Gay conservatives are in a difficult, some say untenable position in America's political spectrum. Tired of being dismissed as inconsequential to the gay and lesbian equal rights movement—and equally tired of the homophobic positions of many mainstream conservative groups—they are coming out to challenge what many of them consider to be an out-of-touch liberal gay leadership.

"Future progress requires more of a focus on the vast mainstream of this country," argues Abner Mason, national president of the Log Cabin Club, the largest gay Republican organization in the country, with over 40 active clubs in 30 states. "This is a task most gay leaders have been unwilling or unable to undertake, even though the overwhelming majority of gay Americans, most of whom have yet to be lead into political activism, are part of that vast middle too."

Out of the shadows

The high visibility of gay men and women in the 1992 presidential campaign, and the clear positions of the two major candidates, created a charged environment that split gay men and women who found themselves endorsing most of the Republican platform but deploring the homophobic elements gaining power in the party. The level of vitriol in the 1992 campaign prompted several well-known conservatives to come out, including Marvin Liebman and Mel White, former speechwriter for radical right leaders. In the wake of the failed push to lift the military's ban on gays and lesbians, many found themselves convinced that the movement's gay leadership was out of touch and in need of a mainstream voice, explained one young politically active gay Republican.

"Gay leaders have usually framed the argument for gay equality in terms designed to persuade more liberal Americans, while largely ignoring, and sometimes offending, the more conservative segments of society," says Log Cabin's Mason.

The Log Cabin Club finds itself squarely in the middle of the GOP's fight to reconcile doctrinaire conservatives with the fundamentalist Christian positions. The proximity to a coalition that most gay men and women equate with the Ku Klux Klan makes for some interesting politics, says Rich Tafel, chief lobbyist for Log Cabin.

One of Tafel's main purposes is to let gay voters know that the strict adherence to the Democratic Party by gays and lesbians has been a pointless political strategy. He points out that there are many Democrats who are less than supportive of gay rights—even factions within the vaunted "rainbow coalition." According to him, during a recent mark-up session of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), members of the "traditional values" crowd in the black caucus stormed the Capitol hearing room, shouting their opposition to the inclusion of sexual orientation in the bill's language.

Mason also argues that unconditional support for Democratic candidates is a zero-sum game: "It does us no good if the only people who support us tomorrow are the people who support us today."

"The reality is that there are only two political parties in the United States," Tafel says. "If you're going to be politically active in a movement, then you don't go to where you are comfortable, you go to where you can effect real change."

Sue Hyde, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Fight the Right" program, disagrees.
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**Firm fired man for fear he had AIDS, lawsuit claims**

**Local News August 18, 1994**

**SOUTHERN VOICE**

Atlanta—A lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court against the owners of Azio restaurant in Buckhead alleges that the company fired a gay employee—in order to prevent him from obtaining insurance benefits—because the company feared he had or might contract AIDS.

Ronald K. Kirkland, 40, filed suit in U.S. District Court against Cartel Restaurants, Inc., in October 1993, charging that the company violated the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) when the company fired him one day before he was to be enrolled in the company's health care benefits plan. Under ERISA, it is unlawful to prevent the employee from obtaining benefits because the company feared he had or might contract AIDS.

"According to ERISA, if an employer fires an employee within such close proximity to the vesting of their benefits, it is presumed the reason for the termination was to prevent the employee from obtaining benefits," said Jeffrey H. Fonseca, Kirkland's attorney. "The burden of proving otherwise rests on the employer."

The proof may be hard to come by for Cartel, which owns several restaurants in the Buckhead area, including Otto's, Peachtree Cafe, East Village Grille, Nickiemo's, the Raccoon Lodge, and Azio, where Kirkland was employed as a chef from April 1991 until October 31, 1991.

Cartel officials have claimed in court documents that Kirkland was fired because he failed to report to work or notify management about his failure to report for work on consecutive days after he was injured on the job on October 25, 1991. However, Kirkland claims that he brought notices to in management on two occasions from Piedmont Minor Emergency Clinic, where he was receiving treatment for the hernia suffered on the job.

Cartel's management received notice from the clinic on October 31 that Kirkland would require surgery. Kirkland was present at Azio on that date, but he was not told he had been fired until he arrived at work on Nov. 2 and was met at the door by management. The date of his termination notice was Oct. 31, the day before Kirkland's insurance benefits would have taken effect.

"Quite frankly, I felt they had fired me illegally," Kirkland said. "The reason [Cartel gave] for termination was that I hadn't been to work for four days, but I had."

Kirkland said he was surprised at the termination, but even more surprised last month when three former employees of Cartel signed affidavits swearing that they had been present at an Oct. 31 informal Cartel management meeting, also attended by then-Cartel general manager Thomas Kahn and partner Dan Schofield. At that meeting, the three said, Cartel management decided to fire Kirkland to avoid adding him to the company's insurance rolls.

Former Azio general manager David Van Buren, former corporate chef and partner Wolfgang Stoffer, and former Azio chef Bill Montgomery all signed statements saying that the termination came from Cartel's belief that Kirkland was HIV-positive or had AIDS, and that his addition to the company benefits plan would escalate insurance costs.

Kirkland, who is not HIV-positive, said he suspected that such a belief might have spurred his termination.

"What cued me in was that [Cartel's] workers' compensation people [who were handling payments for the hernia treatment]...called my surgeon's office over and over again asking if I had AIDS," he said. "I finally told my surgeon to write and tell them that I wasn't HIV-positive. I am still not."

In deposition, prior to his knowledge of the affidavits of his past co-workers, Kahn, now Cartel's director of operations, denied the meeting ever took place. But Fonseca and assistant counsel Douglas Soons are investigating allegations that similar firings may have occurred at Cartel restaurants.

But even if those allegations are found to be true, many of those employees may have little recourse.

"If there were not for federal legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and [in this case] the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, an individual who has been discriminated against as Mr. Kirkland has would have no recourse whatever," Fonseca said. "And that's due to the lack of statutory protections for lesbians and gay men. ADA is not applicable to this case because the firing arose prior to the effective date of that act; however, this case represents the essence of discriminatory conduct that ADA and other legislation has attempted to address."

The case is scheduled to go to trial with U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Schoob on Sept. 12, but because Cartel's attorneys, Smith, Gambrell and Russell, withdrew from the case late last month, Schoob has given Cartel until Aug. 19 to retain new attorneys.

He also suggested that the parties hold a settlement conference as soon as possible. The lawsuit, filed against Cartel and director of personnel Pamela Charlton, asked for $1.5 million in total damages.

Kirkland hopes that the outcome of this case will help offset increasing medical bills, which he blames on a delay in getting proper health care when he was injured. He has been in surgery three times to repair the hernia since 1991, and doctors are now saying he needs a fourth operation.

"If I were to have proper care at the proper time, this might not have happened," he said.

But payment for his medical bills is not Kirkland's only reason for pursuing the case. He said that, although he knew he had no employment protections as a gay man, he wanted the truth to be heard.

"I wanted to do it just for the case," he said. "I want them to at least think twice the next time they want to fire somebody just because they're gay."

**Grand jury frees Columbus man jailed for sodomy**

Columbus, GA—A Columbus man, jailed on aggravated sodomy charges in April, was freed Aug. 9 when a grand jury decided that the case did not warrant being turned over to a trial jury.

"I've been in a cage for four months," said James Cannon, a 50-year-old cab driver. "It's strange being out. I felt so good. I walked about 10 miles."

Cannon was in the Columbus jail for 121 days. He was arrested in the early morning of April 9 when a Ft. Benning soldier told police the cab driver had forced him to commit oral and anal sex. Cannon admitted having oral sex with the man, who was not identified, but denied having used any force.

A preliminary hearing on April 11 was the only time Cannon met with his public defender during his incarceration, and an investigator with that office visited him once.

In late July, Muscogee County District Attorney Lou Barrow told Southern Voice that he was unfamiliar with the case and didn't comment about the unusual length of time Cannon was jailed, nor could he explain why his office had not yet brought the case to the grand jury. Barrow could not be reached for comment after the grand jury's decision.

But Cannon's long wait has ended, and he is trying to put back together a life interrupted by his incarceration.

"I don't think it could ever be the way it was," he said. "But it feels so good to be out."

**Police look for leads in slaying of gay man**

Atlanta—Police here are searching for leads in the beating death of a gay man in his Buckhead condominium last weekend.

Homicide Capt. Herb Carson said that the body of James Jackson, 36, was found by a friend in Jones' seventh floor apartment in the Fountain of Peachtree Condominiums around 10 p.m. on Aug. 6.

"The friend talked to him by phone on Friday afternoon," Carson said. "And he went to the apartment to check on him Saturday when [Jones] didn't call him back as he said he would."

Jones' rental car—a green Chrysler New Yorker—was found last Tuesday night in an apartment complex parking lot on Bankhead Highway.

Jones was found in the living room of his apartment, and Carson said he died of "maybe three blunt-force blows to the head." No murder weapon has been found, and medical examiners have not yet fixed a time of death.

Carson said that investigators are questioning residents in the area where the car was found, and that fingerprints were taken from the vehicle. But so far, police have no leads, and no clue as to where Jones went between Friday afternoon and the time of his death.

"We have evidence that he was gay," Carson said, "and friends have told us he was not too concerned about who he was picking up."

But police have not determined if Jones, who worked at the Bulk Mail Center on James Jackson Parkway Northwest for four years and lived at the Fountain on Peachtree for nearly two years, brought someone to his apartment or if he let someone he knew into the building that is locked to visitors.

"Whether it was somebody he picked up or someone who held a grudge, we just don't know," Carson said.

Jones' apartment had not been ransacked, and there was no sign of a struggle.

Carson asked for anyone with information about Jones' activities on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 5 and 6, to contact Atlanta Police at 853-3400.

**POLICE LOOK FOR LEADS IN SLAYING OF GAY MAN**

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**POLICE LOOK FOR LEADS IN SLAYING OF GAY MAN**
Lesbian mother's lawyers seek expedited court decision

Richmond, VA—Lawyers for lesbian Sharon Bottoms have asked the Virginia Supreme Court to expedite a decision on whether to hear her mother's appeal in the custody case of Bottoms' son.

Kay Bottoms won custody of her grandson last year, but the Virginia Court of Appeals in June ruled the boy should be returned to his mother. However, 3-year-old Tyler Doustou continues to live with Kay Bottoms while the case is on appeal.

“There is a young, developing child outcome who remains confused about the situation,” Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Virginia, said Aug. 5. “The faster the Super Court acts, the better it will be for the child.”

“The ACLU, which is representing Sharon Bottoms, asked for an expedited decision in briefs filed Aug. 4 in response to Kay Bottoms’ appeal. There is no deadline for the Supreme Court to decide whether to hear the case, and Willis said he could not predict how soon such a decision might be made.

Tyler has lived with his grandmother since April 5, 1993, after a juvenile court judge awarded custody to Kay Bottoms. The decision was upheld in September by Henrico County Circuit Judge Buford M. Northern before being overturned by the intermediate appeals court.

The appeals court rejected Parsons’ finding that Sharon Bottoms’ admitted violations of a state law making oral sex a felony made her an unfit mother.

The only new argument in Kay Bottoms’ appeal filed last month was attorney Richard Ryder’s claim that April Wade, Sharon Bottoms’ companion, would be unfit to take care of Tyler because, in part, she “had an illegitimate child which was adopted” in 1987.

In its response, the ACLU said Wade’s child was conceived as the result of a rape, and that Wade’s courage in carrying the child to term, then giving it up for adoption, “is to be admired, not excoriated.”

NC halts anonymous HIV testing statewide

Durham, NC—North Carolina residents being tested for HIV will be required of as of Sept. 1 to give their names and addresses as their results are discovered they were at risk.

The decision contradicted a recommendation from the state AIDS Advisory Council. Members of North Carolina gay and lesbian organizations said the change would lead some people who are at high risk for the disease to avoid testing.

The decision will allow state workers to contact people who are found to have HIV but who do not inquire about their test results. The state also will contact sexual or needle-sharing partners of those who test positive, said Bill Furney, a spokesman for the state health director’s office.

The name and address of the person being tested at state-financed health departments will be protected from release under state law, which makes breaches of confidentiality a crime, he said.

State laws prohibit testing that results in the disclosure of a patient’s name, Furney said. After the crash of the USAir Flight 1016 in Charlotte on July 2 took the lives of four AIDS workers from Columbia, SC, according to Q Notes, Charlotte’s lesbian and gay newspaper.

Lori Pinette of New Milford, CT, and Derek Livingston of N.C. Pride, a gay- rights political-action committee, questioned whether testing that results in the contacting of partners can be called truly confidential. “People are afraid they’ll be tracked, and here the commission is saying they will be tracked. It confirms people’s worst fears,” he said.

Furney said partners contacted will be given no names and will not be told how it was discovered they were at risk.

North Carolina ended anonymous testing in 83 of its 100 counties in 1991. AIDS activists challenged the decision in Superior Court and a judge found the action unconstitutional because it did not apply equally to all counties.

A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after the NC- county change found no effect on the number of people being tested.

Plane crash claims four AIDS workers

Charlotte, NC—The crash of US Air Flight 1016 in Charlotte on July 2 took the lives of four AIDS workers from Columbia, SC, according to Q Notes, Charlotte’s lesbian and gay newspaper.

