppresses the herpes and doesn't stimulate the HIV to replicate faster," Graham said.

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Cammermeyer says she will adhere reluctantly to "don't ask, don't tell"

Camp Murray, WA—Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who returned to her post two years after she was discharged for being a lesbian, says she will adhere reluctantly to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Cammermeyer, 52, said her first weekend back as chief of nursing services for the Washington National Guard's 164th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital went smoothly. Cammermeyer said her colleagues weren't uneasy or awkward.

In fact, she was greeted with cheers and smiles from all ranks of command, she said at a news conference July 10. "Over the last few days, I have experienced a tremendous openness and willingness for me to return to work."

The 26-year military veteran, who received the Bronze Star for service in the Vietnam War, was asked by Guard commander Maj. Gen. Greg Barlow to report July 9, two days after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Justice Department's latest effort to block her reinstatement.

"I am very relieved with the judge's decision and I am amazed how fast the government moved on this issue," she said. "I feel vindicated, and now it's time to get back to the business at hand and respect the law as it exists."

But Cammermeyer said she will be uncomfortable working under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, to which she is outspokenly

opposed. The military's previous policy toward gay men and lesbians generally amounted to an outright ban.

"I'm hardly able to play that role," she said. "I'm glad the uncertainty is over and now I'm trying to catch up on two years, trying to figure out where I might fit in."

The news conference was held in the brilliant sunlight on the front lawn of Camp Murray, the guard's headquarters south of Tacoma. With television cameras and photographers trained on Cammermeyer, suddenly the sprinkler system came on, cooling the colonel and reporters around her with a fine mist.

"Maybe it's a hidden message," Cammermeyer joked.

Cammermeyer thanked the media for the coverage of her case, which she said lent to the cause of gays and lesbians in the military.

"Because of the media's involvement I was forced to continue to speak on this—it didn't end two years ago," she said. "How it was dealt with in the media made it an issue of social consciousness, not just a military issue."

"Now I have some closure, and hopefully others won't have to go through the same discomfort I did," she said.

Cammermeyer's job with the Guard takes two days a month plus two weeks of training a year, and pays roughly \$12,000 a year. She has a full-time nursing job at the Veteran's



GARY STEWART

Administration Hospital at American Lake, just north of Camp Murray.

The order for reinstatement was issued June 1 by U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Zilly, who said her discharge was based on prejudice and violated Cammermeyer's constitutional rights. The federal appellate court rejected the government's move to stay the order.

Cammermeyer was chief nurse for the Washington National Guard from 1986 until 1992. She was discharged after disclosing her sexual orientation to an investigator while being interviewed for a high-level security clearance.

KATHRYN CRAWFORD

House votes down domestic partnership for D.C.

Washington, DC—The U.S. House of Representatives has again scuttled the District of Columbia's 1992 Health Care Benefits Expansion Act, which would allow unmarried partners of city employees to be eligible for health care benefits.

For the third consecutive year, anti-gay congressmen successfully added an amendment barring the district from using any money to implement the domestic partnership program. The District is allowed to set its own budget, but that budget must be approved by Congress under federal law.

This year the lead role in combatting the Health Care act was Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) who introduced the amendment on July 13.

Barton's amendment passed 251-176.

Openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) led a spirited challenge to the contention that domestic partnership undermined marriage.

"I do not understand for the life of me how the fact that I will go home tonight and have dinner with Herb (Moses, Frank's partner) undermines anybody else's family," Frank said on the floor of the House during debate.

Frank repeatedly asked Barton and his supporters to explain how domestic partnerships undermine the family, with little answer except Rep. Bob Dornan's (R-CA) explanation that the family is "the building block of civilization."

"Domestic partnership does not cause anyone to leave their family, and does not redefine anyone's concept of family," Frank said after the vote. "It doesn't and they know it"

The Senate still must take up the DC Appropriations Act. When it does, Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) is expected to add an amendment similar to Barton's on the Senate side. Additionally, the Washington Blade reported that Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) may offer an amendment concerning gay adoptions.

KC WILDMOON

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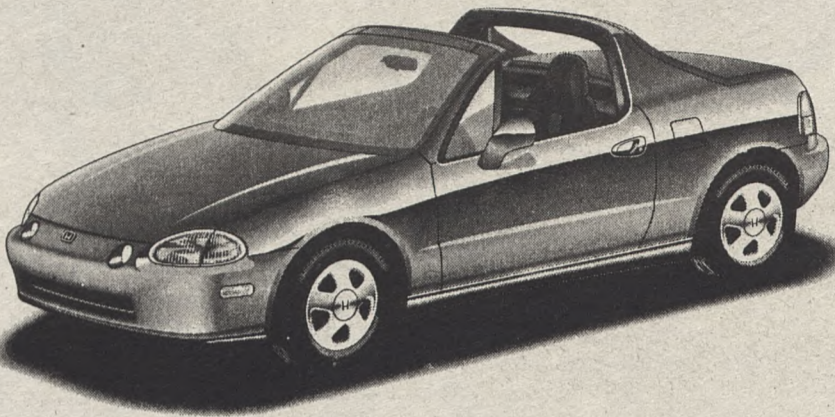
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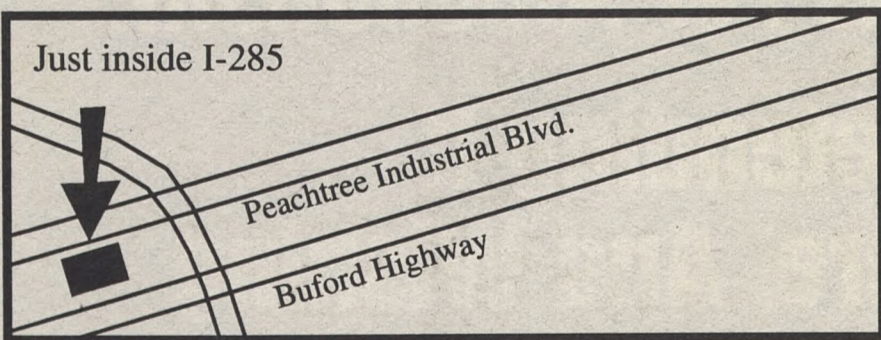
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Continued from page 1

Nkoli and other black activists formed "The Saturday Group" in reaction to the relative timidity of the Gay Organization of South Africa (GOSA). "The black lesbian and gay activists felt that gay and lesbian rights were important but so were the rights of everyone oppressed," Nkoli said.

The Saturday Group is one of several that operate within GLOW. Nkoli told a group of activists in Philadelphia that inclusion of domestic partnership legislation and adoption laws within a permanent Bill of Rights in the constitution would be a priority for the next few years.

While the South African government guarantees the civil rights of gays and lesbians, and Nelson Mandela even addressed discrimination based on sexual orientation during his May inaugural address, the private realm offers a much more important and harder struggle, said Edwin Cameron, a human rights lawyer in Johannesburg. "In practical terms nothing has changed except for the political climate," he said.

"There is a general sense of euphoria in the country, but as a lawyer I'm very cautious about euphoria. Legal regulation is only one aspect of the fight for equality," warned Cameron, who is also active in the AIDS Law Project in his country.

He stressed that no other constitution in the world, not even the United States Constitution, offers such explicit human rights protection.

"But that does not change the need for South African gays and lesbians to raise their profile," Cameron warned. "To let people know who they are. We hope there is going to be greater openness and acceptance among South Africans, and that ordinary people will need to be empowered for the constitutional language to have its greatest effect."

Cameron is just as concerned about some Black Nationalist factions, such as the African Muslim Party (AMP), that espouse a "Louis Farrakhan-like position that homosexuality is a European disease and not possible in Africans."

Hayden Proud, who lives in staunchly conservative Capetown, said he noticed very pronounced homophobia in the political posters for the AMP.

"They put up quite large advertisements that said, 'If you vote for the ANC, then you share the sin.' They're a pretty aggressive lot."

He also said the AMP recently demonstrated during Capetown's first ever Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Cameron said one of the major political strategies would be to keep an alliance from forming between White Supremacists and Black Nationalists.

"We don't really have a Religious Right situation like you do in America," said Cameron.

What South Africa does have is a well-armed White Supremacist Resistance. However, many gays and lesbians in the US. would be hard pressed to find a difference between America's Religious Radicals and supporters and followers of White Supremacist leaders like Eugene Terreblanche.

Cameron said the ANC's embrace of diversity in its politics, and the Constitution, provide an invaluable buffer to the two extremist camps in both races.

Nkoli said the ANC was the only black political organization to support the gay and lesbian struggle in South Africa. "Every other group said that sexual orientation may be an issue for whites but denied the existence of lesbians and gays in the black community," Nkoli told Philadelphia's *Au Courant*.

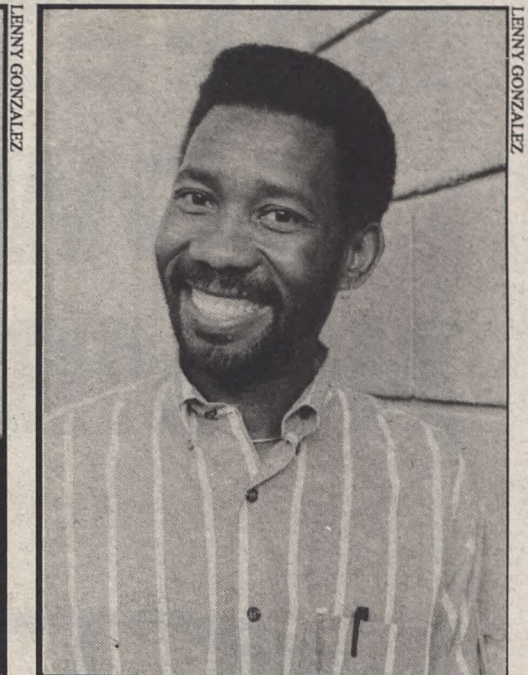
Despite the cautious words from both black and white gay activists, who must struggle with homophobia amid a racial and cultural divide created by almost a half-century of Apartheid, they all share an underlying admiration for the broad, inclusive language of the constitution with the mainstream political and social groups inside and out of South Africa.

"It is a significant document," agreed Dr. Cedric Suzman, a official with the Atlanta-based Southern Center for International Studies. Suzman, an expatriate South African, is the nephew of Helen Suzman, the well known South African journalist and human rights activist.

"If the government does only a small fraction of what the document seeks to do, then it will be a tremendous achievement," he said.

Suzman has been a longtime, albeit quiet, voice for the White South African liberal viewpoint here in Atlanta, pushing the country's social and business interests, even during the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Activists Beverly Ditsie and Simon Nkoli of South Africa

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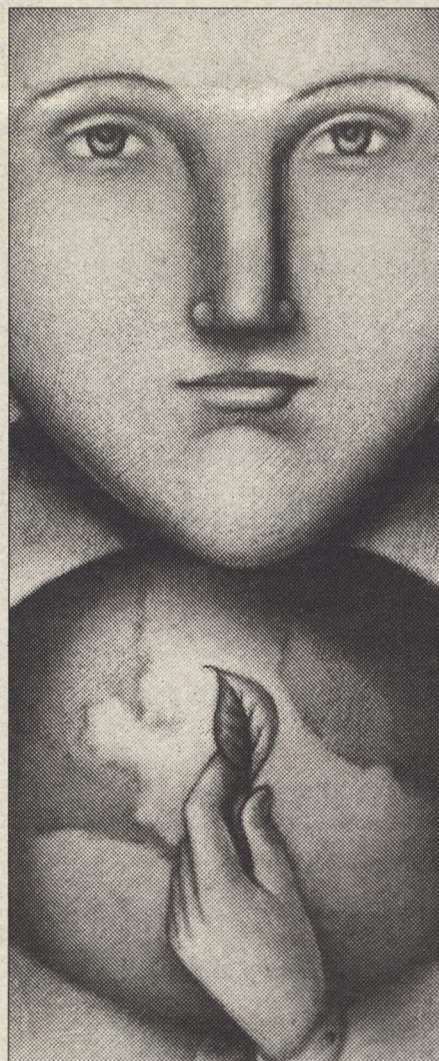
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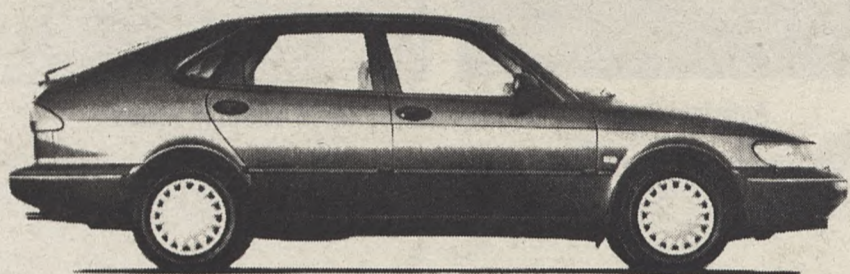
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Gay man leaves \$400,000 farm to Human Rights Campaign Fund

Washington, DC—John James Vasey lived in a hotel for transients in Portland, Oregon. He led a quiet life, and before his death in 1992, few who knew him were aware that he was rich, or that he was gay. When Vasey became ill with leukemia in the early 1980's, he decided to write a will. In it, he left an estate worth several hundred thousand dollars, including an Illinois farm which he donated to a national gay organization.

As he contemplated his will, Vasey called William Shepherd, an attorney about whom he had read in the local Portland gay press. Shepherd and his wife were the founders of Parents of Gays in Oregon. Shepherd helped Vasey draft his will, in which the donor laid out his plans to fund the fight to end discrimination against lesbians and gay men. As his executor, Vasey chose another prominent activist, Jerry Weller, who served at the time as cochair of the Board of Directors of the Gay Rights National Lobby. Weller never met Vasey, and always assumed the man was poor. Vasey named Shepherd to be the trustee of the farm in Illinois, with the understanding that it would be turned over to the Gay Rights National Lobby, which could then sell it.

By the time of Vasey's death, however, the Gay Rights National Lobby no longer existed. In 1986, faced with financial problems, the Board of GRNL agreed to merge with the Human Rights Campaign Fund. As a result of that merger and Vasey's generosity, the Human Rights Campaign Fund has inherited Vasey's farm, worth more than \$400,000.

"This is an extraordinary act of generosity," notes Tim McFeeley, executive director



"If more individuals followed the lead of Mr. Vasey, our community's institutions would be in a much better position to combat the growing influence of the Radical Right,"—Tim McFeeley, executive director of HRCF

of the Campaign Fund. "Mr. Vasey's decision to contribute his farm to the Gay Rights National Lobby was directly related to his high regard for the work of Jerry Weller and GRNL."

"This is a perfect example of long-term planning at its best," McFeeley continued. "It is also a great example of the kind of generosity that will enable us to continue the hard work of ending discrimination. If more individuals followed the lead of Mr. Vasey, our community's institutions would be in a much better position to combat the growing influence of the Radical Right," McFeeley said. "Bequests such as this one make a real difference in our work. I think Mr. Vasey did something extraordinary for our community and our cause."

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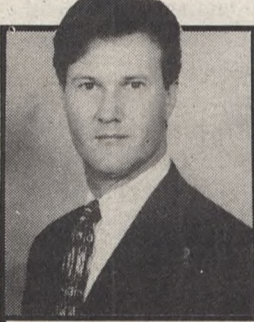


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Clinton names first openly gay ambassador

The Clinton administration is looking to deliver another symbol to the gay and lesbian community—nomination of the first openly gay ambassador. James C. Hormel, San Francisco community leader and philanthropist, is slated for that honor.

There is "some concern inside the administration about exactly where to place Hormel so as not to turn this into a big deal," reported The Washington Post on July 20.

Liberal Scandinavia looked like a safe bet they reasoned, but all of those slots are filled. Costa Rica sounded good to the personnel types, until the State Department vetoed that. So it looks like it will be Fiji.

Fiji is a Pacific island nation about halfway between Vanuatu and Samoa,

Hormel is heir to the meat packing fortune bearing that name. Among his many contributions was a \$500,000 donation to the lesbian and gay section of the new San Francisco Library last year.

about 1,500 miles north of New Zealand. Its population is near 650,000—about the same as Hormel's home town of San Francisco.

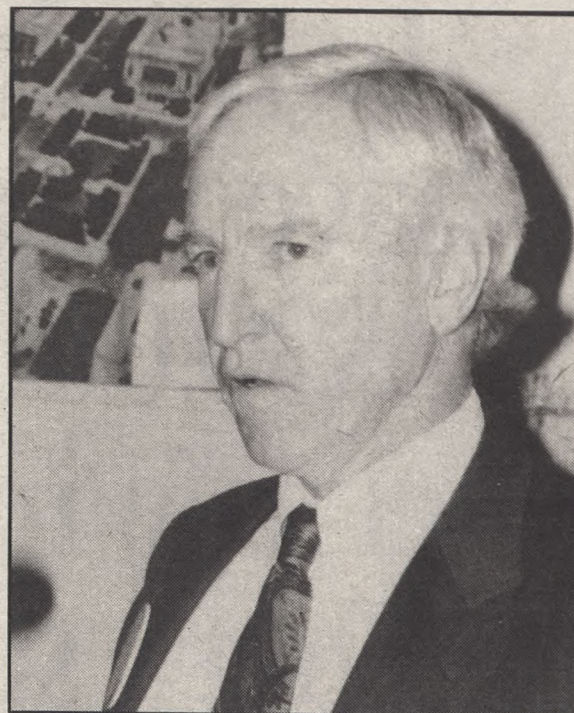
Hormel is heir to the meat packing fortune bearing that name. Among his

many contributions was a \$500,000 donation to the lesbian and gay section of the new San Francisco Library last year.

Nominations for ambassador must be approved by the Senate. The ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is Jesse Helms (R-NC). One can only speculate as to how the Senator, who reacted to the nomination of Roberta Achtenberg by calling her "a damn lesbian," will react to Hormel.

BOB ROEHR

James Hormel, heir to the meat packing fortune, has been nominated to be the U.S. ambassador to Fiji.



