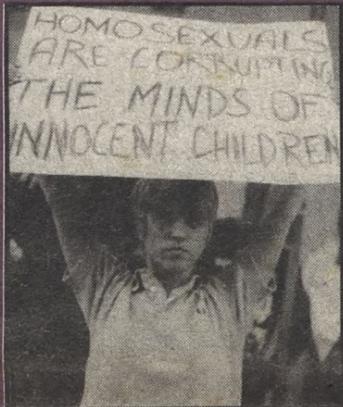


VOICE

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR CULTURE

AUGUST 25 - AUGUST 31 / 1994



ADAM TAYLOR

One year after the resolution, a look at life for gays and lesbians in Cobb County

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The man behind the March

Civil rights activist
Bayard Rustin,
a chief organizer of the
1963 March on Washington,
embodied the struggles against
racism and homophobia

by MICHAEL OSTROWSKI

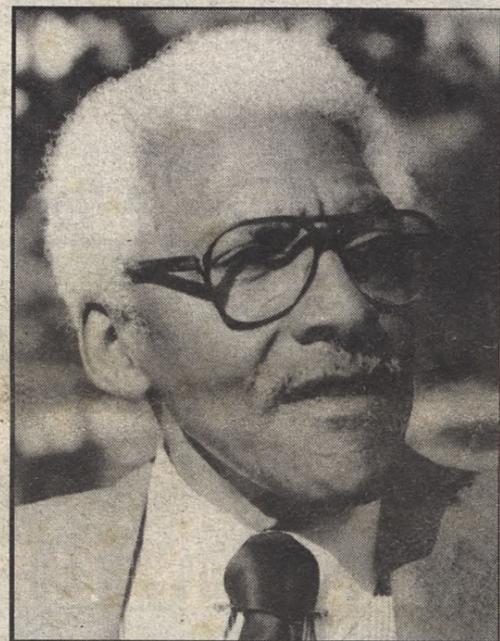
As the 31st anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington approaches on August 28, footage of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s brilliant "I Have a Dream" speech will flood TV screens, and historians and politicians will attest to the importance of the march. But, once again, Bayard Rustin, a gay African American who was the March's chief organizer, will likely receive little attention.

Bayard (pronounced BUY-urd) Rustin, who died in 1987 at the age of 75, was an intriguing figure in the black civil rights movement, as much for what he achieved as for what he was prohibited from becoming. A tall, elegant man with a dignified (albeit affected) English accent, Rustin was an outsider among outsiders. As a man who was discriminated against by people who were themselves fighting discrimination, Rustin's life provides a unique perspective from which to view both the civil rights movement and the U.S. during the 1950s and 1960s.

Congressman John Lewis remembers Rustin as "a man of deep commitment and a person of great vision...the first person I ever met who really believed in coalition politics." He echoes most who knew Rustin by saying, "He doesn't get the credit for what he did, the things he said, and the people he influenced."

When Rustin first met Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, AL, in the winter of 1956, Rustin was by all accounts a political pariah. Taylor Branch, author of award-winning "Parting the Waters, America in the King Years 1954-1963" wrote that although Rustin was a longtime pacifist, political activist and civil disobedient, he was also "unemployed, a bastard, a Negro, an ex-communist, an ex-con, and a homosexual." Yet for almost a decade, this most unlikely of characters became one of the civil rights movement's chief architects.

As the black civil rights movement gained mo-



WALTER NABOLIE

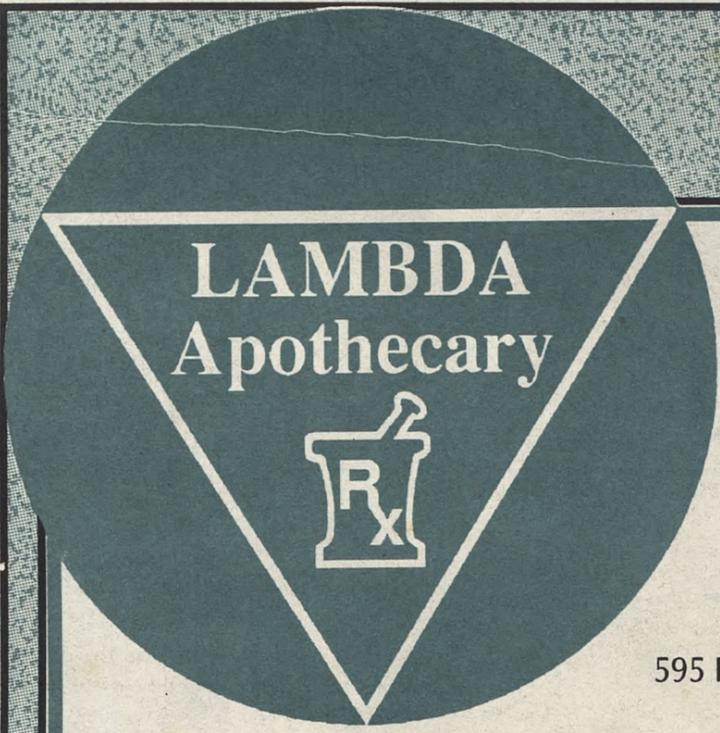
mentum in the early 1960s, plans went into effect to organize a massive march on Washington. A similar march had been organized in early 1941 and, although never executed, had proven effective enough to convince President Roosevelt to integrate defense industry jobs. Major civil rights legislation was now at stake, and leaders from each branch of the movement rallied their forces in the hopes of bringing hundreds of thousands of people from every walk of life to the nation's capitol.

Bayard Rustin, 53 at the time, had never earned more than \$25 a week. Yet according to John Lewis, his unique commitment to both civil rights and pacifism made him "the natural choice" to be the March's director. Of the six men involved in the decision-making process, the three who exerted the most power were Martin Luther King, Jr., NAACP chief Roy Wilkins, and A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The aging Randolph, Rustin's mentor and organizer of the planned 1941 March on Washington, was resolutely in favor of his protégé's ascension to the directorship.

Although Rustin and King had been close friends for years, the southern preacher had unceremoniously broken off public ties with Rustin in 1960, after Rep. Adam Clayton Powell had threatened to accuse King of having an affair with Rustin. Despite King's earlier break with him, Rustin recalled years later in an interview that when the question of directorship emerged in 1963, "he [King] stood 100% behind me. I think that was, in part, because times were changing, but also because King felt unhappy with what he had to do earlier."

Despite support from other quarters, Roy Wilkins' protests against Rustin would ultimately carry the day. The NAACP chief cited three factors in his stand against Rustin's directorship. First, Rustin had been labeled a draft dodger. This accusation ignored Rustin's Quaker beliefs and the fact that he was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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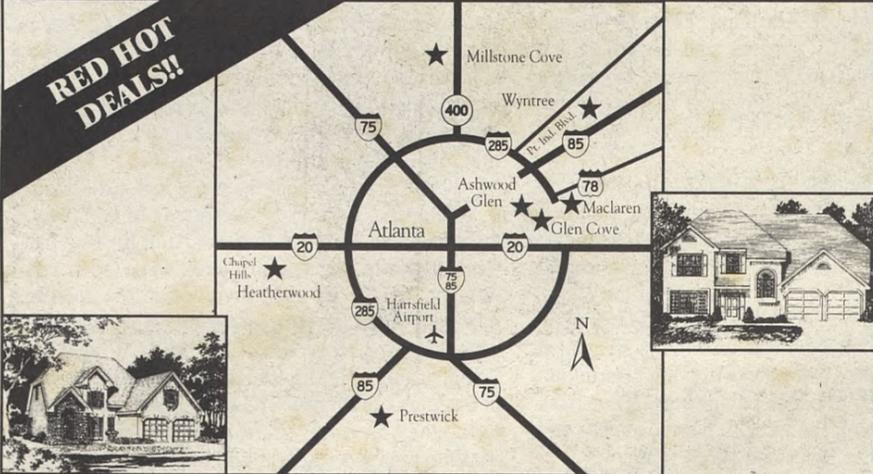
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AID Atlanta executive director resigns

Atlanta—AID Atlanta is again searching for an executive director, following last week's surprise announcement by Becky Clayton Burton that she was resigning after less than a year on the job.

Burton, who joined AID Atlanta's staff last October, left her post immediately on August 15, saying that her educational pursuits "would not allow me to continue" as executive director.

Ted Haslam, AID Atlanta's board president, rushed to assure clients that services would not be interrupted. With Haslam supervising, the board will temporarily take over day-to-day operations until the search for a new director is complete.

"We will do our best to ensure a smooth transition," he said.

The abrupt nature of Burton's departure raised many questions around the community, however.

"It did definitely come as a surprise that she was out of the office effective immediately," said Jeff Graham of ACT UP/Atlanta. "That raises a lot of eyebrows, given that the AIDS Walk is coming up, and funding cycles are about to start. Fall tends to be a busy time in the world of AIDS."

But Haslam insisted that Burton's departure, with no notice, was mutually agreed upon.

"I respected what she wanted to do," he said, "her desire to start school [at the first of September] and that she hadn't taken any vacation since she came to AID Atlanta."

Haslam said that the agency's staff is well situated to handle business with the board's direct supervision. The search for a new director will start immediately, and Haslam added that he hoped it would be completed "at a minimum 30 days, and at a maximum 90 days."

Still, rumors abound that Burton was forced out. Haslam denied those rumors, although he

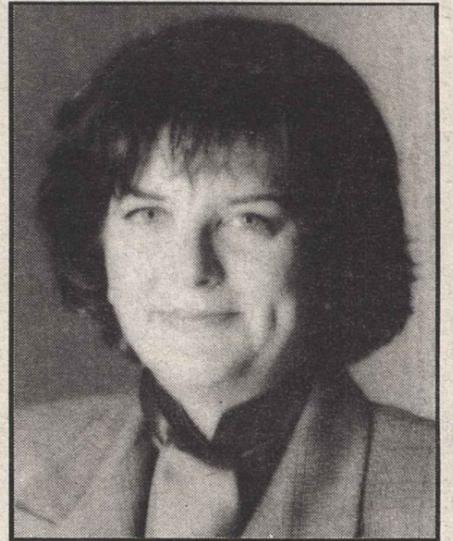
acknowledged that he had heard what several staff members—all of whom insisted on anonymity to Southern Voice—called an "intimidating, sometimes abusive" style of management by Burton.

"That was never a part of the discussion that we had with Becky when she was sharing what she wanted to do," Haslam said. "I heard a variety of different things, but anytime you have a new person you're going to hear a variety of things."

Burton did not return a phone call for comment in time for this issue.

AID Atlanta has had its share of controversy involving executive directors in the past, and it has lost several key staffers in the last year, along with some shuffling of remaining staff members. For ACT UP's Graham, that seemed unusual.

"I'm not surprised at all that it did happen [Burton's leaving]," he said. "There have just



Becky Clayton Burton

been so many personnel changes at AID Atlanta in the last several months. That's an indication of something."

KC WILDMOON

Women's Expo makes concessions to Cobb County location

Marietta—Nearly 6,000 women from throughout Georgia recently visited Cobb County's Galleria Centre to attend Excel '94, the annual business women's exposition presented by the Women's Yellow Pages of Greater Atlanta, even though the Cobb Citizen's Coalition tried to persuade organizers to move the event to another location. For the past two years, Excel has been held in downtown Atlanta.

The Coalition has been actively boycotting the Galleria Centre, which co-chair Elaine Hill calls "the prize" of Cobb County. "We don't want to harm the citizens of Cobb, so we are going after things that effect the government, like big convention sites," she explained.

According to Ilene Patrick, president of Women's Yellow Pages, the Galleria Centre was selected a year ago because of difficulties

with the convention site in Atlanta in 1993. Patrick said her company was assured at the time by "high up" Cobb County officials that the anti-gay issue would be resolved well before Excel's August 1994 date.

Brochures distributed to promote the exposition alerted the Coalition to Excel's Cobb County location. During a meeting with Patrick, the Coalition was informed that Women's Yellow Pages could not afford to change venues because of non-refundable deposits paid to the Galleria Centre and materials already printed announcing where the event would be held.

"She told us she couldn't change locations at this late date, although I thought her excuses were rather lame," said Larry Pellegrini, who assisted in efforts to move the event out of Cobb County.

The Coalition responded by presenting Patrick with a list of concessions she could make to the gay and lesbian community. "She seemed genuinely upset and worried by the whole thing," said Hill. "She was willing to do these things because she said she absolutely could not move the event."

Patrick agreed to run an ad promoting Excel in Southern Voice and schedule a panel on diversity. Patrick also provided a free booth inside the exhibition hall for gay and lesbian political groups to distribute literature.

"I also included our mission statement in over 100,000 event schedules, which says, 'The Women's Yellow Pages of Greater Atlanta Welcomes all people to Excel '94 and supports diversity as it enhances our community,'" Patrick said.

The Coalition made the decision to be at

the event in order to educate people. "We saw it as an opportunity," said Hill, who participated on panel "Creating Success Through Diversity" during the event, at which she spoke about the pitfalls of stifling diversity in the community and called for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Hill said the panel was attended by over 60 people, even though the program started at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

"The fact was, Excel '94 was going to be there, so the net question was what could we get out of it?" said Pellegrini. "There are several ways to make statements. Some organizations chose not to participate, and that's equally as good. The Coalition chose to go there and educate."

PAMELA EVANS

The year of living dangerously

Residents of Cobb County weigh life since the resolution

Cobb County, GA—August 10, 1993 is a date that will go down in the annals of gay and lesbian history. Just a year ago, Cobb County Commissioner Gordon Wysong led his fellow commissioners down a path that they have stubbornly refused to change. They passed "the resolution," the document that relegated Cobb County's lesbian and gay citizens to second class status, officially and irrevocably.

The resolution has no clout. It doesn't bring with it the force of law like Colorado's Amendment 2. It simply says that the gay "lifestyle"—without defining that term—isn't the kind of lifestyle the county commissioners approve of and, therefore, won't be spending any money to support.

In the wake of Wysong's resolution, no less than three organizations sprang into existence. Thousands of lesbians and gay men picnicked on the Marietta Square, and thousands will return this Sunday for the "And Justice for All" Rally. Cobb County lost an Olympic event, two pet shows, and an art show. The mere mention of "Cobb County" across the country brings arched eyebrows and snickers.

Cobb County's lesbians and gay men have found themselves suddenly tossed onto the front lines of a genuine civil rights battle.

And they have risen to the occasion.

Anne MacPherson is a flight attendant who lives in a Cobb subdivision with her partner. She was never what could be called an activist, but she wasn't closeted either.

"All of our neighbors know we're gay," she said. "They always have."

But now, everyone with a television and half an interest in the Cobb goings-on knows as well. MacPherson's partner, Elaine Hill, is co-chair of the Cobb Citizens Coalition, and both have been very visible opponents of the resolution. And for MacPherson, who never expected to be an activist, visibility is the vital factor.

"The only way we're going to make a difference is if we're visible," she said. "Unless we're visible—we may not change those people from the hard-core religious right—but we may enlighten some other people."

Cobb's gay men and lesbians are everyday people—taxpayers, homeowners, renters, employers and employees. MacPherson says she'd rather be playing tennis or decorating the house, but the fight against the resolution is too important.

David Mayersky, now the Cobb Citizens Coalition's treasurer, agrees. "I'm consumed by the Cobb Citizens Coalition," he said. "In the past, I could come home from work and relax and hang around. Not anymore."

Mayersky and his partner, Coalition co-chair Noel Lytle, moved to Cobb County to enjoy the quiet life the county offered—close enough to the city to enjoy its amenities, but

with a more rural setting and more affordable homes. But the resolution angered him and set him to work.

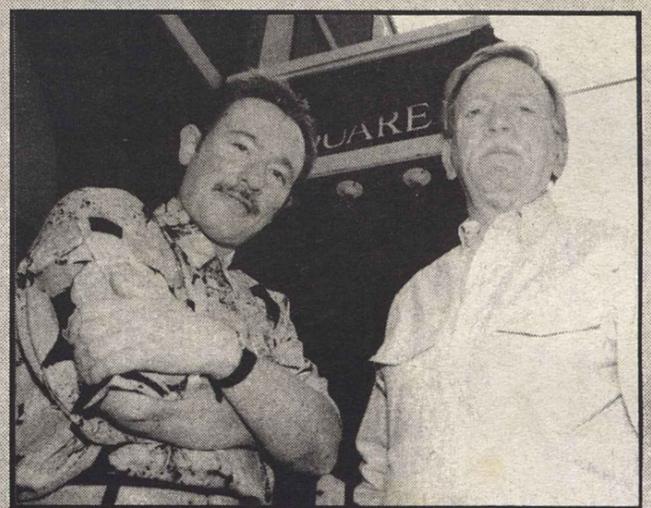
"I've always been the kind of person who writes letters and makes phone calls," he said. "But nothing high profile. But when we read about this [last summer], I said 'not in my back yard.'"

"It pissed me off," he continued. "How dare they tell me I can't live here. I have the same right to buy a home that they do."

Angered and moved to action. An atypical reaction to official condemnation? Not necessarily, says Dr. Renelle Massey, a psychologist who is conducting a study on Cobb residents—lesbian, gay and straight—to determine how the resolution has affected their lives.

"With media and publicity, eventually decent people resist the lies, the oppression, the injustice," she said. "For centuries oppression was safe because it could be kept secret. But now it can be seen."

A similar study conducted in Colorado after the passage of Amendment 2 showed that lesbians and gay men suffered from severe stress and anxiety.



Michael Horne (left) and Palmer Wells of Theatre in the Square continue to do "controversial" shows.

"There may be some differences [in the Cobb study] since this doesn't have the force of law, and it's more isolated than the whole state," Massey said. "It's a subtle step. It's a form of propaganda."

Lynn Patterson, the founder of Women in Kahoots (WinK), a Cobb County lesbian social group, would agree that it's a subtle kind of oppression. Patterson filled out one of Massey's surveys earlier this summer, and thought as she answered the questions that the resolution hadn't really affected her at all.

"Then, about three days later, I left Marietta and a car followed me all the way home," she says. "Seven turns. I got scared. I have a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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PWA claims ambulance crew left him on porch

Jackson, MS—A man with AIDS claims that an ambulance crew dumped him on the porch of his father's locked home after two failed attempts to leave him elsewhere.

"I asked them to take me back to the hospital," Steve Horton said of Mobile Medic Ambulance Service. "They said they couldn't take me back to the hospital no more because there's nothing else they can do for me."

Mobile Medic first took Horton to Donnell's Personal Care Home in Jackson, where he was denied admittance, said the 36-year-old Horton. He said the medics next took him to his sister's house and found no one home, so they drove to his father's house, which also was locked and empty. The medics moved him to the porch, then left, he said.

"They didn't have nowhere else to take me," said Horton. "I'm going to sue those folks."

Regional manager Joe Donovan said Mobile Medic has transported Horton numerous times in the past month, and the crew was following his instructions.

"We left him exactly how and where he wanted to be left," Donovan said.

Essie Donnell, owner of Donnell's Personal Care Home, said Horton has stayed there off and on for about a year. She said he has shuttled back and forth between the hospital and the home twice in the past two days, leaving for the last time Aug. 9. She said she couldn't take him back in Aug. 10.

"I don't have the facilities to take care of an AIDS patient at his stage," Donnell said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina man found guilty in death of ex-lover

Raleigh, NC—A former University of North Carolina medical student has been found guilty of manslaughter in the death of his ex-lover and roommate in April 1992.

According to a report in The Front Page, prosecutors had sought a conviction of first degree murder for Joseph Mannino, claiming that he had killed Michael Hunter as the result of a love triangle gone sour.

According to testimony in the trial last month, Hunter, Mannino and Garry Walston were all involved with each other until Hunter and Mannino began to have problems. Hunter asked Walston to choose between the two in January 1992, and Walston chose Hunter. The three contin-

ued to share an apartment, and in April, while Walston was in Atlanta for business, Hunter died from an injection of a lethal mixture of antihistamines and lidocaine, a heart drug.

Prosecutors contended that Mannino injected the drugs intending to kill Hunter, but Mannino's defense attorney countered that the med student, days away from his degree, had tried an experimental cure for a migraine that went fatally wrong. The 12-member jury, after 12 days of testimony and two hours of deliberation, returned the manslaughter verdict. Mannino faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and will not be permitted to practice medicine.

South Carolina gets new community center

Columbia, SC—South Carolina's Gay and Lesbian Community Center has a new home. The group closed the deal on Aug. 10 to buy a house on Woodrow St. in Columbia, and will move out of its current location, in a strip mall, in mid or late September.

"We're excited about it," said Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement Co-chair Matt Tischler. "We have a yard now, and about twice the space. It's going to make a big difference."

Tischler said the group is currently working on renovations for the new center, including updating bathrooms to make them wheelchair accessible. Other renovations are also under way.

Mortgage payments for the new space are only about \$80 more than rent on their previous location, Tischler said. The house



was financed by community member Gary Price, and Tischler said the center is grateful for his work.

Nearly \$5,000 has been raised specifically for the new center, and other fundraisers are planned. A grand opening will be held, Tischler promised, probably near the end of September.

Annual gay and lesbian chorus meeting in Charlotte

Charlotte, NC—The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses) will hold their annual leadership conference in Charlotte over Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2-4. The conference is expected to draw over 300 international delegates for a weekend of workshops, meetings and social events.

Two public events are part of the conference weekend—a concert at Spirit Square featuring Charlotte area arts groups, including One Voice (Charlotte's mixed chorus) and the Charlotte Gay Men's Chorus, and a Bowling Party to benefit the

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Charlotte.

Keynote speaker for the conference, themed "Music and Message," will be Libby Larsen, a composer from Minneapolis. Larsen is cofounder of the nationally acclaimed Minnesota Composers Forum. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is scheduled to perform several of Larsen's works during the 1994-95 season, including an original commission.

For information on the conference, which will be held at the Charlotte Omni Hotel, call (704) 536-1372.

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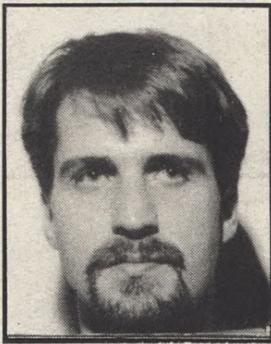
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Youths Confess to Murder of Houston Man:

Four teenagers were arrested Aug. 16 and charged with capital murder in the killing of Michael Burzinski, a gay man who was last seen July 29 outside a Houston gay disco. Held without bail in the slaying are Christopher Lewis, 17; De Marco McCullum, 19; Terrance Pero, 19; and Decedrick Gainous, 19. Following their arrest, the four told Harris County Sheriff's Department officers that they struck Burzinski, 29, in the head as he unlocked his car, forced him to reveal his ATM card identification number, then drove him to a convenience store to withdraw \$400 from his bank account. According to Sgt. Danny Billingsley, investigators were initially considering the killing a possible hate crime before learning of the bank withdrawal.



Michael Burzinski, 29:
abducted and killed for \$400

FDIC Adopts Gay Non-Discrimination Policy: In a directive distributed to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation service centers nationwide on July 22, the agency announced that it had added sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy. Andrew C. Hove, acting chair of FDIC, distributed the three-page document detailing the new policy, which noted that its provisions were the result of negotiations with the National Treasury Employees Union. Noting that federal laws cover discrimination based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age and disability, the document said that "all employees and applicants should be provided similar protection against employment discrimination based on sexual orientation."

Former Mayor Charged With Homosexual Rape: The former mayor of Wilmot, Ohio, is being held in county jail without bond on charges of rape and gross sexual imposition. Virgil L. Hebert, Jr., who resigned on July 6, is accused of forcing a 15-year-old boy to engage in sex on June 30. Hebert, 63, was arrested on Aug. 8 following his indictment by a county grand jury. Police received the complaint from the boy's parents. If convicted, Hebert faces a maximum penalty of 10 to 25 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on the rape charge, and a 1½ year sentence and \$5,000 fine on the gross imposition charge.

Lesbian Wins Custody Fight: A woman who was afraid that being a lesbian might work against her in a battle over custody of her son has won a court fight with the boy's father. Lancaster County (Nebraska) District Judge Jeffre Chevront granted custody of the 6-year-old boy to Brenda Manning on Aug. 10 after hearing two days of testimony. Larry Killin, the boy's father and Manning's ex-boyfriend, had told the court he could provide a more stable environment for the boy because he was in a "classic relationship." According to the court order, Chevront said both Manning and Killin are "fit and proper parents," but it is in the best interest of the boy to remain with Manning, who has provided for his primary care throughout his life.