Lori Pinette of New Milford, CT, and Ann Skurki of Chestertown, MD, were second-year students at the University of South Carolina’s College of Social Work. Pinette had just completed an internship with the Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS), and Skurki had just begun an internship with the agency. Two volunteers from the agency were also on board the flight, but PALSS does not release the names of the organization’s volunteer staff.

“Everybody here had the greatest respect for both Lori and Ann,” said Mark Fitzpatrick, PALSS office manager.

Of the two volunteers, Cynthia Poindexter, director of services, said that both were “giving of their time and talents. One had been in the buddy program for a bout a year and a half and the other was new, having recently completed training,” she said.

NC Pride gives funds to local groups

Charlotte, NC—The North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Celebrations, held in early June in Charlotte, created a modest windfall for North Carolina lesbian and gay organizations. According to Charlotte gay newspaper Q Notes, Pride’s organizers have allocated $13,500 in excess revenue to nine organizations, a foundation that frequently grants money to lesbian-gay groups, received the largest chunk of the money—$6,000—with a stipulation that it be granted to North Carolina lesbian-gay groups. Another $1,100 went to Charlotte’s Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, and $500 each went to NC Pride PAC and the Charlotte chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Funds also went to the Youth Parsons Jr. before being cut. WOW, a Charlotte lesbian organization; and the Charlotte Interfaith Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality.

An additional $4,000 is being held to fund either a lesbian/gay cultural festival, a leadership conference, or both.
Homophobic Reggae Star Banned From Woodstock:  
Reggae singer Shabba Ranks was denied the chance to perform at Woodstock '94 after his lyrics were considered offensive. Ranks, who is known for his homophobic and violent statements, had previously been banned from several festivals for similar reasons. The decision to exclude him from Woodstock was met with controversy, with some critics arguing that it was a breach of freedom of speech, while others supported the festival's decision to maintain a safe space for all attendees.

Seattle Gets Partnership Registry:  
A unanimous vote by the Seattle City Council has established a registry for qualified couples who wish to register as domestic partners. The registry will cost $25 per couple and will come with no benefits. This decision is seen as a step towards acknowledging the rights of gay couples in the city.

Gay Roommates Find Home Trashed By Vandal:  
Three gay men from Tacoma, WA, were returned from a trip to a Canadian gay pride celebration to find their home damaged and covered in hate-filled slogans. The roommates—Eric Sturgis, Lee Brovold, and an unnamed roommate—had trouble getting into the building because of high-levels of broken glass and spray-painted walls. Water pipes were also smashed, flooding the house. The three had been the recipients of numerous harassing phone calls in recent weeks, and 10 days before the vandalism, a rock had been thrown through a window. The police are investigating the vandalism.

Killer of Gay Man Sentenced to Die:  
A Kerr County, TX, jury took 31 minutes to find Donald Aldrich of Tyler guilty in the Nov. 30 slaying of Nicholas West, a performer who is best known for preaching and writing about lessons. Swastikas and slogans such as "kill fags" were spray-painted on the walls. Water pipes were also smashed, flooding the house. The three had been the recipients of numerous harassing phone calls in recent weeks, and 10 days before the vandalism, a rock had been thrown through a window. On it was a black swastika and the words "get out fags." The three men have moved into a hotel, and are looking for a new home.

Normal People Can't March in Pride:  
A San Diego Superior Court judge dismissed a lawsuit on July 15 filed by a group called "The Normal People" who wanted to express opinions contrary to the gay pride parade's organizers. The judge ruled that San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride was within its rights to exclude an organization that sought to express opinions contrary to its own.

Lesbianism Wins Woman New Trial:  
A former police officer portrayed as a sex-starved "black widow" in her original trial will get a new trial after a U.S. District Court judge said that Sharon DeLaca's defense should have included information that she is a lesbian. DeLaca was accused of killing a fellow police officer in 1992 after the two spent a night drinking and having sex in a van. DeLaca said she was raped but was not allowed by her defense attorney to testify. Judge Robert J. Ward has given prosecutors six months to retry the case. Otherwise DeLaca must be released from prison, where she has served half of a 20-year term for second-degree murder.

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Continued from page 1

strongly with many of the platform points of Log Cabin Republicans, but she welcomes
them wholeheartedly into the fray. "Just be-
cause there are Republicans doesn’t mean we
can’t run screaming from a movement," she says.
"The fundamental axiom of gay and lesbian
politics is ‘Come out wherever you are.’ I
think gay conservatives show that lesson has
resonated, even into the Republican Party.

Not just Republicans

While a great deal of press attention has
focused on gay Republicans, there are other
group poised in conserving political positions
on issues from abortion to religion. Further
proof that "we are everywhere" can be found
in groups like Evangelicals Concerned, a gay
conservative Christian coalition, and PLAGL,
a loose coalition of pro-life gays and lesbians.

Joe Beard, an official with PLAGL, admits
that "disbelief and confusion are the first im-
pression from most people," when his group
tries to connect with other pro-life groups.
Beard, a Goldwater Republican who worked in
the U.S. Department of Education during the
Reagan Administration, also points out that
calling all pro-life gays and lesbians conserva-
tives is unfair. "We have members who are all over the
political spectrum: McGovern Democrats, very
progressive lesbians, you name it," he says.
"We are united strictly by being pro-life.”

Charged abortion issues aside, Beard agrees
with the group’s presence in the pro-life move-
ment has had a mitigating effect on all but the
most strident homophobic voices in the pro-
life movement. "We still get people who tell us
they disagree with our lifestyles, but they
welcome us to their side of the abortion.”

Longtime gay activist Martin Duberman,
historian and author of the book “Stonewall,”
is not surprised at the increased visibility of
gay conservatives. "America, after all is a conser-
ervative country," he says. Duberman
points out that ideological rifts have occurred
throughout the gay rights movement. As early
as the 1950s, the radicals that formed the
Mattachine Society fought with
"assimilationist” members. Duberman says a
similar disagreement split the short-lived Gay
Liberation Front (GLF) when radicals attacked
the "bourgeois homosexuals” in the movement’s
leadership.

An image problem

Mason, an African-American, disputes
charges that gay Republicans are de facto rac-
ists and sexists. He points out that distancing
between leaders, in-the-trenches activists, and
members of a minority community are not
new; there are simultaneous, similar debates
in both the African-American and women’s
movements over the differences in agendas,
issues, and political priorities of the public
leaders and the private followers.

The perception of exclusivity may contrib-
ute to the paucity of women and people of color
in public positions in the gay conserva-
tive movement. Susan Jester, frequently cited
as a leading conservative lesbian, is public
relations director for 10 Percent magazine and
an officer with the New York chapter of the
Log Cabin club. Jester was a committee mem-
ber for the Stonewall 25 celebration. But other
than Jester and National Review columnist and
author Florence King, the conservative men
involved for this article were hard-pressed to
name women or people of color who were
in leadership positions in the gay right.

The image of exclusion and middle-income
privilege that color many activists’ impression
of gay conservatives may be only that—im-
ages—but that, arguably, the biggest barri-
ers to be overcome in their bid to legitimate
their voice in the gay rights struggle.

Tafel and others argue that gay conserva-
tives are the only people who can effectively
dampen, if not defuse, the growing power and
influence of the gay movement. "For gay rights
to get trapped as an agenda of the liberal plank is
death for us," Tafel says.

Mason is adamant that all gay people’s
voices be heard, but fundamentally, he be-
lieves, gay men and women support social
change consistent with “American values.”

And he echoes Tafel in believing that Log
Cabin is uniquely situated to influence the rad-
ical right.

"The biggest threat to the radical right is a
Gay Republican arguing for family values,”
he says. "They draw most of their funds based
on lies, and they can’t fight people who are
able to redefine the image of gay Americans.”
Judge overturns Cincinnati’s ban on gay rights laws

Cincinnati, OH—A federal judge has overturned a voter-approved city charter amendment in Cincinnati that prohibits the city from passing laws protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men.

On Aug. 9, U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel ruled the amendment, approved by city voters in 1993, is unconstitutionally vague and violates the First Amendment rights of gay men and lesbians to participate in the political process.

"[The] ruling reinforces the Constitution's promise that private prejudices should not be given public effect," said Patricia Logue, managing attorney for the Midwest Regional office of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is co-counsel on the case. "The court is sending a clear message that the basic civil rights of gay and lesbian citizens are not subject to a popular vote."

Spiegel on Nov. 16 stopped enforcement of the amendment until he ruled in the case, and attorneys for both sides argued the case in June. Karl Kabco, a deputy city solicitor, said the city, which is legally obligated to defend voter-approved initiatives, will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this week.

Suzanne Goldberg, a Lambda staff attorney, appealed the Aug. 9 ruling in Ohio, noting that because Spiegel is the first federal judge to rule on anti-gay initiatives, it should have impact on other anti-gay measures.

"This ruling provides a critical boost to our challenges to anti-gay measures across the country," she said. "It shores up other court decisions that have found these ballot initiatives to be blatantly discriminatory and offensive to our Constitution."

Attorneys for both sides have predicted the dispute will wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Police increase security for Cobb rally

Marietta police are taking seriously threats posted on the Internet to shoot at attendees at the Aug. 28 Cobb County rally for human rights, and say they will increase security precautions around Marietta Square, where the rally will be held.

Gay Internet users found the messages, posted by a man who identified himself as John De Armond of Marietta, and alerted police. The messages, dated from July 28 through Aug. 3, began with a query.

"Are there any nice hills nearby with a clear shot at the demonstrators?" De Armond wrote. "This [sic] cute little pink triangles make SUCH good targets."

De Armond made other references to pink triangles as targets, including one in which he said he was "appalled that those butt-snappers didn't put an aiming dot in the center of that triangle."

Gay, lesbian, and straight supporters responded to De Armond, but their responses served only to inflame his comments, although later he said he would not be doing any shooting himself.

"I won't be doing any shooting, at least not after giving warning," he wrote. "What I am doing is hopefully motivating/inspiring others to do whatever they feel to be appropriate to address the problem, people who are more willing than me to suffer the consequences."

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Bayard Rustin

Thirty-one years later, a remembrance of the gay man chiefly responsible for organizing the 1963 March on Washington.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Butch/femme is alive and well

by LESLIE NEUMANN

"Trash, Flash," I say, reminding my beloved that it is Sunday evening, time to put the cans in front of the house for pick-up. In that second, she grunts at the Starship Enterprise zooms across our TV. Ten minutes later I plant myself in front of the television, watching Flash's view of "Son of the Shadow" as Troo's cleavage to remand her again. "Next commercial," she promises.

What, you might ask, don't I just take out the garbage myself? After all, the cans aren't that heavy. But rubbish is a butch job.

Yes, Flash and I are a bona fide butch/femme couple. Contrary to popular belief, butch/femme did not disappear with the beehive hairdos of the '50s. No, we have not changed our lifestyles, only our hairstyles (thank God). Yes, butch/femme is alive and well in the '90s, at least in this household. Only in this household, it's femme/ butch. Just because Flash wears the pants in this family doesn't mean she's always on top.

So what makes me the femme and Flash the butch? Is it that unlike Flash, I have never been called "Sir" once in my lifetime? Is it that unlike me, Flash hasn't worn a skirt since 1967, the year she shed the nay's habbit? Is it that whenever any dyke in Lesbianville has a job interview coming up, she runs straight to my closet to pull out a pair of high heels and then has me teach her how to walk in them? Is it because whenever Flash and I go out, she steers me around the dance floor as smoothly as she steers our car through New York City traffic?

All of the above is true, but it's not why I'm a femme and Flash is a butch. It's just something you're born with. Family members have thought, "Got any masculines in the family legend, my first words were, "Got any masc-"" But Flash, who truly appreciates the femme thing, has never thought of it that way.

Some lesbians think the whole butch/femme thing is passé. I pity those girls who put personal ads in the Lesbianville Times looking for a woman but, "No butches please." At first I thought they meant, "No butches please." But then I caught on and I just couldn't believe it. Don't you girls know any butch worth her weight in Brylcreem will do anything to please her femme?

The first time I read a "No butches" personal, I was relieved. At least I could stop worrying that some young lipstick lesbian wouldn't pull Flash right out from under me (literally)!

After all, I know a good butch is hard to find. But then I got mad. How dare anybody underestimate our dating habits after all they've done for us? Because even though we femmes have to put up with straight men coming on to us all the time (and Flash lores knowing that they want me and can't have me), it's my butch that puts herself in danger just by walking out from our front door in her freshly pressed trousers and black muscle shirt. And when Flash and I go out together, it's obvious that there's something going on between us, though some people aren't quite sure what. Whenever we go out to eat, our servers always stumble. Sometimes they'll say, "What'll it be, ladies?" even though Flash is no lady. Other times they'll say, "What can I get you guys?" even though I am certainly not a guy. If I was asked for advice, I'm not sure what I'd tell them to say. "Two for lunch, lesbians?" doesn't sound quite right. Nor does, "Some dessert for you dykes?"

And so to solve the problem we often eat at home, which means there is a lot of garbage to be taken out. And here it is, 8:30 and Counsellor Troy is lying prone in sick bay with the lovely Dr. Crusher about to examine her. It would be cruel to disturb Flash at a time like this. And so I decide, just this once, to take out the garbage myself. No sooner am I back in the house than the phone rings. I pick it up, of course, since I, like most femmes, was born with a Princess phone in my mouth. "Lesléa, my neighbor Karen says, horrified, "was that you taking out the trash?"

"Yes," I admit, reluctantly. "Flash is knee-deep in one of her favorite Star Trek reruns and I let her get away with it. But just this once."