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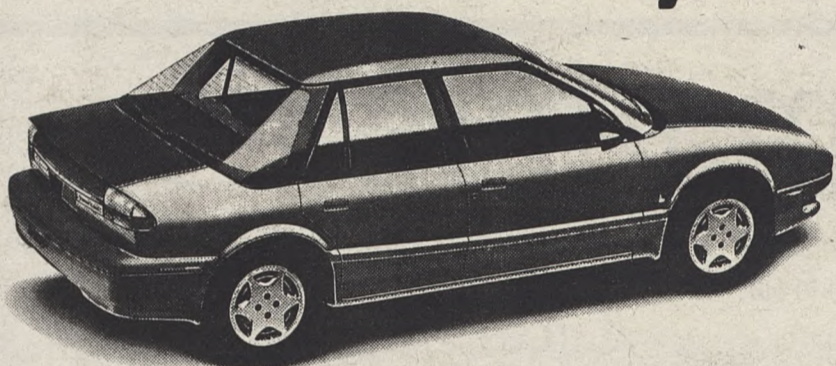
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Continued from page 15

economic "dark years" as government after government and country after country began divesting from South Africa.

Lindwe Mabuza, now a Parliament member representing her native Natal province, worked with NOW and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta to develop gender-positive positions within the ANC. Mabuza was one of the ANC's representatives to the U.S. from the mid-1980s until her recent victory in the April All-Race Elections. She said the struggle within the ANC to ensure equal representation for all was not easy. As late as 1991 she and the Women's League of the ANC were encountering opposition from the traditional leadership over a plan to guarantee that women make up one-third of the membership in the executive committees of what would become the National Government of Unity. With the ANC now controlling 252 of the 400 seats in parliament, and fully one-third of the executive committee members appointed by the ANC are women, according to Mabuza.

Mabuza said the struggle for civil rights in the U.S. was a major inspiration for the ANC, showing that moral rightness can eventually win over bigotry and intolerance. One of the ANC's biggest influences was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The group's inclusive approach to governing is a reflection of Dr. King's theory of the "beloved community," said Lynn Cothren, an administrative aide to Coretta Scott King, director of the King Center.

"The ANC's preeminent moral stature throughout the world, and its consequent embrace of gay rights, provides a tremendous, not so subtle, boost to the worldwide struggle

for gay and lesbian rights," Cameron says. "It has broken liberation movements from their homophobia by explicitly linking oppression of one group to oppression of all groups."

Cameron said the ANC has experienced first hand the effect of the tactics being espoused by the Radical Right in America. "Divide, separate and proscribe were the hallmarks of Apartheid strategy."

Atlanta has played a significant role in the history of the ANC, as well as the development of the coalitions that helped draft the interim constitution with the ANC. Groups affiliated with progressive political organizations such as NOW (the National Organization for Women), the Southern Christian Leadership Coalition (SCLC) and the King Center all worked with the ANC leadership toward drafting the present document. Black gay activists in South Africa began lobbying the ANC to take a liberal position on homosexuality should it ever come to power, according to both Ditsie and Mabuza. That effort was duplicated in the U.S., one of the ANC's major sources of funding and political support, said Cothren. Cothren added that gays and lesbians were early supporters of the U.S. civil rights struggles as well as backers of the ANC and the divestment programs of the 1980s.

For Cothren and other gay activists in the U.S. and around the world, the lesson to be learned from the South African Constitution is: coalition building, coalition building and coalition building.

"Gays and lesbians need to understand their issues are not separate from other progressive issues. Anytime one group goes forward, everyone goes forward," said Cothren.

Cameron agreed with Cothren, noting that "all forms of oppression are linked, and the ANC's recognition of that tact provides an invaluable boost to liberation movements worldwide."

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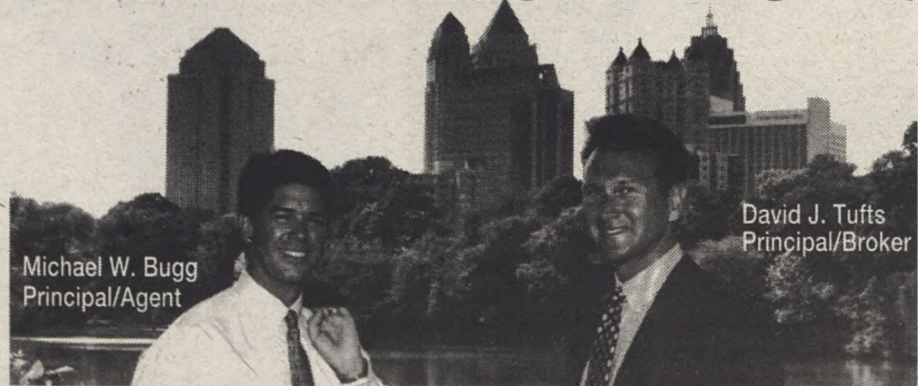
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OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Susan Harrison and Lynn Epps celebrate 5 years together on July 30.

Congratulations on July 25 to Chuck "Maxie Pad" Rose and Mike "Millie" Davis on spending an amazing four years together. Buffy, when asked for a statement, indicated that life is just "peachy" on Rock Springs Road and that he personally has never been happier—especially with his new lens implant.

BIRTHDAYS

A happy 41st birthday to R.E. Main from Susan on July 31.

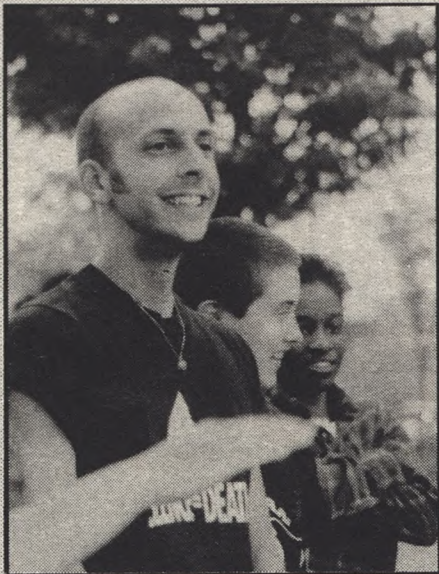
Sloane Bernstein celebrates her birthday on or about Aug 1. The husky mix turns four (in human years that's 30), and she's still single.

A very happy birthday to Art Auerbach on July 26.

Happy belated birthday to the Rev. Owen D. Edwards. He turned 22 on July 6.

Happy birthday to Uri Vaknin on July 25.

Happy birthday to Sarah Madding on July 29.



KC WILLMOON

Uri Vaknin celebrates a birthday on July 25.

Happy 20th birthday to Brian Warden on July 30.

Happy birthday to Mark Broe on August 3.

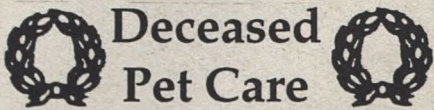
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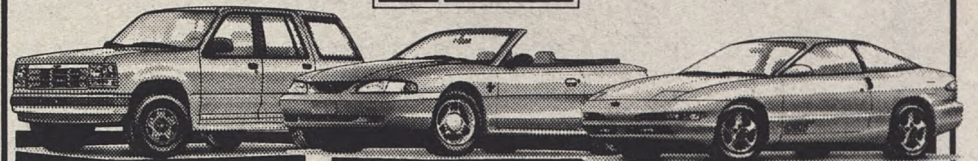
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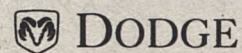
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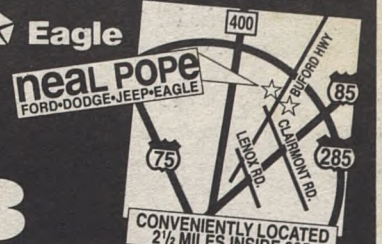
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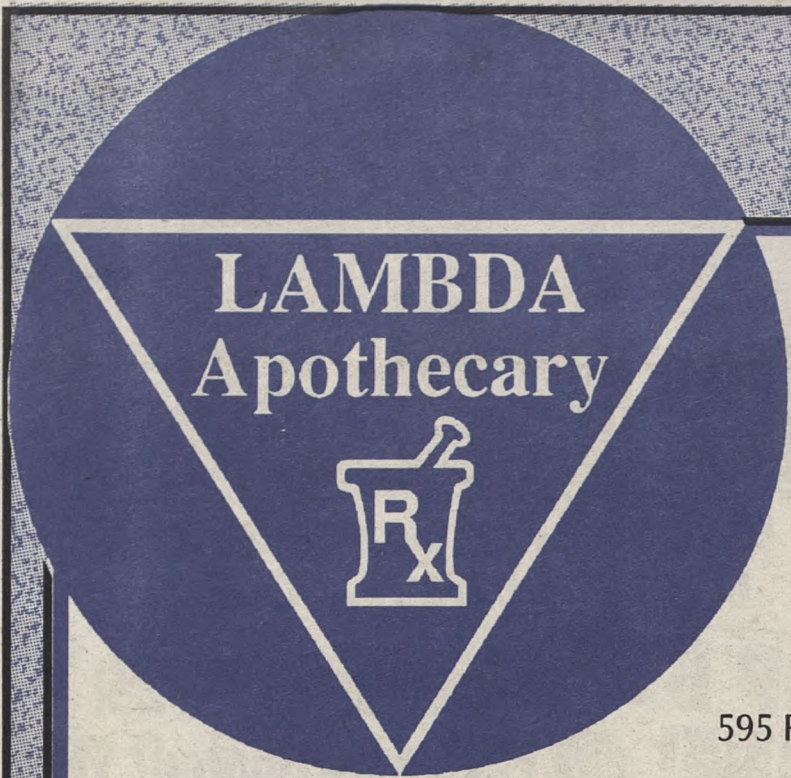
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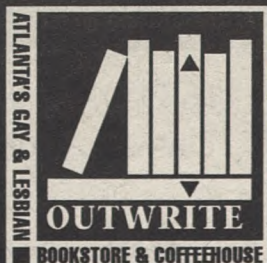
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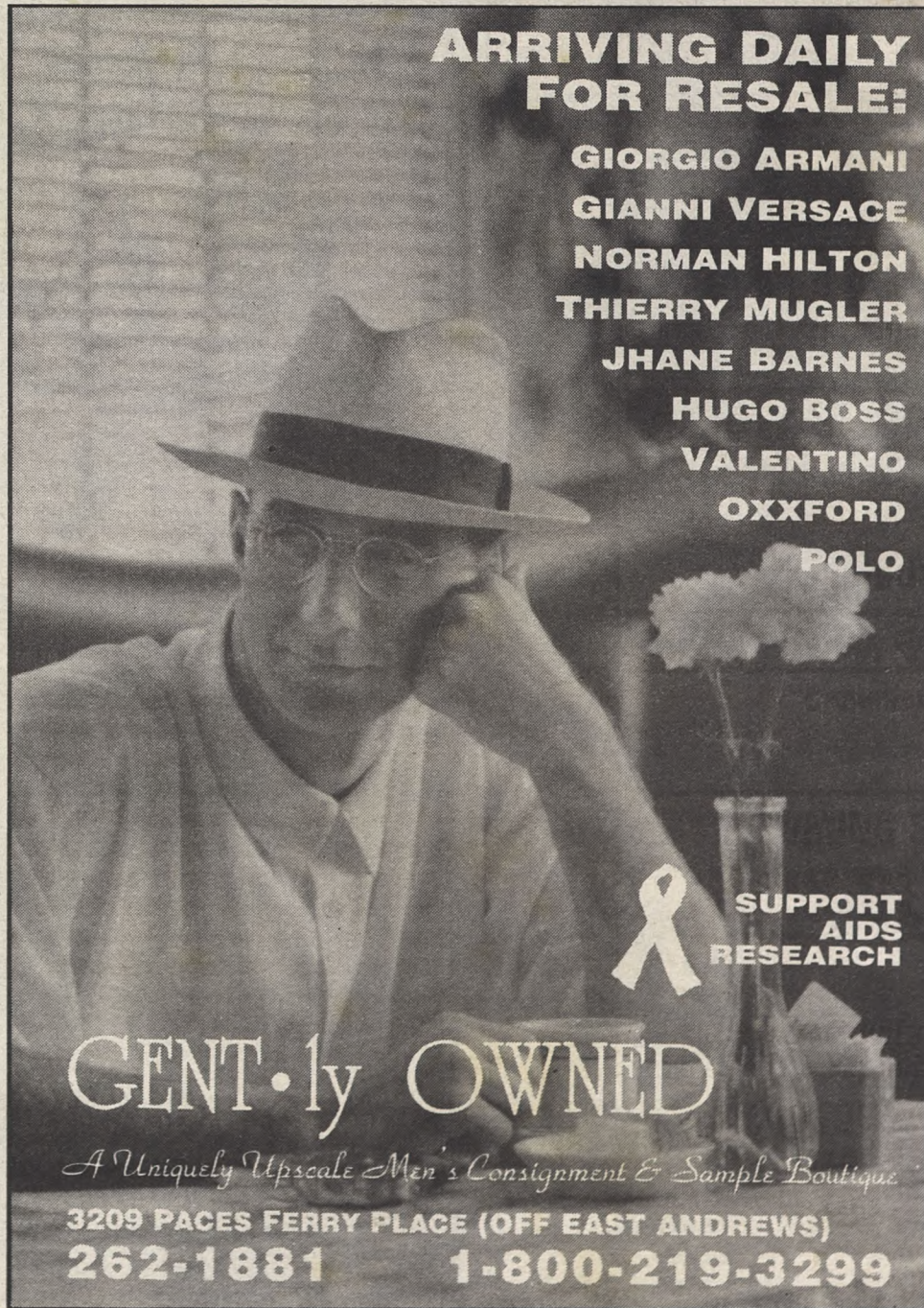
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OUT & ABOUT

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE OF SOUTHERN VOICE

POMO 3 AFRO men HOMOS with a fierce love

by ADAM J. SANK

"I love Ru Paul, but I'm not Ru Paul," says Brian Freeman (pictured, center), artistic director and member of the Pomo Afro Homos. "When we [black gay people] are represented at all in the media or entertainment, it is either as unimportant, peripheral characters or flamboyant stereotypes," Freeman says. "We're trying to challenge those assumptions."

The Pomos, as they are typically called, will be featured at the fourth biennial National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) which will be held in Atlanta beginning July 29.

The three-member, San Francisco-based performance group formed in 1991. They derive their name from "post-modern, African-American homosexuals." The name is fitting, says Freeman, because "it's out there. It's a fun name that really describes us. We're thinking and re-thinking about who we are in the world. It's about re-claiming identities. Plus, it makes people laugh. The name sort of deflates itself."

Freeman, a writer, director and actor, Djola Branner, a dancer and poet, and Eric Gupton, an actor, formed the Pomos because the three thirty-something men were fed up with not seeing images of themselves that resembled the lives they were living. "We only saw cartoon characters of Black gay

men," Freeman says.

"Fierce Love," the piece that the Pomos will perform in Atlanta, Freeman says, is a mixture of theater styles, monologues, and performance art, with some dancing thrown in and a "fast-paced, hip-hop sensibility." Their multimedia show includes rap, singing, and special effects.

"Homosexuality is a great unspoken thing in the African-American Community," Freeman admits. "Everyone knows that a significant portion of us are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, but we don't talk about it. There's a

"We're not doing the empowerment hour," Freeman explains. "This is not a tract or rant. Our focus is to provide a space for Black people to see themselves—to laugh at themselves."

feeling that our blackness is enough of a burden in this country. But we are part of the family, and acknowledging that is what we need to do so that we can find strength in our own diversity."

Freeman stresses that the Pomos perform mainly to entertain, put on a show, and create art. Any messages for the white gay and lesbian community are solely implicit. "We're not doing the empowerment hour," Freeman explains. "This is not a tract or rant. Our focus is to provide a space for Black people

to see themselves—to laugh at themselves."

In addition to presenting themes that touch the Black gay male community, the Pomos deal with issues in their act that affect the lesbian and gay community at large. One skit included in "Fierce Love" touches on the recent rise of marketing towards lesbians and gays. "I was at the [1993] march on Washington," Freeman says. "Can you remember any of the speeches made? Mostly what I remember is that every five feet someone was handing me a marketing survey." So the Pomos envisioned a "Black Queer Home Shopping Channel," where the characters sell off pieces of their history. "It's got a bite to it," Freeman concedes.

The Pomo Afro Homos have appeared at venues throughout the U.S. and overseas, including Alaska, London, and Glasgow, performing in theater arenas and at universities. The 1994 NBAF will be their first appearance in Atlanta, and they're looking forward to finally hitting the deep South, having been repeatedly rebuked by the National Black Theater Festival in North Carolina.

"We were essentially banned for a while, but the director of that festival seems to have finally gotten it. He's heard from enough local people how wrong it is not to include us, and I'll think you'll see us there in the future."

Regardless, Atlanta will be seeing the Pomos on August 4. "We'll be selling Pomo Afro Homos t-shirts after the show," says Freeman ironically. "See, there's the marketing again."

Pomo Afro Homos will perform two shows on Thursday, August 4 at Variety Playhouse at 8:30pm and 10:30pm. \$12. Call 524-7354 for tickets or 249-6400 to charge by phone.



**National
Black
Arts
Festival**
JULY 29 - AUGUST 7, 1994

National Black Arts Festival includes lots of lesbian/gay talent this year

by ADAM J. SANK

What do you get when you combine Audre Lorde, The Pomo Afro Homos, and some of the world's finest writers, artists, and performers? An artist's fantastic dream? A swirling array of color and life? Or simply the 1994 National Black Arts Festival (NBAF), an event that will showcase a myriad of African-American talents and perspectives, including those of lesbians and gay men.

The festival, billed as "a ten-day cultural celebration recognizing the achievements and influences of artists of African descent in music, theater, film, literature, dance, visual arts, performance art, and folk art," begins in Atlanta July 29.

NBAF was established in 1987 by Michael Lomax, who

now serves as the chairperson of the event. The first festival took place in Atlanta in 1988, and each successive festival has taken place in Atlanta on a biennial basis. In creating the festival, Lomax's mission was to produce and present new and existing quality art that is by, for, and relevant to artists of African descent that will enrich and educate the public and influence culture, said NBAF public relations director Bill Vaughan in an interview with Southern Voice last week.