Lawmakers Call On FBI To Probe Murders: Lawmakers from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are demanding a federal investigation into four killings of gay men whose bodies were dismembered. "Four of these murders have already been linked by law enforcement officials because each of the four victims was last seen in a gay bar in Manhattan and the body of each was found meticulously dismembered in plastic bags," the lawmakers said last week in a letter to FBI director Louis Freeh. The remains of the four victims—Peter Anderson, Thomas Mulcahy, Anthony Marrero, and Michael Sakara—were discovered over a two-year period in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Activists Condemn 911 Failure: The head of New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project has criticized the Police Department for its "shocking inability" to respond to a 911 call from a gay police dispatcher who was stabbed to death in his apartment on July 27. Matt Foreman, executive director of the Anti-Violence Project, said that the sexual orientation of Nelson Rawlins was not an issue in the case; rather the problem is "the antiquated, horrible system that we have in place now with 911." Rawlins phoned 911 while being attacked, giving police his address but not his apartment number. Police were unable to trace the call. Rawlins' body was found three days later by a relative. Police did later locate Rawlins' stolen car and charged the driver, Horace Myers, with second degree murder.

ACLU Files Class Action Suit Against Chicago Police: In a class action suit filed last month, the American Civil Liberties Union has charged that the City of Chicago tested police officer applicants for HIV and refused employment to those who tested positive, a violation of federal law. According to the Windy City Times, the suit was filed on behalf of John Doe, who was told last March that he was removed from the application process because he tested positive for HIV. The testing and refusal of employment violates the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, said the ACLU lawsuit. Mayoral spokesperson Noelle Gaffney said the testing "was never supposed to have been done. That's not our city policy." She said the testing was no longer being done.

Anti-Gay Maneuverings: Colorado for Family Values has now attacked the rainbow as an icon of gay rights. The group has condemned a Manitou Springs city improvement project for using "rainbow" in its name and is looking for names of individuals and organizations pushing rainbows in the city, as well as "code words" for the "gay movement" like "diversity." In Maine, an anti-gay rights petition drive is poised to go forward. Concerned Maine Families says it has secured more than 67,000 signatures to put the measure on the ballot; 52,308 signatures must be certified before that happens. Idaho Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa has refused to allow the Idaho Citizens Alliance to include a rebuttal statement in voter information pamphlets about that state's anti-gay initiative. He said the statement contained a factual error, but that he was more concerned about "defamatory language."

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Bayard Rustin (left) and Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1962, working to organize the historic March on Washington.

Bayard Rustin

Continued from page 1

especially opposed to a war fought with a segregated army, where blacks were made to "fight as slaves for a democracy they cannot possess and cannot enjoy."

Wilkins second point was that Rustin had been a member of the Young Communist League and still called himself a socialist. Rustin made no attempt to hide his past, though he had admitted for decades that his membership in the YCL was "inescapably wrong." He had joined the YCL during the period in the 1930s when the Communists ran the only integrated social clubs in Harlem.

The final objection Wilkins lodged was Rustin's 1953 arrest in California, where he and two other men were found in the back seat of a car and jailed on a "morals" charge. Though Rustin later stated that he had been set up, the charge distanced him from the black civil rights movement and was crucial to Wilkins' argument against Rustin's leadership of the March.

Throughout the debate over the directorship, Rustin maintained that "what happens depends on you people who are the main leaders...if you stand up and have some courage, it will do no damage." Wilkins remained unwilling to do so. In the end, Randolph was made director and Rustin was given the title of deputy director.

Rustin was instrumental not only in the nuts-and-bolts organization of the March on Washington, but also in defining many of the platform issues. Whether discussing the gay or black civil rights movement, Rustin believed that "if we want other people to join us

in working for things that affect us, we have to be engaged in things which will improve their conditions." Led by that belief, Rustin pushed for emphasis on raising the minimum wage and demanding more jobs, issues that played to white voters as well as to blacks.

The March's logistical preparations were overwhelming, and it was here that Rustin worked his unparalleled magic. Almost 4,000 volunteer marshals had to be enlisted to direct the crowd of a quarter million. Eighty thousand bag lunches were made to feed the hungry marchers. The onslaught of buses and the intricacies of March routes were also left up to Rustin, as was the securing of proper police permits.

John Lewis recalls Rustin's freneticism as the day of the March grew nearer. The deputy director was trying to organize the rental of an indispensable commodity: portable toilets. The toilets were essential because in 1963 Washington, public accommodations were still legally segregated. With a phone in each hand (and probably as many cigarettes), Rustin would direct aides with his trademark enthusiasm. Lewis remembers the issues well: "The Kennedys wanted everybody in and out before sundown. They wanted all the liquor stores closed. During this meeting Bayard said, 'We must not forget the latrines. We must not have any disorganized pissin' in Washington.' And that just sort of broke up the meeting."

After the March on Washington and the success of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Rustin went to work for the A. Philip Randolph Institute, which emphasized the economic underpinnings of racial problems. In an essay entitled "From Protest to Politics," Rustin laid

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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Federal Reserve Bank exempt from local anti-discrimination statutes, ruling says

Boston—The rights of gay men and lesbians in the workplace suffered a setback July 25 in Boston, when the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) ruled that it could not force the Federal Reserve Bank to adhere to Massachusetts' state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The ruling—that MCAD has no jurisdiction over a federal agency in such matters—finally brought to a close a four-year battle waged by Thomas Carroll, a former word processor and secretary with the bank's Boston branch.

Carroll said he was disappointed with the ruling, and with the time it took for the state agency to come to it.

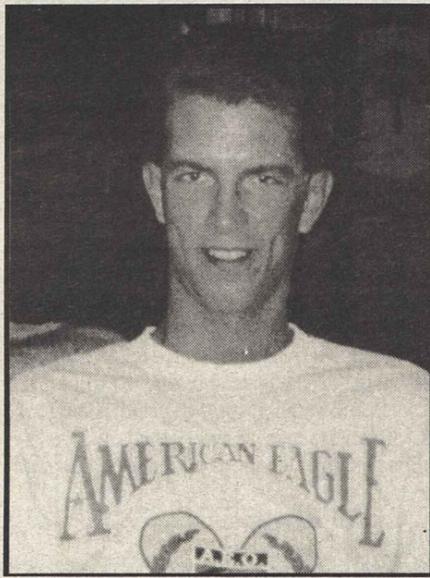
"It's an incredible amount of time that has passed," he said. "The statute of limitations has expired for any federal action, so there's nothing further I can do. Of course, I can't file under sexual orientation anyway."

Federal law does not ban discrimination based on sexual orientation—the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, now under consideration in Congress, would change that—but Carroll thought he had a case under state law. Massachusetts is one of nine states that protect gay and lesbian workers from discrimination.

Carroll's original complaint with MCAD, filed in June 1990, alleges that a bank security guard repeatedly harassed him over a period of months, calling him "faggot" and making effeminate gestures. When he told his supervisor about the guard's behavior, Carroll said nothing was done.

In fact, according to Carroll's complaint, his supervisors began to criticize his work, giving him first an oral warning and then upgrading it to a written warning, although previous work evaluations had always been exemplary.

Carroll submitted his resignation in June 1990, but was asked to leave two weeks early when bank personnel cited possible security concerns. MCAD, after a lengthy investiga-



Thomas Carroll says his four-year battle was "in vain."

tion and an attempt to mediate the matter, found probable cause for discrimination and ordered a public hearing in the spring of 1992. But the bank countered with a claim that MCAD had no jurisdiction over a federal agency, and last month, the state commission agreed.

"I really wanted to establish jurisdiction so the next person would have an easier time," Carroll said. "I feel like my four-year battle was in vain."

Carroll said he still hopes there is some way to force the Federal Reserve Bank to deal with the issue, and he is exploring other options. But for now, hope is all he, and other gay and lesbian employees of the bank, can count on. He will go on with his efforts, he said.

"I hope that some day it pays off for other people," he added.

KC WILDMOON

Study shows gay people earn less

An independent study at the University of Maryland at College Park on the impact of anti-gay job discrimination has found that gay men and lesbians earn less than their non-gay counterparts with similar education, training and occupations. The findings refute the stereotype promoted by the radical right of gay people as an "affluent elite" unworthy of equal rights under the law.

"Far from having some mysterious advantage in the labor market, gay workers face discrimination that actually hits them where it hurts," said School of Public Affairs professor Lee Badgett, who studied data from the General Social Survey, a national random sample of the U.S. population collected by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. The study will appear in an

upcoming edition of the peer-reviewed journal Industrial and Labor Relations Review, published at Cornell University.

The study has been embraced by the Human Rights Campaign Fund as new evidence supporting the need for employment protections, such as those that would be extended under the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Others have been quick to question the findings, including PointOne Management Company, a gay-owned and operated credit card company. Ric Barrick, president of PointOne, said, "Today's study flies in the face of recent studies that specifically acknowledge the consumer loyalty and financial resources of the gay and lesbian households."

HUD releases \$25.6 million for PWA housing

Washington, DC—Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros announced on August 17 that HUD will release \$25.6 million in federal funds to 31 states, local governments, and non-profit organizations to provide services and housing for low-income people with AIDS. The funds will be made available under the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) competitive grant program, a national competition that began in April of this year.

"This program will help people with HIV/AIDS maximize independent living through increased housing alternatives and increase their influence on social programs which directly affect their lives," Cisneros said.

The funds may be used to provide rental assistance and short-term rent; mortgage and utility payments; operation of housing facilities such as SRO dwellings; acquiring, rehabilitating, or constructing facilities; and for program administration.

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a look at gay and lesbian composers.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Congress sells out gay and lesbian youth

by AMY ADAMS SQUIRE
STRONGHEART

I've known Congress to be divisive, impudent, hardhearted and immature at times (not unlike the constituents it represents). When Congress became testicular about reforming welfare and set out to lynch single mothers, I thought, "Surely someone in Washington is capable of looking at the big picture." Wrong. This time Congress has gone after another vulnerable segment of society to humiliate—lesbian and gay youth.

On August 1, the Senate followed the House in voting to ax federal money going to public schools that treat homosexuality "as a positive lifestyle alternative." The vote was part of a move reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary School Act, which subsidizes public schools to the tune of \$12.5 million dollars. Should this bill actually become law, it would preclude counseling lesbian and gay youth about their same-sex orientation in any meaningful way. The bill forbids school counselors, teachers, or administrators from referring a student "to an organization that affirms a homosexual lifestyle." The message being sent to young gays is that they don't matter because we don't even recognize who they are. To be told that you're invisible is as demoralizing as being told you're sick and evil.

Last year the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives and the National Association of School Psychologists issued a resolution on lesbian, gay and bisexual youths in the schools. In it they said,

"Society's attitudes, behaviors and tendency to render lesbian, gay and bisexual persons invisible permeate all societal institutions, including the family and school system." They further stated that many sexual minority youth are aware of their status as lesbian, gay or bisexual by early adolescence; they are vulnerable to harassment and physical violence in school environments; and they are at risk for engaging in self-injurious behaviors, including suicide. The resolution called upon its membership to "take a leadership role in promoting societal and familial attitudes and behaviors that affirm the dignity and rights, within educational environments, of all lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths." In stark opposition to this professional recommendation, Congress decided that it knew better.

So who would do such a terrible thing to our nation's most valuable resource? Sen. Robert Smith, R-NH, and Sen. Jesse "Put More Razor Wire Around the Closet" Helms, R-NC, introduced the bill. Ostensibly, the reason Smith and Helms dreamed up this nightmare was because they didn't like the materials some schools have considered using in their sex ed programs. Just because some of the material fails to pass muster is no reason to punish students who are gay or whose parents are gay by withholding all information and support.

With a suicide rate significantly higher than that of heterosexual teens, gay adolescents often succumb to the temptation to do away with

themselves when no one makes it clear to them that they are worth saving. I know. I've been there. But I was lucky. I had acceptance and support from those I trusted. It helped me survive the years of mental anguish, wondering who I was, if I was sick, if I was crazy, if I was perverted, if I was possessed by a demon, if I should change, if I could change, if God loved me, if God hated me, if I deserved to die.

Mel White, former ghostwriter for the Christian theocratic movement, tells the story of a gay teen who drove to a funeral home, spread out a plastic sheet on the asphalt parking lot, laid down on it, and shot himself. The note he left said that he did not want to be any more trouble than he already had been. The bill now poised to become the law of the land will encourage precisely this sort of response from young lesbians and gays.

I wonder how many daughters, sons, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren of congressional representatives will have to blow their brains out before Congress realizes what it's done. The bill amounts to nothing more than a death sentence to all the gay children in public schools. Hyperbole, you say? Is it really worth the gamble to see if I'm right? Remember, these are our children's lives we're playing with. We owe them a lot better than this.

Amy Adams Squire Strongheart is a writer based in St. Louis, Mo.

LETTERS

Clearing up a coming-out

During the last 6 1/2 years of my current relationship, I have not once considered myself "in the closet." Before 1987 I can honestly say that I was sometimes uncertain where I stood and had a lot of growing to do. Since 1987, I have not struggled with the closet; I have struggled with how to be a gay activist and also a musician, without becoming known only by my sexual orientation. For me, everyone I meet, everyone I love, and my whole being expose themselves through my art. How could I ever deny what I am?

My first gay/feminist focused interview was in 1991 with Hot Wire magazine. It had not occurred to me to do specifically gay press prior to this; I had been immersed in the alternative music scene. I felt completely focused on my career as a musician, before all other facets of life. The Indigo Girls are worth much more to the gay movement now because our focus enabled us to attain a certain level and status. I might add that any interviewer that posed "sexual politics" questions was given an honest answer. While politics may not have been a focus early on, honesty has always been my strongest policy.

As I began discovering gay papers and organizations, I personally felt compelled to do "gay press." Because the issue of gay activism is so important to me I always steered away from publications involving gossip, separatism, exploitation, or manipulation. Any special interest press (i.e. folk, gay, women's) that wanted to do an I.G. interview was very closely investigated because usually these publications involve issues that we feel very specific about. For example, we passed on the Advocate at a time when the office was fraught with sexual harassment charges. When the charges were cleared up, we were ready and willing to speak with the Advocate.

Long before the 10 Percent interview

(which focused on my record label) were the I.G. performance at the D.C. 1993 gay rights march, personal participation in Atlanta Gay Pride, volunteer work for AID Atlanta, gay rights/AIDS benefits (including SMYL, ARCA, Project Open Hand, Childkind), many college radio and press interviews discussing gay issues, OUT magazine, and many very "public" music business functions with my domestic partner at my side.

I run a record label along with several gay and straight friends. My label focuses on music regardless on gender, race, or sexual preference. I consider this label important to the arts community. I do not draw boundaries in my life, art, or business.

My situation with Southern Voice is a personal one. There have been many times when I disagreed with the newspaper's approach. It seems that the Arts and Entertainment section cares more about sexuality than the accomplishments of the artist. When Ellen James Society (local band that was on my label) did an interview to promote their upcoming album release and tour (1992), the article failed to emphasize their album, tour dates, or music. SoVo was only interested in the "gay" members of the band, even though the band as a whole had been extremely supportive of gay issues. This failure to focus on the band's music and the alienation of its "straight" members did nothing to help the band or the gay community.

When Susan Owens (Emily's D. Partner) asked SoVo to do a story on the opening of her environmental store in Virginia Highlands (The Common Pond) SoVo showed little interest unless "Emily or Amy" would accompany her to the interview. This is the type of exploitation and manipulation I avoid. Why not support Susan Owens on her own merit?

My feelings that SoVo was not sincerely

interested in supporting our music as much as our sexual preference led me to avoid the newspaper. I felt like a commodity. Part of furthering our cause as a gay population is the promotion of our accomplishments. If I am a struggling gay teenager, it means more to me to read about the dreams and achievements of a gay artist or business person than to read a whole article detailing their personal life. In the past six or seven years I have felt so comfortable with my sexuality that I never thought of dwelling on it. However, as our struggle to gain equal rights continues, I feel a need to emphasize my politics whenever possible.

You can bet I will honor the publications that have supported me during my own honest and very public evolution. My family has overcome prejudice and fear, my friends have listened patiently, my record label and manager have supported me unconditionally, I am blessed with a musical partner whose honesty is matchless, and I have seen courage beyond compare. Don't inject this important, beautiful movement with bitterness, gossip, and petty infighting.

Sincerely
Amy Ray

Ed. note: Southern Voice regrets the error of reporting that Amy Ray had only recently come out and that the first story to that effect was in 10 Percent. However, we must point out that Ms. Ray's statement about Southern Voice and its story on Common Pond is inaccurate.

Philosophical thoughts after an intimate encounter

What is the most important thing our society has lost to AIDS? I think I glimpsed the answer about a year ago, just as I finished conspiring with a friend to violate the most enjoyable of all Georgia laws to disobey.

I had met someone passing through town, and we returned to my house to get better acquainted. We were tired, so we rolled over and snored for a while. When I awoke, I found him hard at work at what would become one of the most splendid demonstrations of the transformative power of fellatio that I have ever personally witnessed.

Twenty minutes later, when I exploded in a rush of stars and colors, none of which looked even vaguely familiar, I knew that evening would go down as one of the most cataclysmically fulfilling sexual encounters of my life. Since capturing that type of uncapturable moment is what cliché is for, let me choose the most cliché-ish—"Words cannot express..."

And let me truthfully admit that I did not immediately decide to write a column on this topic—for one, I had more pressing matters before me (miles to go before I slept, so to speak). But I do remember one very distinct question—"Why can't everyone do that?"

An answer came last month, as I was reading a provocative anthology of writings about porn by the late John Preston, "My Life as a Pornographer." In one essay, Preston observes that just as some people are musical or mathematical prodigies, he believes others are born with sexual genius, instinctively capable of doing amazing things. My friend would, I believe, fall into this category. And the reason more people can't do what he did is because many of my generation's "geniuses" have already died of AIDS.

I think of that because of one thing that happened in our encounter—my friend swallowed. Now, I long ago made my peace with the issue of how to fellatiate and still feel that I am within my own, hard-earned, personally defined range of safety. Trusting the watertightness of my gums and the viral inhibiting factors known to be in saliva, I have instinctively never believed simple cocksucking to be unsafe. (And all you can go on is instinct, since society's vested interest in keeping men from having sex with each other will prevent us from hearing any research that encourages "risky" activity.) Where I draw the line is taking semen into my body, even if acids in the stomach have been found to protect some people. "Suck, but don't swallow" has carried



Southern Queer-ies

by AL COTTON

me through a decade of this epidemic uninfected.

(It is at this point that my editor quite responsibly wants me to remind you, "Don't try this at home." I, however, am not comfortable with discouraging people from having sex. I like to think that every gay man has consciously decided for himself how safe the sex he engages in needs to be, and that my relaying anecdotal information about what has luckily caused me to maintain my negative status will not unduly encourage you to engage in behavior you would otherwise believe to be risky.)

My friend obviously has negotiated a different treaty with himself, one that doesn't allow a truly masterful blowjob to be finished off with spit and grease and fingers and palms. And at the time, I applauded his decision. But societal programming being what it is, even though I am HIV-negative, after letting him complete an act that I wouldn't do—and knowing it was not dangerous for him to do it with me—I still felt, if not guilty, then oddly unsettled, concerned for his personal safety.

But he acted without an ounce of guilt or uncertainty, as though he did it every day (and perhaps he does). And using Preston's thesis, it's logical to assume that sexually prodigious people would be least likely to adapt to the concept of safer sex. For them, finishing with a hand job would be like painting a Groucho mustache on the Mona Lisa.

Back in 1985, I remember hearing people say that they could not, would not, change the

way they had sex just because AIDS might be sexually transmitted. It's as though sex meant so much to their lives, had so profoundly altered their mode of existence, that some of them didn't want to live in a world where something so wonderful could also cause so much destruction. At the time, I heard the self-destructiveness in their arguments, and luckily made choices that have kept me safe to this day.

But as my life has been more and more illuminated by the miraculous light of sex, I have come to see that the knowledge these men had accumulated is vital to liberating our society from its sexual shame. There was a point they were trying to make to me and to the rest of our sex-negative culture—that the only thing powerful enough to change this calcified society is sex, and if we don't use it to do so, we might as well climb in bed with the straight people, literally and figuratively.

But because these men are not here to tell their stories, their wisdom is largely lost to our society, and especially to the generation of gay men who came out into safe sex. Twice recently in a bar, I have listened to friends applaud the fact that gay men were finally starting to be more "responsible" about sex—i.e., having less of it with fewer people, forming monogamous relationships, in essence, "straightening up and flying right." I asked them "Why?" and they both, in essence they said, "Because if you're promiscuous, you'll get sick."

I respectfully disagree. In spite of our homophobic society's unceasing effort to send that message, it remains a fact that it's a virus that kills people, not a sexual encounter. If we discover a vaccine tomorrow, our society will still find gay male sexual activity to be the most threatening thing it can conceive of, capable of changing their world in a way they don't want. Which is exactly what we must do to live our lives with integrity.

And so to answer the first question, the most important thing AIDS has taken from us is the presence of so many of those men who best knew how to communicate to the average person the power that sex has to change lives. For many gay men, sex of the magnitude my friend and I engaged in may be, sadly, literally, a dying art. And spiritually, this sexually constipated society of ours can only be the worse from the loss of them and their stories.

LETTERS

Right-wingers reap what they sow

I'm sick of right-wing extremists whining when their bigotry and intolerance causes controversy and draws notoriety to their communities. You try to lance their little pus pockets of hate so the wound can heal, and the big crybabies holler "outside agitators, media bias." Bill Byrne and former principal Hulond Humphries come readily to mind. A differing view calling for reason isn't bias, and people crying out for basic human rights and justice isn't agitation. They only have their prejudice to blame, they should have kept it to themselves.

I'm tired of hypocrites wrapping themselves in the flag and hiding behind the Bible to practice hate politics. If you're going to call yourself a Christian, then you should follow the teaching of Christ; Jesus wasn't about hate. The far right takes verses out of context, picking and choosing those that they can twist to fit their not so hidden agenda, ignoring those that speak of tolerance, love, and leaving judgment to God!

Battle lines are being drawn. Don't blindly

follow ANYONE, educate yourself, don't align yourself with hate. We won't be quiet and we won't go away till there is justice for ALL in America, so just get over it!

Genia Richards
Marietta

Republican bashing?

Gay men and lesbian residents of Atlanta are not being well served by your biased reporting on political issues.

In recent issues, your publication has had stories about anti-gay sentiment in the Republican Party. You have, correctly, pointed out that a lot of Republicans running for office are homophobic.

But what about the Democratic Party? Why don't you report about what is, and what is

not, going on in the Democratic Party. For example in the recent Democratic primary; no pro-gay Democrat ran against Gov. Zell Miller, no pro-gay Democrat ran against homophobic Lt. Governor Pierre Howard, no pro-gay Democrat ran against homophobic state legislator Billy McKinney. And why do you always worry about the Republicans? In Georgia, the Democrats control the whole state government.

I read about a group of gay Republicans who are fighting the right-wing in their party. I can't understand how they can be gay and Republican but that's their choice and more power to them. But I read about them in the Atlanta Journal Constitution and in Creative Loafing—nothing has appeared in the gay press. Aren't you supposed to keep your readers informed about situations in both parties?

I voted for Ross Perot and consider myself to be an independent voter. Why don't you give your readers a balanced view of politics and not just a Democratic view?

Thomas Luther
Atlanta



GLAAD News

by CARL LANGE

Serving Up Discrimination, Southern Style

Yet another Southern Restaurant chain is discriminating against its employees based on sexual orientation. A lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court charges that Cartel Restaurants, Inc., fired a chef one day before he was scheduled to be enrolled in the company's health care benefits plan—and that company officials made the termination because they falsely believed that because Ronald Kirkland is gay, he was HIV-positive or had AIDS and would force the company's insurance premiums to rise. Sworn affidavits by three former Cartel employees back up Kirkland's story.

GLAAD has learned that this is not the only incident of discrimination at Cartel and that this policy of firing gay men, or men who are perceived to be gay, has been encouraged by the company CEO and president, George Rohrig. Cartel restaurants include Ottos's, Peachtree Cafe, East Village Grille, Nickimoto's, the Raccoon Lodge and Azio, where Kirkland was employed as a chef from April 1991 until October 31, 1991.

Mr. Rohrig needs to hear from you concerning this blatant discrimination. Ask him if his attitude toward his employees is the same toward customers. Are gay men, lesbians and/or people with HIV not welcome in his establishments? If you are in the Atlanta area, let him know how you will avoid his businesses.

Write: Mr. George Rohrig, Cartel Restaurants Inc, 235 East Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30305; phone (404) 237-2972; fax (404) 237-6927.