"That's a relief," Karen says. "I saw you out my window, and my whole take on butch/femme was instantly destroyed."

Not to worry, world. Butch and femme are here to stay.

Lesléa Newman writes a monthly syndicated column and is author of "Heather Has Two Mommies."

LETTERS

Many to thank for TBS policy

Thank you for covering TurnOut, the new lesbian/gay/bisexual employees' group, which helped to found at CNN. There were many people who played important roles in creating both the group and the new nondiscrimination policy on sexual orientation.

Don Strat and Kathy Rogers of AT&T/LEAGUE Atlanta were instrumental in sharing their wealth of experience, and were kind enough to facilitate the first meeting of gay employees, straight co-workers, and management.

Virginia Tanawong, vice-president of CNN Human Resources, met with me and other NLGJA/Atlanta members also offered support and guidance on the way. Brian McNaught, "Gay Issues in the Workplace" author and group facilitator, offered his advice on several occasions.

Many to thank for organizing the "Through the Lens" diversity training video welcomed the gay perspective with open arms. CNN executives Allan Donn, Bob Furland, and Tom Nevins may have worked hard to create an atmosphere of tolerance. And of course, TurnOut spokespeople Gareth Fenley and David Salyer, for getting out the word. The people who deserve the most thanks, however, are the group's active members, particularly the closeted ones. Simply by making contact, whether across the room or across the globe, they are taking a stand for both their professionalism and their humanity. Also, the late Tom Cassidy, who courageously faced both AIDS and daily deadlines, opened many doors by simply being herself. Sincerely, Robin Kemp
Looking backward in New York: A Stonewall 25 recollection

It was 1980, and I was in Greenwich Village, and I was in love. We'd proved them all wrong and met in a bar. The Dodgers. It was grungy, dark, ill-lit, and Mafia-less. Of course, nobody knew ever knew anybody in the Mafia to confirm this. But we all knew who ran the oldest continuous lesbian bar in New York, which was right in my back yard.

I'd just broken up with the woman I'd brought home the previous evening. A few awe-inspiring weeks eating sandwich sandwiches till I said, "Enough!" and determined to find some crying overpaths for the next time, I went out buying friends. Since most of my previous lovers had come from groups of people I already knew, I was on a very steep learning curve. At first, dressed to the teeth, I attracted no takers and went home emptier than I'd ever been. Then one night I had to deliver the piled up, sheepish, over-the-shoulder look, which was nothing short of a lesson.

"Hey, how ya doin'?" (I didn't know her.)

"Good shirt. Very funny." (I can't now remember what it advertised. Me, apparently. I didn't know her either.)

My ex showed up two hours late, which was typical of him but not what I expected. In this, but in that time of lost friendly folk got through the invisible plastic shield I had been holding in place with perfectly patted pants and silk shirts. The jeans brought the barriers down, and though I went home that night without any good candidates for my empty bed, I'd learned something.

The next night, without any obligation to any ex, I repeated the wardrobe and went home with my next.

For the next three years, we dared the environment. We'd stroll the village hand-in-hand, shocking the tourists, unable, really, to distinguish the adrenaline of the dare from the limerence high. But who cared? It was, after all, Greenwich Village. Home of bohemians. Gay people. Lesbians.

That was 11 years after Stonewall, an event nobody ever mentioned. The Stonewall Inn had been replaced several times. Its then current incarnation was "Baed and" dairy restaurant, where the specialty of the house came in plain, sesame, garlic, onion or cinnamon. But we were that week. And maybe that is where the significance lies. Maybe its importance is to form a distinguishable generational boundary.

While the piece did pander to 20-somethings, it hardly painted a complete picture of the complex group of young hipsters that is now beginning to replace Baby Boomers and gray-haired, closeted Red States.

SOUTHERN VOICE AUGUST 18/1994

opinion

Dispelling the myths of the gay Generation X

by brandon dean

After creating, defining, berating and trivializing the younger generation that the media has dubbed "X"—Newswest—that bastion of pop-culture itself featured a cover story about the myths of Generation X. Titled "The Seven Great Lies About 20-Some- thing" the article "dispelled" all the politically correct (but not very flattering) stereotypes of "13th Gen-ers" (18- to 32 year-olds who lived from the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the present).

While the piece did pand to 20-some- thing, it failed, it barely painted a complete picture of the complex group of young hipsters that is now beginning to replace Baby Boomers and gray-haired, closeted Red States. Of course, it totally neglected to mention gays.

What a mistake. Gay and lesbian 20-some- thingers are a lot more out, more open and more vocal than any other generation of queers.

Sure, we had the radical drag queens of the West Village gay bars and dykes of the '70s and the AIDS activists of the '80s, but '80s queer are more unabashedly gay at home, on the job. In anthologies, they had been reduced to a few years of being the shielded streets. Men (but no women) shed their shirts and showed off buff bodies in the blocks-long prance from Sheridan Square to the West Street Pier and back again. There were no ugly gays men there that weekend. Perhaps the unsightly ones stayed home. (Or perhaps, for that one weekend, there really were no ugly gays.)

There was a big Sunday parade, of course. They had a mile-long rainbow flag and made the front page of the New York Times the next day. (That was me in the lower right corner if you looked real close.) They culated it a march, but it was essentially an optional Sunday stroll in the 90-degree sun. Except for the zealots, hardly anybody spent the whole day. Hey, it was the morning after a week-long party, with work on the next day's agenda, and lots of us slept late. Or just stayed home to watch it on TV.

There was, after all, the Stonewall Inn, which was a mere ten years later, no longer shocks anybody. Where thousands of New York's Finest stood three deep on our behalf.

No queers were ever safer in the city than we were then. Weekday, and maybe that is where the significance lies. Maybe its importance is in the fact that police protection was as quick taken for granted by the 1994 throng as police harassment of us was in the Stonewall Inn in 1969.

Imagine what a time we'll have at Stone- wall 50!

Finding viable solutions is.

No. 6: We are diverse. National demog- raphics are rapidly changing. Within 30 years, non-whites and Hispanics will close the gap, becoming almost half the population. The gay community, of course, mirrors this di verse face, that for the first time.

No. 7: We do exist. Some people claim that 20-somethings are too apathetic and di verse to form a distinguishable generational character. Generation X is a media creation, that doesn't exist, some argue. Not true.

We may not be the homogeneous culture of generations previous because of the way we are embracing diversity, and thus not as easy for reductionist media to define in headlines and sound bites. But make no mistake about it: Generation X is an interesting crea tion, that doesn't exist, some argue. Not true.

Brandon Dean is the 24-year-old editor and publisher of Vital, a Florida magazine aimed at gays and lesbians.
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AIDS conference ends
with little to show

Researches turn back
to basics in fight against
HIV infection

Tenth International Conference on AIDs
International Conference on STD
= 12 AUGUST 1994. YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal is pioneering gene therapy treatment for AIDs at the University of California in San Diego. At left is Dr. Mark Wainberg of the McGill University AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Yokohama, Japan—The gist of 3,500 reports last week from the war on AIDS was simple enough: There is no cure, no effective treatment, no vaccine.

"Nor will there be anytime soon," said ACT UP's Andrew Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR).

The tone of the 10th International Conference on AIDS, which concluded Aug. 11, was restrained from the start. Organizers warned the 12,000 participants not to expect anything big. They were right.

Even protests were restrained in Japan—only one ACT UP demonstration occurred, on the last day of the conference, when about 50 people crowded the stage to protest discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, world-wide, particularly in Japan.

"Never again. Never again will this international conference be held in a country that does not respect our rights," said ACT UP's Andrew Velez. "Let the [organizers] be on notice: people with HIV and AIDS will not tolerate your hypocrisy."

ACT UP members complained that one activist, who voluntarily admitted his positive HIV status, was detained at Narita International Airport for several hours, despite the Japanese government's official welcome of people with HIV and AIDS.

If any theme emerged from the conference, it was the need to go back to basics. Rather than a scatter-shot scramble for new drugs, many scientists seemed to agree that they need new ideas. And they will get them by exploring the innermost workings of the virus and the body's complex and ultimately futile response to it.

The new head of the U.S. Office of AIDS Research said this will be the focus of the federal government's annual $1.3 billion AIDS budget.

"The engine that will drive the entire AIDS research enterprise forward is basic research," Dr. William E. Paul told the meeting.

Long term survivors could hold key

Two of the most talked about subjects at the conference—long-term survivors and gene therapy—build on the encyclopedic store of basic knowledge already assembled about HIV virology and immunology.

While almost everyone who contracts HIV eventually gets sick and dies, about 5 percent are still perfectly healthy 12 years to 15 years after their infection. Researchers believe that if they figure out how these people's immune systems tame HIV, maybe they could turn it into a treatment for those less fortunate.

"This is obviously a hot topic," said Dr. David Ho, head of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City.

His preliminary study, presented at the meeting, offers hints of unique immune system responses in people who carry HIV without harm.

Ho's patients—nine men and one woman—shared no identifiable genetic similarities. They caught their infections in a variety of ways. The only obvious thing they shared is a positive attitude toward their infection.

One early theory about long-term survivors was that their CD4 cells (T cells) were somewhat resistant to infections. However, Ho found that HIV actually infects them easily. But unlike most of those with lengthy infections, these people do not gradually lose their CD4 cells. Instead, the levels remain normal. Some researchers believe the key to this may be another variety of blood cells called CD8 cells.

In one experiment, Ho combined HIV with CD4 cells taken both from normal volunteers and long-term survivors. The virus infected the cells and reproduced rapidly. Then the researchers added the patients' own CD8 cells to the mix. The survivors' cells promptly stopped making virus, but not the volunteers'. This suggests that people who live with the infection are blessed with CD8 cells that are powerful suppressors of HIV.

"It is a high priority to find any factor associated with these cells" that stops HIV, Ho said.

Continued on Page 12
AIDS Conference
Continued from page 11

Still, other factors may come into play. Ho also discovered that the long-term survivors seem to produce especially potent virus-fighting antibodies, and they seem to carry less aggressive strains of the virus.

New emphasis on gene therapy

Other researchers said their decade of basic research into HIV's origins, structure and life cycle is about to result in human experiments in gene therapy, the most exotic AIDS treatment yet. The idea is to insert HIV-killing genes into people's blood cells so they will be able to protect themselves from the virus.

Among the gene therapy approaches that appear to be closest to actual use is one for newborns developed by Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal and colleagues at the University of California in San Diego. She said she hopes to begin testing it on infected babies within a year and eventually develop a simple AIDS treatment that can be given in a single injection.

"This might seem like an unreachable goal right now, but we should bear in mind that gene therapy is a rapidly developing field," Wong-Staal said.

The treatment must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health before it can be tried, but Wong-Staal said she does not expect a long delay.

No one knows whether this will produce a practical AIDS therapy. Time and again, the virus has proven more clever than the scientists. Its principal tactic is to evolve mutant genes that make it impervious to new drugs.

U.S. pledges to continue vaccine research

U.S. AIDS researchers reiterated their commitment to discovering an AIDS vaccine at last week's meeting, saying it is "our greatest hope" for stopping the epidemic.

"Our collective goal must be to accept nothing less than the complete elimination of AIDS from our world," said Dr. William E. Paul.

U.S. researchers' plans to expand testing of two experimental vaccines were cancelled in June because of doubts about whether they would work, and some researchers say they are unsure a vaccine will ever be found. But Paul remains optimistic.

"Our greatest hope for the eradication of HIV lies in the development of effective preventative vaccines," he said, adding that broad testing of so-called second generation vaccines will begin once there is "a reasonable degree of promise" they will work. He declined to speculate when that might be.

Focus on prevention

During the conference, researchers showed little of the bravura that reigned early in the epidemic, when many were convinced that victory over AIDS was inevitable.

"It has outsmarted us so far, and most of us would predict it will continue," said Dr. Mark Wainberg of McGill University in Montreal.

For now, many believe that keeping people from contracting HIV, largely through condom use—the World Health Organization estimated 20 billion condoms would be needed to stop the spread of the disease, surely brightening the day of condom manufacturers—is
Miki Wakabayashi attaches to a bamboo branch her wish for the eradication of AIDS in the Exhibition Hall at the 10th International Conference on AIDS. The only practical way to control the epidemic, which continues to spread with alarming speed.

According to WHO, about 17 million people have been infected with HIV—three million in the last year alone. Africa is the hardest hit, but the virus is starting to spread in Asia, the world’s most populous continent. Ironically, in the conference’s Asian host country, the stigma surrounding AIDS is among the strongest in the world.

The Japanese government has almost no programs to prevent or treat AIDS. Patients often have trouble getting medical care. People infected with the virus are often refused restaurant meals and lodging.

The Health Ministry induced hotels in Yokohama to hold AIDS education programs for employees, but the Justice Ministry, fearing “undesirables” would attend the conference, refused to endorse the gathering.

Part of the problem is that Japanese consider AIDS a foreign malady. “Japanese culture has long had a sense of a ‘pure’ inside and an ‘unclean’ outside,” said psychiatrist Dr. Tetsuo Kumakura. “Sickness is often blamed on people from the outside.”

But AIDS is making its way into Japan—with a population of 125 million, there are only 700 reported cases of AIDS, and officials estimate 13,000 people are infected with HIV. And health officials fear a major epidemic unless steps are taken to head it off.