The focus of this year's NBAF is "The African-American improvisational tradition, 1963-1993: Thirty Years of Struggle Toward a Vision of Salvation."

"We're looking at thirty years of dramatic change in Afri-

can-American life," Vaughan said, "and it has been through our own artists that we could often get a true reflection of what is going on."

Vaughan said the decision to include the Pomo Afro Homos, a trio of openly-gay, Black performance art-



MARION EHLINGER

Lesbian poet Sonia Sanchez

CONTINUES ON PAGE 26



National Black Arts Festival

JULY 29 - AUGUST 7, 1994

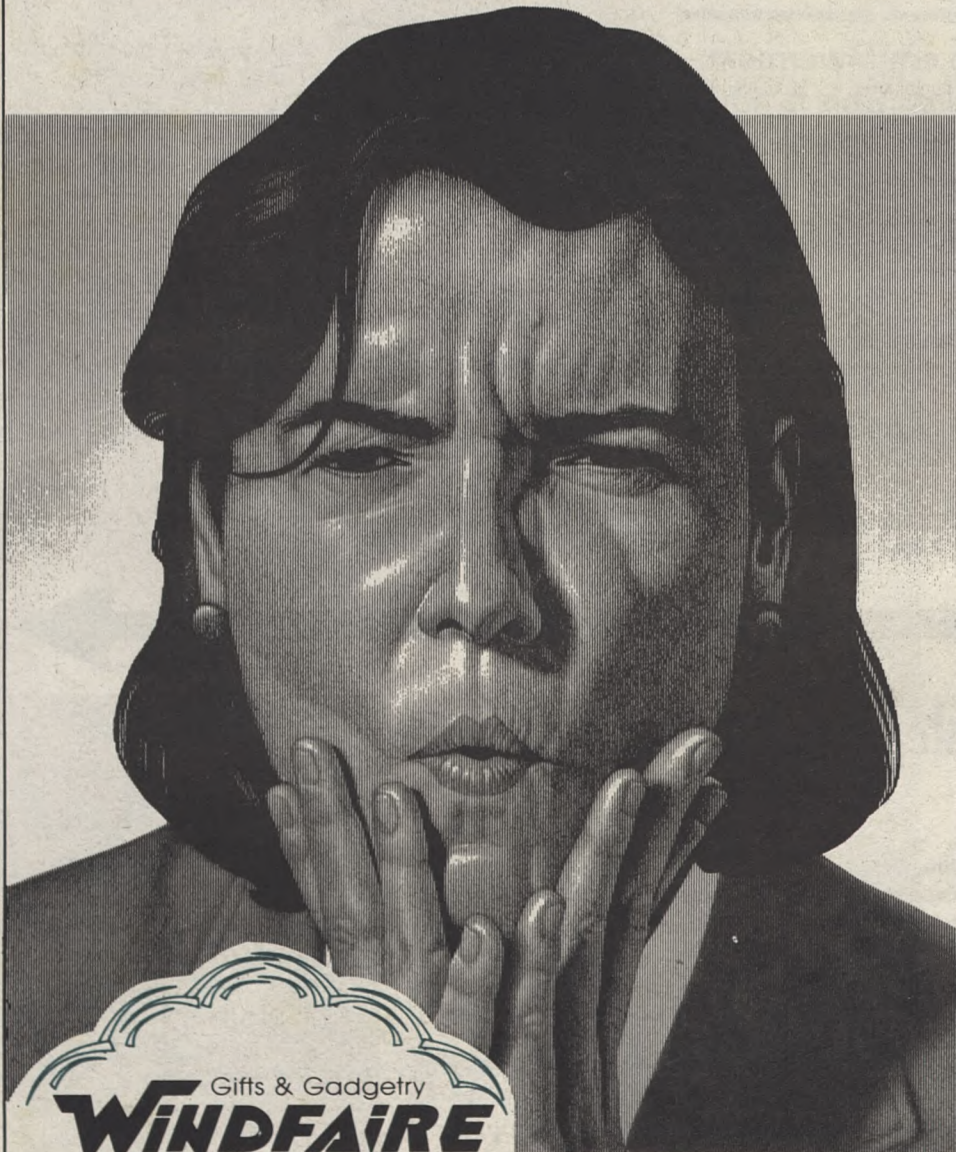
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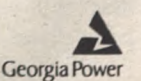
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GAYLE DANLEY. Atlanta performance artist blends dramatist/writer/madwoman at Charis, 7:30pm. Free. 524-0304.



AFFAIR TO DISMEMBER. Thru Nov. 2. Agatha's A Taste of Mystery dinner theatre sets sail on the Love Boat gone mad. \$33-\$38, includes dinner. Tues-Sat 7:30, Sun 7pm. 693 Peachtree. 875-1610.

JANET JACKSON. Michael's sister with M.C.

Lyte at Lakewood. \$18.50 & \$28.50. 249-6400.

SISTER'S TIME. An audio magazine featuring the rhythms of African women's health. 6-7pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

GAY GRAFFITI. Out and loud lesbian and gay radio. 7-8pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

Festival. Alliance Theatre. 8pm. \$15. 249-6400.

NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL. Thru Aug 7. The biennial festival spreads performance and art across the city. The opening ceremonies tonight feature artistic director Avery "Commander Sisko" Brooks and Sweet Honey in the Rock. King Chapel, Morehouse College, 7pm. \$10. For more NBAF info, call 730-7304.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY. Thru Sat. Beethoven Summerfest continues with Yoel Levi conducting and André Watts on piano. The winning composition of the NBAF/ASO Competition (TBA) will be performed, and Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2 & Beethoven's 5th. Symphony Hall, 8pm. \$18-\$40. 892-2414.

largest gay tournament. Two gyms—at Emory and Georgia State—will have continuous volleyball from 8am to 6:30pm. 843-1407 or 872-2050.

WHAT USE ARE FLOWERS? Thru Aug 6. The world premiere of Lorraine Hansberry's final play, part of NBAF. 14th St. Playhouse, 8pm, no show Monday. \$15.

OUTLOOK. Radical talk for revolutionary intellectuals—feminist, Afro-centered and pro-gay radio on AM, with Alicia Banks. New time: 5pm-8pm, WIGO, 1340AM.

31 SUNDAY

SAMUEL R. DELANY AND JEWELLE GOMEZ. Outwrite presents two authors, both in town for NBAF in a joint appearance from 3-4 pm. Delany is a multiple winner of Nebula Awards for sci-fi, and Gomez is author of "The Gilda Stories." 607-0082.

OTHER VOICES WITHIN THE VEIL: THE USE OF GAY THEMES IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE. Part of NBAF—Rudolph Byrd moderates as authors engage in discussion of gays and their lives on the fringe of African American literary life. Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory Univ, Reception Hall. 7-9pm Free.

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.

1 MONDAY

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. Also airs Tues, 5:30pm.

30 SATURDAY

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC. Thru Sun. Definitely not for Cobb County, but 450 men are headed to Atlanta to play volleyball in the country's

29 FRIDAY

MELISSA ETHERIDGE. Yes, she is, and she'll be at the Lakewood Amphitheatre at 8pm with Billy Pilgrim opening. \$16-\$33.50. 249-6400.

MIZIKE MAMA. A portrait of the musical group Zap Mama, five women of mixed Zairian-Belgian descent who have created a sense of self in a society that demands black or white. High Museum. 8 & 9:15pm.

WARAMBA. Thru Sat. An African performance piece by Ensemble Koteba D'Abidjan marks the opening night of Celebrate Africa!, the Cultural Olympiad's collaboration with the National Black Arts

Richards & Westbrook Gallery in the GA Tech Theatre for the Arts.

PICNIC. Thru Aug 28. Actors Express presents William Inge's tale of the sexual awakening of a 17-year-old girl trapped in the stifling social world of a tiny Kansas town. 887 W. Marietta St. Thru-Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm. \$12-15. 221-0831.

EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE. Thru Aug. 28. The High Museum marks the 30th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act with this tribute to Atlanta's role in the 60s struggle. Multiple artists, multiple arts. 892-HIGH.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER. Thru Aug 31. 68 African American artists are on exhibit at the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. 424-8142.

IRELAND. Thru Aug 31. Photographs of Ireland and the Irish at the First Existentialist Congregation. 378-5570.

ASAFO! FANTE FLAGS FROM AFRICA. Thru Sept 3. Flags from the African nation of Ghana are on display at the High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography in the Georgia-Pacific Center downtown. 892-HIGH.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PUPPETRY FESTIVAL. Thru Sept. 3. The Center for Puppetry Arts hosts the summer long festival with performances for adults and children. Aug 1-6, "The Frog Prince & Other Tales" for children (11am & 1pm Mon-Sat, 3pm Wed). 1404 Spring St. 873-3391.

PSYCHOLOGY. Thru Sept. 6. Fernbank Museum of Natural History opens a new exhibit about who we are, what we think, and why. 767 Clifton. 370-0960.

HAITIAN ART: A CELEBRATION OF ITS DIVERSITY. Thru Aug 8. The Haitian Art Foundation presents a timely exhibition at TULA, 75 Bennett St. 351-3551.

IMAGES IN SPORT. Thru Aug. 11. Photographs and sculpture capturing the excitement of amateur athletic competition on view at the Spruill Center Gallery and History Home, 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd. 394-3447.

PRIMAL IMAGES/ UNIVERSAL REALITIES. Thru Aug 12. The works of five contemporary women artists are on display at Kennesaw State College in the Fine Arts Gallery. 499-3223.

TOOLS OF THE HUMAN FORM. Thru Aug 13. Sculptures and paintings by Atlanta artist Mark Allen Henderson at TULA. 352-5753.

CITY OF ANGELS. Thru Aug. 14. Hollywood vs. the Real World, entwined with a fictional detective story, in this musical by Larry Gelbart at Neighborhood Playhouse. \$10-\$16. Thur-Sat 8pm; Sun 2pm. 373-5311.

ONLY KIDDING. Thru Aug 21. Neighborhood Playhouse's Discovery Arena takes on a cabaret look for Jim Geoghan's wildly funny play five stand-up comedians aspiring to make it to the top. Thurs-Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm. 373-5311.

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN ART. Thru Aug 21. The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection opens at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory. 727-4282.

ART IN MOTION. Thru Aug 25. An exhibit honoring athletic excellence at the

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

GO FISH. Friends try to hook up Max and Ely, two lesbians without dates, in Rose Troche's breakthrough film. The Screening Room, Lindbergh Plaza, 231-1924.

PENELOPE WILLIAMS TRIO. Performing Fri & Sat 9pm-1am at the Hotel Nikko. 687-8866.

SOAP. Comedy Central has the controversial 70s TV series. 7, 7:30 & 11pm, Mon-Fri.

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN. Thru Sun. Theatre in the Square reprises the gospel hit, with performances at Southern Tech Center Theatre. 422-8369.

TARTS. Thru Sun. Art Attack presents Stephanie Correa's story of five actresses in a dressing room during a 60s production of "Troilus and Cressida." 14th St. Playhouse. 881-6304.

LINCOLN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES. Thru Sun. Photos by Mathew Brady from the National Portrait Gallery hang at the Museum of the Jimmy Carter Library. 331-0296.

JOHN GEORGE BROWN. Thru Sun. Five paintings of the elderly are the focus of "John George Brown: The Dignity of Years," at the High Museum. 892-HIGH.

TIME IN A BATTLE. Thru Aug 6. The Shakespeare Tavern continues its run of the search for the Cosmic Cube. Fri & sat 8pm, Sun 6pm. \$10. Food & beverage available 45 min. before curtain. 499 Peachtree. 874-5299.

MALCOLM X: MAN IDEAL ICON. Thru Aug 7. An exhibit detailing the life of the charismatic leader. Nexus Contemporary Art Center. 688-1970.



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.

matinee. Alliance Mainstage. 249-6400.

JAZZ EXPLOSION SUPERBAND. Stanley Clarke, Larry Carlton, Billy Cobham and Najee join for a truly Classic Chastain experience. 8:30pm. \$16-\$38. 892-2414.

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

2 TUESDAY

DREAMGIRLS. Thru Aug 7. Jennifer Holiday reprises the role that made her a star in this Theater of the Stars production at the Fox. Tues-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 2pm. \$11.50-\$35.50. 881-2100.

RON RASH. Author of "The Night the New Jesus Fell to Earth and Other Stories" reads from his work at Kennesaw State College, Rm 102 of the Humanities Bldg, at 8:15 pm. 423-6297.

3 WEDNESDAY

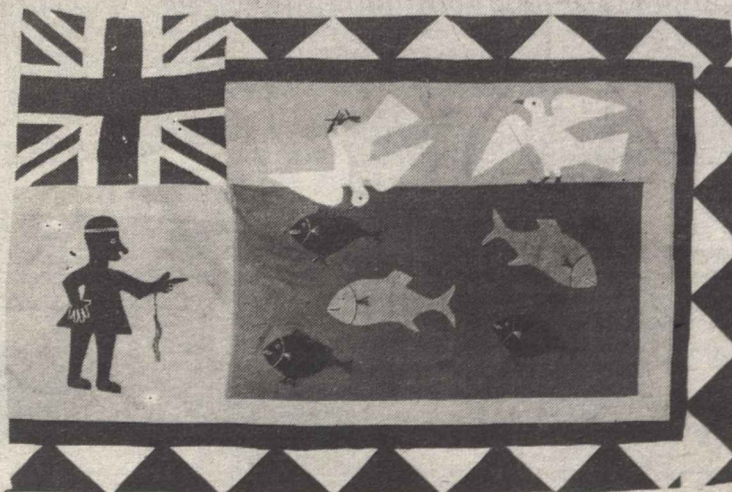
BESSIE'S BLUES. Thru Aug 6. Bernadine Mitchell returns as Bessie Smith in this reprise of Jomandi's 1993 hit, in conjunction with NBAF. Nightly at 8pm, plus Sat 3pm

PICTURED:

ABOVE: The High Museum's film series profiles musical group Zap Mama in "Mizike Mama" on July 29.

LEFT: Bernadine Mitchell is Bessie Smith in Jomandi's "Bessie's Blues," Aug 3-6 on the Alliance Mainstage. Photo by Sheila Turner

BELOW: Fante flags of Africa (1850-1957) are on display at the High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography Galleries at 30 John Wesley Dobbs Ave.



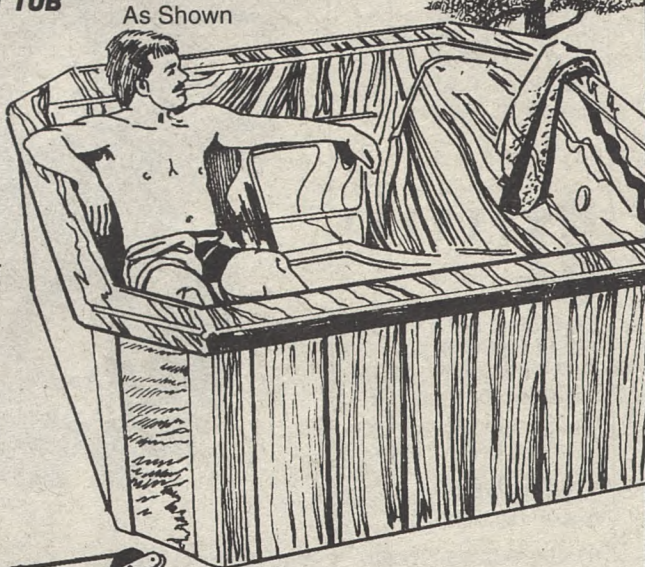
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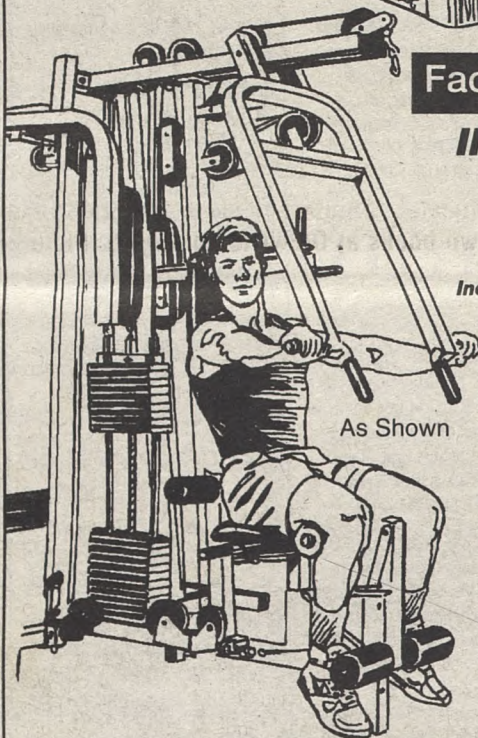
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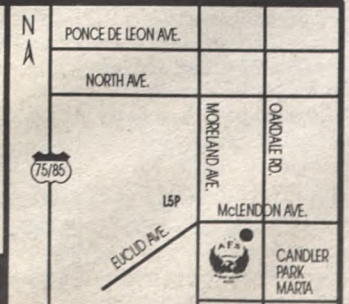
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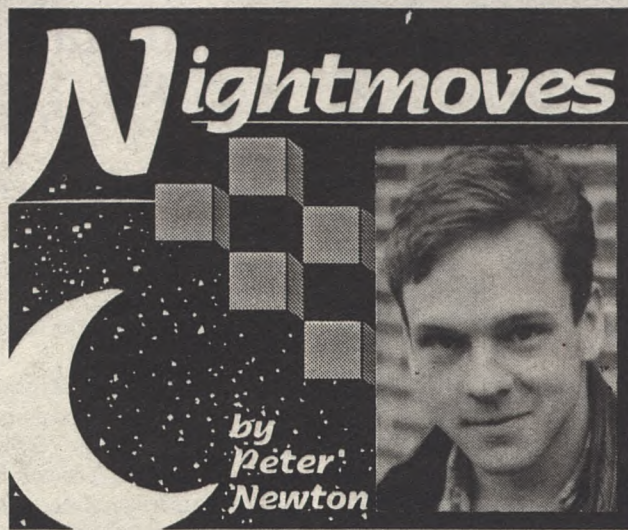
Atlanta's **National Black Arts Festival** (NBAF) dominates this week's social and cultural scenes. Everything from forum to fanfare will be included in this year's annual festival that runs July 28-August 7. One of the several films being shown in honor of the event is **Mizike Mama**. It's a celebration of African Music in French with English subtitles. How's that for a multicultural experience? This portrait of Zap Mama, the 5-woman a cappella group of mixed Zairean-Belgian descent is a mix of vibrant performance footage with frank interviews about "creating an authentic sense of self in a society that demands one be either Black, white, African or European." Now that seems like a cause worth singing for. Directed by Violaine de Villers, "Mizike Mama" will show twice, Friday, July 29 at 8pm and 9:15pm. Hill Auditorium. 892-HIGH for further info.