Today Show Promotes Cracker Barrel

On August 2nd and 3rd, Today show correspondent Willard Scott offered several supportive pitches for Cracker Barrel Restaurants. Scott recommended the restaurant to his viewers and described, in detail, the company's breakfast menu. What Scott failed to describe was Cracker Barrel's homophobic employment practices. In February 1991, the restaurant/gift shop chain issued a corporate policy stating, "it is inconsistent with our concept and values...to continue to employ individuals...whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

Because many—if not most—Americans are still unaware of the fact that no federal anti-discrimination laws protect gay or lesbian workers, it is especially egregious for the Today show to endorse the restaurant without giving viewers the full story.

Write to Steve Friedman, Executive Producer, Today, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Rm. 304, New York, NY 10112; (212) 664-4602.

We welcome and thank you for your contributions to this column. Write GLAAD/Atlanta P.O. Box 55111, Atlanta, GA 30308; phone (404) 876-1398; fax (404) 876-4051; internet: glaadatl@aol.com. This column is a product of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Atlanta, Inc.



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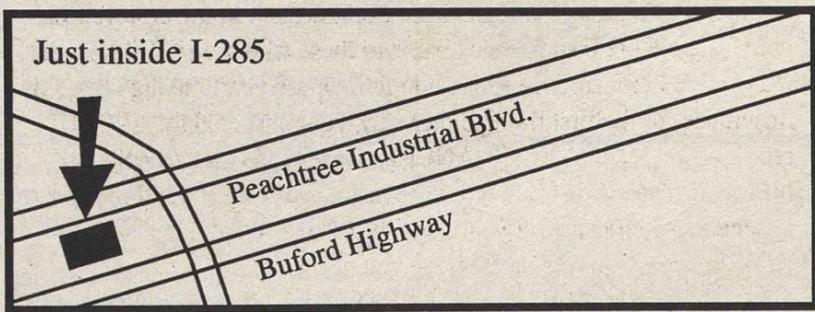
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Gay teens know about AIDS but spurn safe sex, studies show

Chicago—Wayne Steward, a 19-year-old gay college student, has little idea whether his gay friends practice safe sex. And he can't imagine anyone bringing it up for a group discussion.

Many gay and bisexual teens ignore the risk of catching AIDS and fail to protect themselves from it, even though they are knowledgeable about how the disease is spread, two new studies indicate.

"One of the most infrequently discussed areas of gay life is often safe sex practices," said Steward of Fairfax County, Va., who will be a sophomore this fall at Columbia University in New York.

Steward said gay teens have heard plenty of clinical discussions about safe sexual practices, such as using condoms. But such discussions may seem irrelevant in situations where a teen is looking for emotional release, intimacy, love and sexual expression, he said.

"On a logical level, [safe sex] makes perfect sense. But when you're talking about love, and you have sex intertwined with that, logic doesn't always come first," he said.

His observations on the East Coast are mirrored in studies from the Midwest and California.

A survey from Minnesota released August 8 shows that gay and bisexual youths there were knowledgeable about HIV, but 63 percent were at "extreme risk" of having been exposed to HIV because they'd had unsafe sex or shared needles to inject drugs.

"The United States cannot afford to be complacent about AIDS prevention for this population of young gay and bisexual men," said the survey's author, Dr. Gary Remafedi, director of Youth and AIDS Projects at the Uni-

versity of Minnesota.

His survey of teens and young adults ages 13 to 21 from urban and rural areas was published in the August issue of Pediatrics.

A similar study in the Aug. 10 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association found that young gay and bisexual men in the San Francisco area are not acting on the lessons available through the city's many safe-sex education programs.

Almost one third of 425 subjects, between the ages of 17 and 22 years old, reported they'd had unprotected anal intercourse in the previous six months and almost 12 percent reported injection drug use in that period.

HIV infection was found in 9.4 percent of the 425 young men, and more than two thirds of those infected didn't know they had the virus, said the researchers, led by George F. Lemp of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Jeffrey A. Kelly, director of the Center for AIDS Intervention Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin, said the rates of high risk behavior found in such studies are of great concern.

Kelly, who was not involved in either study, said much more prevention needs to be undertaken among gay youth.

"We have to move from basic education about risks to helping adolescents make changes in risk behaviors," Kelly said, adding that young people must be taught to refuse risky sex and to negotiate safe sex.

Steward said helping young gay and bisexual men care about themselves may have to start with showing them some caring: "Gay kids are ignored, from all aspects of the world."

BRENDA C. COLEMAN

HIV cases in China rise to 1,435

Beijing, China—The number of people testing positive for the AIDS virus in China has risen to 1,435, more than 70 percent of them intravenous drug users, an official report said Aug. 5.

Experts, however, estimate that the number of people actually carrying HIV may be eight times the official figure, which represents those positively identified through official testing by the end of last month.

The report in the China Daily said 1,174 HIV carriers were mainland Chinese. The others, foreigners or Chinese living overseas, are generally expelled after testing positive.

Experts have warned that AIDS infections could exceed 253,000 by the year 2000 if preventive measures are not taken.

Although the government began small-scale testing for the virus in the late 1980s, it has held back from wider testing or from sus-

tained educational programs because most officials regard AIDS as a disease that strikes only foreigners or fringe groups such as drug users.

The China Daily report said the Public Health Ministry is cooperating with the European Community (EC) on a project to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

It said the project comes as venereal diseases are spreading. In the first quarter of 1994, reported cases of sexually transmitted diseases rose 39 percent.

The EC is to provide \$2 million for the project, which is to begin in September and focus on training laboratory technicians and doctors about up-to-date techniques for testing and treating various sexually transmitted diseases, the report said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FDA approves ddC for use alone

Washington, DC—The Food and Drug Administration has approved the marketing of zalcitabine, also known as ddC, as a single drug treatment for HIV infection.

Zalcitabine is marketed under the brand name HIVID by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. of Nutley, N.J., which announced the FDA approval on Aug. 8.

HIVID had previously been approved for use in combination with zidovudine, or AZT, which is marketed by Burroughs Wellcome Co. under the brand name Retrovir.

Under the new approved use, HIVID can be prescribed for adults with advanced HIV infections whose disease has progressed while taking AZT, or for adult HIV patients who are intolerant to AZT.

HIVID is the fourth anti-viral approved for single drug treatment of HIV infection. In addition to AZT, the others are stavudine, or d4T, and didanosine, or ddI, both made by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. of New York. Stavudine is marketed under the trade name Zerit and ddI is marketed under the trade name Videx.

All four of the drugs act by blocking a part of the replication cycle of HIV, slowing the progression of the disease.

The major side effects of HIVID are changes to nerves in the hands and feet. For some, the drug also can cause mouth ulcers, rash and inflammation of the pancreas.

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Researchers say selenium may play role in AIDS

Atlanta—A theory that the AIDS virus slowly depletes the body's store of the mineral selenium, which it uses to enter uninfected cells, supports the notion that supplements of selenium might help fight the disease.

University of Georgia researchers published the theory in the Aug. 19 edition of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, suggesting that HIV produces proteins that consume the body's supply of selenium. Although the proteins have yet to be found, scientists are trying to prove their existence.

According to the researchers' theory, HIV needs selenium, which preserves the elasticity of body tissue and slows the aging process, to trigger its growth. Once the virus exhausts the selenium in an infected cell, it breaks out in search of more, spreading the infection to new cells.

Many AIDS patients lack selenium and have taken supplements on their own. For several years, a number of researchers and doctors have encouraged selenium as part of the patients' dietary supplement.

It was thought that AIDS patients had trouble absorbing the nutrient from food, but the new work suggests the disease actu-

ally depletes the mineral from the body.

"If this is true, then selenium biochemistry may be the key to understanding the control of the life cycle of HIV and perhaps some of the pathology of AIDS," said Will Taylor, who headed the research team at Georgia College of Pharmacy.

He said the length of time it takes to deplete the body's stores of selenium could help account for HIV's latency period, which can last for years.

"This suggests that nutritional status may be a factor in some HIV-positive long-term survivors," Taylor said.

Although taking selenium supplements may sound odd, Taylor said it may work to keep HIV in check.

"It's very exciting work," said Gerhard Schrauzer, a biochemist and proponent of selenium supplements at the University of California, San Diego. "It shows that we must look at all aspects of the virus...and treatments that could include simple nutritional agents."

Taylor is working with other groups to prove the theory.

A. J. HOSTETLER

Investigators play down risks of hospital HIV transmission

New York City—Health officials say transmission of AIDS in a hospital is rare and patients should not be alarmed by the report that a baby was infected by another child through contaminated equipment.

"It's such a rare event, we don't believe that this case should cause alarm," said Dr. Susan Blank, an epidemiologist with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on assignment to the New York City Department of Health.

Blank is the main author of an article published last weekend in the British medical journal *The Lancet* that discusses the case of an 11-day-old baby boy who wound up infected by AIDS after being admitted for an eye problem several years ago.

Neither Blank nor Steven Matthews, a Health Department spokesman, would identify the hospital or even say it was in New York City. The *Daily News* reported that the hospital was a private facility in Brooklyn but did not give its name.

"The likely source that could be identified during the investigation was a child known to have AIDS who was being treated on the same ward as this infant," Matthews said. "The assumption would be either through a contaminated needle or medical instrument."

The article suggests health workers were lax about infection control policies such as insuring that medical supplies are sterilized.

Matthews said that nine of 32 health-care workers at the hospital took HIV tests and tested negative for the virus. The other 23 refused to take the tests, he said.

Blank said two children could have been the source of infection.

However, "DNA fingerprinting showed one of them to be an unlikely source of infection," she said. DNA could not be obtained from the other child because the child died prior to the investigation.

JOHN SHANAHAN

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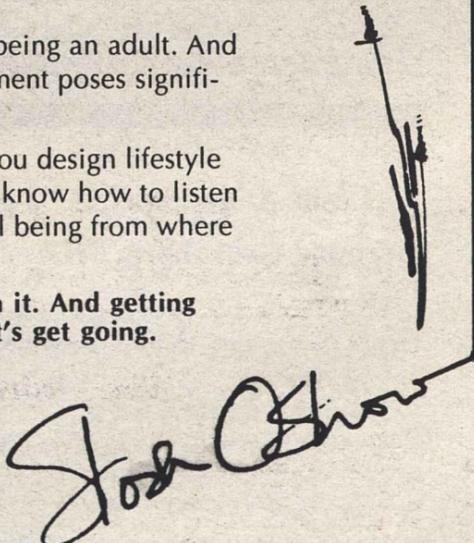
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Health care reform sparks debate among gay, AIDS groups

The marathon called health care reform is stumbling into what may be its final laps. Lesbians and gays seem as confused, divided and disheartened as other Americans by the dueling sound bites and competing claims.

Last year the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) added staff to cover health care reform. They staked out ambitious principles they wanted to see included in those changes. Both have since eliminated the new staff positions and focused their activities on defending a non-discrimination clause in drafts of both the Mitchell (Senate) and Gephardt (House) versions of health care reform.

"When the [Mitchell] health reform bill comes to the Senate floor for a vote, [Jesse] Helms and his allies will move to strike sexual orientation from the bill's non-discrimination clause," read the message HRCF sent to its Federal Advocacy Network (FAN) members.

HRCF spokesman Doug Hattaway said they still support their earlier principles of universal coverage, no exemptions for pre-existing conditions, etc., but decided to simplify their message for the purpose of mobilizing their grassroots constituents.

He said the organization is targeting senators in 14 key states "other than hard-core opponents." It has already sent two mailings, about 7,600 letters, to its FAN members and 17,000 mailgrams through its Speak Out program. It is also taking the unusual step of making follow up phone calls to both groups, further encouraging them to contact their senators. It has contracted an outside firm to make the calls.

NGLTF has also moved to educate and activate its members. It has created a broad series of briefing materials available on America Online and directly from the organization.

The non-discrimination clause is the focus of their activities "because of the movement by [Sen. Nancy] Kassebaum (R-KS) and others that it might be a target," said Task Force spokesman Robin Kane. Kassebaum earlier had introduced a measure in committee to strike the clause, arguing that it was a civil rights issue not a health issue and should be dealt with in that venue. Her motion was defeated in a party line vote.

While HRCF and NGLTF express guarded support for the bills, AIDS groups are more opposed.

"They [HRCF, NGLTF] don't know what is going on except that they are being asked to toady for the administration at this point on some really, really bad legislation," said Steve Michael with ACT UP Washington. "All they are doing is building their chits with moderate Democrats."

"We really hate [the Mitchell bill]," said Christine Lubinski, deputy director of the AIDS Action Council. They sent a letter to senators which outlined "significant problems" with the bill and called for "a great many changes" in it.

"We felt a need to do that, in part because of HRCF's endorsement of the Mitchell bill," Lubinski said. "There still is so much confusion up on the Hill between gay advocates and AIDS advocates that we are concerned that there not be an implication that there is broad based support for this approach."

"The point I made to them [HRCF] is that once they beat you on sexual orientation, what have you got but an endorsement for a piece of crap," she said. "It seems to me totally plausible to endorse the anti-discrimination provision without endorsing the full bill."

Gary Rose, lobbyist with the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA),

acknowledges the significance of the non-discrimination clause. He also commented, "HRCF doesn't do AIDS any more."

All the groups have serious problems defining "universal coverage" as 95% of the population by the year 2002. Even if the goal is met, 14 million Americans will still be without health insurance, including many with AIDS.

Ruth Finkelstein, policy analyst with Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York City, looked at the impact of the Mitchell bill on four groups of people with AIDS (PWAs): the well insured, the uninsured, people on Medicaid, and people on Medicare. "The only group that came out ahead, and that coming out ahead was marginal, were folks on Medicare. Which is a steady 4% of the people with HIV and AIDS."

People with good insurance coverage, about a quarter of PWAs, "can actually be hurt by the Mitchell bill in a number of key ways," Finkelstein noted. A cost containment provision of the bill will levy a 25% tax on policies whose costs increase faster than average.

She cited the example of Blue Cross, which is often the only insurer willing to enroll sick people. Their costs are naturally going to increase faster, she said, "which means, suddenly I'm slapped with a 25% tax on having kept the policy I've always had. That is clearly going to be bad for people with AIDS."

The Mitchell bill reforms health insurance by eliminating pre-existing conditions as a screening criteria, and with subsidies for those who can't afford to purchase it.

"There is strong evidence that the 75% of people with AIDS who don't have insurance don't have the money to buy insurance," Finkelstein said. She criticized the proposed subsidies as too low to buy meaningful coverage.

There is even a Catch-22 to the subsidies—they are directly tied to there being no increase in the federal deficit as a result of increased spending for health care. "Which means, wake up tomorrow and they are wiped right out," Finkelstein said.

AIDS organizations are united in their condemnation of the Mitchell bill but divided on a course of action.

NAPWA's Rose sees Mitchell's tactic as "a smart move. He [Mitchell] is going to get [passed] whatever minimal language on each of the important things, in order for it to go into conference with the preferable Gephardt [House] bill." Rose calls this "a tricky strategy."

Finkelstein is "at the point with the Mitchell bill where I believe its negative impacts outweigh its positives." Still, she would urge passage and "try to go ahead in conference, try to clean it up out of something better that emerges from the House." But, "It is absolutely not the case that any bill is better than no bill. Absolutely not."

AIDS Action's Lubinski is pessimistic about a bill in the Senate. She lays much blame to the White House for undercutting the stronger House bill with the President's early endorsement of the weaker Mitchell bill. "He [Clinton] has certainly cleared up any doubts in anyone's mind that he will sign any blessed piece of paper that comes across his desk and call it health reform."

Michael and ACT UP are taking the most aggressive stance. "No bill is better than what is there. At this point we should be supportive of a filibuster to prevent this from coming to the floor for a vote. This legislation is going to institutionalize the marginalization of AIDS."

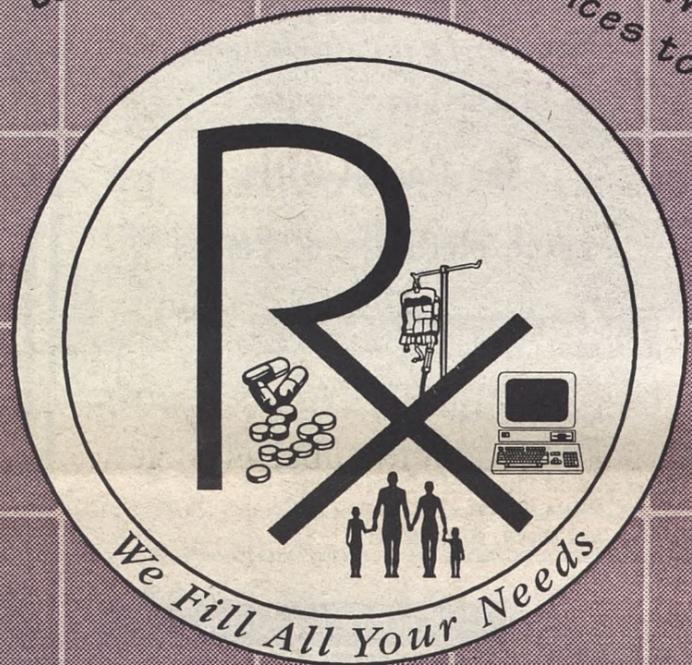
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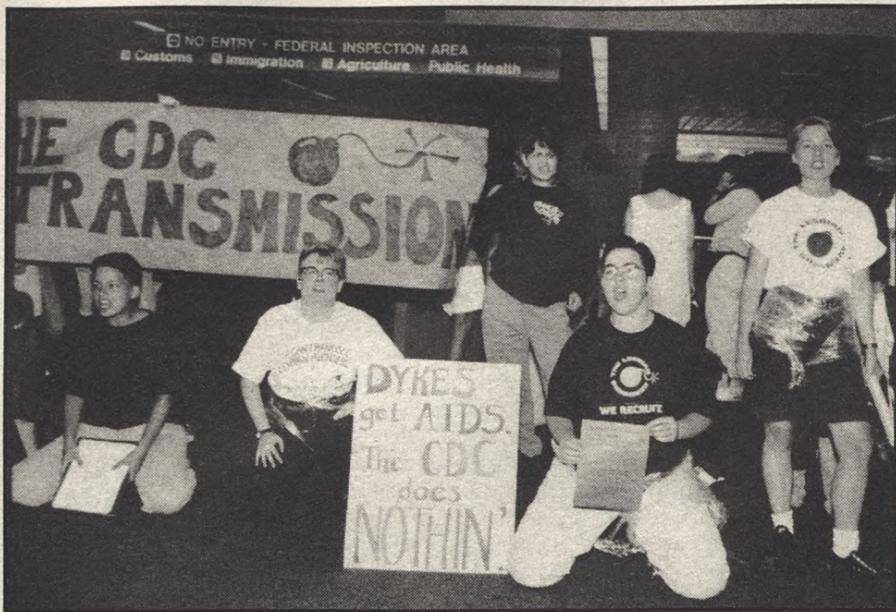
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JUDI PARKS

Avengers protest the lack of federal studies of woman-to-woman HIV transmission.

Lesbian Avengers target CDC's AIDS policies concerning women

San Francisco—Twenty-one members of the Lesbian Avengers staged a protest outside the Centers for Disease Control's San Francisco offices August 13, shouting, waving plastic wrap and carrying a 20-foot banner. The protest was to call attention to the need for studies of woman-to-woman HIV transmission.

"CDC: we're outraged. You don't know shit about dykes and AIDS," the group shouted, in front of a crowd of approximately 200 bewildered people waiting outside the San Francisco airport's customs area (where the agency's local office is located).

Three activists had their clothed pelvises wrapped in Saran Wrap amidst the onlookers, while others unfurled a banner that said, "Dykes demand the CDC study woman to woman AIDS transmission."

The action was the kickoff to a campaign that the San Francisco chapter of the Avengers is waging against the federal government for its failure to address issues surrounding lesbians and AIDS. The group has promised to continue bombarding the CDC with faxes to its headquarters and phone calls to its AIDS information hotline.

"The CDC is neglecting its most basic responsibilities to lesbian and bisexual women," says Lesbian Avenger Ruth Masterson.

The Avengers are making three primary demands: that the CDC conduct thorough studies of the possibility of woman-to-woman transmission, that it fund outreach efforts directed at lesbian and bisexual women, and that the agency revise its definition of "lesbian" so that it more accurately reflects the lesbian population.

Studies released by the San Francisco Department of Public Health last October found that the lesbian and bisexual women they surveyed had an HIV/AIDS infection rate three times higher than that of the general population of women.

"The CDC knows that you have to be population-specific in your outreach, and yet there's nothing aimed specifically at lesbian or bisexual women around risky behaviors," says Naomi Prochovnick, an HIV counselor for Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in San Francisco. "Given what the Department of Public Health's studies show, I think that borders on genocide."

While it is probable that many infected

lesbian and bisexual women have contracted the virus through such established risk behaviors as unprotected sex with men or sharing intravenous drug needles, it is also possible that some transmission has occurred through sex between women—a possibility the CDC has refused to recognize or track.

The agency currently claims that the risk of this type of transmission is negligible.

"It's outrageous for the CDC to say that sex between women involves no risk," says Masterson. "The fact is, they don't know. They haven't done any comprehensive studies of it."

According to Prochovnick, the agency's claim that there are no reported cases of woman-to-woman transmission is based on the fact that they have collected no reports on it.

"They don't document for it," Prochovnick says, "therefore there's no documented proof, therefore it doesn't exist, therefore there's no need to document for it. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy."

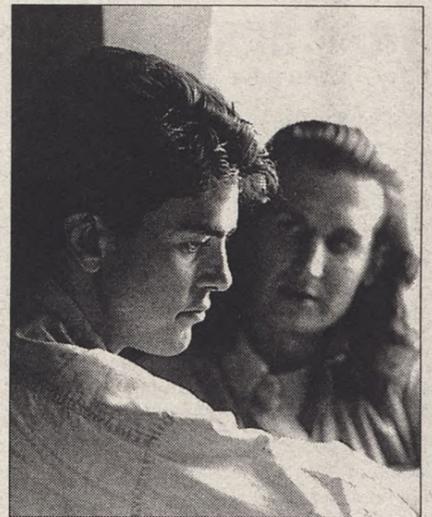
Part of the CDC's failure to address the needs of lesbian and bisexual women has resulted from the agency's definition of a lesbian as "a woman who hasn't slept with a man since 1978," which the Avengers say radically underestimates the numbers of lesbians with AIDS.

To find the San Francisco area CDC office, the Avengers had to make more than 15 phone calls and come up with almost as many excuses. Staffers answer the phone with words "Public Health" rather than "CDC," and access to the unmarked office is tightly monitored. Visitors must request entry by a white "courtesy phone," explain the nature of their visit, and then wait by the rent a car counters for a CDC worker to escort them inside.

Though security is high at the airport, not a single police officer approached the group during the action and no arrests were made. The 21-dyke entourage—shouting, waving Saran Wrap, and carrying the banner—stormed through the international terminal and then out to the parking garage without any intervention from the 15 or more police officers who had assembled nearby.

"I guess they didn't want to mess with a group of screaming lesbian and bi women," said Avenger Katie Hern. "No one wanted to appear in the newspaper dragging away a dyke in a pair of Saran Wrap panties."

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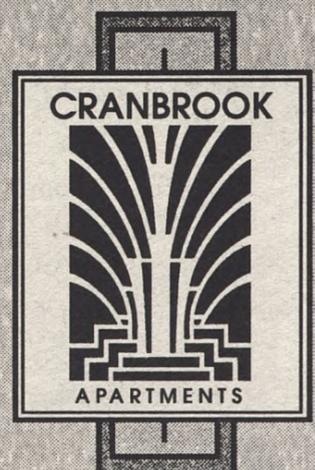
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Bayard Rustin

Continued from page 6

out his belief that the black civil rights movement had matured beyond the point of simple protest and needed to become actively involved in the political mainstream.

Rustin and the Randolph Institute spoke out strongly against black anti-Semitism and black separatism. Rustin was labeled an Uncle Tom when he tried to ease tensions in New York City after riots rocked Detroit and Watts. The Village Voice columnist Nat Hentoff, who first met Rustin in the late '50s, said, "Bayard remained faithful to the cause of integration. He was one of the few people who could debate Malcolm X to a standstill...maybe even beat him once in a while."

But it was Vietnam, rather than disagreements with other black activists, that caused the most serious schism between Rustin and his peers. Rustin was having difficulty securing funding for the Randolph Institute and found his only source to be the AFL-CIO,

which supported the war in Vietnam. Hentoff recalled that when Rustin made the decision to allow AFL-CIO funding, "many people in the pacifist movement no longer trusted him."