“It is so urgent to act here in Asia before we get an explosion of infection,” said Dr. Michael Merson, head of the WHO’s AIDS program. “We are running out of time. There is no excuse.”

The news from the International Conference on AIDS shows that AIDS clearly will be a deadly foe for a long time. The International AIDS Society is planning more meetings like this one through the end of the century.

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AIDS czar appointment stirs debate

Activists and advocates try again to influence selection of the Clinton administration’s AIDS Policy Coordinator

When Patricia S. (Patsy) Fleming was named interim National AIDS Policy Coordinator at a White House news conference on August 2—the day Kristine Gebbie stepped down as AIDS czar—the announcement did little to quell growing concern about the administration’s commitment to forming a national AIDS policy.

Although AIDS activists for the most part lauded Fleming for her experience and knowledge of the issues—ACT UP/Washington’s Steve Michael was a notable exception, calling Fleming “an apologist for the administration”—AIDS organizations were unanimous in criticizing the Clinton administration for making an interim appointment and not resolving the issue of restructuring and staffing the office.

This is bad news, because they still don’t understand,” said Cornelius Baker, policy director for the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). “After months of trouble with Kristine Gebbie, and after they have actually entered into discussion on this in May, here we are in August, and they still have no candidate or mission for the office.”

AIDS organizations have called on the administration to shrink the staff size, to “about ten people,” according to NAPWA director Bill Freeman, and to follow through on his campaign promise to make the post cabinet level. But is the president listening?

The White House was in “fairly regular contact” with the AIDS Action Council in June and early July on these issues of restructuring, said AIDS Action spokesman Lyntor Williams, but that hasn’t been the case in recent weeks. “I am not sure what that means,” Williams said.

The administration says it hopes to announce the permanent appointment in mid-September, but some possibilities have already taken themselves out of consideration. Fleming said she is not a candidate to stay on, and will return to her position as special assistant to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. Lowell Weicker, a favorite of many activists, has announced he will become chairman of a biotech firm when he steps down as governor of Connecticut. Tim Westmoreland, aide to Rep Henry Waxman (D-CA) and respected for his AIDS advocacy, has reportedly turned down an offer of the post.

Baker said he is trying to broker a dialogue between groups on the selection process to avoid “the cat calling and nasty faxes” that marked selection of Gebbie last year.

“There was not even an attempt by the community to meet as a whole and talk about candidates,” he said. “Instead everyone just sent roaring faxes attacking each other’s candidates.” And we got Kristine Gebbie.”

Some of that is going on now—most notably over AIDS Project Los Angeles public policy director Phil Wilson, whom Michael says ACT UP will oppose “like nobody’s business”—but even if a mid-September appointment is made, Baker is pessimistic.

“The person will probably start in November, if we are lucky,” he said. “At that point they will have missed most of the cycle for the budget that will be introduced in February.”
Crying

Recently, as I stood at the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge and looked out over San Francisco Bay on a clear, impossibly beautiful summer day, my ex-lover, Tim, did something he hasn't done in a very long time: He made me laugh.

Try as I might to be alone with my thoughts of the constant stream of cameri-tourists in tacky clothes kept distracting me. I just wanted to tell them all to go the hell away and leave me alone. Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, I heard Tim's voice. In that tiny, mock-midwestern accent he'd put on to make fun of yokels, he shouted, "Oh Myrna, look! It's Alcatraz!" and I burst into giggles.

But grief is a funny thing. Just when you think you're getting over it, just when you think you've pulled yourself back together, it sneaks up and smacks you. Just two days after that moment on the bridge, I unthinkingly popped a cassette into my stereo and was stopped dead by Roy Orbison and k.d. lang singing a duet on a classic old song of Orbison's:

Grief is a funny thing.

Just when you think you're getting over it, just when you think you've pulled yourself back together, it sneaks up and smacks you.

I collapsed on the couch, shaking with sobs and calling—no, howling—Tim's name. It doesn't go away. It doesn't get better. It doesn't stop hurting, ever. A healing of a wound isn't so obvious anymore, but it's there. I missed two friends' funeral because I was too busy arranging Tim's. It was the first time since he died that I've been able to think of him and laugh.

For the record, Tim died in February 1993. His death would have been devastating. It's hard to feel happy about knowing that his fallen buddies died defending their country, defending freedom or struggling for some sort of worthy end. It's hard to feel that way about watching your friends get eaten away by a virus. It's hard to feel that way about how we live, how we form relationships, how we organize to try to deal with this continuing plague—and I don't think we've begun to understand how.

Others have compared our experience with AIDS to living in wartime. In terms of sheer volume of loss, the comparison is valid, but in other ways the experience is entirely different. Wartime deaths, after all, may be brutal, but often they're at least quick, with the pain over in minutes rather than dragged out over years. And—at least if he's lucky—a soldier can be comforted by the thought that his fallen buddies died defending their country, defending freedom or struggling for some sort of worthy end. It's hard to feel that way about watching your friends get eaten away by a virus.

This is the point in the column where, having pointed out some unhappy situation, I might say sanctimonious and smug) conclusions, and maybe even begin suggesting solutions. Not this time. I have no answers, only questions. All I know is that America as a society has never been terribly good at dealing with death, and we as a community haven't done much different. Wartime deaths, after all, may be brutal, but often they're at least quick, with the pain over in minutes rather than dragged out over years. And—at least if he's lucky—a soldier can be comforted by the thought that his fallen buddies died defending their country, defending freedom or struggling for some sort of worthy end. It's hard to feel that way about watching your friends get eaten away by a virus.

Maybe a starting point is to realize how difficult it is just to live—much less build a movement that's trying to alter the direction of scientific research, government policy and societal mores—with the amount of pain we as a community have experienced. It's so easy to criticize, so easy to lay blame (and I've certainly done my share), so easy to lash out in frustration and rage—and so hard to just keep it together. I don't have any answers this time. I only know we have got to start asking the questions. And even though the stereo is off as I write this, that song keeps running through my head and I can't make it stop. You said so long and left me standing all alone. Alone and crying.

Crying
I miss you, Timmy.

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Investigational HIV vaccine shows promise, researchers say

St. Louis, MO—Tests on a new HIV vaccine show promise, researchers say, finding no major side effects and a broader immune response than that found in earlier vaccine studies.

"We saw some very significant new findings," said Dr. Robert B. Belshe, director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

"The vaccine (called MN rgp120) stimulated a higher quantity of neutralizing antibody than we've seen before," Belshe said Aug. 5. "In addition, those antibodies could attack and kill not only the laboratory strain of HIV from which the vaccine was made, but also several other lab strains of the virus."

"This is a small but important step forward. There are many strains of HIV in the real world, and we believe an effective HIV vaccine must be able to kill all or most of those strains."

The study, which involved 57 healthy, HIV-negative adult volunteers who were at low risk for HIV infection, was conducted at AIDS vaccine evaluation units at medical schools at Saint Louis, the University of Rochester in New York and Vanderbilt University. The next phase, which is scheduled to be completed in about six months, involves low-risk and high-risk volunteers.

The research is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a component of the National Institutes of Health.

Belshe said other positive advances found with the investigational vaccine was its ability to stimulate a kind of antibody that can kill infected cells, as opposed to killing only the virus itself, and to prime the exposed immune system to recognize the virus in the future.

But the news is not all good, said Belshe, who notes that further development is needed if MN rgp120 is to be truly effective.

Researchers note that even higher levels of antibodies than the vaccine stimulates may be needed for it to be protective. They also found that while the antibodies were effective against laboratory strains of HIV, they could not kill HIV taken directly out of people infected with the virus. The significance of that finding is not known, they said.

"There are many tasks to be completed with basic studies such as this one, said Belshe. "Each study gives us more information. These findings represent another small step along the road to developing an AIDS vaccine."

"I am confident that we will be able to develop one. But it's an enormously complex virus and it will take a long time. I don't know if it will be five years or fifteen, but we will have a vaccine."

The results of the study appear in the Journal of the American Medical Association and were to be presented Aug. 5 at the International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan.

ED SCHAFER

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For insatiable partiers, River Race weekend offered ample delights

by ADAM J. SANK
photo by HARRIET LEIBOWITZ

Thursday, August 11, 1994, Colony Square Hotel lobby, 7:00 pm.
A curious mix of straitlaced business types and pumped-up partiers mills about the tastefully decorated lobby, each wondering if he is in the right hotel. The businessmen wear dark suits with pressed, tight shorts and bright summer ties. The partiers wear dark tans with pressed, tight shorts and bright summer highlights. There are as yet no signs indicating where one goes to register for River Expo '94, but a cheerful front desk staff directs those interested to the Habersham Room, where registration will begin in several hours.

Hence, the restless would-be Hotlantans circle the lobby, discretely cruising one and all. Actually, some of the businessmen do, too.

Thursday, August 11, 1994, Colony Square Hotel ballroom, 8:00 pm.
A small crowd sips cocktails inside the dimly lit nightclub, waiting for the Miss Hotlanta contest, the annual drag beauty pageant, to commence.

Backstage, the seven contestants hurriedly touch up mascara, tense and fuss with coiffures, and tuck away needless appendages in the makeshift dressing room. Chattanoogan native Heather Daniels, a leggy blonde with sparkling blue eyes, is rushed but collected as she describes her competition tonight. "Tina Devore and Ashley Cruise are always good," says the former Miss East Tennessee, "but it's really anybody's race tonight."

At 8:00, the Armory's Bubba D. Licious and May Tag come to the stage. As encore for the evening, the two distinctively unanonymous female impersonators delight the audience with ongoing campy commentary throughout the pageant's two hours and 45 minutes, although the drug jokes wear a bit thin after a while: "Careful going down the river this year, boys," jokes Bubba, "with all the rain, the water's really high. But then again, so are we."

Following the initial presentation, talent competition and evening gown competition, as well as endless "entertainment" breaks featuring the Miss Hotlanta dancers and comedian Danny Williams, the winners are announced. Carol Channing impersonator Lorelie wins $100 as "Miss Congeniality," so chosen by her fellow contestants for her warmth and charm. Ashley Cruise is named second runner-up and recipient of $200. First runner-up and $500 goes to Atlanta's own Leah Stetson, who dazzled the crowd in a stunning turquoise Oscar de La Renta gown. And the new Miss Hotlanta 1994 is the statuesque Tina Devore, the winner of $1,000.

After receiving her crown and a $1,000 check, Devore exclaims, "I'm ecstatic! You saw the competition! And I won!"

Friday, August 12, 1994, Atlanta Civic Center auditorium, 8:00 pm.
"Finally, it's happened to me right in front of my face and my lips can't deny it," belts the fabulous CeCe Peniston to the adoring crowd. She ain't kidding.

For two hours Hotlantans are dazzled by the high-tech multimedia sets, acrobatic dancing, and above all, buffed-up beefcake that is the 1994 Mr. Hotlanta International Finals and Show. As emcees Danny Williams and Ant make sexual innuendo ad nauseam, 16 pectorally-gifted men strut about the stage in three separate competitions, all of which could be entitled, "Let's see how many clothes we can take off."

Not that the audience is complaining. When Michael Stea, a Horatian history teacher from Los Angeles, prances about in a leather thong and helmet, Ant correctly assesses, "I don't make sexual innuendo ad nauseam, 16 pectorally-gifted men strut about the stage in three separate competitions, all of which could be entitled, "Let's see how many clothes we can take off."

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Finally, it's happened to me right in front of my face and my lips can't deny it," belts the fabulous CeCe Peniston to the adoring crowd. She ain't kidding.

The title of first runner up and $1,500 goes to New Zealander Anthony Marsh, a trainer and model now residing in New York. And second runner-up and $1,000 is claimed by Mark Matthews, another fitness trainer from Orlando, FL.

Sufficiently frustrated, the audience flees to Backstreet trying desperately to block out the images left dancing in their, uh, heads.

Saturday, August 13, 1994, somewhere on the Chattahoochee, 12:00 pm.
Perhaps getting continuously squirted in the face with giant Super Soakers would be more fun if not for the many horror stories circulating about the Hooch's bacteria factor. Doubtless, warnings regarding the fetid water seem to have detracted many Hotlantans from attending the festival's namesake, the River Expo.

Those choosing to participate are treated to a mostly pleasant though strangely placid ride through Cobb County, while bystanders in the woods, reportedly moles for John Knox's future campaigns, videotape the boys floating by. However, despite all the hoopla about this

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A Hotlanta diary

Continued from page 17

year's emphasis on "theme rafts," there is very little here that would raise a Cobb County commissioner's eyebrow. The only thing truly shocking is that some men actually stand barefoot in the mucky underbelly of the Hooch.

At exactly 2:30, as all of the rafts are deflated and packed up, it begins to pour, proving once again that God loves homosexuals.

Saturday, August 13th, 1994, Atlanta Apparel Mart, 11:00 pm.

Excellent party. Emphasis on the "Ex," as in "expensive."

But seriously, those that can still ponder pondered, is it truly worth $35 to dance in a humongous but under-decorated arena with all the same people you danced with at Backstreet last night for $5.00? Despite murmurings of a truly miraculous dance-fest whose "details" were kept secret until the last minute, the "Grafitti" theme consists of nothing more than a single scaffold in the middle of the mart upon which two artists listlessly spray-paint street art onto canvas.

The boys seem not to be bothered by the minimalist decor, however, and perhaps this is due to an extraordinary amount of chemical enhancement. It seems that among most of the thousands of muscular, sweaty bodies, XTC, cocaine, ethyl, and "K" (a reported cat tranquilizer) have made the rounds. The result is a lovefest of sorts with lots of smiles and hugs, undisturbed by the fact that the stage upon which many of the boys are dancing has collapsed, leaving ominous looking depressions below the shaggy surface.