The NBAF Literary Festival gets under way this weekend also at the High Museum of Art featuring over a dozen nationally and locally known writers reading prose and poetry. Saturday, July 30 at 11am, 1 and 3pm with the same schedule on Tuesday, August 2.

Kenny Leon, artistic director of the Alliance Theatre Company will host what looks to be a pretty interesting panel discussion entitled, "Back Talk: An Artists' Forum on Art and Activism." Incorporating speakers from three of the four major exhibits going on around town, **Malcolm X: Man Ideal Icon** (at Nexus), Equal Rights & Justice (at the High), and My Point of View: Photographs by Moneta Sleet, Jr. (at the High's Folk and Photography Gallery downtown in the Georgia Pacific Building), the forum will also include the audience in a discussion of the artist as witness and commentator in the '60s and in the '90s. Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm in Hill Auditorium.

Because I won't happen to be in town for this particular celebration of African-Americanism, I'll be paying tribute in my own way by blasting my new Lenny Kravitz CD, "Mama Said." It's got this one song on there called, "It's Not Over Till It's Over" which if I wasn't already in love would make me want to go right out there and start.

And for your listening pleasure, **Melissa Etheridge** will perform live at Lakewood this Friday, July 29. Opening will be the locally known and nationally signed Billy Pilgrim, you may recognize them as Andrew Hyra and Kristian Bush.



Sounds like a great line-up.

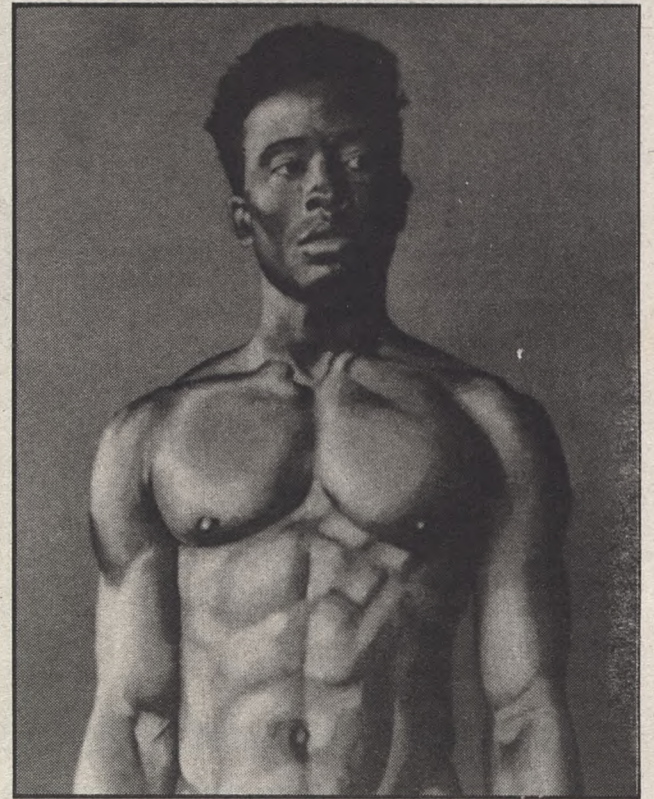
And starting Monday, August 1 at **Backstreet** and every Monday night thereafter will be The Recovery Room, the latest in out little ol' neighborhood bar's efforts to bring Atlantans summer relief. Make it an appointment for Absolut IV's, DJ Spindoctors and Dancers for that much needed physical therapy.

Opening on August 2 and running through Aug. 7 is Dreamgirls starring **Jennifer Holiday**. She reprises the role that made her a star in this Theater of the Stars production. Tues-Sun 8pm; Sat & Sun 2pm. \$11.50-\$35.50. 881-2100.


Hawaii-based artist **Douglas Simonson**, known internationally for his drawings and paintings of the male nude, brings his art to Atlanta this week. Simonson is one of the few successful artists working today whose art is devoted almost exclusively to the male figure. He's been a serious artist for the past 15 years and collectors have spent over a half-million dollars since 1988 alone. The subjects of Simonson's works are almost entirely men of color—models who are Black, Polynesian, Asian or Hispanic. Aside from the controversy this has fueled on occasion, his art has been called a "long-overdue recognition of an alternative standard of beauty." Meet this man at Outwrite Books, Saturday, August

6 from 7:30-8:30pm where he will be signing copies of his two books, "Hawaii" and "Islanders." Simonson will present a showing of recent works at Better Bodies just across the way on Sunday, August 7 from 6-9pm. For more info or if interested in private showings, call 892-2288.

Chastain Park has an impressive August schedule starting with four jazz giants who will be playing together in the same band, appropriately called the Jazz Explosion Superband. Featuring Stanley Clarke on bass, Larry Carlton on guitar, Billy Cobham on drums and Najee on saxophone, this rare appearance is one of the summer's highlights. 892-2414.



Douglas Simonson, painter of male nudes, will be signing his two books at Outwrite on Aug. 6. Pictured is "Chris II."



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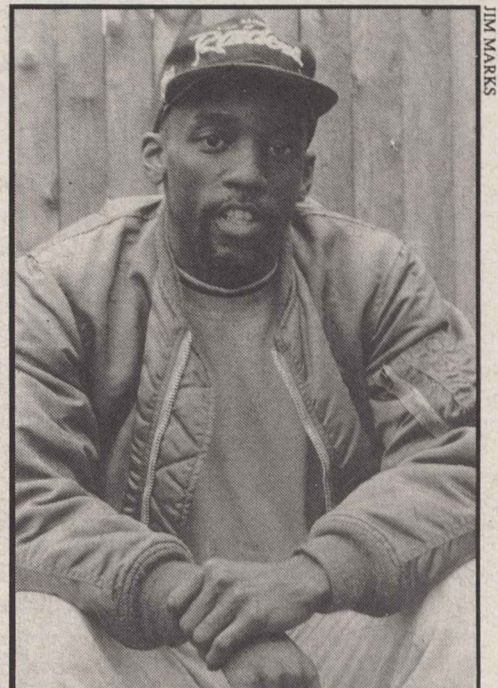
Continued from page 21

ists, was made by the NBAF artistic committee under the direction of actor-musician Avery Brooks. "The Pomo Afro Homos are an original voice that need to be heard in the festival," Vaughan said.

In addition to the Pomos, the festival will include in its literature program a panel discussion entitled "Other Voices Within the Veil: Gay and Lesbian Themes in Contemporary African-American Literature," speakers of which will include novelist E. Lynn Harris and poet and author of children's books June Jordan. There will also be a discussion entitled "Gender and Difference: Impact of Audre Lorde," which will focus on the Black feminist and lesbian writer. Writer Beverly Guy-Sheftall and poet Sonia Sanchez are among those on that panel. Lesbian writer Sapphire, who wrote "American Dreams," and gay poet Essex Hemphill, recipient of the 1993 Gregory Kolovakas Award for A.I.D.S. writing, will read some of their own poems in another literary segment of the event as well.

Vaughan said he does not anticipate negative reactions to the inclusion of openly gay and lesbian artists in the festival, explaining that it would not be the first time: Bill T. Jones and his dance troupe have been featured in the past. "Any festival that calls itself an arts festival has to be somewhat open-minded about the expressions of its artists," Vaughan added. "The reaction I expect is one of delight and enjoyment."

Other highlights of the festival, which will occur in various venues throughout the metro



JIM MARKS

Gay poet Essex Hemphill

Atlanta area, include the Artist's Market, a gallery of African arts and crafts, which will appear at Greenbriar Mall throughout the festival, as well as the Theater of the Stars/Bell South Production of Dreamgirls, with Jennifer Holiday re-creating her original Broadway role. Four dance companies will be appearing, including Dianne McIntyre and Total Dance Theatre. Vaughan also mentioned it was probable, though not certain, that Maya Angelou may appear at a poetry reading on August 4 at the Civic Center.

Vaughan said he expects this year's festival to attract more than 500,000 visitors, and encourages people to call NBAF at (404) 730-7315 for information, and TicketMaster for tickets to any of the pay-events.

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In August, River Expo Turns Hotlanta into Gay Party Central

by JAMES FITCH

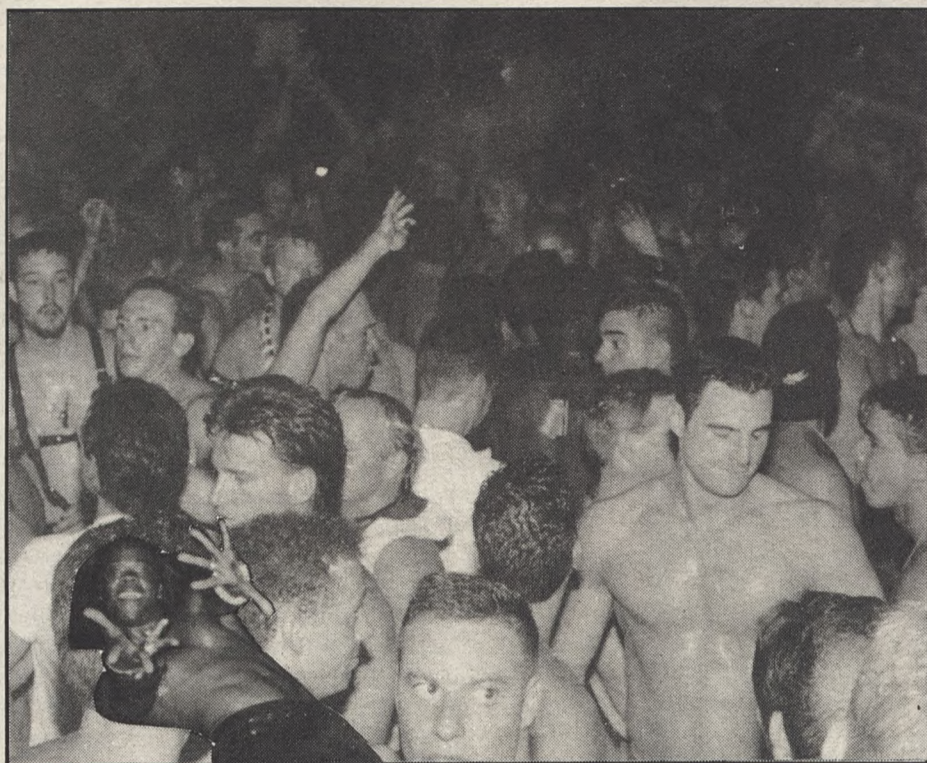
Though it's the river that is played up in the name, urban partying at Hotlanta River Expo is always a given. In fact, River Expo is the oldest party tradition in the mythical "gay party circuit" which, so far, spans the U.S. and parts of Canada.

The circuit is less an organized chain of annual events, predominantly for gay men, than a festive phenomenon that may have even started here in Atlanta. The circuit includes New York City's Black and White parties (colors set the tone: the Black party being leather-oriented, meaner and seedier than the White party, which is a lighter, energy-driven event). There are also Red and White parties in Miami, a Black-and-Blue party in Montreal, and another White Party in Palm Springs.

Safely clear of becoming a color-cliche casualty, Hotlanta River Expo in August is among the oldest, if not *the* oldest, annual stop on the circuit. It is currently in its 16th year.

This being a year of profound change for River Expo (new board, new event schedule, new attitude, etc.), one would expect the same calibre of change from the parties. Well, sort of.

In years past, the main River Expo party on



Saturday night was in direct competition with the "renegade parties" thrown by Atlanta party mogul Steve Berman (see sidebar). Last year's official River Expo bash had a dismal turnout, leaving the organization in the hole. On the other hand, Berman's competing "Summer Sorcery" party, held in the atrium of the Atlanta Ap-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

Steve Berman

Atlanta's Party Boy Gives the People What They Want

by JAMES FITCH

"As gay men and women there's too much sorrow and not enough happiness in our lives at times," says Steve Berman. "Going out and dancing and forgetting your troubles is, I think, one of the best medicines and remedies."

Dancing is a business that Berman knows well. Over the past few years, his eponymous Atlanta-based party production company is mushrooming into an organization of national renown. Berman events—such as his "renegade" River Expo parties the past two years, "Freedom Rings" during the March on Washington, and "Big Top" in Pensacola for Memorial Weekend—have earned a reputation for being high-concept, rife with surprise, and always the place to be.

Why the success?

"Every single element," he explains, "from the graphics on the invitations and the ads, to the door-people, the space, the DJ, the lights, the decorations. It's the whole feel of the party. I make it my business to find the best people around. And I really spare no expense."

Berman moved to Atlanta from Boston 10 years ago, a classically trained chef who had also worked as a DJ. He came to Atlanta for a chef position with the Ritz-Carlton in Buckhead. That lasted about a week.

"At the time when I moved down, fine dining restaurants were pretty new in the city," he says. "I had been classically trained [and] didn't like how I was being treated in the restaurants."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 29

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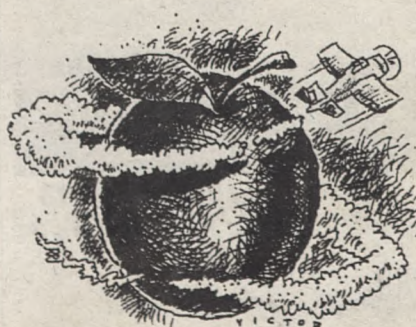
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Starting Next Issue

Party Central

Continued from page 27

parel Mart, was a smashing success.

"I wasn't doing these parties to be competition to the raft race," Berman says. "I was supplying people that came to the city to raft race with a good time; with a party that the people that I associate with would want to go to. Not that there was anything wrong with what any of the other parties or bars were doing, but not everybody wants to go to a bar, and not everybody wanted to go to that type of party. I was just giving people an alternative."

While many people who attended the official parties over the past few years may have left feeling underwhelmed by the experience, there's no argument to the fact that people who shelled out \$30 to attend Berman's party last year got more than a dance party. They got a dance *and* a spectacle. The theme was magic, so Berman had magic on hand. He hired a psychic, several strolling magicians to perform sleight-of-hand tricks, and a main-stage magician who turned a man in to a mountain lion, did a Houdini-inspired metamorphosis, and sawed a woman in half, among other things.

"This is actually the fifth year that I've been doing parties during raft race," Berman said. "It just grew to such a level of recognition, just beyond your typical party, and has caused a lot of attention, not just here in Atlanta, but across the United States. The parties that raft race did the last few years were not that successful. Basically, some people said [to the River Expo committee], 'Why don't you ask Steve to do this with you.' I always hoped to be able to eventually work with them, but sometimes people are afraid to ask."

So this year it seems the River Expo committee did the right thing by finally enlisting Berman and his minions to do the party for

them. The cornerstone party on Saturday, August 13, will be held in the atrium of the Atlanta Apparel Mart. It will be called "Graffiti," but Berman is guarded when it comes to details—beside the fact that he has enlisted New York City-DJ Susan Morabito to DJ, Paul Meany of Boston to work the lights, and Keith Robinson of Atlanta to handle decorations. Berman has earned a reputation across the country for his high-concept excellence, so expect nothing less from "Graffiti."

Berman will also give an after-party during the wee hours of Sunday morning. "Shock Wave 3: Return to the Thunderdome," however, will be "very exclusive" and tickets are "very limited." Which is to say, if you don't already have tickets, it's very likely that you won't be there.

For those who *do* enjoy partying at bars, there will be plenty of party options this year, as usual.

Thursday night, following the Miss Hotlanta pageant, Blake's will put on a welcoming bash. Although nothing has been confirmed yet, expect an HRE/bar event to follow Friday night's Mr. Hotlanta pageant, as well.

For late-night, hardcore partiers, the Core will offer dancing well into Sunday, following Berman's "Graffiti."

The new River Expo addition of Sunday brunch at Colony Square will be followed by an afternoon Tea Dance at AXYS. Finally, the Armory will have the distinction of officially putting River Expo to bed.

The Armory's "A World of Colour" theme party will kick off at 9 p.m. with a "farewell performance" by the Armorettes. Otherwise, look for the Armory's usual offerings of country & western, disco and drink—and lots of colorful decorations throughout.

"I look forward to River Expo every year," said the Armory's Jim Marshall. "We always go all out."



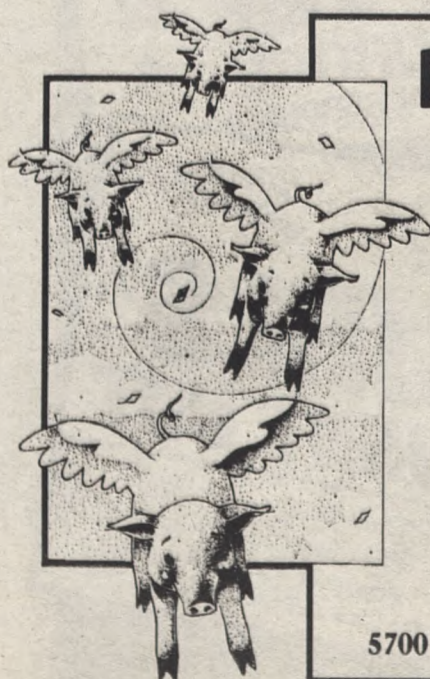
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Steve Berman

Continued from page 27

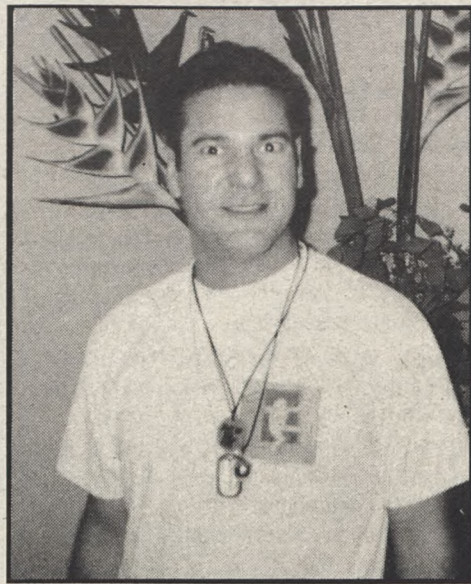
So Berman turned temporarily to the old stand-by profession where creative differences typically lead—waiting tables—until he was able to open his own record store. He owned and operated Let the Music Play, which was dedicated to dance music, for nine-and-a-half years. He recently sold the store to concentrate on his production business. Berman also became known in Atlanta as a DJ. He held long-standing positions spinning for Bulldogs, and Candide.