Nonetheless, Hentoff admits, it was hard to resist Rustin personally. "He was one of those people who I always anticipated talking to. Not only did he know a lot but he was also a keen analyst. And he had a wicked, dry sense of humor and a fair taste for gossip. When he walked into the room, the rest of the room just sort of swerved towards him. He was just a thoroughly pleasurable guy."

John D'Emilio, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro who is currently writing a biography of Rustin, asserts that because Rustin chose a path not taken by a majority of activists, his moves have come to be looked down upon. But D'Emilio contends that Rustin's beliefs grew out of his own extensive experience. "As someone who had been working for change for 25 years, he had reached the point where he was sort of saying 'there is nothing to be gained

from being radical purists whose radicalism and purism keeps us marginal to power."

D'Emilio, a onetime chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, points out that Rustin is hard to judge. "If you were to have asked him this question," D'Emilio believes, "he'd never have given this answer, but the shape of Rustin's public life cannot be understood apart from the fact that he was gay and lived in a homophobic world. Otherwise, the life and the choices don't make sense. I'm sure he wouldn't agree with me, because he's of a generation that didn't think that way."

As the gay rights movement flourished in the 1970s, Rustin remained devoted primarily to international and union causes. Then, in 1977, Rustin met longtime peace activist Walter Naegle, and the two remained together until the Rustin's death a decade later. Rustin credited Naegle, who was 35 years his junior, with drawing him out into the gay community. In the late '70s, Rustin was asked to speak in favor of New York's Gay Civil Rights Bill. Naegle cites this as the genesis of Rustin's

involvement in the gay rights movement.

As late as 1984, Rustin was still being arrested in civil protests. Though he spent a good deal of time and energy collecting art, his pace and enthusiasm never faltered. In the final five months of his life, Rustin directed Project South Africa and made political visits to Thailand, Chile, Paraguay, and Haiti.

A year before he died, Rustin offered this advice to activists: "One seldom fights his enemy. One ought not give too much time to that. If the NAACP had spent all its time fighting the Ku Klux Klan, the Klan would have won. But the job of both the Ku Klux Klan and the NAACP is to behave in that way so that the 95 percent of the people in the middle who are not committed are won over. That's very important because sometimes people spend all their time denouncing the so-called opposition [which meanwhile is] busy winning the loyalty of the people in the middle. I think it is one of the biggest lessons we have to learn."

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In the trenches

New York City (AP)—There was a life before this one. It was radiant and pulsing, a celebration shared in Greenwich Village discos and along the beaches out at Fire Island. Gay men were striding ahead, and it felt amazing.

There was a sense of great possibility. They would contribute openly to society. They would no longer marry because it was the thing to do. They would not be ashamed—not of their sexuality and not of their identity. They were full of freedom and hope in this life.

This was life before AIDS.

The loss since then has been incalculable, terrifying for the blank spaces it leaves where talent and humor and friendship might have flourished. But out of this absence has grown something else, a marvel of courage and compassion.

In the early days, more than a decade ago, there assembled a group that many now look on as modern heroes of a sort. They were disparate men whose backgrounds and predilections ran from bohemian to leather, from liberal to Republican, from boardrooms to Broadway, from shy to aggressively open. They came together not because they liked each other particularly but because all shared a sense that this thing only beginning to surface would grow far bigger.

"These were Paul Reveres. Let there be no doubt, these were the same folks who would have been getting on horses with lanterns," says David Nimmons, 33, who encountered the earliest AIDS activists as a wide-eyed new arrival in New York City in the early 1980s.

"They knew what needed to be done. Or thought they did. It takes a certain kind of vision, chutzpah, self-assurance and courage. ...The thing I keep going back to is something like valor."

They were Paul Popham, the engaging blond beauty everyone wanted to be, a Wall Street banker not yet out of the closet. Nathan Fain, a journalist, passionate advocate and friend. Paul Rapoport, a reserved Upper Eastside lawyer with money and a lover already lost to the virus. Larry Kramer, a fearless, sometimes cantankerous author and screenwriter. Larry Mass, a thoughtful, soft-spoken doctor born in Macon, Ga. Edmund White, a gay novelist who as a young Midwesterner sought a "cure" for his sexuality.

Of the six, the latter three are alive.

Their legacy is a monster housed in five Manhattan buildings, a \$25.5 million bureaucracy known to some as "the agency" and to many others as GMHC. The small band that founded it did not know this disease that still had no name would consume the rest of their lives.

A model for future AIDS organizations, GMHC's roots were in a meeting Larry Kramer hosted at his Greenwich Village apartment. Eighty men showed up that evening in August 1981 to hear a doctor share what little information he had. At the end, a hat was passed and \$6,635 immediately collected.

Some months later, the six founders began putting the pieces in place.

Their original mailing list was drawn from personal address books. The early fund-raisers were conducted from behind collapsible card tables set up outside gay discos. There was no test for AIDS, no clear cause, no sense of how it was transmitted, no public outcry or awareness.

"We are Gay Men's Health Crisis," read GMHC's first brochure. "All is not gloom and despair. The challenge also gives us the op-

portunity to prove that...we are family, and we have the talent, money and concern to take care of one another."

Rodger McFarlane, an early executive director who set up GMHC's first hotline, remembers now how overwhelming it was. More than 100 calls a day from the start. "And I've been running from hospital to hospital ever since."

He would like to offer a sweet song of hope and inspiration. But 1,000 names have been removed from his Rolodex. His best friend is HIV-positive, as are his business partner and brother.

"To look back is profoundly frightening and demoralizing," says McFarlane, 39, now director of Broadway Cares-Equity Fights AIDS. "People who have been around long

For the surviving founders of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, life is an ongoing battle

by LESLIE DREYFOUS

enough to understand it all are dead or fried."

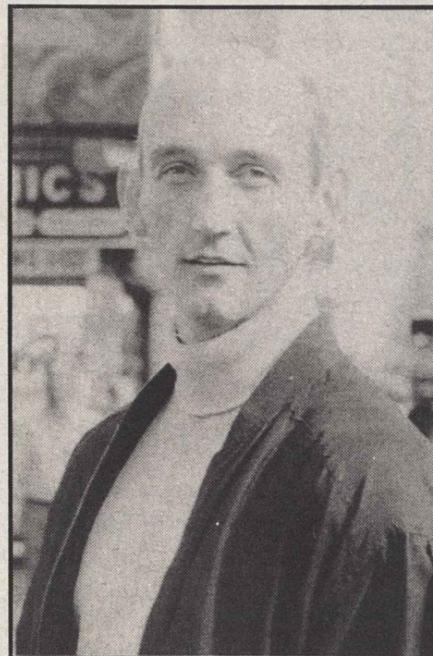
Yet McFarlane remains standing. "No matter how fried or disillusioned or cynical, I think 'Don't stop.' We have to build these things that will lead us to the end, even if we don't live to see it.

"You know what it is?" he adds. "It's sheer rage and desperation. If I couldn't get up and work like this I'd go crazy."

In the early days, they could name names. The list of dead and dying was limited to fewer than 200 names in GMHC's first year. A year later, their clients numbered more than 1,000. It was only the merest hint of today's overwhelming tally: more than 220,000 Americans dead, about 1 million infected.

No one knew then that this disease would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Rodger McFarlane, an early executive director of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis, is now director of Broadway Cares-Equity Fights AIDS.

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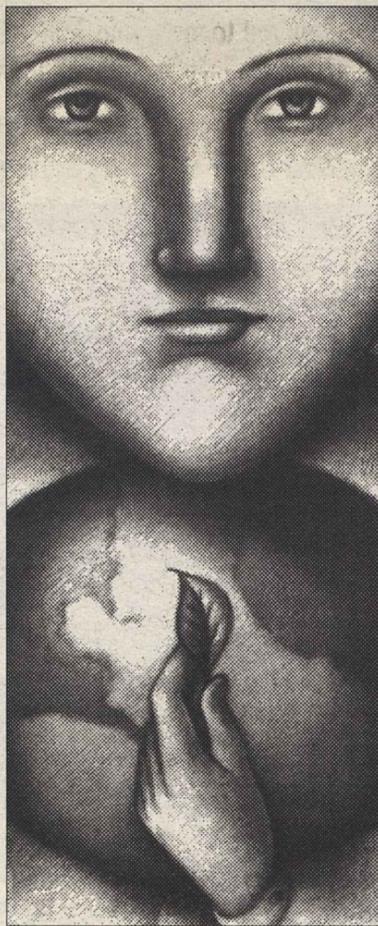
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In the trenches

Continued from page 17

bring a whole new language; that eventually it would encompass drug users, blood transfusion recipients, heterosexual men and women, teen-agers, babies; that it would spread across the nation. Those who glimpsed early the potential devastation were the ultimate party-poopers, preaching worry and calling for abstinence in the midst of a long-awaited gala.

"It was sexual Camelot. ...We really felt that the world was our oyster. The worst you had were sexually transmitted diseases, which were looked on as a temporary inconvenience. ...It was all part of the climate. There was an unexamined quality to it," remembers Michael Shernoff, a psychotherapist who eventually designed GMHC's first safer sex curriculum.

"Now," he says, "my life is about going to the hospital and seeing how this one is doing, whether that one has food, if my lover is OK. I feel not like I'm 45, but that I'm 65. It's inconceivable the totality with which it touches you. I mean, I wasn't prepared for this. None of us were."

Over the years, GMHC has grown beyond proportions any of its founders could have conceived—and none ever wanted to see. The agency has served more than 15,000 AIDS sufferers since its inception—reaching beyond the gay community to victims of all sexual backgrounds, races, classes.

Originally staffed by a handful of unpaid activists, GMHC now has 235 employees and 2,200 volunteers. In the early days, there were maybe a half-dozen support groups. Today, 50 groups meet each week. Some 77,000 calls came in last year. A million pieces of literature went out.

"It was miserable when it started out, and it's miserable still," says GMHC staffer Daniel Wolfe, 33, who estimates a third of his bosses and colleagues are battling the virus. "The hardest part, the most painful part, has been dealing with the reality that we're not going home. We're not shutting these doors any time soon."

"I have learned a number of terrible lessons," says Larry Kramer, 60, the acknowledged leader among the group of early founders. "I have no more trust or faith in democracy, in government, in the power of one voice to make any difference, all those things we were taught in school."

Kramer is angry. But anyone who has read anything about AIDS knows that. He was a controversial author before any of this started, and he has been a lightning rod throughout. He has broken with GMHC, which he doesn't believe has been aggressive enough. He founded ACT UP in the belief it would force a cure, rather than cater to death. It, too, has fallen short of his expectations.

"I guess I'm good at starting organizations,"

he admits, "not so good at staying with organizations."

Some say Kramer, who is HIV-positive, is an egoist. But many see him as the one who stepped out early, spoke loudly, did not step back when the panic set in and people were afraid to be near the disease, let alone be identified with it.

He staged protests, raised funds, wrote the acclaimed play "The Normal Heart," did afternoon talk shows and never, never stopped flailing in the face of silence. What pains him now is that for all of that, for all he's done over 13 years, it has not been enough.

"I've become an infamous crank or curmudgeon or gadfly, a person I'm not particularly comfortable with," he says. "But I am proud of myself. Proud is maybe the wrong word. I feel very well-used by the events of my time. I can look at myself in the mirror and really know that I've put up the good fight. And I can't say that about many people I know."

On the Great Lawn in New York's Central Park this spring, 30,000 people of all ages, colors and sexual orientations gathered for an annual AIDS Walk. Songs were sung. In words and in silence, those who died in the year gone by were mourned. Balloons floated up into a clear blue sky and, as different as everyone was, they all streamed out of the park to walk mile after mile together.

Shortly before this gathering, Dr. Larry Mass, one of GMHC's original founders, was at the YMCA where he has gone to work out since arriving in New York in 1979.

Up on a wall, he spotted a flier advertising the upcoming walk.

"It was astounding," he recalls. "I felt this tremendous pride and sense of real progress. We could never have come this far without this horrible epidemic. All of our issues and needs and all of the confrontation has happened because of AIDS."

Mass is by no means satisfied with what has come to pass. He is angry and fervent and afraid. But he is also strangely heartened.

"Homosexuality and the gay community have achieved a level of assimilation and acceptance today that was a dream," he says. "To hear the word on TV. To see it at the YMCA. It was unthinkable."

"So, am I tired? Yes," says Mass, 48. "But it's a good kind of tired. The only way to conceptualize it is as a war. Think of us like Beirut or Sarajevo, where every day you're hearing of deaths, deaths of friends every day. It's cost so much. We're numb, completely numb at times."

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New fitness magazine targets gay and lesbian market

Fitness magazines have a long history of gay readership, from the physique magazines of the 1950s to today's exercise magazines brimming with homoerotic photography. But the premiere of Urban Fitness opens a new chapter in this history as the first fitness magazine explicitly directed at a gay and lesbian audience.

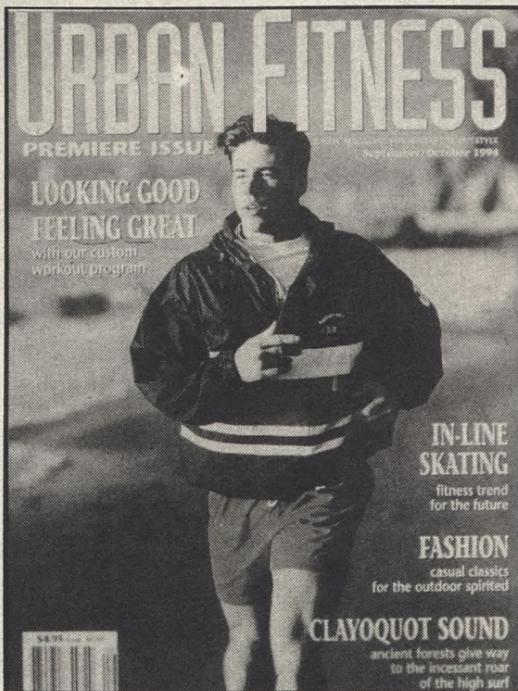
"There are a lot of fitness magazines out there, but none of them relate to me as a gay man," says Urban Fitness publisher and editor-in-chief Jim Herman. Other magazines exclude gays in their relationship columns, health sections, and even in their AIDS coverage, says Herman. While he hopes that straight readers will not feel similarly excluded by Urban Fitness, Herman emphasizes that his primary audience is gay men and lesbians. "I think this magazine is the perfect match for the gay person," he says.

Subtle gay perspective aside, the full-color glossy offers fairly typical fitness fare: nutrition information, medical advice, and workout regimens. In fact, with its slick photography and matter-of-fact writing, Urban Fitness seems largely like any other exercise magazine—right down to the homogenous models. While Herman makes the effort to represent women and men equally (unusual for any fitness magazine, or any gay magazine for that matter), Urban Fitness still has the feel of a men's exercise magazine with women's pieces added later. Hopefully, future issues of the bimonthly will be more cohesive with regard to gender and more diverse with regard to race and age.

Herman had no experience in writing or publishing when he dropped his career as an architect last year to develop a gay fitness newspaper for his hometown of Vancouver. The strong feedback he received from sponsors, however, convinced him to expand his plan across the United States.

"When I started talking to advertisers, they thought it was a great idea," says Herman. "They made comments like, 'I've always wanted to go after that niche but never had the vehicle to do it.'"

The advertisements are one element that sets Urban Fitness apart from its competitors. Mazda's two-page ad features two women embracing behind their car, while Coast Mountain Sports includes two men gazing deep into each other's eyes. Other advertis-



ers, from Mercedes to Naya Spring Water, have also chosen gay-specific images designed by Urban Fitness photographers and editors.

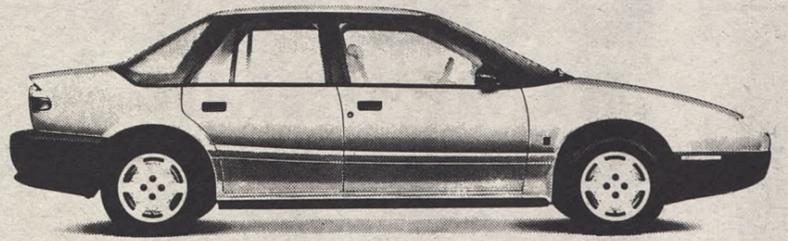
"We try to do more of a gay-friendly ad," Herman says. "We say to the client, 'Look, you're putting an ad in a gay magazine, don't put a man and a woman in it.' So far we've had a great response from the companies. They were quite willing to do it."

While the magazine has increased gay visibility in its articles and advertisements, Urban Fitness ironically uses far less homoerotic imagery than 'mainstream' fitness magazines. While magazines like Exercise for Men Only or Men's Exercise routinely feature nearly naked hunks holding strategically placed dumbbells over their bulging spandex shorts, Herman insists that Urban Fitness does not intend to sell copies based on cover photos alone.

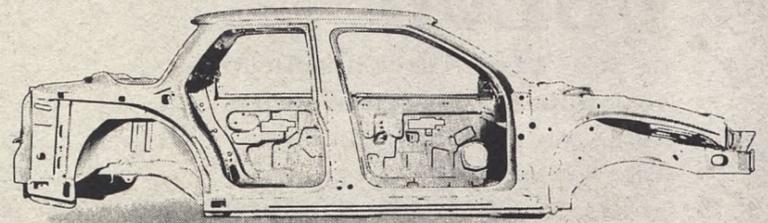
"The difference between our magazine and another fitness magazine that always has a cover with a guy with his shirt off, I would never allow that," he says. "My cover is going to be somebody with clothes on. We've had a lot of people phone already who've gotten hold of the magazine, and they just go, 'Hooray, finally something that's not sexual!'"

"If you're looking for soft porn, you won't find it in Urban Fitness," Herman adds. "You can go buy those damn 'straight' ones."

WAYNE HOFFMAN



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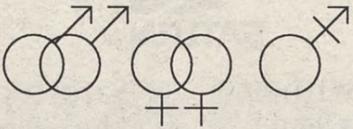
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Living dangerously

Continued from page 3

[rainbow] flag. I kept thinking, 'If he makes the next turn, I'll do something.' Turns out it was my across the street neighbor. I live in a cul de sac and when that car turned into my cul de sac, I almost died. I've never been scared like that before."

Others report real harassment—MacPherson said that she and Hill were "mooned" one evening by people in a car that had passed theirs, which is festooned with a "rescind the resolution" sticker. Mayersky reports that a truck carrying two people started following him on the way home.

"They started tailgating me," he says. "That pissed me off too. I would take on these idiots, but not two on one. I took them home by way of the police station, and they took off."

Lee Brown, who moved to Cobb County from Jacksonville, N.C. just three weeks ago, says learning about the Cobb resolution on his arrival put a damper on his new home.

"I came here not to worry, not to have to run," he says. "I didn't expect to live in a place like this. I moved from Jacksonville to get away from prejudice and discrimination and I moved right back into it. It's almost painful."

Brown added that although he's gotten "the finger" while riding in his gay-flag-adorned car, he loves his new home and isn't willing to leave.

"They're messing with the wrong person," he says. "I ran, but I'm not going to run anymore."

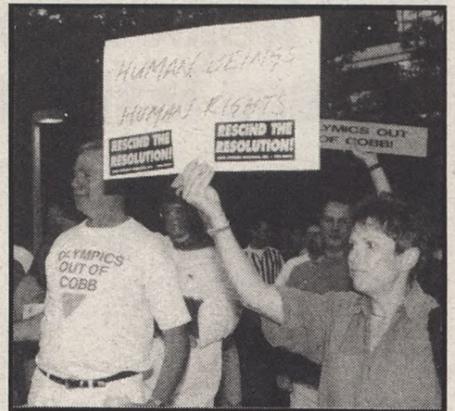
Brown's roommate, who moved to Cobb in early July to get out of the city, isn't willing to let the resolution chase him away either.

"I wanted to get out of Atlanta," said Robert, who asked not to use his last name. "I didn't think about the resolution. I figured I'd deal with that when I got here. The neighbors couldn't care less—the guy across the street is just glad a nice person moved into the neighborhood."

MacPherson said that she, too, has had positive experiences with neighbors—including a visit from the president of her homeowners association, who told her that he respected what she and Hill were doing. And the chilling effect of the resolution has certainly not stopped Patterson.

"I got my new checks, and I had 'lesbian money' printed on them in big, bold letters," she said. "When they say 'Is everything here correct?' I go, 'Absolutely.' It hasn't made me more out, but it's made me more consciously out. I don't go to the grocery store without a gay t-shirt on."

While the resolution has certainly had its effects on Cobb's lesbians and gay men, it's also had an affect on business—particularly Theatre in the Square, the Marietta theater whose production of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart"—a play that merely mentioned homo-



Anne MacPherson (right) says "The only way we're going to make a difference is if we're visible."

sexuality—got Wysong's goat and started the anti-gay ball rolling. In addition to passing the resolution, the commission also stripped all county funding for the arts, including \$40,000 for Theatre in the Square. The \$40,000 was recouped by donations, said Palmer Wells, the theater's managing director, but subscriptions are down and the theater still has a hard time of it.

"It certainly was a challenging time," Wells said. "And it was certainly distracting. We got behind on so many things."

Wells, who founded the theater with partner Michael Horne, the theater's artistic director, said that although the commission cut the funding because of a perceived "controversial" play, he and Horne are not shying away from other potentially challenging material. And they're already taking the heat—a recent article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution mentioned "Keely and Du," a play that explores both sides of the abortion issue, and the theater promptly got a letter claiming that the "good people of Cobb" would stop the production of "that sick abortion play."

"He's making a judgment call without having ever read it, I guess," Wells said. "Same as last summer [when Wysong refused to see or read 'Lips Together']—taking somebody else's word for it."

"It's pretty upsetting," he added. "I still wear my 'rescind the resolution' button just about every day. I want to let my feelings about that be known."

Wells and a few thousand of his friends and supporters will be on the Square again on Sunday, despite fears and concerns. The issue of human rights—particularly for lesbians and gay men who have lived under official condemnation now for over a year—are just too important. Dr. Renelle Massey, who lives in Candler Park, says that she'll be there too.

"I'm more nervous about going to the Cobb rally than any other rally I have been to," she said, "but I'm going. I think that resolve is what I see in other people."

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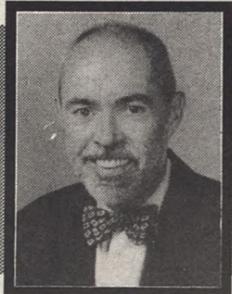
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Walk/run against domestic violence welcomes gay participation

Crisis Resource Center, a local organization that houses men and women who are in crisis, will sponsor a 5K walk/run on Aug. 27 at 8 a.m. Though the CRC is not a gay/lesbian group, the event should include representation by gays, says Bobbie Osley, CRC's executive director.

"Domestic violence is about jealousy and rage," says Osley. "Verbal, mental, physical, and sexual abuse happen in every community."

According to local therapist Dana Couch-Davis, who leads a support group for battered gays and lesbians, domestic violence is a very real part of the community. Some statisticians say incidents of domestic violence in the gay and lesbian community make up as much as 10% of the national figures of violent occurrences in the home, he points out.

Little attention has been given to the issue by gays and lesbians, says Couch-Davis, who has been frustrated many times during his therapy practice when he went to the community for support. "We have so much negative baggage already, we don't want to let the straight world know this is happening," he said, "but it very much does happen."

Couch-Davis has even had trouble locating attorneys willing to give a few hours per week to help a person walk through the legal system to get protection. An attempt by Couch-Davis and another colleague to create an organization to address gay and lesbian domestic violence in a nonprofit setting had to be dropped for lack of support. Another attempt to start a shelter for battered victims also had to be abandoned.

Couch-Davis says insensitivity by the Atlanta police on the streets also may be keep-

ing gays and lesbians from reporting and seeking help. "The attitude is that it's a fair fight if a same sex couple becomes violent, but in all of these relationships there is a dominant partner. It's not usually a fair fight."

A victim of domestic abuse himself, Couch-Davis says the community does not have to look far to see the violence. "You'll see the violence in the parking lots. Someone will get angry and push his partner around. And it's not always physical abuse. It's often emotional and psychological abuse of each other."

The CRC is sponsoring the walk/run to benefit its battered women's shelter, which welcomes lesbians in need. According to Couch-Davis, shelters in the past have not been willing to help lesbians, but that attitude has changed somewhat.

"The bigger problem we are experiencing is that there is nowhere for men to go," says Couch-Davis, adding that most men end up in daily/weekly room rentals. "The victim oftentimes has no friends or support groups. The couple's friends are usually more closely connected to the perpetrator, so the victim is all alone often without a job or money," he says.