Around 3:00, most have left for the next party, an after-hours at the Core, although some continue to float gracefully around the mart amidst the pounding disco beat.

And a few, perhaps more than ten, have gone to sleep.

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Foundation honors "uncommon" lesbians

The Uncommon Legacy Foundation, a New York-based group that began as a cocktail party, then grew to provide financial support to the lesbian community, is gaining attention in its fifth year as it attracts more women to its efforts. The foundation's Legacy Awards and Garden Party, held July 30 in Watermill, NY, drew 550 women to honor prominent activists including San Francisco supervisor Carole Migden and attorney couple Paula Ettelbrick and Suzanne Goldberg. Another event in June attracted well-knowns such as Lauren Hutton, who was guest presenter, and honorees such as authors Rita Mae Brown and Kate Millett.

The message of Uncommon Legacy is that women can and should take financial care of their own, just as gay men have been doing for years. And according to Vivian Shapiro, co-chair of the foundation's board of directors, the foundation's message is being met with overwhelming financial support by women from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

"Women want to determine their own destinies," Shapiro says. "What we are finding is that women will come out when asked to support women."

Shapiro says that the increasing interest in Uncommon Legacy means that organizers will begin visiting major cities across the United States to see if they can help found chapters. They will be asking women to support their mission, which, organizers say, is to give money to individuals or groups that aid the health and well-being of lesbians in society. Local chapters would keep 50% of the funds they raise in their cities, designating local recipients through board approval.

Atlanta will not be visited until January 1995, when a free cocktail party is scheduled to be held for women who are interested in hearing about Uncommon Legacy. The foundation's visit will actually be the organizers' second trip to Atlanta. A visit several years earlier was met with limited interest, perhaps in part because the foundation was still in its infancy, barely more than the original cocktail party where it was born.

It all began, Shapiro explains, when several women who owned second homes in the Hamptons in New York threw a cocktail party to benefit the MS Foundation and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The event was so successful that Shapiro and others began to think about using their skills to establish a foundation for lesbians.

According to Atlanta professional facilitator Elizabeth Marsala, who visited New York to lead one of the foundation's organizational meetings, the women were high energy. "They were beginning to focus and pull together in an organized fashion the whole process of looking at building a legacy for lesbians," she stated. "I thought then, and I think now, that recognizing lesbians and honoring an endowment for that is an excellent idea."

Since its inception, the Legacy board has created a special scholarship fund for openly lesbian students, a Legacy brochure outlining insurance and planned giving programs that support the foundation's endowment fund, and published "The Book of Uncommon Women," which showcases 112 pages of lesbian achievement.

This year's Legacy Awards and Garden Party benefited the Legacy Scholarship Fund; Camp Sister Spirit, founded by Brenda and Wanda Henson in Ovett, MS; and the Lesbian Research Network. And at the fundraiser in June, 30 undergraduate and graduate students from around the country were presented with scholarship money.

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Cobb County human rights rally set for August 28

To mark the first anniversary of Cobb County's anti-gay resolution, three groups opposing that resolution are sponsoring "And Justice for All...Cobb Rally for Human Rights" on the downtown square in Marietta Aug. 28.

The Marietta Interfaith Alliance, headed by Temple Kol Emeth Rabbi Steven Lebow, the Cobb Citizens Coalition, and the Network for Social Responsibility have called the rally to show support for human rights in Cobb County. Representatives from those organizations will speak at the rally, along with U.S. Congressional candidate Ben Jones, Rev. James Orange from the King Community, NOW vice president Rosemary Dempsey, and Shannon Byrne, daughter of Cobb Commission chair Bill Byrne.

The rally will begin at 4 pm with speeches and will continue until 7:45 with entertainment from Cool Joe, Jupiter Symphony, Ashley & Mark, Angela Motter, Chris Hatcher, Johnnie Eason, S. Faybelle Mabee, Chris Coleman, the Marc Stowe Group, and the Redefine Faith Choir.

Attendees are also encouraged to bring a picnic basket, and activities for children will be made available.

Parking near the square is expected to be tight during the rally, said Tony Leonard of the Cobb County human rights rally committee. "Please let people know that they should carpool as much as possible," he said.

Marietta police will bar vehicular traffic from the immediate square area, but parking is available in the Cobb County administration building parking deck on Cherokee St., and in a city lot between the Square and North Loop. Those parking areas will be patrolled by security, said Leonard.

For more information, call the Cobb Citizens Coalition at 256-8690.

Atlanta players do well in volleyball tournament

Atlanta, GA—The Hotlanta Volleyball Association (HVA) hosted its annual tournament July 29-31, and Atlanta players were seven of the fifteen teams to win trophies. With 60 teams from coast to coast, the Atlanta tournament became the largest in the nation after Nationals and Gay Games. "We had ten other teams that wanted to come, but we just couldn't accommodate them," says Doug Lalicker, tournament director.

The tournament is divided into five divisions of play: C, B, BB, A and AA (AA being the most difficult). There were several teams from Dallas, Chicago, New Orleans and Washington, DC, for the first time, there was a team from Birmingham, AL, where HVA is trying to assist in forming a league. With eight teams in the C division, 15 in B, 19 in BB, 12 in A, and six in AA, the tournament had to be played at three different facilities: Emory, Georgia State, and Agnes Scott.

"The tournament has grown by ten or so teams over the past few years," says Lalicker. He attributes some of the growth of this year's tournament to an increase in advertising. "There were two other tournaments on the same weekend, but neither had more than 24 teams. Atlanta shows everybody a good time and everybody has fun while they're here," adds Lalicker.

Winning the AA division for the third year in a row was Las Gritas from New Jersey, followed by the Tallahassee Tiger Sharks (a team of mostly Atlanta players), and Atlanta Total Eclipse took third. In the A division, first place went to the Villa Rica Visions (formerly the Smyrna Smackers, but they too had to leave Cobb). Second in the A division went to the Dayton Attack and third went to the Atlanta Blitz with the Atlanta Heat coming in fourth. The BB division winner was another team with Atlanta players, the Greensboro Warehouse 29. The BB second place trophy was won by New York Gavitas with the Seattle Outiders taking third. The Atlanta Boy Skoutz won first in the C division, 15 in B, 19 in BB, 12 in A, and six in AA, the tournament had to be played at three different facilities: Emory, Georgia State, and Agnes Scott.

"The tournament has grown by ten or so teams over the past few years," says Lalicker. He attributes some of the growth of this year's tournament to an increase in advertising. "There were two other tournaments on the same weekend, but neither had more than 24 teams. Atlanta shows everybody a good time and everybody has fun while they're here," adds Lalicker.

The Queer Family Picnic, held in Marietta Square last August, is available in the Cobb County administration building parking deck on Cherokee St., and in a city lot between the Square and North Loop. Those parking areas will be patrolled by security, said Leonard.

For more information, call the Cobb Citizens Coalition at 256-8690.
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Alan Walter Perreault
May 18, 1953 - July 21, 1994

Alan passed away on July 21 in Boston from complications of AIDS. He grew up in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and moved to Atlanta in 1977. His career in the hospitality industry began with catering sales for the Sheraton Century Center Hotel and the Pierremont Hotel, where he perfected his natural ability to work with people as the consummate host and the meticulous organizer. In the early '80s he initiated what was to be a long period of dedicated service and activism in the gay community.

As a new member of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild, he helped direct the 1985 Midtown Classic and shortly thereafter joined the education team of AIDS Atlanta. It was here that Alan's energy and passion thrived as he became a strong advocate of AIDS education and a spokesperson throughout the southeast. He was one of the creators of Campaign '85, a highly successful AIDS risk-reduction program, and literally became a role model for gay men promoting a spirit of health and love. In the spring of 1988 Alan co-chaired the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.

That summer he moved to New York to be with his lover, Thos Shipley, and helped manage his music career. He was a natural, bringing his management skills to the entertainment field and often assisting in Thos' performances in New York's jazz clubs. His own career in catering sales flourished as he brought his style of southern hospitality to the Tower Suites and the Lotus Club. After a long illness in the winter of 1993, Alan moved to Boston and became involved with the Boston Living Center. A year later he fulfilled a personal goal as the first tenant in the newly dedicated Joseph McAllaster House, an apartment building in the South End for people living with AIDS.

He is survived by his parents, Lorraine and Norman, aunt Gloria, sisters Chris and Sandy, brothers Richard and Peter Paul all of Holyoke, MA. Alan had many friends in Atlanta, New York and Boston who will miss him dearly. A memorial service was held in Boston on July 30th and plans are being made for a celebration of his life here in Atlanta. To be notified, please leave your name and number at 892-4531.

Jeffrey Bearden

He is survived by his parents, Jesse and Sandy Bearden; a brother, Jason Bearden; a grandmother, Mildred Bearden; and a grandfather, Ray Kyler; all of western Kentucky. Jeff was born June 20, 1963, and grew up on the family farm in Manitou, Kentucky. After studying at Clemson University, he moved to Atlanta in 1985, where he established a career in landscape design and surrounded himself with a circle of loving friends.

He will be missed by all whose lives he touched with his dry wit and gentle demeanor.

Those wishing to make a tangible memorial gift should send a tax deductible donation to: Project Share Teams of Unity Midtown Church, 875 W. Peachtree, Atlanta 30309.

To place an obituary

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Please include a name and phone number for verification.
OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Kim Maddox and Kathy Mathes celebrated five wonderful years together on Aug. 12.

Michael Lynch and Robin Davidson celebrated 17 years together on Aug. 16, and they say they’d do it all again.

Marsha Mitchiner and Shirley Chancey celebrate their 19th anniversary on Aug. 20.

Heidi and Kelly are celebrating a year’s anniversary on Aug. 20.

BIRTHDAYS

A belated happy birthday to Elisabeth Huhn on Aug. 8. Zan says she really is getting younger because the gray is going away.

Happy birthday to Mike in LaGrange on Aug. 15. Mark and Mark report that a fun time was had by all who helped celebrate at Fat Tuesday on Sunday.

Happy birthday to Ray Brown on Aug. 18.

Micheal Lynch and Robin Davidson celebrate 17 years together.

Happy birthday to Joey Nickles, who turned 35 on Aug. 17.

A happy fourth birthday to Tasha Glenn Williams on Aug. 15 from Randy.

Happy birthday to Kelly Reeves, who turned 29 on Aug. 17.

Eddie DeLima celebrates his 33rd birthday on Aug. 19, and reports that the last two have been celebrated with “the one I love most in my life,” Claude F. Sloan.

GRADUATION

Congratulations to GSU Women’s Studies Graduate Marnie Bella, from her loving sisters Dana and Ananda.

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eral songwriters were brought in anonymously ("Funny Girl" lyricist Bob Merrill wrote the song "Elegance"), and finally it convinced him to keep it going. The book was revised, and several director/choreographer Gower Champion and the cast producer, David Merrick, wanted to close the show in Detroit, the theatre, and Channing witnessed all the changes. The original China? Why build all those sets and costumes for one engagement in the United States. "[Dolly] composer" Jerry Herman, who's course, that was before things got so iffy between China and theatre, a performer who expends as much energy raising funds at AIDS benefits as she does doing "Dolly" six days a week. "(On our off day, we travel," she says.)

So why is Channing—who debuted on Broadway in 1948 and first appeared in "Dolly" in 1964—once again doing eight performances a week in the well-known musical? "The Beijing government started the whole thing, actually," she says. "They thought "Dolly" was the most typically American musical. Of course, that was before things got so offly between China and the United States. ("Dolly" composer) Jerry Herman, who's acting as our overall artistic director, said, "Why just go to China? Why build all those sets and costumes for one engagement?" So I said, "Let's make it a world tour, a 50th anniversary production." But now we don't even know whether the Beijing government still wants us.

Typical or not, "Hello, Dolly!" had a stormy history before it became one of the biggest hits in American musical theatre, and Channing witnessed all the changes. The original producer, David Merrick, wanted to close the show in Detroit, but director/choreographer Gower Champion and the cast convinced him to keep it going. The book was revised, and several songwriters were brought in anonymously ("Funny Girl" lyricists Bob Merrill wrote the song "Elegance"), and finally it ran on a hit.

One of the joys Channing had in creating the role was working with legendary gay playwright Thornton Wilder, who wrote "The Matchmaker" (and its earlier version, "The Merchant of Yonkers"), the basis for "Hello, Dolly!" "Jerry [Herman] realized he had to find out what Thornton Wilder was really trying to say in his play," Channing recounts. "Jerry figured out that in "Our Town," Thornton was saying the same thing he said in "The Matchmaker"—"Don't go to the grave with your lovely young bride, stay with the living." In this play, Thornton was saying, "Dolly Gallagher Levi, stop talking to your dead husband and rejoin the human race? That's when Jerry wrote 'Before the Parade Passes By.' Thornton came up to me right after he heard said that "How did you know what I was trying to say?""

In recent years, Channing has been extremely active in AIDS fundraising. She sees it as part of her responsibility as an actress: "We're in the position where we're the only ones who can help. That's part of being a public figure, in that you're in that kind of position to help. And it's your job to do it!