"I've been very dedicated to dance music and the club scene," he says. "It's important to me to bring that positive element to the city." His production company evolved out of that dedication to dance music—and to showing the people of Atlanta a good time.

"It was just sort of the logical step," he says of Steve Berman Productions. "I didn't start it thinking that it would become a business like it has become. I just wanted to do parties with my friends."

These days, Berman's parties are omnipresent, coinciding largely with major gay and lesbian celebrations. Recently, he put on a "Stars & Stripes" party at AXYS, saluting the participants and spectators of Atlanta's Armory Sports Classic. One of his most recent national successes was "Big Top," which he threw Memorial Weekend in Pensacola. In his typical big style, "Big Top" featured effects from the likes of the Great Wallendas on a tightrope.

With such major productions, though, comes a price. It's not unusual for Berman to spend upwards of \$70,000 for a full-blown party. In fact, he says most promoters probably spend half what he does, yet charge comparable admission prices. One of the most difficult aspects of his job, then, is convincing



Steve Berman

people to pay \$30 to come in.

"The most difficult thing is getting people to just come to my events and see that they are different and to know that I'm not ripping them off," Berman says. The South has never had many parties at the level that I do. [But] it's not just Atlanta, it's all through the United States. Obviously there are certain places, like New York, where it costs \$18 to get into a club on a regular night ... but when people are paying \$2 and \$3 to get into a nightclub, \$30 is a lot."

In addition to throwing the "Graffiti" party for Hotlanta River Expo, August 13, Berman does "Therapy" at Velvet. Each (now gay) Saturday night, Berman brings in DJs from around the country to play music that isn't being played elsewhere in the city. Rounding out the year for Berman will be Labor Day and Halloween parties, probably at AXYS, and the Red party in Miami for Thanksgiving.



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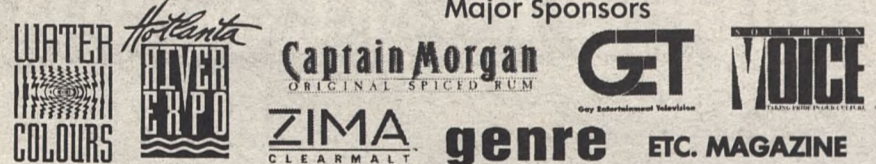
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July 29

Opening Ceremony Artistic Director Avery Brooks leads Sweet Honey in the Rock, the Harambee Singers, SNCC Freedom Singers and choreographer Diane McIntyre in an amalgam of poetry, music, cultural history and politics. King Chapel, Morehouse College, 7 pm.

Waramba by Ensemble Koteba D'Abidjan, Alliance Theatre, Woodruff Arts Center. Also July 30, 8 pm \$15.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with André Watts Program includes the winning composition from NBAF/ASO Composition Competition. Symphony Hall, Woodruff Arts Center. 8 pm. Also June 30.

Mezike Mama A portrait of Zap Mama, the exuberant five-woman a cappella performance group of Zairean-Belgian descent. Hill Auditorium, High Museum of Art. 8 pm and 9:15 pm.

July 30

Roots & Branches Folk Arts Festival: Celebrate Africa! African Village and Marché Africain—Piedmont Park. July 30 through August 7, 11 am to 7 pm. Free.

Ruth Brown and Little Jimmy Scott The Godmother of rock, rhythm and blues, with legendary vocal inspiration Little Jimmy Scott performing blues, rhythm and ballads. Center Stage, 8 pm. \$15.

Ali A play by Geoff Ewing on the life of Muhammad Ali. 14th Street Playhouse, 8:30 pm.

July 31

Other Voices Within the Veil: The Use of Gay Themes in Contemporary African American Literature. Rudolph Byrd moderates as authors engage in discussion of gays and their lives on the fringe of African American literary life. Authors Samuel Delaney and Brent Wade.

Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Reception Hall, 7 pm to 9 pm. Free.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo Two shows by the internationally renowned a cappella male performance group from South Africa that toured with Paul Simon. King Chapel, Atlanta University Center, 3 pm, \$12; 7:30 pm, \$15.



Abbey Lincoln

Sunday in the Park with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Grant Park is the site of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra outdoor performance of the winning composition from the NBAF/ASO New Composer Competition. 7 pm. Free.

August 1

World Drum and Dance Summit Clark Atlanta University Gymnasium, 10 am to 7:30 pm through August 7. Registration required.

Backyard Symposium: Where is the Black Cultural Renaissance? A discussion on the state of the Black Cultural Renaissance, what it is and what it might not be. Hammonds House Galleries, 4 pm. Free.

August 2

Afro Rhumba! Los Munequitos De Matanzas & Charanga La Unica Legendary Cuban dance and music ensemble Los Munequitos pairs with Philly's best Latin band, Charanga La Unica, Roxy Theater, 8 pm. \$15.

Documentary Preview: W.E.B. DuBois: A Biography in Four Voices Director Louis Massiah breaks ground with an innovative and

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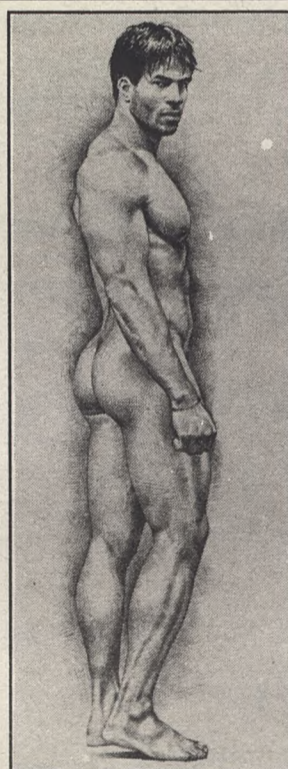
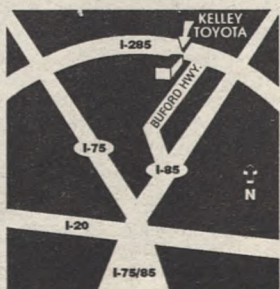
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OUT & ABOUT 31

insightful look at the life of scholar, writer, activist W.E.B. DuBois. Georgia Pacific Auditorium, 8 pm. Adults \$5; Children \$2.50.

August 3

Afro Blues: Don Pullen and David Murray Pianist Don Pullen and the African Brazilian Connection meld with saxophonist David Murray's Special Quartet to explore roots and rhythms. Variety Playhouse, 9 pm. \$15.



David Murray

Soweto Street Beat Dance Company South African Dance and Drumming. Georgia Tech Theatre for the Arts, 8 pm. \$10.

Re/Membering Aunt Jemima: A Menstrual Show by Breena

Clarke and Glenda Dickerson Burroughs Auditorium, Fine Arts Building, Spelman College, 8 pm. \$10.

Bessie's Blues by Thomas W. Jones II A revival of Atlanta's own Jomandi Theater Company's hit musical about Bessie Smith, starring Bernardine Mitchell. Alliance Theatre, Woodruff Arts Center, 8 pm. \$12.

August 4

Gender and Difference: The Impact of Audre Lorde Audre Lorde, Black feminist and lesbian writer, is the focus of this panel discussion of her role-defining works on gay black women. Panelists include Angela Bowers, Beverly Buy-Sheftal, Essex Hemphill, Kate Rushin, Willie Howard, Jr. and Sonia Sanchez. Chastain Room, Renaissance Hotel. 9 am to noon. Free.

The Art of Good Health Pressing health concerns of the African Diaspora. Participants include Dr. Louis Sullivan, Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr. Groesbeck Parham, University of Arkansas Department of Gynecologic Oncology; Dr. Abbo Hassan Abbo of the Sudan, who has worked 35 years repairing the damage African

women suffer from traditional/cultural circumcision. Morehouse School of Medicine, 9 am.

Abbey Lincoln and Cassandra Wilson Two extraordinary voices, both with power, control and superb emotion. Center Stage Theater, 8 pm. \$18.

Pomo Afro Homos The three-man performance group bring their "on-the-edge" perspectives of America and Black gay male life to the stage. Variety Playhouse, 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm. \$12.

August 5

Youssou N'Dour & Friends with Mor Thiam's Drums of Fire Atlanta Civic Center, 8 pm. \$12, \$15, \$18.

Awards for Distinguished Achievement Curtis Mayfield, Ollie Harrington, Donald McKayle, Roland Freeman, others recognized for outstanding achievement in the arts. Georgia Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel, 7 pm. Free.

August 6

Philadelphia Legends of Jazz and the Odean Pope Saxophone Choir The mesmerizing sounds of Philadelphia's legendary Odean Pope Saxophone Choir and the Big Band sounds of Philly's jazz giants. Georgia Ballroom, Renaissance Hotel. 7 pm. \$5.

Nancy Wilson and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Roy Hargrove Chastain Park, 8 pm. \$23 to \$41.

The "Big" Dance with Chuck Davis A down-home Saturday night dance party for festival artists and attendees. Move and groove to every style from lindy hop to hip hop. Egyptian Ballroom, Fox Theatre, 9 pm. \$5.

August 7

NBAF Closing Ceremony A final afternoon of music and fellowship. Piedmont Park, 6 pm. Free.

Call the NBAF at 730-7315 for more schedule information. Tickets to all events are available at Atlanta-area TicketMaster locations (cash only at walk-up window; service charges apply). Credit cards by phone only. 249-6400.

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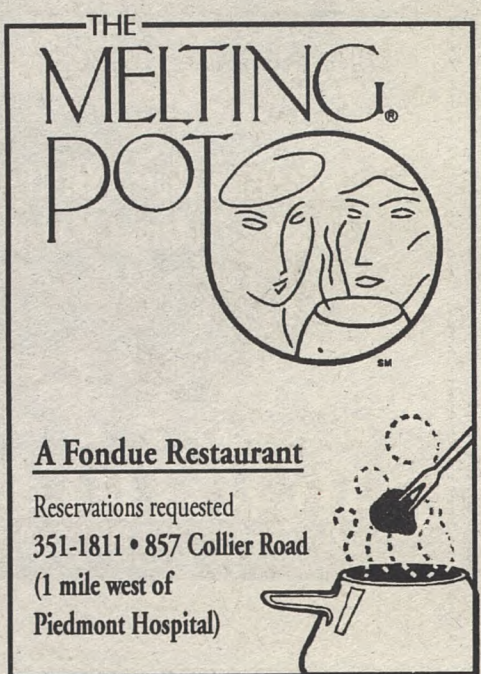
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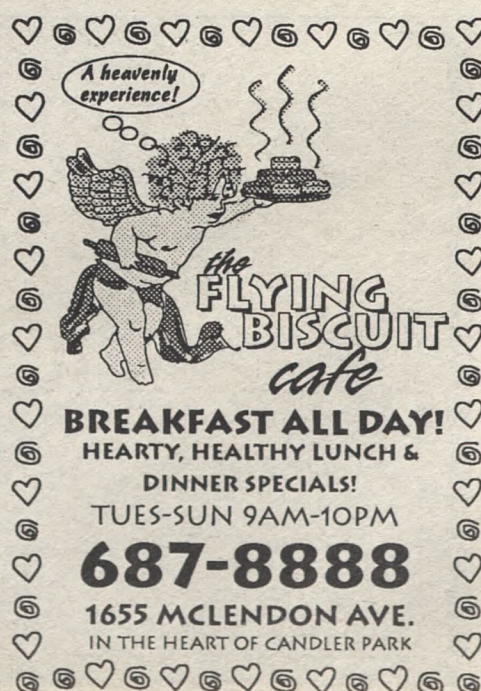
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EAT

A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Two friends have described their meals at **Le Giverny-A Bistro** (1355 Clairmont Rd. 325-7252) when it first opened as the "worst they've ever eaten." Recently two other folks told me that the food was "fabulous" and a "real bargain."

Go figure.

Given all the media attention that's been paid to the recent flowering of Gallic eateries in Atlanta, it's surprising that Le Giverny (about 6 months old now) has been left out of most of the talk. But its lack of notoriety doesn't seem to have kept area eaters from finding the cozy little bistro buried between Pyng Ho and Athens Pizza in a strip center that's occupied solely by restaurants.

There's much to like about this simple little dining room. Like thousands of similar neighborhood restaurants in cities like New York, Paris, or Montreal, you enter down a half flight of steps. No fun for folks in walkers or wheel chairs, but a simple touch that does a nice job of separating you from the madness just outside the door.

The walls (one faux brick, the others plain white) of the small rectangular space are hung with Monet prints and a few photographs. There's a tiny bar in back, behind that an open kitchen. Lighting is subdued and diffuse. Tables are draped in white cloths, adorned with a small candle and fresh flowers. Napkins are heavy white cotton. The buzz of quiet conversation, punctuated by an occasional laugh, fills the room.

Nice.

The simple menu is equally appealing. Bistro staples—pate, quiche, mussels mariniere, pork au poivre, salmon in tarragon sauce—dot the menu along with a diversion or two—steamed asparagus with Cajun hollandaise and peppered tuna steak. Prices are moderate, but if you order from one of the three "Les menus a prix fixe" they start to look downright reasonable—three courses for \$13, \$16 or \$19. The wine list is consistent with the menu in variety and price, but given that buying interesting wines is way easier than conceiving and preparing interesting foods, this seems like Le Giverny's weak point.

But as the food arrives, other problems begin to appear.

A house salad, comprised of not particularly fresh (and now ubiquitous) organic field greens and a crumbling of some strong cheese, is dressed with a pallid vinaigrette. Yawn. A tomato and basil combo is a little more fun—the garnish of shredded celery root dressed in mayo and mustard is fabulous—but the tomatoes are pale and lifeless, the basil dressing too mild by half.

A cup of lentil and chicken soup has the look and consistency of Brunswick stew, and tastes like lentils and sausage, but it's filling and satisfying. A serving of the aforementioned mussels is large enough, even if the mollusks themselves are smallish and not particularly fresh tasting. The garlic/wine broth is pleasing, but no more so than a dozen other versions in town.

Entrees come with three side vegetables: serviceable, cheesy scalloped potatoes; ordinary ratatouille; and good shredded cabbage spiked with caraway seeds. None of these is mentioned on the menu, and that's a problem because both of the entrees we ordered were sauced with a decent combo of pepper, tomato, mushroom olive and eggplant that became one with the ratatouille as we ate.

A pair of boneless, skinless chicken breasts topped with that sauce were moist, tender and not overcooked. But two thin slabs of tuna (cooked medium rare and scattered with cracked black pepper) had only one flavor—old. Had we not been near stuffed to the gills when the entrees arrived, they would have gone back to the kitchen. Instead they went home to the cat. A friend who had the tuna the following night described it as fresh but "boring."

Our waitron was friendly, affable, efficient and appropriate.

But two of us spent \$54 (pre tip) for three courses and a bottle of so-so wine. That's less than Brasserie Le Coze or Ciboulette (but there's no comparison in food quality) and about the same as Brasserie au Bar or Anis (where the food is still far better).

Add Le Giverny to your list of perfectly pleasant places to share an otherwise mediocre meal with friends and family.

Constant Craving

Craving just one tiny taste of excellence after all that mediocrity, we headed to Galletto (985 Monroe Dr. 724-0204) after dinner at Le Giverny.

I had a mini gushing attack about the look of Galletto and its excellent coffees just after it opened. But a busy schedule and stomach averse to caffeine have kept me from going back.

Despite the tough parking situation (the local Blockbusters shares the same lot) Galletto is doing a thriving after-dinner business; helped by the fact they are now open until midnight Friday and Saturday.

The coffee is still fabulous—rich and strong (even when it's decaf) but easy all the way down. I had a really good cup of decaf mango Ceylon tea that was nicely astringent, packed with flavor and bothered my acid/caffeine sensitive tummy not one little bit.

And be sure and try the biscotti—the lemon and orange-walnut versions are fabulous.