As many as 3 percent of the people helped by the CRC are gay or lesbian, says Osley, and the group does not consider someone's sexuality when the person is in need. "Their sexual preference has nothing to do with me or my wanting to help them. We relate to people as human beings," she said.

The 5K Walk/Run Against Domestic Violence will begin a daylong event at Piedmont Park and will be followed by entertainment. For further information call 221-0252.

PAMELA EVANS

P-FLAG to run one-day help line

A one day, national toll-free help line for people who have recently learned or suspect that a family member or friend is gay will take place Thursday, Sept. 1, as the kickoff event for the 13th Annual International Convention of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. in San Francisco.

Staffed by 125 volunteers made up of parents of gays and lesbians and licensed family counselors, the help line will be open to anyone in the United States from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The number to call is (800) 95-PFLAG.

The help line will allow callers to share concerns with others who have already experienced the effects of a family member coming out. Referrals for support groups, recommended reading materials, professional counseling resources, and information on local PFLAG chapters will also be available.

According to Rick Sneed, a volunteer public relations person for PFLAG, the event will actually serve two purposes. First, PFLAG hopes to assist thousands of Americans to deal with a life-changing issue they know little or nothing about when someone close to them comes out.

A second purpose of the help line is to gain national exposure for PFLAG. The phones will be staged in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency at Embarcadero Center in San Francisco, where Sneed hopes the media and the public will watch operators at work.

"I think PFLAG is our most deadly weapon in the fight for our civil rights," Sneed says, adding that attitudes about gays and lesbians will change as more people come out.

Since working with PFLAG, Sneed says he has been amazed at the stories of support he hears from families who have grown closer after they adjusted to learning their child is gay. "We are talking about Mom and Pop middle America. Now they are going on television, organizing rallies, and coordinating hotlines all because their child came out to them."

Organizers of the event do not know how many telephone calls to expect on Sept. 1, but they believe they are prepared for any number and even for the possibility of the radical right attempting to tie up the lines. "We have prepared a statement that says our purpose is to help people who are interested. Operators will be trained to hang up the telephone after reading the statement if they can tell the caller is insincere," says Sneed.

No one from PFLAG Atlanta will be attending the national convention, where over 1,000 are expected. Judy Colbs, president of the local chapter, said she is supportive of the event, but pointed out that assistance is also available daily in Atlanta by calling 875-9440 or 296-0830.

PAMELA EVANS



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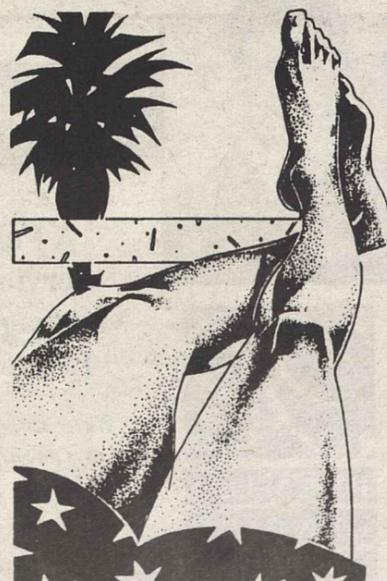
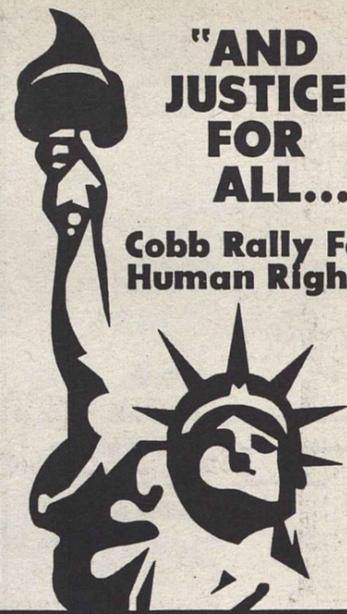
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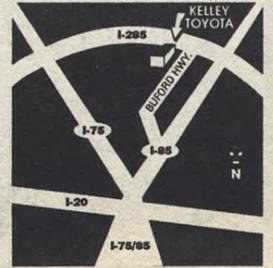
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Macon's Rainbow Center revives after donation drive

Macon—Macon's Rainbow Center, which suffered heavy losses from flooding in late July, has bounced back in the wake of a supply drive held by Southern Voice and the Lambda Center. Goods were sent to the Macon center August 2.

Johnny Fambro, director of the Rainbow Center, said, "We're still returning to normal, but the donations were very helpful."

Fambro said that almost all repairs on clients' homes and the center are complete. The Center's roof still needs work, however.

"We were raising money for that," he said, "but we had to stop and raise money for funerals [after three clients and community members, including entertainer Melissa Star, died in recent weeks]."

The supply drive was aided in part by donations from a local pharmacy. Midtowne Medicine provided the drive's largest single donation, and became an alternate drop-off site for community member's donations.

"We wanted to do something [for flood relief], and this was such a great niche," said Andrea Williams, Midtowne's marketing director. "It was so good to be able to help out another HIV community in our area."

Williams said that many of Midtowne's customers are from outside Atlanta, making the aid to Middle Georgia's only HIV/AIDS service agency doubly important. The pharmacy filled three large garbage cans with cleaning supplies, air mattresses, personal hygiene kits and other needed supplies, and all were delivered to Macon on August 2.



Johnny Fambro (right) and Cheryl Summerville unload donated supplies.

"We were able to get sponsorships from corporations to provide goods," Williams said. "In fact, we got so much that after the truck came and left, we got another shipment. So we sent it down there UPS."

"They [Midtowne Medicine] were one of the reasons the drive was so successful," said Lambda co-chair Lynn Cothren. "They really helped us get the word out."

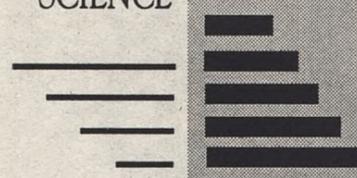
Cothren said Lambda also was happy to help.

"This situation only shows the great need for Lambda to be up and running and functional to not only address this need, but to address the many needs that arise in the community," he said.

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AIDS 101 seminar scheduled

The next AIDS 101 Awareness and Action Seminar, sponsored by AID Atlanta, will be held Saturday, August 27, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Georgia Mental Health Institute, 1256 Briarcliff Rd. AIDS 101 Awareness and Action Seminars provide information and access to services for anyone who wants to learn more about AIDS and HIV or wants to volunteer to help stop the epidemic.

Among the many topics to be covered

are: Basic Medical Overview, Advanced Medical Overview, AIDS in the Heterosexual Community, Sources of Help for People Living With HIV/AIDS, So You've Tested Positive—Now What? and When Someone You Love Has AIDS.

Enrollment in the seminar costs \$15, and lunch is provided. A limited number of scholarships are available. For registration information or for future seminar dates call AID Atlanta at 885-6800, ext. 280.

Seminar in September to address gay and lesbian philanthropy

Supporters of gay and lesbian causes are invited to participate in "Gay and Lesbian Philanthropy: Giving for Social Change," a seminar sponsored by The Southern Outlook Fund. The seminar, to be held on Saturday, September 10, at the 28th floor conference room of the First Union building, 999 Peachtree St. (near 10th) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Panels and workshops will consider the topic "Why Give?" and will discuss setting goals and priorities of giving, AIDS funding, political contributions, fighting the radical right, socially responsible investing, and many more subjects. The \$35 registration fee includes lunch. To register or for more information, call The Fund for Southern Communities at 577-3178

OCCASIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

CJ Clark and Mary Edwards celebrate their 7th anniversary on Aug 28.

Hubert Alexander and Ken Gordon celebrate the 2nd anniversary of their commitment to each other on Aug 29. They are also celebrating the purchase of their first home together. The adventure continues!

BIRTH

Terri and Susie Thatcher had a beautiful baby girl on July 31. The newborn's name is Reilly Nellis Thatcher.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy belated birthdays to Dan Hendricks and to GiGi, now 32, who shared an Aug 8 birthday.

Happy belated birthday to Tucker Becky (thirtysomething?) and to Ron Davidson, 3, who shared an Aug 16 birthday with Madonna—the pop star, not Jesus' mom. They also share their natal day with the Death of Elvis.

Happy 29th birthday to Tim Scott on Aug 18.

Hip heterosexual Alicia Culver turned 32 on Aug 9, celebrating with some travel and plenty of Cat Love.

Happy birthday to queer activist and thesis writer Dale Carrico, who turned 29 on Aug. 24.

Guess who's 40! Happy birthday to Stephen Bragg on Aug 25.

Happy belated 29th birthday to Kevin Quick.



Mary Edwards and CJ Clark celebrate their 7th anniversary Aug 28.

Happy birthday to Mark, who turns 35 on Aug 27, from his loving husband Rob.

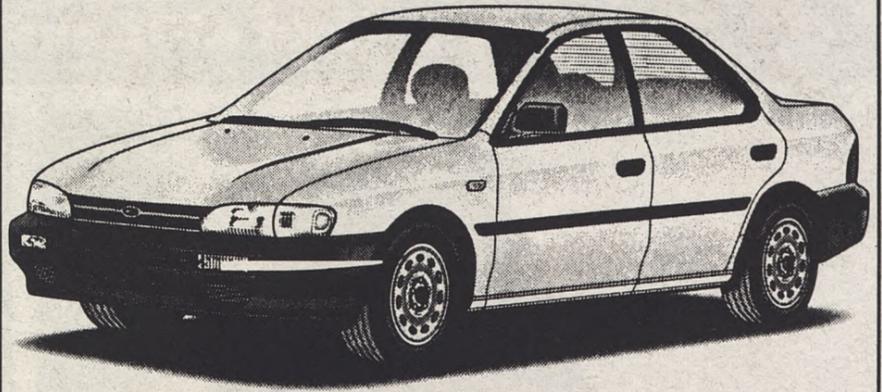
REMISSION

Happy day to Lois, from Margaret. Thanks for your humor, gentleness and courage in fighting cancer and the past.

WEDDING

Richard and Alan Avery exchanged their wedding vows on Aug 2. The ceremony was performed by Diana Jordan, a minister from the Unitarian Universalist Church. Richard has legally changed his name from Richard Mole to Richard Avery. Sharing the name Avery is a sign of Richard's commitment to Alan as they enter fully into union.

When you've got a special occasion, send it to Southern Voice/Occasions, PO Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316, call 404/876-0789, or fax to 404/876-2709. Please include a phone number for verification.



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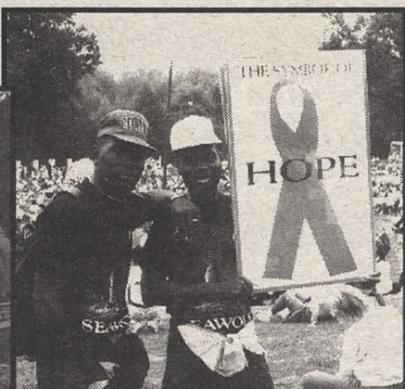


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"ANGELS" IN ATLANTA

As opening night approaches, the Alliance Theatre moves into high gear on "Angels in America"

by MICHAEL KAPE

"Angels in America," winner of multiple Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, has been hailed by critics as one of the most important American dramas of our times—a towering achievement, a significant theatrical event. And yes, that's all true. It is certainly one of the most ambitious projects that Atlanta's Alliance Theatre has ever launched.

The all-new, home-grown production goes into previews August 31 and opens September 7. A special preview benefiting AIDS Survival Project, Jerusalem House, Project Open Hand will be held August 28.

But despite all the press attention and hype, one fact remains: Tony Kushner's play, subtitled "A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," is not some daunting, esoteric piece we can only admire from a distance. It is a fun, accessible, often campy romp through a series of outlandish, highly entertaining, and screamingly funny situations as well as a play about AIDS. It is a gay man writing about situations gays and lesbians can easily relate to, yet its themes are universal—love, life, relationships, spirituality, abandonment, hope. To call it a gay play would be to deny what makes it so entertaining to so wide an audience as "Angels in America" has already enjoyed.

One thing is for sure—it is far different and more intense than any project the Alliance has done before. Alliance Artistic Director Kenny Leon, who is directing this project, says, "Late at night, when I'm at home and I'm not thinking about the play—those five minutes when I'm not thinking about the play—you think, 'God, you can't mess this play up. Tony [Kushner] is coming to town, and he's had only success with this play. The audience is probably expecting it to be something important.' But we do expect it to do well."

There is no linear plot line to "Angels in America." As a "fantasia," it cuts back and forth through several different stories and dozens of people, though it mostly concentrates on eight characters: Prior Walter (T. Scott Cunningham), a spiritually uplifting man learning to live through the early stages of AIDS; his lover, Louis Ironson (Andrew Polk), who flies in fear at the first sight of AIDS; Joe Pitt (Hank Skatton), an upright young Mormon from Salt Lake City who has strong doubts about his sexuality; his wife, Harper Pitt (Rhoda Griffis), who is often afraid to deal with reality and must rely on dreams and drugs to relieve her problems; Joe's mother, Hanna Pitt (Brenda Bynum), who comes to New York to retrieve her son from the path he's chosen to take; Belize (Tyrone Mitchell Henderson), a black gay male nurse who cares for AIDS patients; the titular Angel (Jessica Phelps), who comes to Prior to announce his greatest mission in life; and one real-life person, Roy Cohn (Terry Beaver), the notoriously homophobic and closeted gay lawyer/power broker who died of AIDS.

"You really want to hear all eight people in the play," says Leon. "I guess I can identify with everybody—except some-

times where Roy [Cohn] is concerned... There's a lot of Roy Cohn in our present political system. He isn't just a little microscopic entity."

Cohn represents the many people, especially earlier in the epidemic, who were in great denial about AIDS. At one point in the play, Cohn tells his doctor, "I don't have AIDS, I have liver cancer."

Leon adds, "I do see the [story of the] disease going through Prior. I mean yes, there is a spiritual element to the character, but we see him go to the doctor. We see him take his clothes off and be humiliated. This play is about people who want to live. Roy Cohn wants to live. Prior wants to live. I just think Roy Cohn is an asshole. There's no other way to put that."

"I love the scene between Belize and Louis in the cafe," Leon adds. "They talk about politics and racism. They're afraid of AIDS. That's the play in a nutshell right there."

In Leon's words, "Angels in America" is "a very simple, complex play. The key for us is to get back to the simplicity—and let the complexity happen. Let the audience make it complex. But we have to keep it simple."

To that end, Leon is approaching the play very differently than the New York production did. "Whatever we don't need, we're not going to have," he says. "If it's a prop we don't need, we're not going to have it. If there's a room and all we need is a bed, we'll figure out how to do it with just a bed. And we've been able to go with this because I've told the actors, 'It's all you and what you're saying.' It's a real pared down production. I hope people are ready to come to this play and listen."

It is just a coincidence, but for three years in a row Alliance will be starting its season with a "gay-themed" play. Last year it was the critically acclaimed (and very popular) "Falsettos." This year it is "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches." Next year, Alliance will begin its season with the second half, "Angels in America: Perestroika." The two parts of "Angels in America" will then run in repertory.



Jessica Phelps being fitted for her role as the Angel

DAVID ZEIGER



Playwright Tony Kushner

"We got a little bit of negative reaction to 'Angels' when we first announced it," Leon notes. "Some people didn't know what it was. Then they would hear what it is and they'd go, 'Oh boy, no!' or I'd get letters like, 'Why are you doing another play about homosexuality?' whatever that means. We got a few of those. But for the most part, the reaction was, 'God, it's about time! Atlanta's growing up.'"

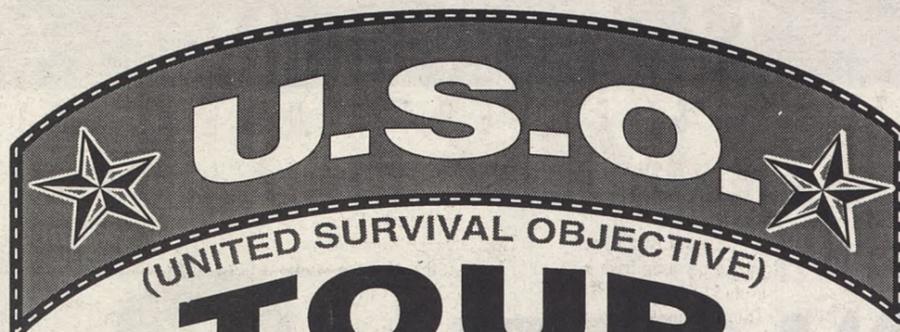
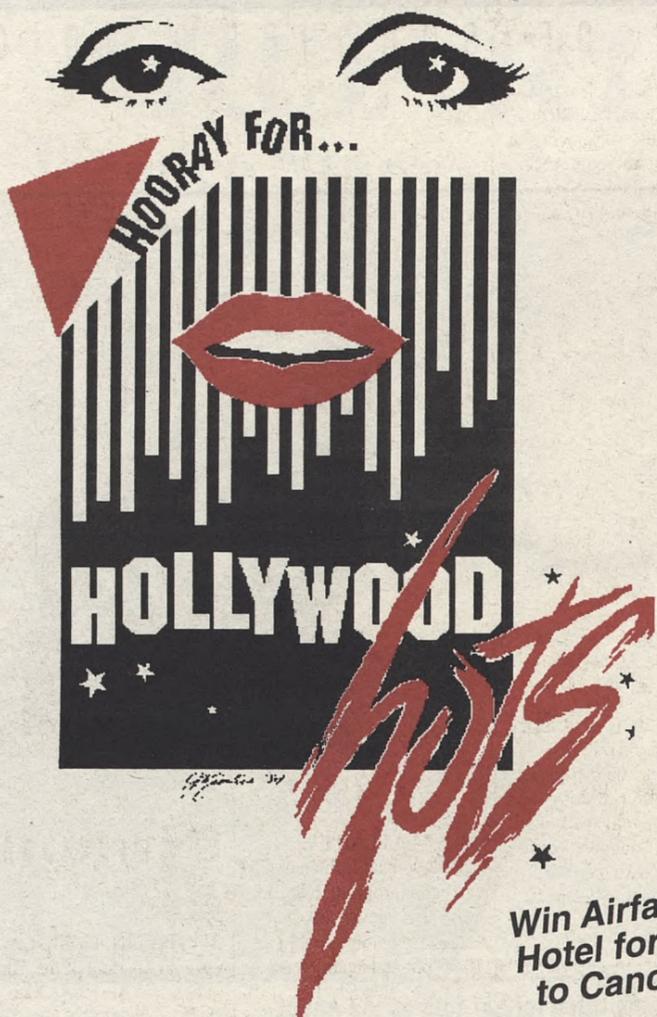
In the four years that Kenny Leon has been Artistic Director, the company has changed from doing nice, safe plays to doing challenging and diverse ones. It has cost the theatre some old-time subscribers, but it has brought new ones in. "We've seen that if you stick with what you believe and do quality work," says Leon, "you educate people. They'll be there. What's that line from 'Field of Dreams'?—'If you build it, they will come.' We have to build an understanding in this community of what non-profit theatre is all about. Our role is not to book road shows. We certainly can't try to be the political arm of a city. You have to do what you think is important as an artist. You do that, and other people will like and enjoy it."

ANGELS IN AMERICA— The Panel Discussion

A free panel discussion focusing on aspects of spirituality, homosexuality, AIDS and politics as seen in Tony Kushner's "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" will be held by the Alliance Theatre on August 29 to give the Atlanta community some insight into company's production of the play.

Titled "Never Before on the Alliance Stage—Why Now?", the panel discussion will be moderated by WSB political reporter Bill Nigut. The panel consists of Emory Theatre Professor Michael Evenden, Alliance Artistic Director Kenny Leon, Rev. Harry Pritchett, rector at All Saints Episcopal Church, and SAME/OutProud Theatre Artistic Director Rebecca Ransom. The panel discussion, open to the public, will be held at 7:30 pm in the Woodruff Arts Center Circle Room.

According to an Alliance spokesperson, this is just one of four panel discussions the company will be having this year, thanks to a special grant which the theatre received. "We're trying to make the theatre more accessible to the community. But 'Angels' is a special event, and the play is challenging material. We want to do this for all of our mainstage shows—to open them up to the public so people can better understand what it is we're doing here."



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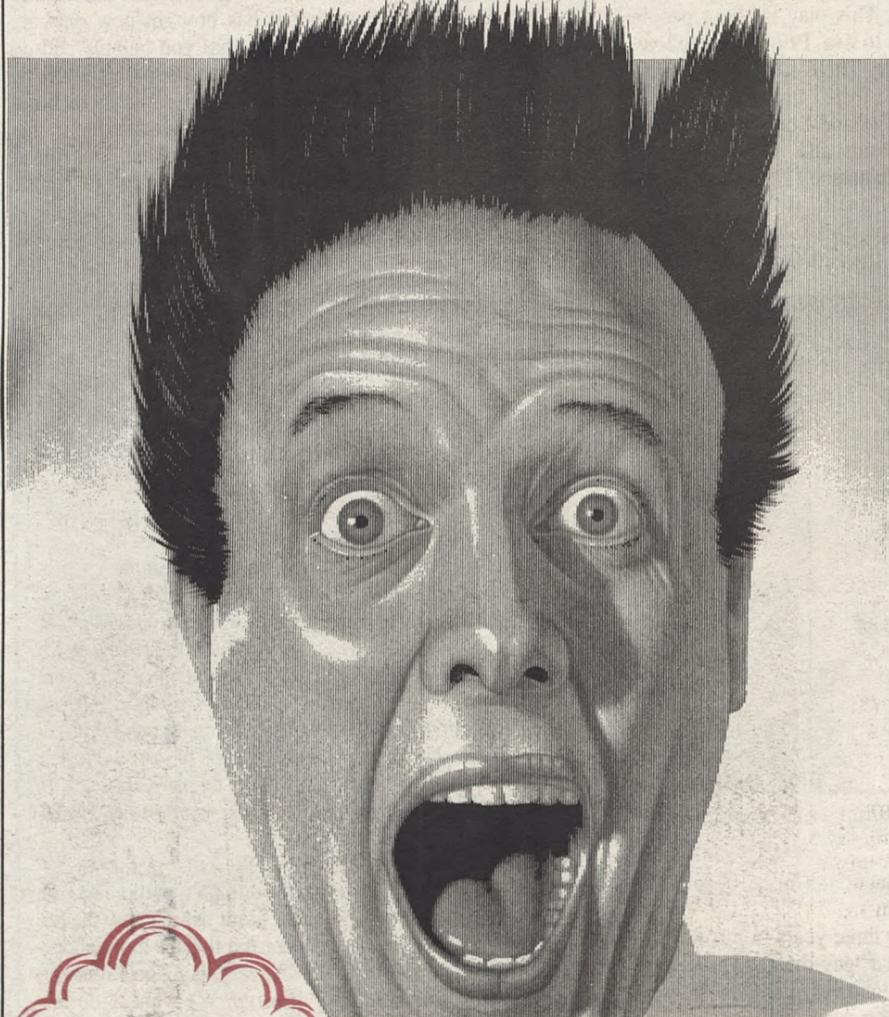
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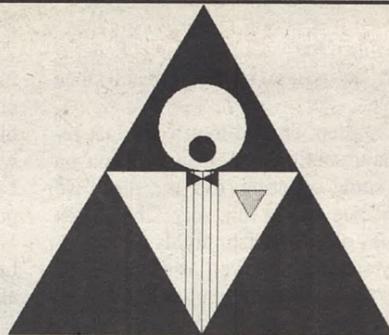
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C A L E N D A R
25 THURSDAY

ZERO PATIENCE. Last day. John Greyson's glossy, muckraking AIDS musical is a singing, dancing indictment of the societal hostility, corporate greed and 4th estate sensationalism that have actively blocked a solution to AIDS. GSU's Cinéfest. 12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:45, 9:45. \$2-\$4. 651-2463.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME. Thru Sept 18. Theatre Gael opens its season with Brian Friel's tale of a young Irish man bound for America. \$10 Thur & Sun, \$12 Fri & Sat. 8 pm Thur-Sat, 5 pm Sun. Dana Fine Arts Bldg at Agnes Scott. 876-9762.

SUSAN POWER. Author reads from her first novel, "The Grass Dancer," at Charis, 1189 Euclid. 7:30pm. 524-0304.

RUMORS. Tonight, Fri & Sun. The Alliance Theatre School Summer Rep presents the Neil Simon farce at the Alliance Studio. 8pm. \$3. 898-1131.

GIRLS IN PRISON. Showtime's camp remake of the 1956 film with definite lesbian imagery. Starring Ione Skye as a "radical" lesbian. 8 pm.