"I remember being at an AIDS benefit where I was working with Angela Lansbury. They had suddenly put me on ahead of where I was supposed to be, so I rushed up and helped me fix my costume, then she got it on me. I went out there and did my job. Then I rushed backstage and listened to her rehearse her speech—she was trying to memorize it. We were all helping each other. I was lacey Bette Midler up, too.

At one of those benefits, held in 1992 in Los Angeles, not only did Channing appear on stage but so did three Carol Channing versions of Dolly Levi. Channing was one of the most often imitated public figures, and actually not too difficult to do. In fact, in one version of the New York cabaret "Forbidden Broadway," the entire cast did Carol Channing and also taught everyone in the audience how to do her as well.

Channing saw "Forbidden Broadway" several times, but for seeing herself imitated, she says, "I don't know who they're doing. None of us has perspective on ourselves. I don't know what they're doing, but everybody laughs and it's very honored. People don't imitate you unless they like you a lot.

The actress is equally proud of an honor that was bestowed on her last year—serving as Co-Grand Marshal of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade with longtime friend Jerry Herman. "I was wonderful," she recalls. "It was like a tremendous healing. Right behind us was Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, the most reactionary mayor the city's ever had. But it was wild, like a Christian Science demonstration. I got to sing with the Gay Men's Chorus. We sung "Hello, Dolly!" It was the first time I could actually sing with the chorus, because usually I can't sing with the girls and I can't sing with the boys. But we sang gorgeously together."

"Hello, Dolly!" continues at the Fox Theatre through August 21.

More than "Zero"

John Greyson's "Zero Patience" weaves melody and myth into an AIDS musical.

by STEVE WARREN

Director John Greyson's latest film "Zero Patience," has the distinction of being the first politically correct musical about AIDS. In terms of dark humor it owes a debt to Rosa Von Praunheim's "A Virus Knows No Morals," which was made so long ago that some viewers weren't ready to laugh at the pandemic, while others hadn't yet learned to take it seriously.

Randy Shilts probably would not have found "Zero Patience" either funny or PC. One goal of the film is to discredit the "Patient Zero" theory of the spread of AIDS, which Shilts publicized in his book "And the Band Played On." It wasn't intended as the focus of Shilts' book, but it was the first thing the media zeroed in on.

In his new film, as he did in "Urinal," Greyson brings a character from history into the present. This time it's Sir Richard Francis Burton, the 19th century explorer whose "deeply conflicted sexual nature" is indicated for Greyson by the fact that he translated erotic books and seemed obsessed with doing "scientific" studies of penis size.

Having drunk from the fountain of youth, Burton (John Robinson) is alive and well and working as chief taxidermist in Toronto's Museum of Natural History. Reading about Patient Zero, he imagines him to update the museum's "Hall of Contagion." An ACT UP member (Diane Heatherington) later criticizes Burton, who obviously represents Shilts, saying his exhibit "perpetuates bigotry and fetishizes blame." Museum head Dr. Placebo is concerned about what kind of role model a "promiscuous, irresponsible, homosexual Canadian" will offer, until Burton points out that Zero is French-Canadian.

In the meantime, Patient Zero (played by Normand Fairen) returns as a ghost, hoping to improve his image. The first song
... the countdown begins.

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**OUT ABOUT AUGUST 18, 1994**

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**25 THURSDAY**

THE PEARL FISHERS.
Tonight, Sat. and Mon. The Adaina Opera presents... Georges Bizet's immortal tale of male bonding, love and betrayal in old Cairo. Great Space on Art. 424-8412.

FRIENDS OF CARE.
A special night of discounts for card-holding, music of Friends of the LSP bookstore. Friends cards may be purchased tonight as well. 7:30pm, 1189 Racil, 524-0044.

SISTER'S TIME.
An audio magazine featurin the rhythm of African women's health. 6-7pm, WRFG, 82.3 FM.

GAY GRAFFITI.
Out and loud lindian and gay radio. 7-8pm, WRFG, 82.3 FM.

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**26 FRIDAY**

FOLK FEST '94. Thu. Sun. Here's the show that didn't go to Cobb. Instead this show and sale of self-taught artists is being held at the North Atlanta Trade Center, I-85 and Indian Trail Road. 5:30-9:30 tonight ($315), 10-12 Sat and 10:5 Sun (5 each day), 633-1730.


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**27 SATURDAY**

CLEAN AND SOBER DANCE.
A fundraiser for the Atlanta Centers for Creative Art. Time: 4pm-8pm, WIGO, 1304AM.

VICTORY TEA DANCE.
The Olympics wouldn't be held in Cobb, let's celebrate! A fundraiser for the Olympics Out of Cobb Coalition at the Metro, 7:30-9:30.

ANGELS IN AMERICA.
Displays of great European artists are presented in works from the Schoenberg Collection at the High Museum.

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**28 SUNDAY**

VICTORY PARTY.
Celebrating Olympics Out of Cobb's success and a victory for Cobb, the Artists.

LESBIAN AND GAY CELEBRATION.
Music and interviews from a perspective.

---

**30 MONDAY**

OUT IN ATLANTA.
Atlanta's local lesbian and gay cable program, featuring interviews, news, art & entertainment and more. 10:30pm again. Wed, 9:30pm, Cables Ch. 12.

DYKE TV.
AIDS activists from a dyke perspective. 9:30pm.

---

**31 TUESDAY**

MADDY PRIOR. Former lead singer for Steeleye Span takes the stage at the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid. 7:30 and 9:30 tonight, 524-7554.
Folk Fest '94

The growth of folk art into a saleable art form—with pottery and paintings that once went for less than $10 bringing thousands at market now—will reach a high this month at Folk Fest '94, which opens August 19 at the North Atlanta Trade Center. Folk Fest '94 will showcase the work of folk artists from around the world and across the Southeast.

Folk Fest promoter Steve Slotin says that because of the rapid increase in demand for folk art, many people may unwittingly have treasure troves in their basements or backyards. On a recent jaunt to Hiawassee, GA, Slotin was stunned by what he saw on one stop. "There were, on the floor, Howard Finster paintings, Meaders pottery and other art that was worth thousands of dollars," Slotin recalls. "It was junk to the dealer—he had no idea how much the stuff was worth."

Slotin began collecting only a few years ago, with a piece bought for $35. The outgrowth of his passion for collecting folk art, Folk Fest '94 has now also become a career for Slotin. In January of this year, he quit his full-time job to become promoter for the event.

Slotin calls Folk Fest '94 "the only show of its kind in the country, and the first time all these different kinds of art have been collected together." No rules restrict the entry of any type of folk artist in this gathering. Slotin also promises that first-time buyers of folk art will not be lured by too-high prices. Bargains will still be available, with pieces in the $15-$20 range, as well as the pieces that fall into the $100-$100,000 range, obviously for more seasoned collectors.

One of the most important aspects of this festival, to Slotin, is education about folk art. He has donated space to bookstores and educational services that advance the form. In general terms, folk art is that which has been created by untrained artists, who use innate or passed-down techniques and whatever materials are readily available to them. The expressiveness in folk art is more powerful to its admirers because of its lack of pretensions and sometimes, its coarseness. For example, a folk art that thrives in Haiti is the creation of metal cutouts using old oil barrels as a medium; here in the South, our plentiful red clay is used to create pottery.

"Most folk artists are outside the mainstream in many ways," Slotin explains. "They can be isolated either geographically, economically or emotionally." It is this out-of-the-mainstream status that distinguishes a folk artist from artists who are schooled in technique and may have a more narrow scope because of their formal training. Most folk artists would never call themselves artists; some never intended to sell their work.

The words used to describe folk artists—naive, childlike, primitive—don't agree with Slotin. "I think these artists are visionary, because most of them start painting without any know-how," he explains. "Their inspiration comes from many places: God, some outside force, a wild dream. Howard Finster is certain that God told him to paint."

Slotin is introducing Southern folk pottery to the Folk Fest '94 catalog, which he says is a first. Perhaps the most famous of all Southern folk potters, Cheever Meaders, was almost forgotten before his son, Lanier, sustained the art form. The most fascinating thing about this family's craft is that the method that the elder Meaders used to create pottery was unchanged from the way it was done 100 years ago.

Since many folk artists are isolated, slotin has planned a "Meet the Artist" party to open Folk Fest '94. Over 30 folk artists are expected to attend, including the Finsters and the Meaders. The Friday night party will be open to the public, and it will be the first chance for collectors to shop the festival. A catalog will be provided to all attendees that evening.

Slotin has also planned a silent auction, with proceeds going to several nonprofit organizations, including The Art Program for the Homeless. The pieces up for auction will be some of the most sought-after works at the festival.

The original venue for Folk Fest '94 was the Cobb Galleria, but Slotin says that after confering with his brother (State Senator Ron Slotin) and others, he decided to move the event. "I didn't think it was appropriate to have a show about out-of-the-mainstream art in a place where everyone would not feel welcome to come," he explains.

Folk Fest '94 will be held August 19-21 at the North Atlanta Trade Center. Tickets to the opening night party are $15, which includes readmission any time Saturday and Sunday. Regular admission is $5. For more information, call 653-1730.
I've been reading The Progressive this summer, quite by accident—the tenant before me never left a forwarding address. This alternative magazine out of Madison, WI, is one of those socially responsible monthly magazines that helps oil the political machine while at the same time exposes its inner workings. I like the direct approach their writers take as if they had no one to answer to. The August '94 issue features an interview with Allen Ginsberg, “the Beat poet, icon of the 1960s counter-culture and gay pioneer” who has been ranting and raving for almost 40 years. In the interview, he calls Bush a “sourpuss,” talks about protesting the Gulf War and shares his hopes for the lesbian and gay movement in this country. Ginsberg says, “Everybody’s sexualized, and everybody’s sex is somewhat repressed, and no one can really do any fingerpointing anymore. Everybody’s a freak, so to speak, and I think people understand that. Certainly the younger generation does. I mean how long can you keep it secret that Cardinal Spellman was a flaming queen? How long can you keep it secret that Jesse Helms is obsessed with homosexuality and is politically addicted to alcohol and tobacco interests? Even the press sooner or later is going to catch up.”

This coming week, there are plenty of opportunities to forget your social responsibilities and just cut loose. Elton John and Billy Joel join forces Thursday, August 18, at the Georgia Dome. Though I have never seen either in concert, I’m sure the combo is a successful one. They probably want an arm and a leg for a ticket, but when else can you see two living legends for the price of one. 223-9200.

The Atlanta Opera opens its second of three operas this week. The Pearl Fishers by Georges Bizet is the exotic story of a love triangle between Zurga, king of the fishermen, Nadir, his friend, and the priestess, Leila. The two men fall in love with the same woman, who in turn is sworn to a vow of chastity. Once the vow is broken, accusations fly, death sentences are given, and you know those opera endings; they’re never quite as happy as you’d like. “The Pearl Fishers” plays August 18, 20 and 22 at Symphony Hall inside the Woodruff Arts Center. It’s not easy to reduce a three-act opera into three sentences, so I recommend seeing Bizet’s work to appreciate the full effect. Call for more information and tickets, 355-3311.

Image Film & Video Center presents Kermit Cole’s documentary Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness Friday, August 19, at 8 and 10 pm. The Village Voice called Cole’s film a “marvel of simple filmmaking, compassionate and compelling.” It focuses on a group of beautiful, brave individuals who have learned to cope with being HIV-positive in resourceful, upbeat ways. The interviews and testimonials are from people of varied backgrounds—children and adults, gay and straight. Image Film & Video is located at 75 Bennett St. NW, Suite M-1; 352-4225.

Plain Jane, the local acoustic trio, is going strong with two performances this weekend. Friday, August 19, they’ll be at Homage (downtown) and Saturday, August 20, they’ll play The Freight Room in Decatur. Sissie Lanh, one third of Plain Jane is no wallflower. She’s got one of those voices that jumps out in a choir. They’re a hardworking group, well worth a listen.

But if it’s a New York atmosphere you’re after, then head over to SoHo this Sunday, August 21. With its lounge, cafe, patio and large dance floor, there’s plenty of reason to check out the latest downtown bar. However, this Sunday is a benefit for Project Open Hand that will include an open bar from 7-8pm. For $8, how much can you drink in an hour? For that ever-popular combination of coffee and drag, we hear rumors that the place to be is Javaco on Sundays, when the retro coffeehouse presents cabaret shows by transgendered star Super Chick. You can get wired and wiggled at the same time.

Hao Jiang Tian as Nourabad in "The Pearl Fishers"
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Round Up '94
two-steps into Atlanta

The gay and lesbian country-western music scene can be summed up by one of its basic tenets: never refuse an offer to dance.

John Jones, co-chairman of Round Up '94, a three-day celebration of the gay country-western scene that unfolds in Atlanta on August 19, explains, "In a disco bar, asking a stranger if they want to dance is tantamount to asking them to go home with you. At Hoedowns, what it's saying is 'Let's dance! It's meant in a friendly and supportive way.'"

Jones is treasurer of the Atlanta chapter of Southern Country. Founded in 1988 by gay and lesbian country-western enthusiasts, the organization was intended to provide an outlet for those seeking a friendly two-step in a city where virtually no such outlets existed, save for occasional "country-western nights" or sectioned-off rooms at disco bars like The Armory, Backstreet, and The Cove. (Hoedowns, formerly Deana's One Mo' Time, did not change its format to try-western nights or sectioned-off rooms at disco bars like The Armory, Backstreet, and The Cove. (Hoedowns, formerly Deana's One Mo' Time, did not change its format to)

Every year, each Southern Country chapter commemorates its anniversary with a convention of sorts, the largest and grandest of which is the Atlanta Round Up. The sixth annual Round Up '94 will commence at the Terrace Garden Hotel in Buckhead on August 19th and is expected to attract over 700 people. Jones describes a fun-filled, dance-intensive celebration of the gay country-western scene that unfolds in Atlanta on August 19, explains, "In a disco bar, asking a stranger if they want to dance is tantamount to asking them to go home with you. At Hoedowns, what it's saying is 'Let's dance! It's meant in a friendly and supportive way.'"