Kenny Rogers

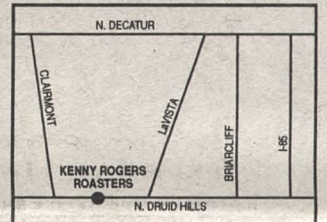
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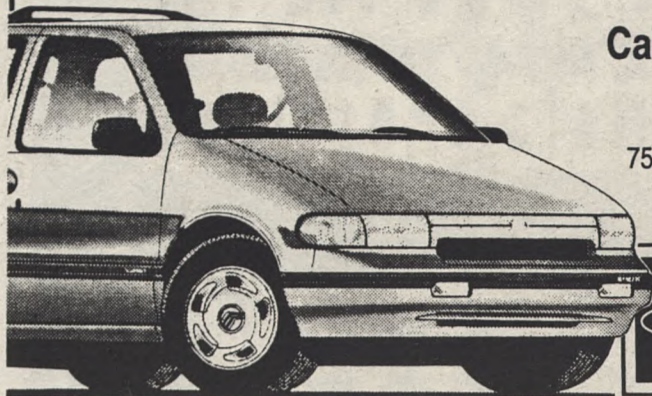
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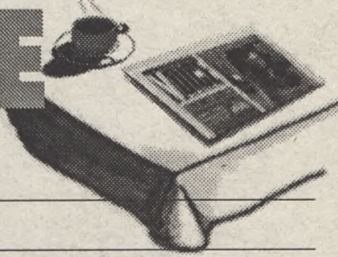
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ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Organizations

- AID Atlanta—872-0600
- AIDS Education/Svcs for Minorities—POB 87277, Atl, 30337, 753-2900
- AID Gwinnett—POB 884 Lawrenceville, GA 30246, (404) 962-8396
- 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—325-4143
- 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
- Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)—876-PAL5
- 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—739-5607
- Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—438-5823
- Atlanta Freedom Marching Band—872-9763
- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—POB 771144, Atlanta 30357
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing—POB 7032, Atl 30357, 876-1060
- Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble—872-3135
- "Funny...That Way"—875-2275
- Gay Musician's Meeting Post—SASE to GMMP, PO Box 250336, Atl 30318
- Pen-draggin' Poets—523-3639
- Silver Fingers Productions—388-4624
- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.—609-9590
- Southern Country Atlanta—908-7480
- Young Lesbian Art & Craft Exchange—Decatur, GA; 378-3367

Bars

- The Armory—836 Juniper. 881-9280
- Axys—(Sundays) 1150 Peachtree St. NE 607-0922
- Backstreet—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986
- 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 Core—917 Peachtree St.
- Crazy Ray's—1492 Piedmont. 873-4655
- The Eagle—308 Ponce de Leon. 87EAGLE
- The Heretic—2069 Cheshire Bridge. 325-3061
- Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125
- The Metro—48 6th Street, 874-9869
- Model T—699 Ponce de Leon, 872-2209
- Moreland Tavern—1196 Moreland Ave. S.E. 622-4650
- New Order—1544 Piedmont. 874-8247
- Opus—1086 Alco St. 634-6478
- The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238
- Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon. 892-7871
- Revolution—293 Pharr Rd. 816-5455
- Scandals—Ansley Square. 875-5957
- Velvet-89 Park Pl., NE 681-9936
- Waterworks—107 Luckie St. 577-7059

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—POB 14531, Atl 30324, voice mail 908-5369
- Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—876-1398
- Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, RM. 365, Atl. 30312
- GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
- Human Rights Campaign Fund—Federal Advocacy Network, 231-5751
- HRCF Event Hotline—840-6969
- LEGAL—605-7476
- Lesbian Avengers—798-7742
- National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
- National Organization for Women—875-0176
- National Org. for Women, Gay & Lesbian Rights Task Force—636-7435
- Neighbors Network—816-8348
- Olympics Out of Cobb Coalition—POB 77341 Atlanta, GA 30357-1341—798-7822
- Out Front—PO Box 12369, Atlanta 30355
- Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atl, 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—OLOOC, 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
- Community Network for Counseling Psychology and Social Work—315-8945
- Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
- Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (GL PEN)—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)
- Voices Out Front (Media Networking Assoc)—2103 N. Decatur Rd. Ste. 185, Decatur 30033

Spiritual

- All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—622-1154
- Atlanta Church of Religious Science—636-4567
- Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—310-1529
- The Catholic Group—POB 243, Austell, GA 30001, 310-1529
- Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
- Congregation Bet Haverim (Jewish)—642-3467
- Emergence/Atlanta (Christian Scientists)—565-2126
- Fellowship of Love Christian Church—(706)660-0101
- 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—292-8567
- Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church—627-6221; 575 Boulevard SE
- 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
- Redefined Faith Worship Center—388-4624
- 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
- Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
- Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—851-2882 (voice mail)
- Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl. 30324, 873-4061
- Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
- Lambda Car Club—POB 11705, Atlanta 30355
- Mountain Catalyst—POB 199, Demorest, GA 30355
- OUT in Nature—619-9185
- 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—237-2752
- TRICKS/Bridge Club—1202 Summit North Atlanta, GA 30324

Service/Support/Social

- Adoption Options-Rainbow Kids—(404) 633-6021
- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
- All Fun No Games Lesbian Social Group—934-5741
- Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—321-5678
- American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (eve)
- ANGLE (BellSouth Gay/Lesbian Employee Group)—(404) 723-6540
- Asians & Friends-Atlanta—876-0090(fax)
- 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—435-4203
- Atlanta Lambda Community Cr—POB 15180, Atl 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
- Atlanta Lesbian Singles Organization (ALSO)—294-4558
- Atlanta Prime Times—For Information Call 734-2490
- Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
- BiAtlanta—256-8992
- Bisexuals of Atlanta Resource Network—908-3413
- Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
- Black Lesbians with Children 498-3815
- Caregivers to PWAs Support Group—874-1109 or 875-6109
- Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
- Consciousness Raising and Support Group for Women in Politics and Grassroots Organizing—636-7435
- Delphi—POB 14591, Atlanta, G 30324
- Emergence International—876-3997
- Emotions Anonymous—925-4825
- GAPHR's Support Group for HIV+ Dentists-Physicians—634-0672
- Gainesville, Georgia Gay Men's Support Grp—Gary (404)535-5445
- Gay Fathers of Atlanta—342-6451
- Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
- Gay/Lesbian AA & Al-Anon—881-9188
- Gay/Lesbian/Bi Teen Group—378-5570
- Gay/Lesbian/Bi Vets of America—627-6981 lv. msg.
- 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, Lwmc'ville 30246, 871-GAYS
- Hospitality Atlanta—627-1630, 708-6866
- Interact of Atlanta—633-9466
- John Howell Park Project—876-0105
- Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
- Latinos En Accion—621-5743
- Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—378-6935
- Lesbian Narcotics Anonymous—703-3897
- Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
- Lesbians Considering Parenthood—767-6173
- Lesbians Over 50—908-6119
- Lesbians With Children—641-0870
- Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 31107, 523-5804
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- Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)—892-5868
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—296-0830 or 875-9440
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chattanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Southside—(691-4729 or 981-5310)
- Positive Black Lesbians United (PBLU)—298-9614
- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
- Southern Bears, Inc.—PO Box 13964, Atlanta, GA 30324 (404) 908-3381
- Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 350-0456
- Survivors of Incest Anonymous—POB 2502, Decatur, GA 30031; 239-8018
- Trikone—South Asian Gay and Lesbian Org.—607-1766
- Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
- Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
- Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
- Zami—370-1392

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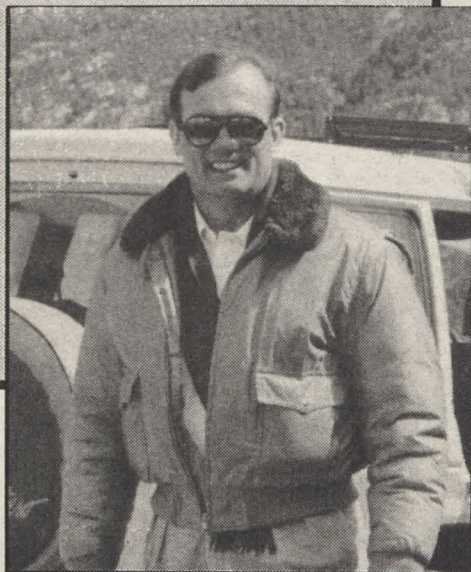
Students/Alumni

- 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
- Delta Lambda Phi—All Campuses, 365-5357
- 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., Atl 30332
- Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union of the Univ. of Ga.—404/549-9368
- Spelman College Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance—681-2161
- Univ. of Ala. Lesbian/Gay Alumni Assoc.—284-3479

OUTLINES

CHARLES HALL

How long in Atlanta: 22 years
Relationship: Single
Last Book Read: "Praetorian" by Thomas Gifford
Pot peeve: Inconsiderate drivers



For someone who has known he wanted to be a lawyer since he was 12 years old, Charles Hall does anything but glamorize his profession. Originally from West Virginia, Charles moved to Atlanta to attend Emory Law School 22 years ago, and has been a lawyer ever since. But he's the first to admit that practicing law is nothing like the way lawyers are portrayed on television. "I'm a general practice lawyer—I do wills, estates, it's not that exciting. In fact, I'm beginning to question what I'm going to do for the rest of my life," he admits.

That uncertainty is not only due to disillusionment with his chosen profession. Almost a year ago, Charles lost his partner of nearly ten years to AIDS. He vividly recalls their first meeting. "When I met Brian, he wouldn't pay me any attention at all," Charles recalls, "the only way he would have noticed me was if I fell down and he had to step over me. I loved him the first moment I saw him." After four years of chance meetings with no results, and another relationship under his belt, Charles finally got his chance. The result was a relationship that was everything he had hoped it would be.

"We were best friends. He was cute, lively, had a sharp wit, everything that I liked. We had our differences, too. I like to travel, he didn't. He always used to say, 'We're going down someday' when we would fly."

It was in fact his partner that first encouraged Charles to serve on the board of ArtCare, a position he still holds. "It was ironic, really, because he constantly gave me grief about my involvement in volunteer organizations. To my astonishment, he really wanted me to be involved with ArtCare," Charles says. "Being on the board is actually doing something; you really have to work."

Now that Charles has been alone for nearly a year, he is ready for things to get better. "I'm very impatient. I want to meet somebody, but I think maybe my standards are too high right now. I've always been in control,

but this is something no one can control, so it's frustrating," he says. "I know it's irrational, but in a way, I feel abandoned."

"Losing somebody you love is part of life," Charles continues. "It goes along with opening yourself up to loving someone in a relationship, which I think can be hard for gay people. We have to go through the whole trauma of accepting ourselves for who we are first, after being told we're pariahs all our lives. There's always another Pat Robertson out there trying to define us according to his beliefs."

Prejudice against gays has contradictory effects on Charles. "Sometimes I want to just close the blinds and hide and other times I want to fly the flag out front and march in the Gay Pride parade."

As far as coming out to people in his family and work, he says, "It's usually not as big a secret as you think it is. Most people already know. I just don't understand why some people get to be seventy years old and never let anyone know. That's not necessarily our fault, either. It's harder for some people than others, because of all the emotional baggage."

Still, the reactions of some politicians towards gay issues bothers him. The gays in the military issue, for example. "The politicians involved in that were spineless and the reasons behind their arguments were ridiculous," he says.

All of which figures into his current situation—and his indecision when it comes to what he wants to do for the rest of his life.

Charles acknowledges, "I'm having a mid-life crisis of sorts, I guess. Maybe the first thing I should do is go and punch Jesse Helms in the nose."



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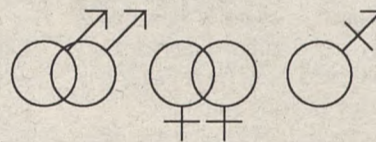
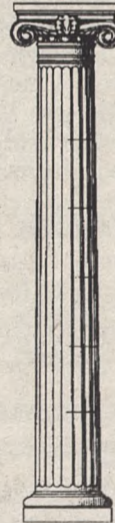
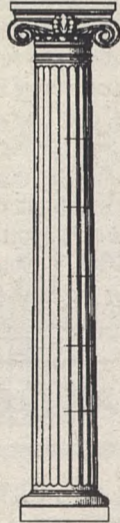
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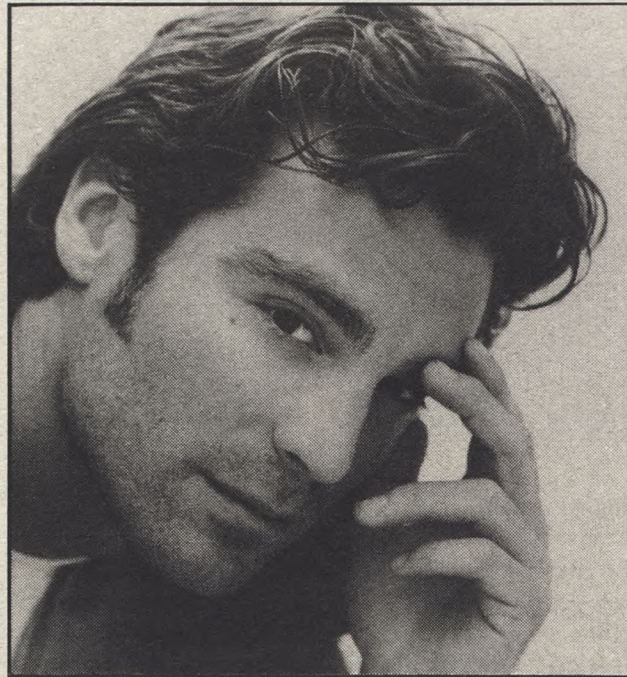
Dick Signs Off: Dish waves a reluctant bye-bye to Richard Ottinger, executive director of Georgia Public Television, who has announced his plans to retire in a few months. Ottinger's bravery in airing the unadulterated mini-series "Tales of the City" won him local and national attention and not just a little bit of trouble with the state legislature. His efforts, though, have not gone unrewarded; last year he collected not only the Governor's Award at the local Emmys, but also PBS's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dish is sure that Ottinger is glad his fighting days are nearly over—but the battle has just begun. With the open-to-debate amendment the legislature passed last March prohibiting the use of state funds for "producing, printing or airing pornography," the next executive director of GPTV can expect much more of the same.

Decency Signs On: Dish recently received a letter from a new tongue-in-cheek media watchdog group called the Midtown League of Decency, which has formed in order to "combat the continuous assaults being foisted on the gay and lesbian community by the radical religious right." Led by Ms. Blanche Avalanche, the group has sent a letter to Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard protesting the airing of sleazy late-night soap opera "Valley of the Dolls" on WAGA. "Dolls," in case you haven't seen it, has tons of male nudity and features a gay character who in one recent episode planted a pretty juicy kiss on his partner. As for the content of the show, Ms. Avalanche says that "Dolls makes 'Tales of the City' look like a romp through Heritage USA!" Dish wishes Ms. Avalanche well in her endeavors, but would like to call her attention to an important point she may have missed: though Pierre may object to its subject matter, he has no influence over the funding for "Valley of the Dolls."

Soccer sex: With all the hype surrounding the World Cup, Dish thought you might enjoy this story from the New Yorker.

Dish

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



Michael T. Weiss is the hunky love interest of Steven Weber in the gay play-soon-to-be-film "Jeffrey."

A diplomat stationed in Laos attended a soccer match there which featured a half-time show Dish can guarantee you never saw at your high school football games. As soon as the players

left, one figure emerged from each end of the field. The first wore a giant penis made of straw which covered the figure's head and shoulders; the other, a giant vulva of equal dimensions. Neither of the two could see where he or she was going. The crowd maneuvered them, through shouts and whistles, together. When at last the gargantuan genitalia met, the vulva opened, and, well, you can imagine the rest.

Jeffrey coming soon: You can count on it: Dish will be the first in line when the movie version of Jeffrey, gay writer Paul Rudnick's hilarious play about love, sex (or the lack thereof) and coping in the age of AIDS is released. Workin' Man Films is producing the film, which is shooting in New York right now, most recently at backroom sex club The Vault. The film will star Steven Weber (the cute pilot on "Wings" who isn't Tim Daly) with hunk-o-rama Michael T. Weiss as his love interest. Though Jeffrey's boy meets boy/boy loses boy/boy gets boy back plot is pretty basic, you could scarcely call it overdone by Hollywood. If the producers are true to Rudnick's script, Jeffrey could be the gay answer to last year's heterosexual date film of the year, Sleepless in Seattle.

New racket for Martina: Martina Navratilova has put down her racquet long enough to pen a new novel, called The Total Zone, set to be released at the end of August. Okay, so she didn't do it alone—the book was co-written by novelist Liz Nickles, presumably between sets. Set against the glam world of professional tennis (surprise, surprise), The Total Zone features a mystery involving a teen player with a suspicious injury and a bad case of burnout. As Martina puts it, "Viewed from a distance, her life is every little girl's fantasy...behind the scenes, however, lies a different, more sinister story." Dish just loves Martina, but somehow we can't see ourselves reading this book—but then, we probably wouldn't pay to see Sandra Scoppertone play tennis, either.

July 28, August 3, 1994

Now that all the flurry over Jupiter and the Comet is over, life can return to normal, right? Well, if anyone had the foggiest idea what "normal" is, then we might have something to return to! However, the winds of change are upon us as our brother and sister planets continue to suggest that we move quickly up the evolutionary ladder. "2001," here we come.

ARIES, as you may know, is often referred to as one of the leadership signs. No hanging out in the kitchen all day, trying to create the perfect soufflé for you. You usually love a good challenge, so pick carefully to match your energy and gifts.

TAURUS, if you find yourself in a situation where the flow isn't going your way, it's a good time to ask close friends for support and feedback. It isn't necessary to figure everything out before it happens; many answers come in process.

GEMINI, with Mars cruising your 1st house of personality and physical awareness, you may feel you have more energy than you can contain. Regular physical exercise relieves tension and keeps your nervous energy flowing smoothly.

Dear **CANCER**, do you have a secret dream that you have been nursing for several years, waiting for the perfect moment to bring it out? Perfect moments rarely come along by them-

STARSIGNS

selves and are usually created by determined people, like you. Happy Birthday, **LEO!** The Sun is now illuminating your 1st house of personality, so it's your turn to sparkle and shine! You could make this a month of mini-celebrations with numerous people, spreading fun and good cheer far and wide.

VIRGO, with the Sun moving through your 12th house of dreams and visions, you may find yourself in the uncharted worlds of the collective unconscious. If you feel a little dizzy or bewildered, don't be alarmed, just keep paddling.

LIBRA, are you feeling a little bit bored with some of your friends? It could be that you need more quality time with yourself. It is important to get to know yourselves just as well as we know and support others. Make time to live your own life.

SCORPIO, Jupiter's forward motion could be making waves in your 1st house of self, awareness, including extra

energy zipping through your physical body. Take advantage of this gift by eating well and exercising or your waist line may start to expand. Dear **SAGITTARIUS**, you may feel very expansive and energized with all the excitement and attention that has been focused on Jupiter, your ruling planet. A great time to get your dreams down off the shelf and put your life into full forward motion.