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

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

KIKA. Thru Sept 1. Pedro Almodóvar's latest film plays at the Capri in Montgomery, AL. (205) 262-4858.

27 SATURDAY

WALK/RUN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. The Crisis Resource Center of Atlanta sponsors this 5K event around Piedmont Park. 221-0252.

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES. Acid jazz forerunners take the stage at Emory.

LAURA CONNELLY. Local performer previews her upcoming CD at Koolhipfunkystuff's Summer's End Art Show from 7-10 pm. 1030 Monroe. 607-1095.

DOCTUER PETIOT. Michel Serrault stars in the true story of an enigmatic French doctor during the Nazi occupation of Paris. Metropolitan Film Society sponsors screening at AMC Phipps Plaza. \$6. 729-8487.

OUTLOOK. Radical talk for revolutionary intellectuals—feminist, Afro-centered and pro-gay radio on AM, with Alicia Banks. New time: 4pm-8pm, WIGO, 1340AM.

28 SUNDAY

ANGELS IN AMERICA—MILLENNIUM APPROACHES. A benefit performance for AIDS Survival Project, Jerusalem House and Project Open Hand, sponsored by Southern Voice. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play opens at the Alliance Aug 31. \$25-\$100. 892-1414.

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. Cobb County's rally for human rights, on the Square. Cool Joe, Angela Motter and more, along with speakers Ben Jones, Shannon Byrne and others. Rescind the resolution! 4pm. 422-6649.

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

B.B. KING. The King of Blues performs with Little Feat and Dr. John at Lakewood, part of the Blues Music Festival '94. \$23.50 & \$16. 249-6400.

29 MONDAY

FORBIDDEN LOVE: THE UNASHAMED STORIES OF LESBIAN LIVES. HBO airs the Canadian documentary.

OPERA 101, THE SHORT COURSE. Friends of the Atlanta Opera teach you how to understand it all, focusing on AO's upcoming performance of Bellini's Norma. 7-9pm at the Sheraton Colony Square. \$10. 892-2414.



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

DYKE TV. Activist television from a dyke perspective. 9:30 pm, People TV. Cable Channel 12. Also airs Tues, 5:30 pm.

STILL AIN'T SATISFIED. Music and interviews from a lesbian perspective. Cool music for any queer or interested other. 7-9 pm, WRFG, 89.3 FM.

30 TUESDAY

LFT'S DANCE. Johnny's Hideaway (3771 Roswell Rd) hosts a swing party to celebrate the 59th anniversary of the opening of L.A.'s Palomar Ballroom with Benny Goodman's Let's Dance Band. Don Kennedy plays the tunes. 233-8026.

TUESDAY NIGHT FLOAT. Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell. 992-2055.

31 WEDNESDAY

ANGELS IN AMERICA. Official opening of the Tony winning play at the Alliance Theatre. 892-1414.

SUNSET BOULEVARD. The 1950 movie classic starring Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond is screened at the Fox. Sing-alongs and vintage cartoons begin at 7:15 pm, movie at 8 pm. \$5.50. 881-2100.

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

PICTURED:

ABOVE: "An Affair to Dismember" is the menu selection at Agatha's A Taste of Mystery.

LEFT: Acid jazz comes to Emory University on Aug 27 in the form of The Brand New Heavies. Photo by Michael Halsband

BELOW: The Center for Puppetry Arts presents "Kiyohime Mandala" by Dondoro Puppet Theatre of Japan thru Aug 27. Photo by Takaharu Karaki



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

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

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

GO FISH. The lesbian film is now at Tower Place in Buckhead.

ART IN MOTION. Thru Thur. An exhibit honoring athletic excellence at the Richards & Westbrook Gallery in the GA Tech Theatre for the Arts.

KIYOHIME MANDALA. Thru Sat. Dondoro Puppet Theatre of Japan presents the age-old Japanese legend of destiny between a man and a woman at the Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 8 pm. \$11 Thur, \$14 Fri & Sat. Half-price for seniors and students with valid ID. 873-3391.

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

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES. Thru Sun. The Donald probably won't be there, but Marla Maples Trump stars in this Broadway hit, brought to the Fox Theatre by Theatre of the Stars. Tues-Sun 8 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. \$11.50-\$35.50. 249-6400.

EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE. Thru Sun. The High Museum marks the

30th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act with this tribute to Atlanta's role in the 60s struggle. Multiple artists, multiple arts. 892-HIGH.

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

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

GET YOUR FEET OFF THAT TABLE. Thru Sept 2. Furniture by artists on display at the Marcia Wood Gallery, 1198 N. Highland. 885-1808.

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

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PUPPETRY FESTIVAL. Thru Sept. 3. The Center for Puppetry Arts hosts the summer long festival with performances for adults and children. Thru Sept 3, "African Folktales: More Puppet Suitcase Magic" for children (11 am & 1 pm Mon-Sat, 3 pm Wed). Aug 24-27, Kiyohime Mandala for adults. 8 pm, no one under 18 admitted. 1404 Spring St. 873-3391.

PSYCHOLOGY. Thru Sept. 6. Fernbank Museum of Natural History's exhibit about who we are, what we

think and why. 767 Clifton. 370-0960.

19TH & 20TH CENTURY EUROPEAN DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE. Thru Sept 11. A wide range of great European artists are presented in works from the Schlossberg Collection at the High Museum. 892-HIGH.

EARTH TOONS. Thru Sept 16. Acrylic paintings by Dan Henderson on display at the American College Gallery of Art & Design, 3330 Peachtree.

OF MICE AND MEN. Thru Sept 24. Theatre in the Square's production of the powerful Steinbeck story. 422-8369.

MY POINT OF VIEW. Thru Oct. 1. Photographs by African American photojournalist Moneta Sleet, Jr. at the High Museum of Art, Folk Art and Photography in the GA Pacific Center. 898-9286.

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

PUPPETRY OF AFRICAN DESCENT. Thru Dec 17. A special exhibit showcasing the works of African-American puppeteers. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring. 873-3089.

RHYTHMFEST. Sept 1-5. The fifth annual fest hits the Blue Ridge Mountains

Labor Day weekend. Write 957 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 or call 404 873-1551.

HARRY CONNICK, JR. Sept. 10, 8 pm. The crooner himself at Lakewood. 249-6400.

DIDO AND AENEAS. Sept 17 & 18. A benefit of the Purcell Opera for Montgomery (AL) AIDS Outreach. 8 pm Sat & 4 pm Sun. \$15. Montgomery Academy. 269-1432.

FACES OF OUR TRIBE. Sept 22-25. The Celebrating Gay Spirit Visions Conference on The Mountain. \$200 until Aug 31, \$230 after. Early arrivals, \$255 by Aug 31, \$285 after. Scholarships available—292-8567.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Oct 1-Nov. 5. Tickets are now on sale at the Fox box office and TicketMaster outlets for the Andrew Lloyd Webber play, brought to Atlanta by the Atlanta Broadway Series. Tues-Sun 8 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm, special performances Oct 31 8 pm and Nov 3 2pm. \$22.50-\$47.50. 249-6400.

GAY ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE. A half-day workshop with author Brian McNaught, sponsored by AT&T's LEAGUE. Atlanta Church of Religious Science, 52 Executive Park So. \$30 before Sept. 10, \$40 after, \$45 at door. 516-1917.

BONNIE RAITT. Oct. 22, 8 pm. Bruce Hornsby opens for the R&B great at Lakewood. \$17 & \$26. 249-6400.



The book of love

New volume offers the essential guide to gay marriages

Commitment ceremony. Wedding. Domestic partnership. Union.

Whatever you call it—whether you are in a room filled with 200 of your closest friends or alone with the mate you have chosen and maybe just your best “person”—if you and your partner are taking steps to publicly formalize your commitment to one another, even if that commitment is not legal, then you are entering into a marriage, according to Tess Ayers and Paul Brown, authors of the new book “The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings.”

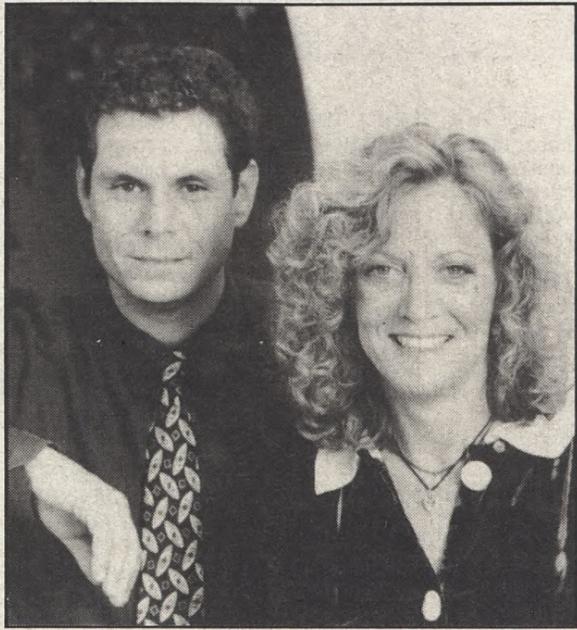
Ayers and Brown are not about to apologize for using the terms wedding and marriage in their “how to” book, which will be on bookstore shelves Aug. 26. Instead, they argue that gays and lesbians have been celebrating unions for centuries, not because they want to mimic the heterosexual world but because they have taken the best of what marriages have to offer and discarded the rest.

“A wedding is about love,” says Ayers, although political issues surrounding marriage are also addressed in the book. The authors argue in the first chapter that gays and lesbians should fight for equality in every area, including marriage laws, in order to rise above the second class status to which society has assigned them.

They are also quick to point out they did not write the book to wax philosophical about politics and marriage. The idea for “The Essential Guide” happened because nothing resembling it could be found when Ayers married her lover of ten years.

“We tried straight wedding planners...some of these rules just don’t apply, and others seem antiquated. We thought we could do better,” Ayers explains.

After her wedding, Ayers and Brown, a close male friend, sold the concept of a gay wedding manual fairly easily to Harper San Francisco and set out to see if they could get



Paul Brown and Tess Ayers, authors of “The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings”

couples to respond to ads placed in various gay and lesbian publications throughout the United States.

“We were stunned when so many people started calling. It was a snowball effect,” says Brown.

An Atlanta couple who responded to the authors’ ad in Southern Voice found themselves being interviewed by Ayers and Brown, then included in the book. When asked why they decided to share their wedding story, Bob Shores, 34, and Michael Franco, 29, say it was because they felt so good about what they had done.

“We were very excited,” says Franco, who is a physical therapist in Atlanta. “We were happy about sharing our joy with other people.”

The couple say they married because they wanted their relationship to be recognized by family and friends as a valid lifetime commitment. They also wanted an anniversary date that commemorated something more than the first time they

were intimate.

Their formal wedding took place on June 19, 1993, and was complete with many of the traditional accoutrements most of us think of when we think wedding: evening wear, flowers, cake, and limousines. They also were among the first same-sex couples to be included in the Atlanta Journal Constitution’s wedding section.

In “The Essential Guide,” examples of weddings range from the kind Shores and Franco had to other less traditional ceremonies such as a Texas two-step party and another based entirely on magic. More important, the book is filled with tips and information on everything from vows to locations, music to food, wedding and engagement rings to what to call the person you’re marrying.

Franco and Shores offer two pieces of advice for gays and lesbians who have decided to wed. One, start planning at least a year in advance in order to have everything done and ready on time. Two, stay aware of your budget throughout the planning stages. Costs can quickly swell to more than expected.

Another topic in the book most couples may want to read is how to tell your family and what reactions to anticipate. The bad news, write the authors, is your parents probably won’t be as involved in your wedding as they were in the marriages of your straight siblings; the good news: “You don’t have to deal with a mother who is trying to relive her own wedding.” In other words, you can do it your own way.

Telling family and friends can be awkward at best and downright scary even if they have been aware of your homosexuality for years. “It was like coming out to my parents all over again when I told them,” says Franco, whose family attended.

Shores’ family, on the other hand, although aware of his being gay, chose not to be at the couple’s ceremony. “It was something new to them,” he says. “They needed to have time with it.”

Although the book is just coming out, Ayers and Brown are pleased with the initial reaction they are getting. Barney’s department store in New York City has agreed to display “The Essential Guide” in its bridal department this fall. The authors also expect several bookstores to place the book in wedding sections, as well as on gay and lesbian shelves.

“Gay marriage is on the rise,” says Brown. “The time for a guide book is definitely here.”

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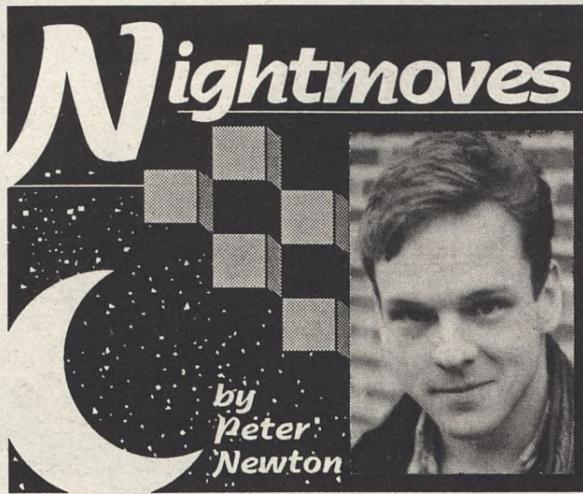
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A book called "Politically Correct Bedtime Stories" by James Finn Garner has lately been the fifth-best selling book in the country. Billed as "classic tales respun to avoid offending current sensibilities," by The New York Times Book Review, "Politically Correct Bedtime Stories" is really a mockery of the whole notion that anything could be written today without offending someone, no matter how much care was taken to insert the appropriate jargon. Take Little Red Riding Hood, for example: "There was once a young person named Red Riding Hood who lived with her mother on the edge of a large wood. One day her mother asked her take a basket of fresh fruit and mineral water to her grandmother's house—not because this was womyn's work, mind you, but because the deed was generous and helped engender a feeling of community." And so on. I got a kick out of the collection, not because I'm into cheap thrills before going to sleep, mind you, but because reading innovative writing that entertains and pokes fun at a segment of society that takes itself far too seriously does wonders for my dream state. And besides, it's certainly better than those sappy Robert James Waller books. It just all goes to show: these times, they are a changin'.

And wasn't Dylan in Woodstock: The Sequel? Friends of mine who attended the mudfest mentioned Violent Femmes' "Blister In the Sun" as a highlight. Sure, Melissa Etheridge's tribute to Janis Joplin was great; Joe Cocker's tribute to Joe Cocker, outstanding. But just the idea that there are still a quarter million people in this country crazy enough to trek up to New York just to say: "Yeah, man. I was at Woodstock." I predict Woodstock III in the year 2525, as the tune goes.

A few festivals of our own are coming up this week in Atlanta. **Blues Music Festival '94**, featuring B.B. King, Little Feat, Dr. John and a tribute to Muddy Waters will get under way Sunday, August 28, at 6 p.m. at Lakewood Amphitheatre. I've praised "Blues Boy" King in the past. He and his magic guitar, Lucille, can put on a show. Blues for the end of summer. Alas.

But some are celebrating the end of summer if for no other reason than to invite us to spend an evening among friends at koolhipfunkystuff. The gallery presents its **Summer's End Art Show**, featuring new artwork by Kim Karelson, Faye Behar Mitchell, Margaret Holloway, Chris Diamanti and Steve McGriff and other new artists. Local performer Laura Connely will be there to sing selections from her upcoming CD.



Connely's all original music is acoustic and folk, I've never heard her sing a note but whatever koolhipfunkystuff is doing, I'm for it. You can trust them to deliver a good time on Saturday, August 27, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 1030 Monroe Dr. "Summer's End" will close on September 10 to make room for an auction of antiques, fine art and cartoons—now that's diversity.

The Playboy Jazz Festival goes on Sunday, August 28, also. Except this is at Chastain Park Amphitheatre, the rich cousin of Lakewood. Performers will include Al Jarreau, David Sanborn and Marcus Miller among others. Jazz: It's a wholly American invention and one of life's simpler pleasures. How's that for a commercial.

Have you ever wanted to be pictured in a calendar? You know, one of those slick shrink-wrapped jobs where you have to buy the thing if you want to see more than a wallet-sized version of the man or woman of your dreams. According to Sheri Andrews Read of Velvet, opportunity will soon be knocking. "We're putting together a 1995 calendar called The Men of Velvet. And we need someone for the cover." Andrews went on to say that, indeed, the months are all taken and that's why the event is "**The First Annual Men of Velvet 1995 Calendar Cover Model Contest.**" It's possible for someone not in the calendar to be featured on the cover. But with competition such as Mr. Hotlanta, Dean Steib

(May) and Mr. Orlando, Mark Matthews (March), you'll need more than luck. Even if you're not interested in getting semi-nude for the shot at fame and fortune—cash and prizes total \$500—it ought to be interesting to see what the rest of 1995 looks like. Kind of like 3-D fortune telling. Peg from Etc. will host the event Monday, August 29 at midnight.

Allow me to rant about a movie I saw recently, and then I can recommend a good old-time classic that makes for a much better option. Now, I've been known to take my feature-length animated films too seriously, but Disney's "The Lion King"—a flick that could outgross the Batman movies when it's all over—scared the hell out of me. C'mon, an evil brother who ascends to power through murder, who is then seen above thousands of computer-generated hyenas, goose-stepping past their heads turned in allegiance. I recognize the importance of never forgetting the horrors of the Third Reich and all, but man, these are kids watching this stuff—young, impressionable and, we hope, innocent kids. I much prefer the dancing



Singer Laura Connely will give a send-off to summer at koolhip-funkystuff.

forks and flatware in "Beauty and the Beast," and the music was better too. Elton John should stick to writing for the big kids. So, if you happen to be heading out the door to a movie and are on the fence as to what you want to see, skip Disney.

"**Sunset Boulevard**" plays for one night only on Wednesday, August 31, at 8 p.m. at the Fox Theatre. This is the

original 1950 film version, not the Andrew Lloyd Webber stage musical. Box office and doors open at 6:45 p.m. as usual. Old-fashioned sing-along to the mighty Mohler organ begins at 7:20 p.m. as usual. And, best of all, short, violent and very un-PC vintage cartoons precede each feature.

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Angels in America

The priestess and the peeve

Atlanta Opera brings "Norma," a tale of love, vengeance and betrayal

In opera lore there's an old story that a famous soprano once went mad trying to master the title role in Bellini's "Norma." Since the part is considered one of the two or three most technically and artistically demanding roles in the repertoire (the others most likely being Berg's "Lulu" and Isolde in Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde"), a successful appearance in "Norma" can create a mega-soprano—and an unsuccessful one can forever mar an otherwise promising career.

In the upcoming Atlanta Opera production of this soprano equivalent of the Ironman triathlon, Norma will be sung by Martile Rowland, who certainly is no stranger to pressure on the stage. Rowland made her Met debut in "I Puritani" in 1991, singing the part of Elvira, which she filled after the soprano who was already subbing for another ailing soprano fell ill herself after the first act. Rowland was hurriedly fitted for her costume in minutes and had only a short time in which to warm up before she was rushed onstage.

Obviously, the lady is not susceptible to cracking under pressure. It is doubtless the Atlanta Opera has given her much more time in which to prepare for the difficulties she faces with "Norma." Rowland's resume also includes two credits in another demanding title role, "Lucia di Lammermoor," which she performed at the Met last season and which she also performed here in Atlanta in the memorable 1991 Atlanta Opera production.

Vincenzo Bellini's "Norma" was successful in the 19th and early 20th centuries but languished in obscurity for years before being resurrected by the great Maria Callas, who triumphed in the role. Later, Joan Sutherland (who, coincidentally, once appeared with Callas in a production of the opera at Covent Garden in the role of Clotilde) took on the role and successfully made it her own. Few others have been successes

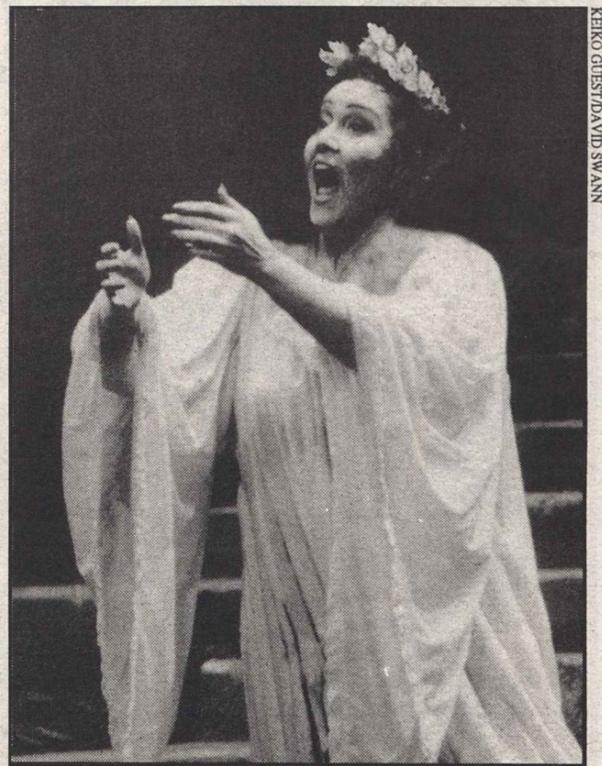
in the role—mostly in the early years of this century.

"Norma" is the cornerstone of *bel canto* opera. Literally translated as "beautiful singing," the term is actually more meaningful than that. Beauty, flexibility, precise technique and a certain daredevil elegance are all a part of the *bel canto* style. Certain operas written at the beginning of the Romantic period are also called *bel canto* operas. Rossini, Donizetti, and Pacini all composed works in the style.

The plot of "Norma" involves passion, betrayal and political intrigue and is set in ancient Gaul at the time of the Roman occupation. Norma, a high priestess of the Druids, is jilted by her lover, Pollione, a Roman official, in favor of a younger Druid princess, Adalgisa. Though their people are enemies, Norma has borne Pollione two children during their liaison and she vows to kill them in revenge for Pollione's betrayals. Infanticide, however, is not enough for this scorned woman—her revenge also includes inciting the Gauls to rebel against their Roman oppressors. In the end, Norma is not the witch she appears to be; she cannot bring herself to kill her children, and when Pollione is captured by the Gauls, she proves her love for him by offering her life in exchange for his, mounting a funeral pyre while her father looks on in horror.

Appearing as Pollione, the Roman proconsul with the roving eye, will be tenor Robert Grayson, who makes his debut in Atlanta. Grayson has appeared with the New York City Opera in more than 100 performances and has sung Stewa in "Jenufa" with the Vancouver Opera. Mezzo-soprano Shirley Close also makes her Atlanta debut in the role of Adalgisa. Close has sung the role of Waltraute in a concert version of "Gotterdammerung" at Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany this season and previously appeared in the same role at the Bayreuth Festival.

Bass-baritone Hao Jiang Tian, who just finished with the Atlanta Opera production of "The Pearl Fishers" in the role of Nourabad, will sing Oroveso (Norma's father and the Druid High Priest). Tian made his European debut this season as Silva in Verdi's "Ernani" with Opera de Nice, and appears in three Metropolitan Opera productions: "La Boheme," "I



KERIO GUEST/DAVID SWANN

Soprano Martile Rowland as Norma

Lombardi" and "Aida." Tian debuted at the Met singing Billy Jackrabbit in a production of "La fanciulla del West" which was broadcast on PBS's Great Performances.

The very adept Whitfield Lloyd makes a welcome return to Atlanta to direct "Norma" in her ninth collaboration with the Atlanta Opera. Last season Lloyd directed "La Boheme," and her previous productions include "Albert Herring," "La Traviata" and "Rigoletto."

"Norma" opens at Symphony Hall of Woodruff Arts Center on September 1. Tickets are available at the Arts Center Box Office or by calling 892-2414.

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Alyson Publications and Ann Heron give voice to gay teens

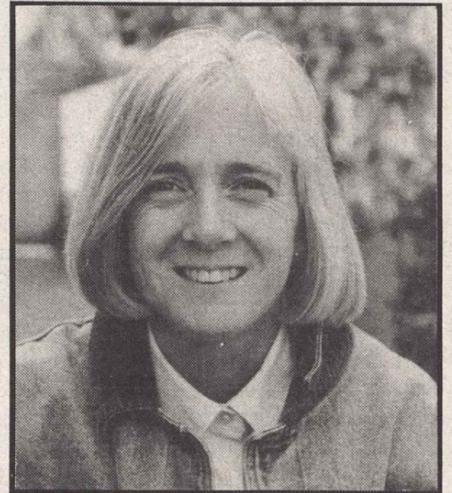
In 1983, Alyson Publications and editor Ann Heron compiled "One Teenager in Ten," a series of writings by gay and lesbian youth. Now, over a decade later, the publisher and Heron (also the author of "How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?") have updated and redone the book as "Two Teenagers in Twenty."