Aside from various hospitality mixers and cocktail parties, these will include group dance lessons as well as a "dance swap," in which members of the various Southern Country chapters show off their newest and fanciest footwork to other chapters. Western dance expert Tom Laud will teach a master dance class on Saturday afternoon to a small group of the finest hoedowners. The weekend will culminate with a barbecue brunch at Hoedown's on Sunday.

Although rumored to be a charity event, Round Up '94 is purely social in nature—a country-western Hoedella of sorts, Jones explains. "Last year, we tried to expand too fast and we wanted to make this event a fundraiser," he says. "It was a disaster because it was mismanaged, and it turned out that none of us knew what we were doing. We're all committed to charity, but we have to make our charitable functions separate from the Round Up for them to be successful."

According to Jones, the participants in Round Up '94 will be a diverse and multifaceted group. "In the gay country-western community, we're no more liberal or conservative that any other gay person, and in terms of education we run the gamut as well. You get doctors, attorneys, and car mechanics. And certainly a lot of women participate, although I wish there were more. The nice thing is that women and men actually talk and dance with each other as friends." Jones does concede that the scene is "overwhelmingly white," adding that he'd like to see that change.

Jones pulls no punches when comparing the country-western scene to the disco scene, which he believes suffers from ageism and "lookism." "In disco, you're only going to dance with the hottest guy in the bar. In country-western, it's considered incredibly impolite to ever turn down a dance, so you end up getting to know everyone."

Clearly proud of the country-western community in which he is a member, Jones eagerly awaits the upcoming festivities. "I have Family Values," he says. "It's meant in a friendly and supportive way."
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More than "Zero"

Continued from page 25

tries to set up an analogy between Zero, who wants his story told so he can live again, and Scheherazade, who told stories to keep from being killed. "We were boys who loved our body, Playing hard and deep; Boys who thought we'd live forever— Didn't know we were playing for keeps."

Frustrated at first because no one can see him, Zero finds that Burton can; Burton, in turn, is frustrated because he can't videotape Zero to spice up his exhibit. "Sometimes," he says, "the facts have to be rearranged to get at the real truth."

Putting all his villains in one basket, Greyson has greedy Gilbert-Sullivan Pharmaceutical, which is making record profits from an overpriced HIV drug, give the museum a grant to help finance the Hall of Contagion.

Among Zero's old friends is George (Richard Keens-Douglas), a schoolteacher who is losing his eyesight to CMV. George belongs to ACT UP but is less hardcore than the other members, who resist Dr. Placebo's attempt to co-opt them by appointing one to the museum's advisory board.

A serious scientist, Burton is convinced Zero is a serial killer until they spend a night in bed together; there Burton expresses the quaint British theory, "It's an insult to the Empire when I take it up the bum."

While Zero is trying to be stripped of the title of "the man who brought AIDS to North America," another country is heard from when the even more maligned African green monkey in the exhibit turns into a leather dyke to refute the theory that AIDS originated in Africa. More theories are heard when Zero checks a blood sample under a microscope. The late Michael Callen guests as "Miss HIV" and sings a song. He's heard again behind the closing credits on "Scheherazade (Tell a Story)," which will likely be the only listenable track on the soundtrack album (coming soon on the Milan label).

The whole saga points up the absurdity of wasting energy on trying to fix blame rather than find a cure.

"Zero Patience" is a film of ideas. Its entertainment value is undeniable, but Greyson refuses to let the audience relax and have fun for very long. There are several songs, most of which have a rock beat that drowns out some of their lyrics. The low-budget production numbers can't go all out like movies of old, but they ambitiously and imaginatively range from traditional concepts like a water ballet to new ones like a pair of singing assholes, a teasing trio in a bathhouse shower and a nude chorus, their dicks flapping in the breeze.

John Robinson, who plays Burton, is a fair actor and a mediocre singer. Normand Fusteux is a little better as Zero. Perhaps it's the dark humor, perhaps the intellectualism that seems the antithesis of camp, but I found "Zero Patience" somewhat off-putting. It tries to affect the viewer on so many levels that it doesn't really work on any. By the end of its 90 minutes, my patience was worn down to zero, too.

"Zero Patience" plays August 19—25 at Cinefest Film Theater of Georgia State University in Atlanta. For more information call (404) 651-CINE.
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A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

Regular readers know that my frequent dining friend the Taste Sheriff cuts no slack to the food (no matter how good) in restaurants where the surroundings are displeasing to his eye. Kindly put, the Sheriff's aesthetic tastebuds are even more sensitive than those on his tongue. (This as opposed to my friend He Who Likes to Eat, who was well past 30 before he even knew that "taste" had more than one meaning. Needless to say, the three of us seldom sup together.)

Given unqualified gushings from yet another friend (She Who Knows Everyone) about the absolutely fabulous look of the recently opened Elena's (469 N. Highland Ave. 522-9211), I called the T.S. and insisted that he join me there.

The Sheriff was enthusiastic until I told him that the location was none other than that of the late Chile Tree, where the food was usually good (if sometimes a bit challenging) but where the owner's pervasive sense of doom too often became the focus of the meal. The good news is that Elena's feels fine. The greeting is cheerful and the look (courtesy of a huge mural of a fauna-infested garden on the right and back walls) is downright chipper.

The aesthetic verdict? Three people. Three completely different opinions. Is it any wonder that we can't agree on one road to liberation?

Where the three of us do agree is about the neo-Mexicano food. "Yum," said the Sheriff, "it's the best new restaurant in a long time." That's quite an endorsement from a man who has been known to gripe about really good food because he doesn't like the way the candlelight reflects against the wall.

A shrimp and black bean quesadilla appetizer is tasty and does a better than decent job of tweaking the tastebuds rather than sating them. A side of pico de pina (pineapple) is wonderfully sweet, tart, crunchy and spicy but is chopped way too coarsely to be of any use with the slender slices of quesadilla.

Only with great trepidation did I order a mixed green salad doused with raspberry vinaigrette—it's never been my favorite vinegar flavor and seems too often a trite affectation. But Elena's version is short on oil, packed with garlic and altogether a satisfactory way to dress mixed field greens and some very good Roma tomatoes.

Chunks of pork tenderloin marinated in "margarita sauce" and sautéed with onions are an upscale take on traditional masitas de puerco, the pork less plentiful and far more moist and tender. Accompanied by grilled eggplant and squash as well as some very smoky black beans, it's an altogether satisfactory way to spend $10.95.

More complex, two grouper fillets perfectly baked in a peppered corn tortilla breading and topped with a very suave pepper and onion concoction is loads of fun even before you add the pico de pina. The slightly gritty texture of the breading takes a bite or two to get used to, but the combination soon seems familiar and exciting all at once. Again, sides of grilled veggies and black beans make for a really satisfying meal.

Other entrees (including some yummy-sounding enchiladas made with spinach, cheese and blue corn tortillas) come with what looks to be really good Spanish rice.

Only a too dense and bland vanilla flan was disappointing.

Other downtown dining options to consider include the ever-popular MARY MACS TEA ROOM, featuring "Atlanta's finest Southern homestyle food in the heart of midtown"—and the TRATTORIA MARRA'S SEAFOOD GRILL, offering "casual dining on our terrace or in our dining rooms featuring an open kitchen concept featuring foods from Mediterranean countries."
emotionally, and physically, is an act of revolution."

...when I plant it is an act of faith in a world that has tried and continues to try to take my faith away, minute by minute, to believe that a small seed can become nourishment and spa-

tions in Gardening" should have read:

"...happened to my lovely long and healthy hollyhocks. They turned brown due to excess water.

Sun lovers, however, are ailing and bewailing. My watermelons are tiny and inedible due to a lack of sun. My tomatoes are small, cracked, and not as tasty as they might be. Indeed, many have rotted on the vines due to a lack of sun. You may have noticed some ugly cracks in the skins of tomatoes. Called "catfacing," these are appearing everywhere, except on my tiny dwarf tomatoes. Usually, you only find uneven moisture, which messes with the calcium balance. Hence, the "stop rot" products recommended for this condi-

To revisit the theme of disasters for this column, due to the rains. The positively unnatural amount of rainfall this past month has completely skewed plant life and continues to try to kill all sorts of people and beings spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically, is an act of revolution."

In response, I wrote: And so it is. And so it is. Withstand-

ing political and natural calamities, gardeners see the life-giving potential hidden within the seed. But I fear that we need to revisit the theme of disasters for

The implications seem a bit ominous, do

They not?)

and carries them through the material world into an intoxicating realm of the imagination.

While we may consider too much of a good thing to be wonderful indeed, the greens being held fairly fixed ideas about their own needs. Plant roots need oxygen, plain and simple. In the main, water should constitute only about a third of the soil's composition for most plants to be happy and healthy. When gardeners say that the soil becomes "saturated," that means there is no air space in the soil whatsoever. And normal plant functions, such as the uptake of nutrients, are inhibited because of it.

True, some plants have adapted to these conditions. For example, the carnivorous plants in boggy areas supplement their nutrition with passing insects, because they can't squeeze out enough support from their damp (and generally nutrient-poor) soils. Swamp dwellers and forest floor habitues should be doing fine here now!

Sun lovers, however, are ailing and bewailing. My watermelons are tiny and inedible due to a lack of sun. My tomatoes are small, cracked, and not as tasty as they might be. Indeed, many have rotted on the vines due to a lack of sun. You may have noticed some ugly cracks in the skins of tomatoes. Called "catfacing," these are appearing everywhere, except on my tiny dwarf tomatoes. Usually, you only find uneven moisture, which messes with the calcium balance. Hence, the "stop rot" products recommended for this condition usually involve the application of calcium chloride. I haven't bothered applying anything, since I began to despair that things would ever dry out.

This has been an unimaginable ordeal. I've lived in Atl-

uentes since 1976, and have never witnessed rains on this scale. In fact, I never saw anything comparable in the trop-

ics!

Hell, I attended Girl Scout camp about 30 years ago in the rain forest at El Yunque, in Puerto Rico. Certainly it rained every day there. But after a half hour or so, the rain stopped, and the clouds did not deliver the torrents we've had here.

Of course, we have not been submerged, as people in the real farm belt of Georgia have been. All those peanuts, cot-

tons, watermelons, pumpkins...look for produce prices to rise, and more small farmers to go out of business. A truly terrible thing, that, which shows us that it's a time for an adopt-a-farmer program.

Now that the floods seemed to have subsided a bit, per-

haps there's hope for our backyards and assorted plots. As a preacher, I note where the truth has fallen on deaf ears: for instance, I notice that the well-mulched have tended not to wash away. Native plants on the whole fared a bit better than many imports—although only the strongest have survived this onslaught.

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Call 662-4353 for further information.
Jocelyn Lyles fell in love with Atlanta the moment she stepped off the plane for a vacation shortly after she graduated from Howard University in Washington, DC.

"I was here for a week and a month and a half passed and I was here for the rest of the time," she says. "There is a certain spiritualism about this town that brought me here and keeps me here. Call it magnetism, romantic mysticism—it's not the concrete jungle. It gives you the opportunity to lay in the grass and watch it grow."

Lyles knows about the concrete jungle—she was born in Washington and grew up in Baltimore—but she also knows about green grass and flowers and trees. For eight years, she spent her summers in a camp in New York's Catskills. There she gained a keen appreciation for the nature of the planet, and of the people she met.

"It gave me a fundamental appreciation for the whole atmosphere, the atmosphere of change," she explains. "From the concrete jungle to the grassy slopes where you could, if it rained hard enough, ride over the wave of the water coming down off the mountain."

"I had a very sheltered upbringing," she says of the experience. "All the things a typical city kid would get involved in, I didn't. I spent eight years riding horses, swimming in lakes, canoe trips, the whole nine yards."

After high school, Lyles says she had "every intention of working"—but as the daughter of a Howard University professor mother, that was not to be.

"The next thing I was supposed to do as her child was to get to college," Lyles says. "So I applied. I had no real interest, but my mother was determined I was going to get to college."

She entered Howard. Was it difficult to attend college where a parent is a respected professor?

"I was advised that she had a reputation and I had better act like I had some sense," she laughs. "The next thing I was supposed to do as her child was to get to college." Lyles says. "So I applied. I had no real interest, but my mother was determined I was going to get to college."

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"I had no direction as to what I was going to do once I got in there," she says.

But she graduated with a degree in psychology, and very shortly afterward moved to Atlanta, taking a job as a property manager.

"I was a dorm psychologist," she recalls. "When I was in college, everybody used to come see me and talk about their problems. And I would listen. I got used to that. Pursuing that profession was not desirable."

Lyles also came out in Atlanta, a process she calls "smooth and easy."

"I could not understand why everyone was having such a difficult time with something that was so natural to me," she says.

And on a trip back to Washington, she had an eye-opening experience.

"Washington, DC is the place where I found out there was more than just a few black gay women," she says. "It was where I got introduced to 'The Life.' It was a thrill that kept me pushing."