CAPRICORN, if you are patient, creative and resourceful, you have excellent possibilities for bringing your dreams to fulfillment. Care for your physical and emotional bodies. Strengthen your immune system at all times. **AQUARIUS**, how is your sense of humor these days? Are you taking life a little bit too seriously? Well, life in 1994 can be very serious so we definitely need our sense of creative humor to keep ourselves in balance. **PISCES**, with Saturn hanging out in your 1st house of self-awareness and basic instincts, it's best not to take anything for granted. Set flexible priorities, tie up loose ends, get rid of stuff you don't use and have some fun.

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) 473-0095 to order charts or arrange a chart interpretation.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN

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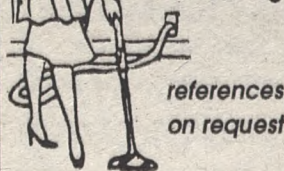
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Beautifully renovated unique 1924 bungalow. Vaulted LR w/skylights, fireplace, French doors onto private terrace. New kitchen. All new systems/roof, central heat/air, hardwood floors. Convenient to everything. Only \$58,000. Call Scott or Jerry (404) 753-6228. (7.26)

Budget-minded perfection in Historic Cabbagetown. Impeccable renovation of this 2 BR, 1 BA bungalow: LR & master BR have vaulted ceilings w/exposed beams, stylish kitchen opens to dining area, master bath w/garden tub & sep. shower, palladian window - only

\$62,000. Call Greta or Shea at RE/MAX Metro Atlanta. 321-3123. (7.22)

Roommates

GWF to share 3BR house in Gwinnett. 30 minutes to Midtown. NS/ND. Must like cats. W/D, private bath. \$300 + phone. (404) 972-2358. (7.24)

PGWF 39, Stone Mountain, seeks very neat discreet professional GM or GF housemate for elegant home. \$450 + 1/2 utilities. (404) 498-6901. (7.23)

Candler Park/Lake Claire. GWM seeks someone to share 3BR/1BA home. \$325/mo + 1/2 utilities. Walk to MARTA station. Security alarm. Leave message (404) 524-8221. (7.23)

Briarcliff/Clairmont area—Cozy downstairs 1BR apt, private residence. Available August 1, \$450/mo includes utilities except telephone. Non-smoker. GWF preferred. (404) 315-9306. (7.23)

Prof GWM healthy, HIV+, 38, smoker w/cats seeks mature, responsible roommate to share spacious 2BR apt in Candler Park. Interests in gym, movies, concerts and theatre a plus. \$270 + 1/2 utilities. Fred (404) 653-0321. (7.26)

Financially stable 30something GWM seeks same to share Monroe Drive apt. Available Sept 5th. \$262.50/month; 1/2 utilities; Deposit. Serious only; (404) 897-1355 evenings & weekends. (7.28)

DYKATUR

Semi-furnished, central air, washer & dryer, convenient to Agnes Scott, GSU, Emory. \$385/mo includes utilities. Sorry...no pets (I have 2 cats). Call (404) 373-3619. (7.24)

L5P - GWF seeks GF to share 2BR/1BA house. Pets okay. No drugs. \$200/mo + 1/2 util. Call (404) 378-1664. (7.24)

Austell, near South Cobb Hospital (EW Connector). 5 minutes to I-20, 15 to I-285. Share 3BR/2 1/2 BA house; 2 cats.

(404) 819-9941. (7.26)

Roommate wanted to share 3BR/2BA house. Midtown. No smokers. No pets. \$340/mo + 1/3 util. Deposit required. Call (404) 872-0023. (7.23)

GWM seeks liberal well-humored responsible roommate to share large 2BR apt in L5P on Euclid Avenue. Call Brian (404) 523-9703. (7.23)

GWM to share nice, spacious condo near Morningside. W/D, pool. Honest & responsible. \$395 + 1/2 utilities. (404) 325-3459. (7.24)

GWM seeks non-smoker to share fully furnished house in Norcross. W/D, (your bedroom furniture is okay). \$395 includes utilities. Mitch (404) 564-3800. (7.23)

Decatur/Clarkston. Lesbian housemate wanted to share home. No smoking/drugs. Must love pets. \$300 includes all. Susan 299-7881(h), or 727-0696(w). (7.24)

Candler Park. Female housemate wanted to share bungalow. Fenced yard surrounded by greenery. Dogs welcome. No smoking indoors. \$300/mo+1/3 utilities+deposit. Call (404) 525-1824. (7.23)

GWF, 30, seeks similar to first find then share 2BR/2BA house/appt beginning August. (404) 457-7025. (7.23)

GWF, 31, professional, seeks GF roommate in 2BR/2BA apt. Washer/dryer and fireplace. Dunwoody. Call Nancy (404) 457-7025. (7.23)

GWF seeks same to share duplex in Decatur. No pets and only bedroom furniture needed. \$290/mo. Leave msg at (404) 288-8508. (7.23)

285/85N—GWF to share large house. \$350/mo incl. utilities. No drugs. No pets. Call (404) 840-7180. (7.27)

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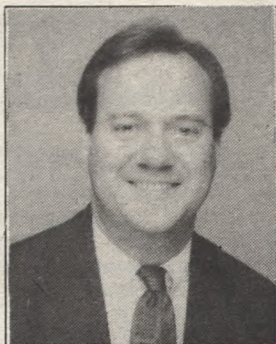
THE OLD MILL - Bat Cave, NC. B&B on banks of rushing mountain stream near Asheville. Call (704) 625-4256. (7.23)

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MORE ON PAGE 42

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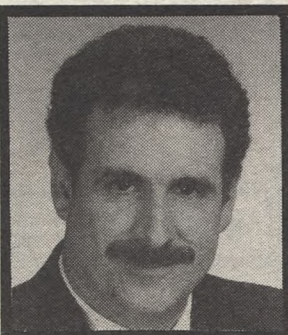
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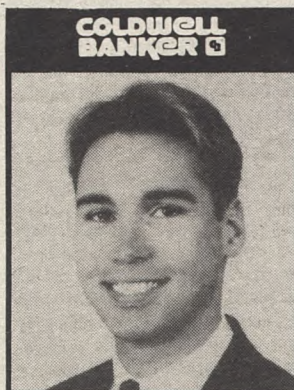
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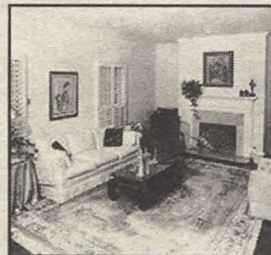
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Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to participate in GSU Psychology Research on childhood experiences of gay and bisexual men. Involves completing questionnaire by mail. All responses kept strictly confidential. Study results available to participants. (404) 288-6821 for information or to participate.

Volunteers needed for sponsor sign-up on 5K Walk and Run against domestic violence. Help get your friends in gear. Call now at Crisis Resource Center (404) 221-0252.

HELP A CHILD

AID Atlanta is looking for volunteers who are willing to work one morning a week from 9-12 or 10-1 in the pediatric nursery at the IDC. Responsibilities include interacting and playing with young children while their parents see the doctor. This is one of the most rewarding yet least stressful services available. Responsible men & women are urged to participate. Ask about our new babysitting program. If interested, please contact Jack Schiffman, Pediatric Coordinator, AID Atlanta. 874-6517. (7.22)

WE NEED YOU! Good Samaritan Project provides support & community for persons with AIDS. 873-4589. This includes all Disability Divas. (7.40)

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.

HOLLYWOOD HOTS!

Volunteers are needed NOW through September for this year's event. Earn free tickets to the show. Please call (404) 876-0954

Voice Connection

WOMEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

Lesbian artist, 31, attractive, professional, ISO woman with similar interests between 29 and 35 for friendship possibly more. No smokers. ☎ 1614

WM48 slightly submissive oral devotee and enthusiast ISO G/Bi/S female attractive requiring daytime stress relief, reciprocation not required. ☎ 1615

GF Any Age. All fun! No games. Happy Shiny People seek same. LET'S DO LUNCH. ☎ 1616

One of a kind. Quality lady. Attractive GWF 28, passionate, sensitive, non-smoker, fit likes wine, art, laughter, outdoors, quiet nights and candlelights. Seeks 26-34. No butches, bis or game players. ☎ 1617

GWF 35, fit, fun loving, affectionate and self-supporting. Enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, country music/dancing, seeks mature GWF. ☎ 1618

NE Coast GWF-28 intelligent, very good looking, great sense of humor, well-travelled, studying law. ISO similar friends, but would enjoy dating if mutual attraction. Tell me about yourself. ☎ 1497

GWF, attractive, blue-eyed, long-maned guitar goddess looking for GWF, hippy-type, 26+ for friendship, possible relationship. No drugs. No smokers. Call now... ☎ 1498

NE Ga. GWF 35, wks nights/weekends, smoker seeks sincere, monogamous relationship-oriented GWF. No drugs, bar scenes, games, butches. I am seeking soulmate. P.O.Box 1115, Flowery

Branch, GA 30542

GWF seeks "Better-Half", petite, femme, GWF 35-45. Be center of my amorous attention/sexual energy. Let's talk. No drugs/bisexuals/alcoholics. ☎ 1500

GWF-fem/attractive/35 educated/physically fit/new age/non-drinker seeks similar GW-Fem for companionship. No alkies/druggies. ☎ 1501

Curious gdlkg 5'5", 114#, bl/br, 36, feminine seeks same for friendship. D/ D-free. New to lifestyle. No butches. ☎ 1502

Attractive GBF educated, career oriented, feminine. Enjoys jazz, dining out, weekend rendezvous, and more. Seeks GBF for friendship/more. ☎ 1503

Sensitive Heart, Gentle Soul—GBF, Feminine, full-figure, attractive, likes music, movies, dancing. Seeks GBF 30+ for friendship/outings/conversation. ☎ 1480

Help!!! GWF, 26, intelligent, witty, professional, loves dancing at the smoky bars, but looking for a mature, honest, passionate relationship!!! Also loves travel and the arts. No wall-flowers, please. SoVo Box1592 or Voice Connection ☎ 1592

BiWF, 27, 5'4", 119#, married, seeks single, attractive BiF's 18-35. Live-in lover relationship possible. No Men/Couples. ☎ 1593 (7.31)

GWF, physically fit and attractive seeking sensual and passionate GWF lover 35-45 for erotic encounters and more. ☎ 1595

fortysomething GWF, thoughtful, bright, witty & unpretentious would really like to meet new women who are adventurous, spontaneous & mentally stable. Enjoy travel, cats, sports, stimulating conversation and more. Prefer non-political fellow smokers. No drugs, plus sizes, Bi's, butches or Virgos please. Make my move to Atlanta special. ☎ 1596

BF, 21. Petite, shapely lesbian, recently out, seeks cute funky queer girl. Movies, coffeshops, dancing, thrifting, long talks, summer romance? ☎ 1597

GWF Professional, ISO mature; financially secure 35ish, blonde hair, very feminine, friendly professional (degreed) - No butch, smokers, drugs or bis. ☎ 1579

Angela Lansbury lookalike seeks Linda Evans lookalike 40-50 something. I: cat lover, smoker, buxom, blonde/blue. U: similar. ☎ 1549

Lesbians who like to hike or camp, call me. ☎ 1542

GBF, 36, attractive, professional, searching GF (35-40) sensitive, good conversation, adventurous, love good food, jazz. Over ex. ☎ 1567

GBF interested in meeting a slim, attractive, professional to share a committed relationship with. NO GAMES PLEASE. ☎ 1552

Kayaker, trained beginner, seeks older lesbian kayakers for platonic paddling down Hooch, etc. Humor more important than roll. ☎ 1553

GWF, Buckhead-looking—not politically correct—desire attractive, intelligent, travelled, spiritual, communicative, affectionate GWF, 28+. No Yankee-haters, butches, smokers, drugs. ☎ 1554

GWF, 38, professional recently relocated to Atlanta. ISO tall, beautiful GWF to share walks, motorcycle rides and 3 cats. Desire sincere, honest, secure person because beauty is only skin deep. NS/ND/NBi. Box 1558, 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

GWF, attractive, sane. Seeking same into romance, fine arts, sensitivity. No Games. Late 20's early 30's. ☎ 1532

GWF, 35, attractive, professional, intelligent, witty, seeks same. Likes theater, arts, movies, music, dancing. Honesty, sensitivity, humor required. Express yourself! ☎ 1539

Attractive GWF enjoys romance, outdoors, pool, music, scuba. Seeking

friend, possible relationship with attractive, physically fit, emotionally sound GWF, late 20's early 30s. ☎ 1533

GWF, 27, Attractive, fit, non-smoker, funny, honest, affectionate, caring, independent. Loves music, animals, sports, outdoors. Seeks similar for mature relationship. ☎ 1477

GWF, 30, kid at heart, semi-butch, dreaming about a romantic playmate to keep me on my toes. I'm in a rut—come ruin my life! ☎ 1468

27-yr-old, attractive, sensitive, sincere GWF who is peeking out the closet door ISO supportive, understanding women for friendship, possibly more. ☎ 1458

GWF, 33, professional, good sense of humor, enjoys travel, good friends and spiritual growth. Prefer non-smoker seeking loving, intimate relationship. ☎ 1448

GWF, 45, professional, intelligent, accomplished, attractive, athletic, adventuresome, idealistic, passionate, assertive, affectionate, tender, horse-lover/owner, scuba diver, outdoorsy, cultural and humbly spiritual, seeking non-smoking, non-drinking Renaissance adventurer, with abundant humor and kindness, to share the dream. ☎ 1272

GWF, 40, eclectic approach to life. Passionate about mountains, music and fiction. Seeking energetic womyn with centered psyche and adventurous spirit. ☎ 1310

GWF, 39, 5'7", 140 pounds, feminine, attractive, professional, interested in same. No smokers. ☎ 1283

MEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

GBM 38, professional. Dislike club scene. Very masculine seeking same. Financially independent. Would like to enjoy life. HIV+. ☎ 1600

Want to work up a sweat? GWM, 34, seeks muscular, tanned GWM 20-40 for hot workout. Let's get together. ☎ 1519

EX SOLDIER BOY

Attractive, hot, clean shaven BM 24 y/o, 5'10", 155, seeks versatile, attractive GWM 18-30. ☎ 1602

Classical musician, GWM 24, 6', 150, br/br, educated, attractive, romantic non-smoker seeks similar WM 22-32 to "make our garden grow". ☎ 1603

GWM thirtysomething from North west S.C. Honest, drug-free. ISO similar 28-38 possible relationship. ☎ 1604

BM, attractive, sexy, seek dominant BM top who's into FF. Remember the song "I'm looking for a two-fisted love". ☎ 1605

Dig this. Landscaper, 36, 5'10", 155 all muscle, 30" waist. Handsome, overeducated corporate drop out. Similar? Call for stress reduction. ☎ 1606

WNC Teddy Bear looking for another teddy bear to get into some mischief in the afternoon or early evening. ☎ 1607

Healthy Wealthy Wise MBiWM 45, burly, hairy, ISO young smooth, endowed submissive GBiWM available daytime for It mentoring loving. ☎ 1608

Christian B/WM, HIV-, gorgeous, 20s, seeks young Christian WM. Prefer Columbia, SC resident, all considered. Box 1891, Columbia, SC 29202.

GWM, 26, 5'8", 155#, handsome. Seeks GWM, 26-40 for friendship, fun and possible relationship. P.O. Box 14271, Huntsville, AL 35815.

Genuine, masculine, GBM, 24 seeks sincere romantic, masculine, open-minded GMs of any race for exploring stimulating new friendship/relationship.

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DIRECTIONS

☎ 1609

GWM, early 30s, 180, 5'11", brown hair seeks daytime fun. Box D-498, 2221 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30309

Buff jock 18-35? WM football player 6'1", 230, muscular goodlooking 40 gives rubdown and service after workout. ☎ 1610

Landscaper, 30s, 5'10", 155, 30" waist, masculine, muscular, hot, handsome. Similar in Smyrna, Vinings, Austell? Discreet! Regular buddy for shower days. ☎ 1611

Goodlooking maculine WM seeks ONLY very masculine BM for safe, discreet encounters. No fats/fems. Discretion assured. ☎ 1612

Muscular GWM, 40, 6ft, 180lbs, HIV+, vgdllkg, in relationship, needs more. Seeking submissive boy, 25-30, for role playing, B/D. Discreet. ☎ 1504

GWM, 36, 6'3", 195, blue collar professional, OK bod, avg looks, hard working, stable, w/ varied interests. Would like to meet similar guy 28-38, establish friendship. Goal: monogamous. Write Box 6501, 1189 Virginia Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

GWPM, 44, new in Atlanta, seeks GWM 18-30 for friendship, fun. Prefer slim swimmer's build, active top, endowed, cleanliness, non-smoker w/discretion assured. No fats, fems, bears, barflies please! ☎ 1506

GWM young 48, 5'11", 158, I want it all! Passion, romance, sex—all is possible in a committed relationship. I am a sales executive with an outgoing personality, in shape, healthy, non-smoker/drinker. Looking for fun, adventure, and quiet times. ☎ 1507

Attractive BM sought by tall, slim WM. Safe, discreet, good times only. No strings. ☎ 1508

BUTCH BOTTOM

6'2", 180, blk/blu, moustache. Smooth, hairless build. Visit Atlanta often. Seek similar tops. Singles/couples/groups. Butch only, no wannabes. ☎ 1509

GWM 33, 6'1", 152, blue eyes, dark brown hair, moustache. Seeks romantic GWM 30-40s with moustache, into lots of cuddling, kissing, dating, quiet times, maybe more. No fats or fems. Box 77, 1544 Piedmont Ave, Atlanta, GA 30324

CUTE 28 GWM

HIV- brm/haz 160. Not N-2 bars. ISO GWM 25-35 N-2 gym, movies. No drugs/alcohol/fems. Buckhead Roswell area. ☎ 1511

Romantic North Georgia bottom, chubby, seeks average top with above average endowment. Like movies, music, sci-fi, ethnic men. Ready for Mr. Right. Hi-tops/workboots A+. Box 1512, 1189 Virginia Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. ☎ 1512

Oriental male fit/safe cleancut seeks quality full body massage once a week.