Heron found some interesting differences between the first group of teens and today's. "The most striking thing was that more kids talked about having considered or attempted suicide," Heron notes. "Also, AIDS has caused increased media attention, more 'sympathetic' portrayals. The military issue was a popular topic."

The author found that fears of rejection remain high for gay and lesbian youth. "Rejection overall is the biggest fear," she says. "Religion is still a very strong factor. There is a great fear of what being gay means about them, that there is something wrong with them."

Another project helping to give voice to young gays and lesbians has been the Alyson Pen Pal Program, which allows kids to write to each other. In part, the project was spawned by the success of "One Teenager in Ten."

"The idea was that if you're too afraid to come out to a person in your everyday life or just need someone your own age to talk to, there would be someone," Heron explains. "Sasha [Alyson] has always been committed to helping kids through the period of isolation. Many adolescents still live at home and can't drive or get to cities. Many live under



the roof of someone who feels free to check through their mail or their rooms at any time. They don't have privacy. He even tells them how to set up a P.O. box in case they can't trust getting mail at home."

Heron and her partner, Meredith, involved their two children in the creation of "How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?" "Our kids, who were 10 and 11 at the time, edited it with us," Heron recalls. "I remember sitting down and having them read it out loud. They gave us really great feedback."

For more information on the Alyson Pen Pal Program, gays and lesbians 21 years of age or younger may write to Letter Exchange, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.

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Barbara does Martina

In a wide-ranging "20/20" interview slated to air Friday, Aug. 26, tennis great Martina Navratilova talks to Barbara Walters about her game, her new novel, having children, her lesbianism, and her future. Following are excerpts from the transcript of the interview.

Walters: Do you think that the public's response to your homosexuality has changed over the years?

Navratilova: Absolutely. It's not the defining theme of what I am as a human being, but they look at the other qualities instead and don't see homosexuality as a detriment, which it shouldn't be. I mean, I still get the occasional jeer or boo...

Walters: Really?

Navratilova: ...when I'm introduced. But I think those people are now so embarrassed to show that. And I know I've changed a lot of people's minds, so that's very reassuring.

Walters: You did not get the kind of corporate endorsements that some other athletes got.

Navratilova: What—what did I get? [laugh]

Walters: Because you were gay?

Navratilova: Well, I would think that would be the only reason. I know Billie Jean King told me herself they were trying to get me some deals during team tennis and that when they went into a room and they would talk about other players or other possibilities, everybody was very excited. And then they would bring up my name and the room would go silent.

Walters: Still.



Navratilova: Still—this year. They just go silent. The corporate world is so afraid of taking a chance and having the one letter out of a thousand that will say "I'm going to boycott your products because you're promoting a lesbian." This is 1994, get with it.

Walters: Will you work more actively in gay rights now that you're going to have a little more time?

Navratilova: That's definitely one of the things that I will be involved in. Until I am free to join the army if I want to, until I'm free to adopt a child if I want to, until I'm free to teach kids, even though I'm gay, then we don't have equality. So until then I will keep working.



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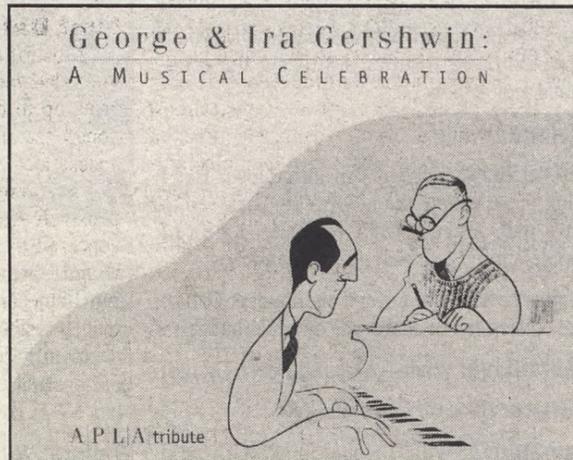
The strangest thing about "George and Ira Gershwin: A Musical Celebration" (MCA) is how fresh and original, yet familiar most of the songs are. The most recent tunes on the two-CD set first appeared in 1938, the oldest in 1924, making both freshness and familiarity seem unlikely. Yet this recording of a 1993 benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles, taped at the Embassy Theater, truly drives home the fact that the Gershwins are a permanent part of the American musical landscape. Geniuses of their time, they were also a hell of a lot of fun.

Following a rousing overture under the direction of conductor Ron Abel, a somewhat odd assortment of Broadway and Hollywood personalities run through 26 Gershwin classics. "Greatest American Hero" William Katt surprises with a mellifluous "Delicious" from the film "Delicious," but former Polaroid pitchwoman Mariette Hartley sounds like, well, Mariette Hartley as she warbles out "Do What You Do" from "Show Girl." Brits Jane Carr and Roger Rees turn "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off" into a delightful intercontinental argument with the audience, which happily

sings out "to-may-to" to precede the couple's snooty "to-mah-to." (Even Dan Quayle would have been pleased.)

Some of the performances achieve pure magic, including Sam Harris' "I Got Plenty O' Nothin'" from "Porgy and Bess" and Betty Buckley's "How Long Has This Been Going On" from "Rosalie." And Carole Cook's campy "Strike Up the Band" is a hilarious and poignant battle song heralding the war against AIDS. It best sums up the flavor of the evening.

Such a joyous compilation of jazzy show



tunes and classic torch songs would be a welcome addition to any queer music collection. That proceeds go to the second largest AIDS services organization in the world makes it a must-have.

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A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

A Chinese restaurant in Cherokee Plaza doesn't make much sense. I mean, you can drive another mile or two and get to Honto. And a mile beyond that, there's Buford Highway with its long banquet of exotic Asian eateries.

But positive reviews and even more enthusiastic word of mouth have made **Chin Chin Chinese Restaurant** (3887 Peachtree Rd. 816-2229) a very popular destination for the (generally) moneyed folks who live north of Lenox and south of Chamblee. It's the same crowd that keeps Harris Teeter (the city's toniest grocery store located just up the street) hopping most of the day.

The look at Chin Chin is simple, almost generic: white walls, pale reproductions of Western art, dark carpet, white tablecloths topped by dark overcloths, all lit with low-voltage spots. No one could possibly be offended. There's a small bar stocked with a significant quantity of premium booze in front; a fluorescent-lit, glass enclosed kitchen in back.

Open kitchens are all the rage, but this is the first one I've ever seen in an Asian eatery. Chin Chin's chef's are fun to watch for a while, but the kitchen's harsh fluorescent lighting and galvanized metal surrounds are not easy on the eyes.

Better you should turn your attention to the plates, platters, and bowls being carried to the tables around you. The food, while not spectacularly presented, is very pretty.

But with food, as with people, pretty and good are not always synonymous. Take a perfectly luscious-looking plate of thin, brown scallion pancakes cut into neat wedges. The scallion slices have a nice bite and the crust is crisp, but the goo that holds the whole mess together is mushy and tastes like raw flour. The same problem shows up in an octet of little dumplings—the wrappers are too thick, undercooked and a bit slimy to boot. The coarse pork stuffing and peppery sesame-soy dipping sauce are first rate, but a dumpling without its wrapper ain't much of a dumpling.

But fret not, the multi-page menu features a long list of entrees. The featured "Chef's Specials" tend to be a bit pricey (\$9.50-15.95), though more pedestrian offerings are in the \$6.50-10.00 range. We tried one from the former and two from the latter.

Three Cups Taiwanese Chicken comes to the table in a steaming crockery pot. The collection of veggies (cauliflower, black and shitake mushrooms, peppers, and some crunchy radish-like things) combined with just-cooked white chunks in a smoky garlic-ginger sauce is first rate stuff that you'll not find at your local take-out shop.

Even better: Chinese eggplant hacked into

big pieces, grilled and then doused with a yummy, not too sweet plum and garlic sauce. Not so amazing as the more complex stuff at Little Schezuan, but yummy to the last bite.

After the chicken and the eggplant, shredded pork in a punchy garlic sauce is less than wonderful. But had you ordered it alone, you'd be happy. The pork is tender, the spicing nicely balanced and the portion easily large enough for two. The pork is available in the same sauce as the eggplant, and vice-versa, which might be a much better way to order.

With no alcohol, \$35 will get you plenty of dinner for two with a large lunch for one tomorrow—the food reheats very well, with flavors becoming even more complex after a night in the fridge. Good stuff

First Date...

Most of the male customers at Chin Chin reminded me of the man I was supposed to grow up to be—before I came out and abandoned the neighborhoods and mores of my ancestors.

We were seated next to just such an expensively dressed 50-something guy on what appeared to be a first date with an attractive woman—who looked like she was ready to run home and cuddle with her cat after the man described her (too loudly) to the waiter as "a simple country girl...doesn't know anything about food."

After five minutes of his unending and deprecating yammering I was ready to ask for another table. But then another couple, also apparently on their first date, landed on the other side of us.

The 20-something blonde woman could have been the boor's daughter. The bespectacled black man opposite her might have worked for his company. And even though they were far from sure with each other, they negotiated their discomfort and differences with humor and grace. Their conversation wasn't audible, but their energy was palpable and it did a fine job of drowning out the self-aggrandizing raving of the clod in the Armani jacket.

I'd be far less enthusiastic about Chin Chin had it not been for that young couple on their first date. Thanks for sharing it.

The Joy of Mex

Most everyone I know is pleased as punch that the ever aggressive Buckhead Life Restaurant Group (known in some quarters as Pano's Playhouse) has acquired the gorgeous Adam Tihany-designed Resto des Amis, which had always been disappointing. Word is that the menu will be Southwestern, something we've been missing in Atlanta since the Sierra Grill went bye-bye. If you think the Sundown Cafe fills the bill, you've never been to the Santa Cafe (in Santa Fe) or Red Sage (in DC.)

Possible names for the new venture that would seem to respect its roots: Resto des Amigos; the Pano Anta Cafe; or Red Clay.

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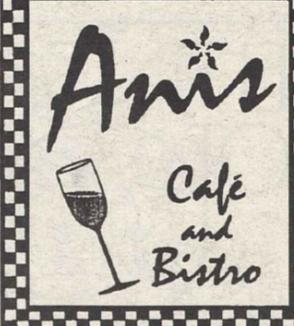
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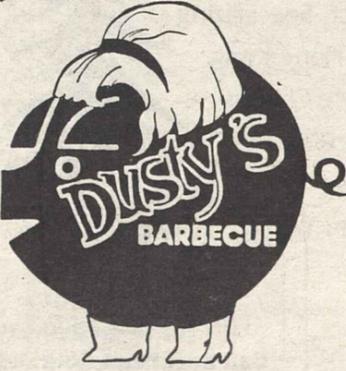
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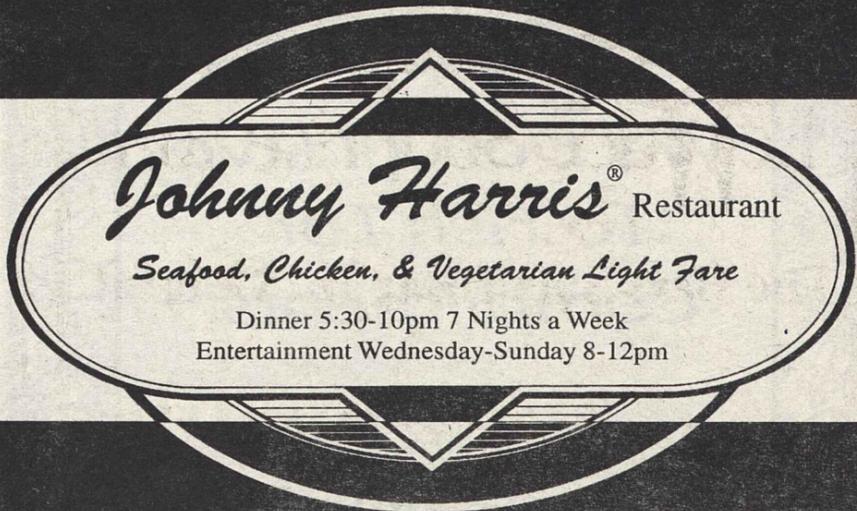
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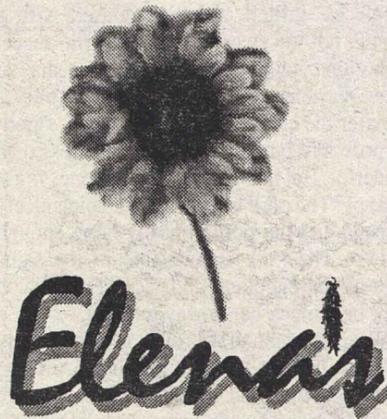


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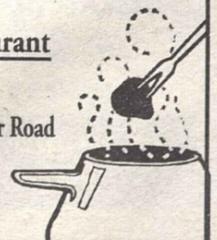
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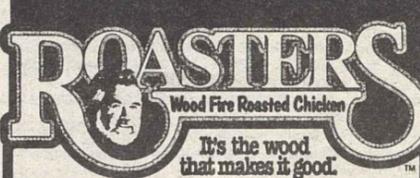
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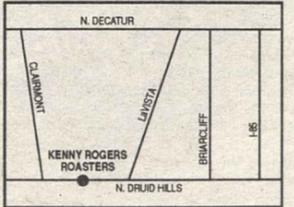
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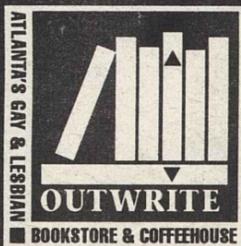
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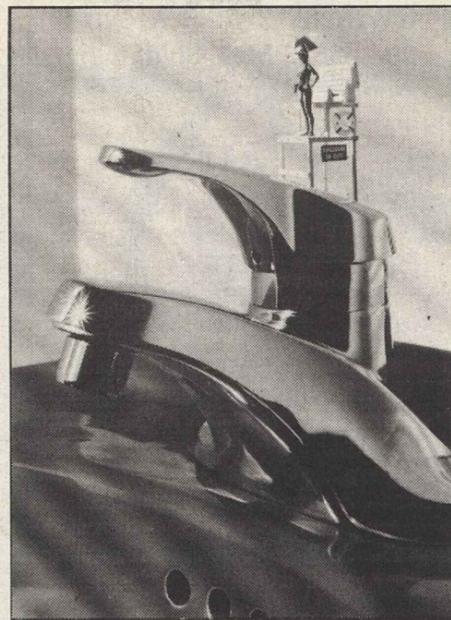
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- AID Atlanta—872-0600
- AIDS Education/Svcs for Minorities—POB 87277, Atl, 30337, 753-2900
- AID Gwinnett—POB 884 Lawrenceville, GA 30246, (404) 962-8396
- AIDS Hotline for Women—888-9991
- AIDS Info Line—876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728
- AIDS Legal Project—688-5433
- AIDS Outreach Sewing Guild—325-4143
- AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)—876-2317
- AIDS and Substance Abuse Speakers Network—977-7797
- AIDS SUPPORT—Jewish Family Services—888-6400, #76
- AIDS Survival Project (formerly Atlanta NAPWA)—874-7926
- Atlanta Buyers Club—874-4845, or POB 77003, Atl, 30357
- Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network—874-8686
- Atlanta Lesbian AIDS Project—250-8177
- Childkind—936-9655
- Common Ground—874-6425
- First MCC AIDS Ministry—325-4143
- Georgia AIDS Therapy Information Network—1-800-551-2728
- Good Samaritan Project—873-4589
- Grady Mem. Hospital Infectious Disease Program—341 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atl, 30308, (404) 616-2440
- Jerusalem House—527-7627
- The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project—876-0105
- The Names Project/Atlanta—605-7386
- Outreach, Inc.—(404) 346-3922
- Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)—876-PALS
- Positive Impact—885-9040
- Positive Outlook On Health—872-9954
- Project Open Hand Atlanta—525-4620
- Sister Love—753-7733

Arts/Entertainment/Culture

- Atlanta Diversity Chorale—739-5607
- Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus—438-5823
- Atlanta Freedom Marching Band—872-9763
- Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus—POB 771144, Atlanta 30357
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing—POB 7032, Atl 30357, 876-1060
- Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble—872-3135
- "Funny...That Way"—875-2275
- Pen-draggin' Poets—523-3639
- Silver Fingers Productions—388-4624
- Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc.—609-9590
- Southern Country Atlanta—908-7480
- Young Lesbian Art & Craft Exchange—Decatur, GA; 378-3367

Bars

- The Armory—836 Juniper, 881-9280
- Axys—(Sundays) 1150 Peachtree St. NE 607-0922
- Backstreet—845 Peachtree St. 873-1986
- Blake's—227 10th St. 892-5786
- Buddies Cheshire Square—2345 Cheshire Br. Rd. 634-5895
- Buddies Midtown—239 Ponce de Leon, 872-2655
- Bulldog & Co.—893 Peachtree, 872-3025
- Burkhart's—Ansley Square, 872-4403
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- The Heretic—2069 Cheshire Bridge, 325-3061
- Loretta's—708 Spring St. 874-8125
- The Metro—48 6th Street, 874-9869
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- Moreland Tavern—1196 Moreland Ave. S.E. 622-4650
- New Order—1544 Piedmont, 874-8247
- Opus—1086 Alco St. 634-6478
- The Otherside—1924 Piedmont Rd. 875-5238
- Phoenix—567 Ponce De Leon, 892-7871
- Revolution—293 Pharr Rd. 816-5455
- Scandals—Ansley Square, 875-5957
- Velvet-89 Park Pl., NE 681-9936
- Waterworks—107 Luckie St. 577-7059

Direct Action/Political

- ACLU of Georgia—523-5398
- ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter—523-6201
- ACT UP—44 12th St. NE, Atlanta 30309-3979, 874-6782 (O)
- Atlanta Greens, Green Party USA, Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Queer Caucus—368-7137
- Catalyst—(404) 776-1478
- Cobb Citizens Coalition—POB 965336, Marietta 30066, 256-8690
- Dykes & Faggots Bash Back—POB 14531, Atl 30324, voice mail 908-5369
- Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—876-1398
- Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force—524-3847; 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atl. 30312
- GAPAC—Georgia Political Action Committee—872-8095, FAX 874-8628
- Human Rights Campaign Fund—Federal Advocacy Network, 231-5751
- HRCF Event Hotline—840-6969
- LEGAL—605-7476
- Lesbian Avengers—798-7742
- National Association of People with AIDS Hotline—874-7926
- National Organization for Women—875-0176
- National Org. for Women, Gay & Lesbian Rights Task Force—636-7435
- Neighbors Network—816-8348
- Olympics Out of Cobb Coalition—POB 77341 Atlanta, GA 30357-1341—798-7822
- Out Front—PO Box 12369, Atlanta 30355
- Republicans for Individual Freedoms—PO 13162, Atl, GA 30324, 239-1679
- Straight But Not Narrow—242-2256 (voice mail)
- STOP Bias Crimes Hot Line—605-STOP

National

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

Professional

- ANGLE (BellSouth Gay/Lesbian Employee Group)—(404) 723-6540
- Atlanta Entrepreneurs' Club—Dr. Bravy 457-6347
- Bar Owner's Assn—POB 15114, Atlanta 30333-0114
- Community Network for Counseling Psychology and Social Work—315-8945
- Fourth Tuesday—662-4353
- Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (GL PEN)—POB 580397, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0397
- GA Assoc. of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)—231-2251
- LEAGUE ATLANTA, Inc. (Employees of AT&T)—404/351-8322
- Nat'l Gay Pilots Assoc.—PO Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542, (703) 660-3852
- Nat'l Lesbian and Gay Journalists Assoc.—634-7429
- Nat'l Federation of Career Women—(404) 659-0315
- OUTstaff (Front)—727-2787 (Donna)
- Voices Out Front (Media Networking Assoc)—2103 N. Decatur Rd. Ste. 185, Decatur 30033

Spiritual

- All Saints Metropolitan Community Church—622-1154
- Atlanta Church of Religious Science—636-4567
- Catholic Gay and Lesbian Outreach—310-1529
- The Catholic Group—POB 243, Austell, GA 30001, 310-1529
- Christ Covenant MCC, Stone Mountain—297-0350
- Clifton Presbyterian Church—(404) 373-3253
- Congregation Bet Haverim (Jewish)—642-3467
- Emergence/Atlanta (Christian Scientists)—565-2126
- Fellowship of Love Christian Church—(706)660-0101
- First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta—378-5570
- First Metropolitan Community Church of Atl—325-4143
- Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (Quakers)—370-1340
- Gay & Lesbian Mormons—570-2561 (dig. page)
- Gay Spirit Visions—292-8567
- Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church—627-6221; 575 Boulevard SE
- Home Free Ministry—POB 668 Atlanta, GA 30301, 758-4034
- Integrity (Episcopal)—642-3183
- Lutherans Concerned/Atlanta—636-7109
- New Age Gays—434-7338
- Oakhurst Presbyterian Church—378-6284
- Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns—373-5830
- Redefined Faith Worship Center—388-4624
- Unitarian Universalists—634-5134, George at 688-2242

Sports/Outdoor/Hobbies

- Atlanta Team Tennis Assn—621-2699
- Atlanta Venture Sports—242-4899
- Atlanta Women's Lacrosse Club—303-1160, 888-6738
- Front Runners/Atlanta—621-5007
- Greater Atlanta Naturist Group—851-2882 (voice mail)
- Hotlanta Softball League—POB 14582, Atl. 30324, 873-4061
- Hotlanta Volleyball—621-5062
- Lambda Car Club—POB 11705, Atlanta 30355
- Mountain Catalyst—POB 199, Demorest, GA 30535
- OUT in Nature—619-9185
- S.E. Gay Rodeo Assn—POB 7881, Atl., 30357, 760-8126
- Wilderness Network of GA—SASE, POB 55156, Atlanta 30308
- Women's Outdoor Network—624-3418
- Women's Rugby—237-2752
- TRICKS/Bridge Club—1202 Summit North Atlanta, GA 30324

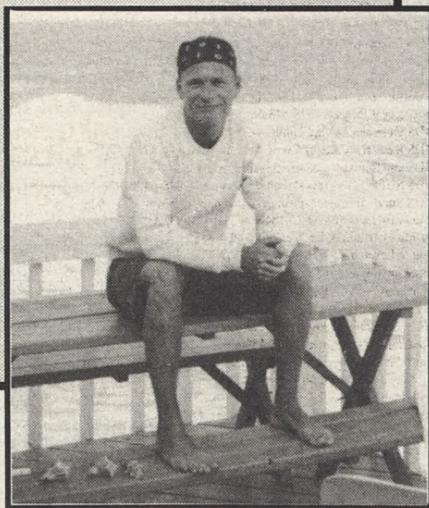
Service/Support/Social

- Adoption Options-Rainbow Kids—(404) 633-6021
- African American Lesbian/Gay Alliance—239-8184 (voice mail)
- Amazon Salon Young Feminist Network—321-5678
- American Educational Gender Info Service—POB 33724, Decatur 30033, (404) 939-0244 (eve)
- Asians & Friends-Atlanta—876-0090(fax)
- Athens Lesbian Information—LSG, POB 7864, Athens, 30604
- Atlanta Corporal Punishment Club—Box 11863, Atlanta 30355
- Atlanta Couples Together—365-2455
- Atlanta Entrepreneurs' Club—457-6347
- Atlanta Gay Center—876-5372
- Atlanta Gender Exploration—435-4203
- Atlanta Lambda Community Ctr—POB 15180, Atl 30333, 662-9010
- Atlanta Lesbian and Gay Pride Comm—662-4533
- Atlanta Prime Timers—For Information Call 734-2490
- Atlanta Pro-Choice Action Committee—239-8016
- BiAtlanta—256-8992
- Bisexuals of Atlanta Resource Network—908-3413
- Black and White Men Together—892-BWMT
- Black Lesbians with Children 498-3815
- Caregivers to PWAs Support Group—874-1109 or 875-6109
- Codependents Anonymous—239-1657
- Consciousness Raising and Support Group for Women in Politics and Grassroots Organizing—636-7435
- Delphi—POB 14591, Atlanta, G 30324
- Emergence International—876-3997
- Emotions Anonymous—925-4825
- GAPHR's Support Group for HIV+ Dentists-Physicians—634-0672
- Gainesville, Georgia Gay Men's Support Grp—(404)535-5445
- Gay Fathers of Atlanta—342-6451
- Gay Help Line—6pm-11pm 892-0661
- Gay/Lesbian AA & Al-Anon—881-9188
- Gay/Lesbian/Bi Teen Group—378-5570
- Gay/Lesbian/Bi Vets of America—627-6981 lv. msg.
- Gay/Lesbian Task Force to the Public Safety Comm. of City Council—330-6504
- Georgia Girth & Mirth—POB 9678, Atl. 30319, (404) 621-5710
- Georgia Lesbian Ecofeminists—525-9085
- Hospitality Atlanta—627-1630, 708-6866
- Interact of Atlanta—633-9466
- John Howell Park Project—876-0105
- Lambda Group/Narcotics Anonymous—237-6262
- Latinos En Accion—621-5743
- Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous—378-6935
- Lesbian Narcotics Anonymous—703-3897
- Lesbian Support Group—627-7387
- Lesbians Considering Parenthood—767-6173
- Lesbians Over 50—908-6119
- Lesbians With Children—641-0870
- Men of Little 5 Points—POB 5425, Atlanta 31107, 523-5804
- Name the Violence Support Group for Battered Lesbians—822-9570; Crisis Hotline—688-9436
- Overeaters Anonymous (gay/lesbian group)—892-5868
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—296-0830 or 875-9440
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Chattanooga—(615) 875-5750, (615) 622-3813
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Southside—(691-4729 or 981-5310)
- Positive Black Lesbians United (PBLU)—(404) 250-7950
- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous—239-8048
- Southern Bears, Inc.—PO Box 13964, Atlanta, GA 30324 (404) 908-3381
- Support Group for Battered Gay Partners—(404) 350-0456
- Survivors of Incest Anonymous—POB 2502, Decatur, GA 30031; 239-8018
- Trikone—South Asian Gay and Lesbian Org.—607-1766
- Uniformed Svcs Activity—Box 6057, Arlington, VA 22206
- Women In Kahoots—(WINK) 438-1421
- Young Adult Support Group—876-5372
- Zami—370-1392
- Agnes Scott Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance—Box 501, Decatur 30030, 373-1632
- Alliance of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of GA State—605-7681
- Bi, Lesbian & Gay Student Union of West Ga. College—706-834-3569
- Delta Lambda Phi—All Campuses, 365-5357
- Emory Lesbian & Gay Organization—727-6692
- Gays & Lesbians United for Equality—Kennesaw Comm. College 423-6246
- Georgia Tech Gay Alumni Group—POB 50291, GA Tech Sta., Atl 30332
- Georgia Tech Gay & Lesbian Alliance—497-0684
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union of the Univ. of Ga.—404/549-9368
- Spelman College Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance—681-2161
- Univ. of Ala. Lesbian/Gay Alumni Assoc.—284-3479

OUTLINES

BILL ABBOTT

How long in Atlanta: 11 years
Relationship Status: Single but dating
Last Book Read: "Shock Value" by John Waters
Pot peeve: Politicians (like Bill Clinton) who don't make good on their promises.