She's used some of that energy in her work with Hospitality Atlanta, and served on the board of the Lambda Center. But for the past two years, much of her time has been devoted to a new career in real estate.

"I am a confessed workaholic," she says. "And then I guess to get away from the monotony I go to my rose garden. I weed a little, dig a little, and watch them grow."

And she watches the people grow around her. Lyles' most profound wish for her community is to "become more mindful of being involved in productive, nurturing relationships."

"And to separate ourselves from destructive situations," she adds. "This will be the emphasis for living in these days...because we know, from all the friends we are now missing, that life is not promised. Take time to listen to the music and smell the flowers, read a good book and pray and act for peace of mind."
Dykes To Watch Out For: Dish was at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, recently for the fabulous opening-night party celebrating the showing of the original photographs featured in the book “Family.” The first half hour of the party was held exclusively for the subjects of the photos, and we got to meet some of the people who had created the mad. Those who forgot to bring their copies ran down to the gallery’s gift shop to purchase one. By the end of the evening, after the party and pub crawl in (including Tom Kennedy), even the staff at the gallery were buying the book. The show is scheduled to go on the road soon, and Dish encourages our readers to start lobbying now for an Atlanta stop—maybe at the High Museum?

RuPaul Back Into His Closet: Gone are the big blonde wig, the sequined dresses, the spiked heels, the makeup. RuPaul has gone back into his closet and exiled men’s clothing. “I know. It’s kind of like Farrah Fawcett quitting ‘Charlie’s Angels,’” RuPaul jokes in the August 23 issue of The Advocate. “But I’m at a point where I want to explore different parts of myself. In the past I’ve never felt sexy or appealing as a male. But I do now. And I want to make myself known in the public eye out of drag.” Step one for the singer of “Supermodel” was cultivating a goatee and stepping out on the runway modeling men’s clothing, which RuPaul did recently at designer Matthew Batanian’s show. But RuPaul won’t divulge his age—says he will never totally give up his current persona. “I’ve always done drag, and I probably always will,” he says.

Movie News From All Over: Dish has heard that actor Tom Hulce (“Amadeus”) is signed to star in a new film based on a series of Pulitzer-prize winning articles that first appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press/Dispatch. As of yet, no word on release date or co-star for Hulce. The film of British author Hanif Kureishi’s novel “The Buddha of Suburbia” has already been produced in England and has aired on the BBC as a four-hour mini-series, but in true American form, TV executives will attempt to “Americanize” it, following in the footsteps of Shakespeare and John Milton. Dish thinks this is small recompense for the disgrace the famous queer had to suffer during his courageous life, and we’re not so sure he would be happy with the placement of his monument, either. Wilde’s monument is now at the entrance of the Gare de Lyon, only a stone’s throw from the site of the infamous scandal. Wilde was arrested for “ gross indecency” and was released after a three-week imprisonment. He was then put on trial and was convicted of “ gross indecency” and was sentenced to two years of hard labor.

This Week’s Penis Story: A newsletter crossed our desk recently from “Pennis Power Quarterly” with an article about enlargement. Not that Dish needs more, but we wouldn’t complain. This article claims that by tapping BB’s to pressure points on various parts of your body, the resulting massage will stimulate the nervous system and growth hormone centers, thus eliciting the desired effect. “Noticeable changes will occur,” according to the article, “in the first six weeks. In fact, you will grow just like you did when you were between 12 and 18.” Actually, Dish would prefer to duplicate the growth between our 11th and 13th years, thank you.

AUGUST 18, AUGUST 24, 1994

This is a Full Moon week occurring on Saturday, the 20th, followed by the Sun moving into the mutable Earth sign of Virgo on Tuesday, the 23rd. Your favorite Virgo might love a new home. It’s a great movie, a very Leo sort of movie with lots of courage and lots of heart. Make it part of your celebration if at least 473-0095 to order charts or arrange a chart interpretation. Please take care.

Dykes To Watch Out For

Aries, romance and creativity should definitely be at the top of your priorities for this week. There are probably some very interesting and possibly available people circulating in your area. Keep your eyes open, trust your intuition and stay tuned. Taurus, this is a good week for you to relax a bit, go get some rest and trust the Universe to guide and sustain you, even if it means having faith in something you cannot exactly reach out and touch directly. If this sounds too iffy, do your best not to take anything personally. Gemini, how are you at negotiation and reconciliation? You may need all your peacemaking skills at work for the next week or so. Do your best not to take anything personally, and listen very carefully to determine what people really want. Cancer, are you ready for an unorthodox quantum leap in consciousness? Do you feel like the original beaustika making huge growth spurts lately? Well, it all is a bit fast, but then the world couldn’t take too much more of the old ways, could it? Capricorn, are you at negotiation and reconciliation? You may need all your peacemaking skills at work for the next week or so. Do your best not to take anything personally, and listen very carefully to determine what people really want. Aquarius, are you feeling lonely and maybe even unwanted? Well, that’s called the blues and it’s a great style of music, but not much fun as a permanent residence. Time to get up and out if you’re feeling down. Go help your favorite cause. Pisces, this is national health week for you. Good food, lots of purified water, fresh fruits and vegetables, go easy on the alcohol and get regular exercise (that means every day). You need your body to get you through the world, so please take care.

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.

unconscious. Whew! Can you handle more input from the Universe at this point in your life? Good time to start a dream journal. Sagittarius, are you ready for another quantum leap in consciousness? Do you feel like the original beaustika making huge growth spurts lately? Well, it all is a bit fast, but then the world couldn’t take too much more of the old ways, could it? Capricorn, are you at negotiation and reconciliation? You may need all your peacemaking skills at work for the next week or so. Do your best not to take anything personally, and listen very carefully to determine what people really want. Aquarius, are you feeling lonely and maybe even unwanted? Well, that’s called the blues and it’s a great style of music, but not much fun as a permanent residence. Time to get up and out if you’re feeling down. Go help your favorite cause. Pisces, this is national health week for you. Good food, lots of purified water, fresh fruits and vegetables, go easy on the alcohol and get regular exercise (that means every day). You need your body to get you through the world, so please take care.

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Ready for a change?
JOAN M. LALLY, L.C.S.W.

43

AIDS Services & Education
Atlanta Unity AIDS Outreach is a group of people willing to share unconditional love and support, with anyone who has been affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information contact the church on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road at 404-455-8930.

Social/Discussion Group: 16-24 year old HIV positive Gay, Bi, Lesbian, Bisexual discussion group now forming! Safe non-threatening environment. For more information, call Kris at 614-619-7349. (7.26)

AIDS SUPPORT: Jewish Family Services sponsors a support group for Jewish people affected by HIV/AIDS, their families or lovers. 2nd and 4th Sundays, 7:30 p.m. in Buckhead. For information: 888-6400, voice mail 736.

AIDS Atlanta-Services include education, counseling, case management, rape counseling, housing, buddy program, practical support, homecare services, support groups. AIDS Information Line. Call 872-6080 for more information.

AIDS HOTLINE FOR WOMEN - 888-9991 - a project of the Feminist Women's Health Ctr. 9:30-11:00 Mon.-Fri., 10:30am-2pm Saturdays. Caller anonymity assured.

ASKING AIDS: Atlanta is a group of gay/lesbian/bi/intersexed people who want to have a social outlet where we can meet and talk. For more information, callker at 876-5444. (7.29)

ATLANTA BALLERY OF ART - Looking for a fun way to volunteer? AIDS Awareness. A great way to contact the church with anyone who has been affected.

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This page contains real estate advertisements and listings. The content includes various property descriptions, contact information, and details about real estate professionals. It also features ads for mortgage shopping, loan offices, and real estate agencies, along with listings for homes for sale with various amenities and price ranges. Each listing includes contact information for interested parties.
SOUTHERN VOICE  AUGUST 18/1994

PERSONALS

HARDMAN PAINTS

Too busy to paint your own home? I offer particularly high quality at affordable rates. (404) 607-0423, (7.26)

BREAKTHROUGH

at the level of TRANSFORMATION is a possibility for everyone human. Ron Montgomery, Breakthrough Coach. (404) 607-7534, (7.26)

Travel

SWIM WATERWAYS, renov., riverfront, Campground/RV/Bed & Breakfast & in-room HOT TUB in mountain foothills nearApalachin Trail an hour north of Atlanta. (706) 864-3229, (7.26)

VOICE Connection

WOMEN

Volunteers

WHO'S DINING WHO, as Atlanta AIDS Survival Project benefit needs volunteers to help with the event. Event will be held September 24, 1994. Please contact Dams at (404) 798-6913 or leave message. (7.27)

AIDS Atlantic Atlanta needs volunteers to help produce the annual AIDS Walk Atlanta needs volunteers NOW through August 31. More information or to participate. (404) 288-6821 for

Service


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$40 for 26 issues (2-4 days for delivery)

$28 for 26 issues (5-9 days for delivery)

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exp

Voice Pick of the Week

Our life is dull! GFB (couple) seeks other couples to be friends. Nothing sexual. Just lunch - movies or 2 hang out with. Give us a call - Let's do lunch! (7.80)

Stable, professional, GWF, 37, who enjoys movies, reading, walks in the mountains and along the beach, eating out, travel and romance. Seeks something feminine, non-smoker with similar interests, 35-45 yrs. (7.81)

GFB, 43, feminine, educated, professional, punctual, affectionate, honest and adventurer. Seeks warm heart, intelligent, mind, playful spirit for quality relationship. (7.82)

GWB 29, attractive, fit, non-smoker, straight, honest, caring, affectionate. Seeking spiritual gumption. Loves music, sports, animals. Desires mature relationship. (7.83)

GWB, 40, trim, petite, shy, natural, stable, just coming out. Seeking serious relationship with buxom woman. (7.85)

Cute GWF, 29, semi-butch, open mind, brings, fun, secure, loves to appreciate and dance. Romance. ISI similar semi-fem, 26 and up. GWF, "Over El." Come try my key! (7.86)

AIDS Survival Project is a volunteer-driven agency for people living with HIV/AIDS, and we need YOU as a driver. Office/technical, 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 844-7926.

HOLLYWOOD HOTS!

Volunteers needed starting September for this year's event. Earn fun, free food and drinks. Please call (404) 874-0970.

TO PLACE FREE AD

Send $5.00 for unrushed copy to: TO PLACE FREE AD, 20 WORD MESSAGE FREE. An FYI forwarding number. $10.00 per week or you may use your own PO Box for $20.00 per week. Mail or drop off your completed order with payment. A simple stamped envelope will be mailed to you which will enable you to record your spoken message AT NO COST.

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Call (770) 737-3520, let them know which interest you. Choose ad(s) with the symbol and call (706) 370-4006. The ad response line is open 24 hours a day. Leave your name, phone number and your choice. Listen to the spoken ad and then leave your response. Cost to you will be charged to your phone bill.

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1-900-370-4099

$1.50 per minute. Must be 18 or over. Touch tone phones only. Southern Voice, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316

DIRECTIONS

SoVo Pick of the Week

1986

Relationship-oriented, professional GFB seeks same. Must be emotionally stable, disease free, and over your X lover. (7.112)

GFB, 25, blonde, blue-eyed, slim, attractive, intelligent, non-smoker, wants to buy coffee and music, enjoy traveling, writing, movies, music, seeks attractive, intelligent, creative woman. Let's talk. (7.113)

Quiet GFB, 42 seeking warm, healthy, stable GWF over 35 who likes sports. I like surfbathing in summer and friendly talks in winter. No smokers/dragbags. (7.114)


Wants serious relationship with tall, slim, feminine woman. Prefers long hair. Must love animals, and fun going out. Interested in trustworthy and natural. No bikes or 8's. Age 23-35. (7.116)

GWB, 25, attractive professional. Love golf, all sports, quiet evening. Looking for similar woman. (7.117)

GWF, 37, tall, attractive, blonde female. Has passion for life, sense of humor. No smokers/druggies. (7.118)

GWF, 25, attractive, professional, non-drug using, non-smoking, interested in the fight against AIDS. Please call (404) 874-0970. (7.119)

TO COMPLETE THE FANTASY...Hot, masculine blue-collar leather top wanted to discipline exotic, muscular, bottom boys before while hairy Italian lover watches. (7.120)

1987

EMOY - Jeans, eyes, heart, tassels 10-15 HP, ready for love maybe. (7.121)

GWM, 34, 6', 190 lb, hairy, beat, very active, looking for GFB for private parties. Age looks unimportant. Discretion assured. (7.122)

GWM, 29, bronco, very attractive and muscular looking for in West Metro Area. (7.123)

Attractive GWM, 30, hairy, 5', 10", 150 lb, healthy HIV+, seeks friendship (or relationship for biking, (7.124)

FANTASY...Hot, masculine blue-collar leather top wanted to discipline exotic, muscular, bottom boys before while hairy Italian lover watches. (7.120)
GWM, 24, 6’3”, blue eyes, 175 lbs, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

FANCY, 44, 5’10”, blue eyes, 170 lbs, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

GWM, 36, 5’10”, 175 lbs, blue eyes, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

GWM, 25, 6’1”, blue eyes, 170 lbs, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

GWM, 24, 5’10”, 160 lbs, blue eyes, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

GWM, 36, 6’1”, blue eyes, 170 lbs, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

GWM, 24, 5’10”, 150 lbs, blue eyes, seeks GWM for serious, long-term relationship. Also for friends. 1-800-255-1941.

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