Please non-smoker. ☎ 1513

GWM, approaching 40, OK looks, HIV neg, seeks similar for movies, walks, home life, some going out. ☎ 1514

Needy In Alabama. GWM Professional 30ish, 170, blond hair. Got small town blues because I'm not with you...an intelligent, in shape, stable GWM 30/40ish. Relationship minded. Save me! ☎ 1515

GWM, 34, gentle, kind professional seeks same. Handsome, articulate, creative. Likes classic films, theatre, dining and soft music. HIV+. ☎ 1516

BM, 30, sexy, attractive, 5'8", bottom seeks a hung masculine, aggressive, BM top for fun sessions. Any age okay. ☎ 1517

ISO Peter Brady. GWM seeking average GWM. Prefer stable Plymouth-Rock-type person (not financially but Spiritually) for breezy relationship. ☎ 1518

Writer seeks correspondence with male prison inmates, gay or non-gay, reference gay sponsors, pen-pals. Gaddis, P.O.Box 40, Marblehill, GA 30148

Some day we'll be together...German, blond, tall, slim, 43, HIV- wishes correspondence with GBM, attractive, 20-35, no fats/fems/HIV. Come here for vacation, I can come in fall. Send explicit letter/photo: Dietmar, postlagernd 50823, Cologne 30, Germany

WM with 300+ videos, looking for others wanting to trade; possibly more with right person. Midtown area. ☎ 1488

GWM, 24, 5'10", 165, bl/bl, likes hiking, camping, mountain biking, movies. Sincere, honest, ISO same. No fat/fems. ☎ 1482

GWM, 37, 5'11", 150, MASCULINE, dominate, aggressive, Romantic, HIV-, into light S/M, B/D. Seeking younger counterpart, long term. ☎ 1483

Hairy Italian extremely goodlooking, ex-model, 29, 6'3", 188, sexy, dark skin, masculine, seeks Black or Latin masculine top in great shape w/9" or more. ☎ 1443

Are you HIV+, horny and in need of sexual fun? Me 20's slim submissive bottom. Large endowments get an A+. No one over 35 or out of shape. ☎ 1484

GWM, above average looks, trim, hung, seeks similar for safe oral encounters. ☎ 1485

Elder GWM Mystic (60's) in Western NC seeks younger man (30's) with psychic awareness to explore live-together relationship. ☎ 1486

WM Masculine 6'4", 150, looking for masculine Black male top. Discretion assured. Can handle business. ☎ 1487

Race unimportant. Early 40s, nice looking, 5'10", solid 180, dedicated, professional, HIV+, GBM, seeks sincere GM for dating/relationship. ☎ 1489

GM couple, 27 and 33, down to earth, masculine, likes outdoors, seeks similar

GM couple for fun and friendship. ☎ 1490

Sexy, passionate, Italian, GWM, 32, swimmer's build, 6'0", 160, seeking hot, gym-boy couples for mutual satisfaction. ☎ 1491

BOTTOM WANTED by attractive playful safe top, late 30's, Australian heritage for safe discreet fun-day/night. ☎ 1492

Homosexual Algebra 1+1=the R word. GWM 30's athletic, tall, smooth seeks heavy pec'd masc. GWM 28-40 who can equate! ☎ 1493

GWM, 32, 155, 5'7", seeks intelligent GM, any race. I'm into running, weightlifting, wrestling, outdoors, dining out or ??? ☎ 1494

SPREAD & SMILE!

Love your butt played with? 39, hairy HIV- top, 5'10", 170, seeks healthy bottoms, 20-45 for rear action. NO MARRIEDS! ☎ 1495

Childlike GWM 30, seeks gay Asian or Latino "playmate". Looking for a happy ending. ☎ 1496

No strings! 31 GWM handsome/versatile, seeks handsome under 30 partner for safe discreet encounters, my home, mornings, afternoons. NO FATS. ☎ 1581

Hot, Competent, Endowed, butch topman. Short humpy attractive adult requires masculine able-bodied stud bud for occasional mutual satisfaction sessions. ☎ 1583

Attractive and tan, horny, hot, versatile, GWM 6', 175#, brown, blue wants slim GWM under 35 for fun times nights/weekends. ☎ 1584

Othello where are you? Tall light and handsome seeks tall dark and handsome for multi-dimensional relationship. Dreds a plus. Consciousness a must. ☎ 1585

GWM, 35, seekend other GWMs 35 or older for friendship and companionship. ☎ 1586

Sugardad, retired seeks son 25-40 for daytime relations. ☎ 1587

HELIUM HEELS?? Attractive top, 38, safe, brown/blue, looking for bottom who likes his legs in the air!! ☎ 1588

GBM 31, 5'10", 190#, goodlooking, endowed HIV- seeks 2 white boys 18-35 that want Black third for safe fun. ☎ 1589

GWM, 31, HIV+, very healthy and fit. I'm nice looking and interested in meeting another sane guy. ☎ 1590

ROMANTIC, EASY GOING, KID AT HEART, 31, GWM, brm/hzl, 180#, 5'7", moustache, healthy HIV+, seeks friends/relationship. It's Easy—CALL! ☎ 1591

ROMAN CATHOLIC GWM, 5'10, 168, 39, Hairy, degreed, sane, sensitive, non-pretentious, HIV-, stable, sincere seeks guys 20-45 for friendship. ☎ 1565

PERSONALS

BOYFRIEND MATERIAL: romantic, playful, boyish 38, blue eyes, mustache, safe top seeks "other half." Photo/tel: POB 13162, Atlanta, GA 30324.

GWM, 40, 6', 210, br/blu, into 99X, sports, travel, poetry, seeks GWM 35-45 for dating and possible relationship. ☎ 1578

GWM, 5'7", 165, br/br, mod. hairy, seeks GWMs under 5'6" w/equipment over 8.5. Uncut a plus. Also into body worship for bodybuilders under 5'6" w/ same equipment requirements. Let's play! ☎ 1580

SGWM 29, 6'1" Brn/Brn, Professional seeks masc. Versatile GWM, 20 to 35 for running buddy, possibly more. Interests are movies, theatre, art, antiques, cars, club jumping twice a month, versatile type of guy. New to Atlanta. ☎ 1569

Discreet, safe, romantic, serious, GWM seeks same who will appreciate me! PO Box 7161, Chestnut Mountain, Georgia. 30502. Or call ☎ 1568

Well-built, brainy 36yo GWM (5'10", solid 200 lbs) seeks athletic GM life partner to share interests in wts, bodybuilding, & cozy domesticity. Let's grow together, ok? ☎ 1555

A great catch - BM boyish 32, professional, 6'5", 230# seeks attractive HIV-WM or Hispanic 18-40. ☎ 1557

GWM, 38, BI/BI, 5'10", Attractive, athletic, creative, versatile, playful & romantic. ISO Young man, lean, smooth, toned, any race for hot, safe fun... maybe more. Long hair, tattoos, piercings, muscles, endowed a plus. Inexperienced OK. Breakfast included. You won't be disappointed! Phone/Photo P.O. Box 7835, Midtown Station, Atlanta 30357-0835.

LIFEMATE

Attractive, professional, GWM, 43, 5'12", 155 lbs, s/p hair, blue, mustache, HIV-, educated, smoker, laid back, sincere, understanding, open-minded, workout, adventurous versatile top, previous long-term relationship. Seeks HIV-, romantic, GWM 30-50 into cooking, dining in/out, picnics, friends, walks, beaches, movies, theatre, travel, cuddling, kissing, exploring our sexuality, for dating, hopefully more. No fats or bar flies. ☎ 1560

GWM, 48, 6'6", medium build, blue/sandy, above average looks, wishes to meet Gay Black or Asian male for relationship. ☎ 1538

Dominant Daddy/Coach, 37, 6'3", average build, thick equipment, seeks submissive, trim, muscular son/player for discreet, no strings daytime sessions at your place. PO Box 80366, Atlanta, GA 30366 ☎ 1475

GWM COUPLE, 27 & 38, attractive, seeking other couples, singles, 18-40, for hot, safe j/o sessions. No strings. PO Box 610292, Birmingham, AL 35261

Bears A MUST! Light skinned GBM, 34, 5'8", 170lbs., seeks GWM 25-38, masculine with husky build. No drugs. ☎ 1474

Asheville Teddy looking for other WNC teddies for some summertime fun. What about a teddy bear picnic? ☎ 1478

Wall Street Shark, 42, 6', 190#, Masculine. Into vanilla, business, politics, single malts, VSOP, and the humanities. All in moderation. ☎ 1479

Hot masculine leather bottom, 40's, muscular, HIV-, 165, 5'7", seeks hot masculine top, HIV-, preferably into leather. All calls answered. ☎ 1467

Headstrong Ivy kid, 25, political, social, outdoorsy, low brow tastes, involved, sex-positive, moving to Atlanta, seeks friends all types, ages. ☎ 1471

DGWM, Masculine, Handsome, Versatile, PHD, 40's, HIV-POS, 6'1", 180, Brn/Gm, Mustache, Eclectic taste Bach to Merchant. Seeks same 25-50. ☎ 1451

HOMEBOYS ONLY-BM, 27, tall, baldhead, stocky, masculine, will be in Atlanta in July, seeks homeboys to show me around. ☎ 1445

Eclectic 26yo looking for friends/lover. Likes: roller coasters, sports, Broadway musicals, movies, music, books, theatre, dancing, romance, computers, etc. ☎ 1453

GWM, Attractive professional, Educated, kind & fun. 6ft 170 Blond hair, Blue eyes, YOUNG 40's. ISO Educated GAM (Student ok) for physical and spiritual exploration. ☎ 1454

26yo, 5'3", 130#, brown hair, blue eyes. Big surprises come in small packages! Unwrap your special gift today! ☎ 1455

Hot Horny Men 25-40 wanted by 34, Blonde-Green. Into movies, toys, W/S, couples welcome. Hairy A plus. ☎ 1456

GWM 40's, Husky, Hairy, HIV+, 5'6", Brn/Haz, mustache, goatee, down to earth nice guy. Sexually versatile and open minded within safe limits, non-smoker, occasional drink, likes movies,

reading (sci-fi, advent., horror), fleamarkets, dogs, plants, picnics, quiet home life, occasional night out. Seeks GWM or GLM, 30-45, masculine, down to earth, with similar interests, prefer HIV+, slim to med. build, some chest hair, sexually versatile, for friendship and possible life time relationship. Lives too short to go it alone, take a chance. ☎ 1457

GWM seeks GBM-GWM, prof., 36, BI/BI, 5'11", 170, would like to meet gdlkg, masculine, professional GBM, 26-40. ☎ 1464

GM, 35, 6'2", 175, attractive, fit, educated, endowed. Seeking GM 25-40 who's 5'10" plus, non-smoker, HIV-, versatile, romantic. ☎ 1440

BM, 5'9", 160lbs, trim, masculine, hung, versatile seeks similar brother for no strings sessions. ☎ 1444

GWM, 30, 6'6", 190, br/blue. Hits: Intelligence, masculinity, respect, fur/beard. Receeding? Misses: Ignorance, attitudes, bitches! Under 45/200 lbs. ☎ 1449

Hard body, GWM, goodlooking, 5/6, 135, br/br, tanned. Working out, roller blade, beach trips. Looking for someone HIV+ to share life with. A pretty face and charming personality gets my vote. ☎ 1450

GWM, 33, 6'3", laid back professional with eclectic interests; animation, LSP, movies, 99x, Braves... You, 25-40ish, sense of humor. ☎ 1416

Carolina Daddy Bear seeking Warm Cub. GWM, 6'3", 250, sincere, intelligent, travelling, professional. ISO smooth, lithe guy (21+). Quality. ☎ 1430

GWM seeks hot GBM 18-30 for discreet encounters. Must be safe & attractive. Let's get together. ☎ 1431

WM, 24, very cute, good body, submissive, wants to service endowed, in-shape, masculine, healthy man. Leave message. ☎ 1433

Wanted: Abv avg WM, 30's, needing reg daytime oral satisfaction by WM, 33, 6', 180#. You provide place, I provide relief. I-75/285 area, no strings. ☎ 1407

If you're a GWM, HIV+, better looking than average, healthy, fit, clean cut, 35-45 and boyfriend-minded, we should talk. ☎ 1403

GWM, 33, 5'9", 180, masculine, attractive seeks GWM 21-39 for giving and receiving massages and/or playing tennis. ☎ 1357

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I want you to hurt me. WM, 20s, good looking, needs bare butt spankings from same. ☎ 1284

Sexy, handsome, 24, nice body, endowment, and butt, HIV negative, seeks real massage therapy with complete oral service. Leave message. ☎ 1279

Handsome, intelligent professional, young 40. Blond, 6', 165. Seeks lean, masculine, outgoing man, 32-46, with sharp mind and warm heart. ☎ 1278

Bald & Beautiful GWM 40+, 5'10", 175. Tennis nut. Enjoys exercise and outdoors. Likes to cuddle. Seeking monogamous relationship. ☎ 1266

Model, 22, blonde, 6', new to East Tennessee. Looking to meet friends, possibly Mr. Right. Interested? ☎ 1265

GWM, 30, 5'8", 160lbs. Top who knows how to take control. Call, let's connect. ☎ 1262

GBM, 42 - Professional, varied interests, versatile, healthy HIV+, seeks stable masculine GM over 35, race unimportant. I enjoy a sense of humor, sincerity and versatility. ☎ 1259

Attractive, healthy, horny WM, football physique, 30s, 6'1", 190. Seeks a hot, regular sexual relationship, no strings. Just fun. ☎ 1258

WM, 39, seeks WM 35+. Let's have dinner, see a movie, ride through the mountains. ☎ 1257

2 many H's - Handsome, Hung, Horny, HIV-. Hardbody. GWM, 32, ready to settle down with same. RU? Military A+. ☎ 1256

Horny Midtown Professional involved GWM, 42, 5'10", 160, HIV- with place seeks discreet, adventurous, creative safe fun after 5pm. ☎ 1255

GWM, 43, 5'10", 155, attractive, midtown professional, HIV-, smoker, seeks relationship oriented, non-barfly, HIV-GWM for movies, dining in/out, more. ☎ 1254

TV/TS

BiWM seeking feminine TV/TS w/ breasts. Discretion assured. Age/race unimportant. Top or bottom—you choose. (HIV-) ☎ 1625

BM, 42, 5'8", 175#, seeks TV/TS bottom for ongoing or casual. ☎ 1626

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BISEXUAL

BiBM, 6'2", Carl Weathers look alike seeks young men for no strings attached fun. ☎ 1613

GBiSWF sought by fun safe gdlk w/S WM for marriage of convenience w/o strings. 1544 Piedmont Ave, Ste 37, Atlanta, Ga 30324

BM, 42, 5'8", 175#, seeks feminine BiM for ongoing relationship. ☎ 1630

BiWF, 20, 5'5", br/gr, feminine, sexy, intelligent, seeks taller feminine woman for exciting companionship. Long hair preferred. No butches. ☎ 1631

I'm a fun guy, 30, into sci-fi, classical rock and roll, seeking male or bi female, 20-40, any race. ☎ 1577

BiWM, 25, student, hot looks, body, endowment, seeks man for discreet, no-strings visits. All answered. ☎ 1551

GWM submissive seeks leather Master or dominant, 25-45, for daytime discipline and service. ☎ 1470

CURIOUS VIRGIN-VGDLKING, shy, quiet, kind, smooth, diseaseless 32 6' 175, WM, ISO younger smooth patient understanding tender top for discreet sensual pleasurable sexplorations. ☎ 1452

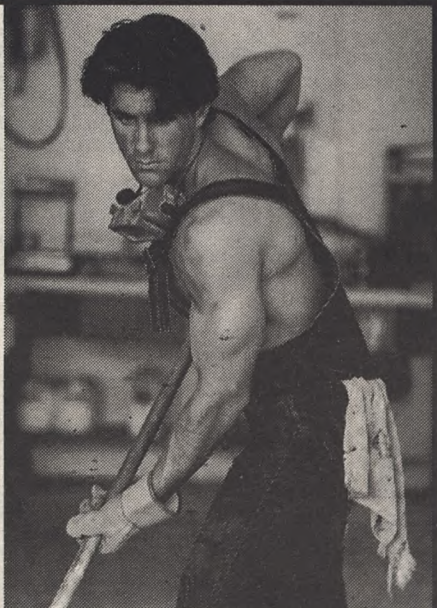
BM, married, 55, in great shape. Seeks mature Bi female for safe discreet encounters. ☎ 1304

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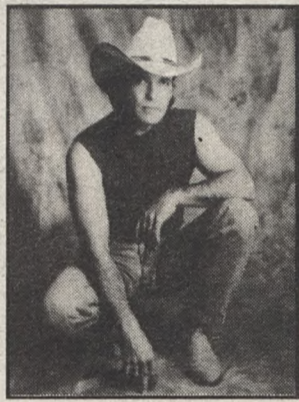
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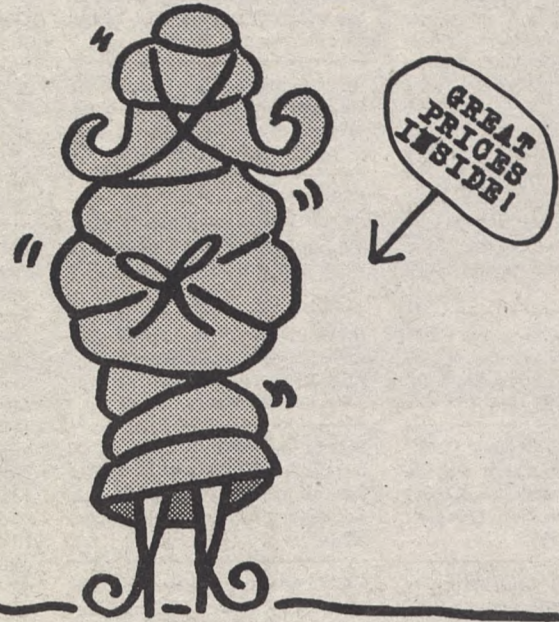
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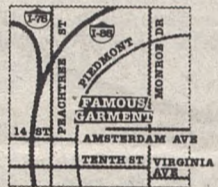
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