HIV-positive artist Bill Abbott believes in the healing power of old Aretha Franklin tunes. He also believes that having AIDS is something no one should have to hide.

"I've always lived my life as an openly gay man, and now I live it as an openly HIV-positive man," he says. "I feel that it's my responsibility to tell people." Ironically, Abbott found out he had AIDS on his birthday, in January of 1992.

"I think, like a lot of people who get the HIV-positive diagnosis, that you're full of this fear, this anger, this energy, and people express it in different ways. Some people party, some people do negative things. I decided that I wanted to do something creative. I wanted to do something that would last long after I'm out of the picture," he says.

And so, an artist was born—out of news that might have crushed anyone else's spirit. Bill Abbott decided to take his energy and redirect it into something powerfully creative and alive. "I was painting for about a year, and my immune system continued to deteriorate, so I went on disability, said the hell with it, I'm going to take a leap" he remembers.

"I had my first show at koolhipfunkystuff in May, called 'Dangerous and Fertile,' which sort of says it all about me. They've sold several of my paintings. I've actually done pretty well," he says, sounding almost surprised. "I don't have any formal training, but I do have definite opinions about art. I think that people should be able to enjoy art without worrying about the price. I try to keep all my work at a reasonable cost. I just don't think that money, or lack of it, should keep people from enjoying art."

Abbott stresses that art was something he started doing for himself, as means of personal expression. "If someone likes it and enjoys it and wants it, then it's my payback right there," he says. "Of course, getting the money is nice, too," he admits. "If someone had told me a few years ago that I would become an artist and make a successful living from it, I never would have believed them," he laughs.

It is easy to see why Abbott's paintings sell. He has talent. In his artwork, texture is just as important as color. "I work with differ-

ent kinds of textured gels, like sand, lava, fibers, glass beads. A person that is visually impaired could enjoy some of my work as much as a person with normal sight."

Abbott is planning to launch a line of stationery, called "Surface Noise," in the fall. Each package of stationery will consist of recycled paper cards with an individual painting mounted to the front of each card. He already has Atlanta merchants interested in stocking them. All proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to people with AIDS.

Beyond obvious health concerns, Abbott finds the biggest difficulty in dealing with AIDS to be other people's attitudes about the disease. Though he thinks it's important to let others know about his status, he is dismayed by some of the reactions he gets when he does tell them. "What people need to realize is that PWAs are still capable of being romantic, of having sex, of just being human. What infuriates me is the way this disease robs us of our sexuality," he says.

"I would say to anybody who has HIV to just hang in there, find something that you love, whether it's painting, reading, whatever," Abbott says. "Just do what makes you happy. It's hard sometimes. You hear things all the time in the media about there being no cure in sight, there's all the drugs you have to remember to take, plus the moralists who are telling you AIDS is God's revenge. It can be a horrible thing psychologically as well as physically. You just have to find something that you love to do and do it," he counsels.

Bill's support system includes an understanding family, especially his sister, who lives in Atlanta and who works part-time as a comedian. It is in her backyard that he spends many Sundays, hanging out and listening to music. "I think the world would be a much better place if everyone could spend at least one day a week like that," he says, "with friends and family, gay and straight, just cooking out on the grill, talking, and singing and dancing to old Aretha records."

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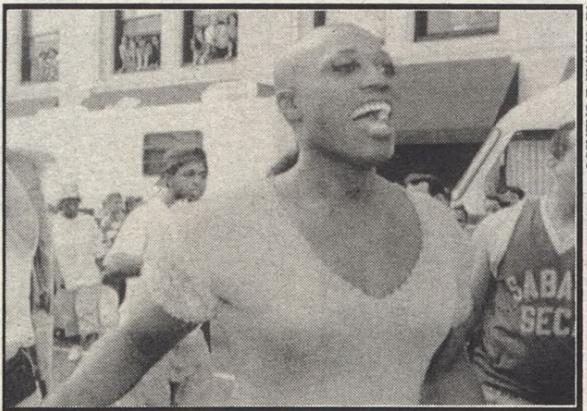
James Dean, the Queen: Dish is still steamed over the New York Times Book Review critique of the new James Dean bio, "Boulevard of Broken Dreams." Most queers have known about Dean's sexuality for a long time. And the author of this book wants everyone to know about it. What has Dish so upset is that book reviewer Molly Haskell spends more of her column criticizing the author's perspective than his work. It seems Ms. Haskell thinks Dean's closeted persona added to his androgyny, and thus his charisma. She writes, "Those in public life are all forced to make compromises, and the larger the public, the more limiting the choices," and, "It was his [sexual] confusion that spoke to us, that illuminated some shadowy corner in our own lives." Dish thinks it's attitudes like Molly's that encourage the same sort of cover-ups today.

Hunks in Pumps: Drag queen road movies are all the rage right now, and some of the most respected actors in the business are running around in sequins because of them. In the soon-to-be-released "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar," male sex symbols Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes play drag queens crossing the Midwest when their car breaks down in Nebraska; "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" has '60s movie hunk Terence Stamp playing a transsexual who travels across Australia with two drag queens in a pink bus; and grunge stud Johnny Depp is playing a combination transvestite/B-movie director in the upcoming film bio of schlock director Ed Wood. Guess it's true what Dish has always heard—it takes a real man to wear a dress.

Disco Kroger Redux: Just exactly what, Dish would like to know, is happening at all the intown Kroger stores lately? Dish has been around long enough to have fond memo-

Dish

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



Snipes, picking up where RuPaul left off

ries of the Buckhead location where, back in the old Lime-light days, Dish once spotted a pair of leather chaps and not much else (except some goosebumps) on a customer in the frozen foods section. More recently, however, the Kroger in the very same location has undergone a desperately needed renovation, with oh-so-tasteful mauves and pinks chosen as the colors for, appropriately enough, the meat department. Later that same week, also in the Buckhead store, Dish stumbled upon an in-store demonstration by a gay owned and

operated tortilla chips and salsa manufacturer. And at the Toco Hills Kroger, we noticed AIDS ribbons and rainbow flags on about half the staff's trademark blue aprons during Pride week.

We Liked It Better When You Were In: Dish's opinion of the most powerful gay man in the United States, David Geffen, hasn't improved one bit after reading the interview with him that appears in Playboy this month. Besides the fact that Geffen continues to promote and profit by homophobic and misogynistic rock groups like Guns 'N Roses, he also continues to deny that he was outed (and he was, in high style), claiming that his being gay "was never a secret...I just thought making a public statement about my sexuality was tacky and inappropriate." And, Dish presumes, there was no way for him to make money by coming out—if there had been, the whole country would have been sick of hearing about it by now. To make matters worse, Geffen also says of his realization that he was queer, "I thought it was a possibility, but it was a frightening possibility."

Marilyn Remembered: If you loved the Elvis stamp, you're going to positively drool over the new Marilyn Monroe commemorative that has been issued in St. Vincent, BWI. The teensy little island has produced a limited edition of nine tasteful stamps observing the career of the woman who launched a thousand drag queens, and all nine are available for the bargain basement rate of only \$9.95 plus shipping and handling. And that's not all—act now and you'll also receive the free pocket guide "99 Little Known Facts About Marilyn Monroe," which really piques Dish's interest, considering all the kinky things that have been revealed about Ms. Monroe in the years since her death. Call (800) 624-4427 for info.

AUGUST 25 - AUGUST 31, 1994

Now that the sun is officially in the mutable earth sign of Virgo, we can all get organized, pay our bills on time and clean out our closets. All this may sound like a lot of work, but we can't leave all the loose ends to our favorite Virgo-type friends. If we all pitch in, it won't take very long.

ARIES, assertive and potentially aggressive Mars in your 4th house of home, early family experiences and anyone you live with now can mean opportunities for clearing the air, major cleaning or remodeling. Also can mean an emotional short fuse. **TAURUS**, with the Sun and Mercury moving through your 5th house of creativity, fun and passion, you can really let yourself go and enjoy your talents and natural gifts. You are as creative as you allow yourself to be, so go for expression and fun. **GEMINI**, well, this is the month to take care of things at home, especially anything you have been putting off for a few weeks or maybe even years. If you have been thinking about moving, this could be the best time to do it in an organized way.

CANCER, Mars is energizing your 1st house of self-awareness and physical appearance. If your body is getting a little soft along the edges, you might consider regular exercise such as walking, biking, or swimming. The important word is

STARSIGNS

"regular." Dear **LEO**, did you have an absolutely wonderful birthday month? Hopefully you found many ways to celebrate, so keep it up by finding many things to appreciate and enjoy every day. This will recharge your spirit and soul, keeping you happy and healthy. Happy Birthday, **VIRGO!** With the Sun and Mercury swinging through your 1st house of personality and self-awareness, you should have plenty of energy and excitement to celebrate your life. If you have been working long hours, take a day or two off. **LIBRA**, how is your dreamtime? Are you daydreaming more than usual these days? Well, the Sun and Mercury are cruising through your 12th house of dreams, visions and your doorway to the collective unconsciousness, so pay attention to "coincidences." **SCORPIO**, what are you doing with your creativity? Are you a "closet artist"? You may have talents and abilities you never dreamed of, so step out into the marvelous world of creative expression and let yourself go. Do it just for

fun. **SAGITTARIUS**, how are you feeling about your career? Are you on the right path, or are you a bit restless and discontent lately? Well, it could be the weather, but you may need work that is more expansive and challenging. Look around for open doors.

CAPRICORN, if you have been thinking about moving to a new living space or even buying a new place, this could be a good time. However, there may be opportunities just out of sight that could also involve a move. Keep your ears and intuition open. **AQUARIUS**, although you have very progressive thoughts and ideals, change on a personal level may not always be easy for you. Fixed signs usually like their personal perspective on life. Just be sure you are flexible in the winds of change. **PISCES**, with the Sun and communicative Mercury running through your 7th house of close personal relationships, you could be the life of the party. Don't turn down any invitations and consider having a celebration yourself. Any excuse will do.

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.

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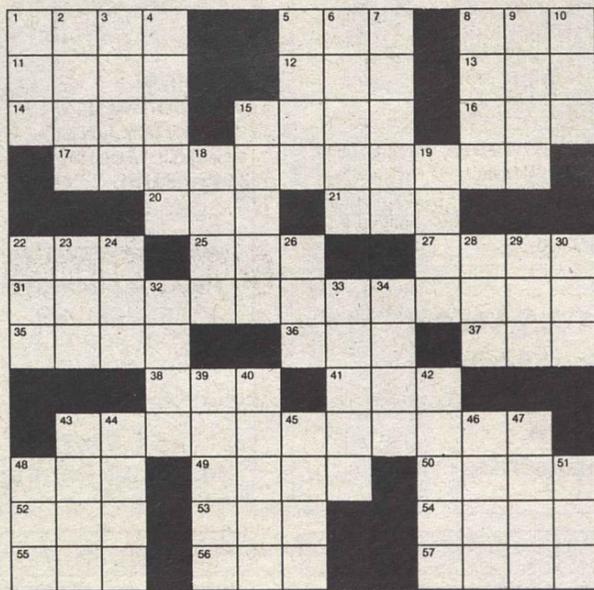
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WORD GAYME: DRESSING UP



DOWN

1. Married
2. Object of worship
3. Donate
4. Guide
5. Native American tribe
6. Perch
7. Taut
8. Muffin type
9. Carpets
10. Eroded
15. Pleasant surprise
18. Unsullied
19. "___ upon a time ..."
22. Poisonous snake
23. "Call ___ day."
24. Big truck
26. School grp
28. Confederate general
29. Every
30. Famous designer
32. Shakespearean king
33. African antelope
34. In this spot
39. Serious
40. From now on
42. Gay playwright, Edward

ACROSS

1. Drag queens have big ones
5. Scrap
8. Drag undergarment
11. Prepare an edition
12. Foot digit
13. Furrow
14. Small wild pigeon
15. "Dykes to Watch Out For," e.g.
16. Mature
17. Drag nailwear
20. Regret
21. Sawbuck
22. Atmosphere
25. Queen Latifah's music
27. Modeling stuff
31. Drag footwear
35. Karla Jay work, *The Amazon* and the ___

ACROSS (Cont'd)

36. Work by Don Clark, *As We*
37. Bend in a pipe
38. Hard wood
41. A Gershwin
43. Drag supporters
48. Alice Bloch novel, *The ___ of Return*
49. Against
50. Ohio periodical, *Gay ___*
52. Sick
53. T or cube
54. Relaxation
55. Dance step
56. French article
57. Otherwise

Answers to last week's puzzle on next page

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AIDS Services & Education

If you are HIV+ and looking for holistic approaches to dealing with the virus, call me for free information and consultation. I am a gay female with twelve years experience working with HIV+ individuals in NYC. (404) 687-9898. (7.30)

Atlanta Unity AIDS Outreach is a group of people willing to share unconditional love and support, with confidentiality and respect, with anyone who has been affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information contact the church on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road at (404) 455-8920.

Social/Discussion Group—16 to 24 year old HIV positive Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian social/discussion group now forming!! Safe non-threatening environment. For more information, call Kris at 616-9759. (7.30)

What You Don't Know Will Kill You—Anonymous HIV Screening Available at Dekalb County Health Department, Atlanta Gay Center, Southside Healthcare, Fulton County Health Department, Outreach, Inc. If you've tested positive for HIV and are in need of housing, financial assistance, social assistance, someone to talk to, or just in need of a friend, call us. We're here for you. AIDS Education/Services for Minorities, 753-

2900, 24 hours a day.

Good Samaritan Project offers support for persons with HIV/AIDS. Buddy program, support group, food/clothing, practical support. 873-4589. (7.40)

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

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

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

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

HIV+Narcotics Anonymous (NA) for African Am. FREE ANONY-

MOUS HIV TESTS, counselling, referral (minority cultural sensitivity). For confidential info call OUTREACH, INC. 346-3922.

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

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

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

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

Announcements

Rhythmfest Ride available. Leave early Thursday 9-1; return late afternoon Monday 9-5. Call (404) 688-9142. (7.27)

ATLANTA LAMBDA CENTER — Get Involved! Volunteer with the ALC and the opening of Atlanta's Center for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community. Huge Halloween Bash coming soon. Call today! 662-9010. (7.30)

Attention BellSouth employees. Did you know there is now an organized group of your gay/lesbian/bisexual coworkers? Associates Networking for Gay & Lesbian Equality (ANGLE) meets monthly and is open to all active and retired employees of BellSouth Corporation, its subsidiaries and affiliates. For more information, call the ANGLE Hotline at (404) 723-6540. We have or will start chapters throughout the BellSouth region. (7.32)

Peachtree Hospice is having a three-part training for hospice vol-

unteers on August 27th (9am-5:30pm) and August 29th & 30th (6pm-9pm) at our main office at 3600 DeKalb Technology Pkwy in Atlanta. The training is conducted by healthcare professionals in such topics as Pain and Symptom Control, Grief and Bereavement, Spiritual Issues, Family Dynamics, Burnout Prevention, and Communication and Listening Skills. To register, call (404) 451-1903. (7.27)

"Gay and Lesbian Philanthropy: Giving for Social Change", Saturday, September 10, 1994, 10-4. \$35.00. To register call Fund for Southern Communities (404) 577-3178. (7.29)

HOLLYWOOD HOTS. Volunteer Orientation Party is planned for Thursday, August 4 from 7pm-8pm at Backstreet. Call (404) 876-0954 for information.

Armed Presence gun training/safety and target practice for the lesbian/gay/bi community. (404) 734-2584 or PO Box 78781, Atlanta, GA 30357. (7.28)

DYKES ON BIKES!! Harleys, Hondas, etc. Let's ride together as lesbians in special events or make our own rides. Couples or singles welcome. (404) 688-1954. (7.27)

Have you been charged or convicted of sodomy or solicitation of sodomy? Please contact the Sodomy Reform Task Force. Join in the fight to reform Georgia's oppressive sodomy statute. Call 523-5398.

Hollywood Hots! Volunteers are needed NOW through September for this year's event. Earn free tickets to the show. Please call (404) 876-0954 for information. (7.27)

Auditions

Auditions for the 14th season of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus will be held on Thursday, August 25 at Virginia-Highlands Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m. Be prepared to sing a solo piece. An accompanist will be provided. AGMC plans to increase its membership to 100 singers as we return to Canon Chapel, the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Georgia Tech and present the world premiere of Memento mori, an AIDS memorial requiem, at Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Call Jeffrey McIntyre, Artistic Director, at (404) 728-8822

for an appointment. (7.27)

Open Auditions for Crossing Delancy will be held September 18 & 19 at 7pm at Neighborhood Playhouse. Needed are 2 men ages 25-45 and 3 women ages 25-70. Cold readings from the script will be held during audition. Please bring photo and resumé. Call Neighborhood Playhouse for more info at (404) 373-3904. No appointment is necessary. (7.30)

ATLANTA SINGS — Co-ed chorus seeking all voice parts, especially tenor and bass. Ability to read music preferred Thursday nights in Midtown. Details: 438-2154. (7.29)

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Serious individuals who want to achieve financial independence this year. Be your own boss with flexible working hours. In our business, the little guy makes good \$\$\$\$. Call Reva at (404) 289-6392 for a FREE cassette and literature. Collect calls are accepted. (7.27)

Employment

PART TIME

Southern Voice needs Decatur delivery person for Wednesday afternoons. Must have own transportation, insurance and great personality. Please call Shane (404) 876-1819. (7.32)

TELEMARKETING

Atlanta Ballet seeks articulate part-time sales agents. Salary + comm + bonuses, flex sched. Call (404) 873-5812, ext. 220, 12-9pm, Mon-Thu. (7.27)

Part time landscaping assistant needed for small "family" owned business. Call Phil at (404) 816-2507 and leave name and number. (7.28)

FULL TIME

Attention Hairstylists! Exciting opportunity! Booth available for

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Desperately seeking Hairstylist and Assistant. We need you now!! Preferably yesterday. Call (404) 321-5775. Hairanoia. (7.28)

Buckhead Kroger is currently seeking friendly, energetic, people for our front-end operations. Cashier/Customer Service experience a plus! On MARTA route #5. Apply in person 3330 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., (404) 237-8022. (7.30)

SALES CLOSERS

Remodeling company seeking serious, self-starting, self-motivated people. Have neat appearance, outgoing personality, learn quickly, have reliable vehicle. Construction knowledge helpful. Serious inquiries only, call 416-0211. (7.26)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Delaware Lesbian and Gay Health Advocates seeks Executive Director to lead non-profit agency dedicated to HIV/AIDS and community service and support. Strong professional and leadership experience required. Compensation 40-50K plus benefits. Send cover letter and resume by August 31 to Search Committee, DLGHA, 601 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE, 19801. (7.28)

Buckhead florist seeks helper for all around duties. NO DESIGNING. Call (404) 816-8833. (7.28)

SEEKING

GSU Graduate Student seeking part-time employment, 20-25 hours per week. Experienced paralegal, office administration, inside sales. Computer literate. Will consider other work. (404) 872-2458 Sean. (7.27)

I am tired of the homophobic environment of my present job and ready for a career change. I have a business degree and experience with computers and general office procedures. If you are serious about hiring a dependable hardworking individual, please call me at (404) 299-0595. (7.21)

MORE ON PAGE 44

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD: LEATHERMEN & LESBERADOS

1	S	M	O	G	5	R	E	S	9	W	H	O			
11	L	I	N	E	12	E	V	A	13	H	U	G			
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38	L	A	W	39	40	41	Y	R	42	S					
43	S	T	U	D	44	D	E	C	45	O	L	L	A	R	
50	L	A	G	51	D	A	R	E	52	I	O	N	E		
53	O	I	L	54	E	V	E	55	N	O	T	S			
56	P	L	Y	57	D	E	W	58	G	N	A	T			

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For latest in lesbian merchandise, send \$1 and large SASE for brochure to Spike's Stuff, 307 Adair Street, C-4, Decatur, GA 30030. \$1 off 1st order. *LOO (7.28)

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features. \$34.95/yr. (6 issues). SASE Catalog. On Our Backs, 526 Castro Street, Suite SV, San Francisco, CA 94114. Send ck, MO, or VI/MC. 1-800-845-4617. (7.45)

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FOR RENT

Duplex East Point 2-story 3 bedrooms 1.5 bath, private deck, off street parking. Deposit. Lease. \$675/month. Available 10-1. Call (404) 767-2425. (7.27)

Gardner's Delight. 2BR/1BA cottage, fenced yard. Walk to LSP, \$650 + deposit. (404) 521-3395. (7.28)

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Designer's Home, wooded lot w/ creek. 4 BR, 3 BA, s story LR/DR, marble entry, library, den, solarium w/hot tub, deck, 2 masters. Great location! Jan Davis/Susan Oder 235-5227. (7.27)

GRANT PARK

Come home to Victorian elegance; walk in the park! Off-street parking, backyard patio, 3BR/2BA. Paula Todd (404) 624-3456 or (404) 233-2244 Northside Realty. (7.27)

DECATUR

3BR, 2.5BA stucco, like new! Sep. LR, DR, huge kitchen, fireplace, skylights, hardwood floors, fenced backyard. \$128,900. Donna Godsey (404) 284-4090, or (404) 840-9933. Residential Marketing Realty. (7.28)

Roommates

WOODLAND HILLS/ EMORY

Lesbian seeks same to share home. Avail. Sept./Oct. 3BR, A/C, W/D, Great Rm, private deck, on bus route, safe, prefer non-smoker, no kids/pets. \$450/mo incl. utilities. Call Dennie 325-2630 home, or (404) 252-4843 work. (7.29)

Custom house on 11 acres in the woods in Canton. 18 min from Kennesaw College. Private room, bath, gourmet kitchen, CATV, phone, all utilities. \$550/mo. Call (404) 928-1425. (7.30)

Marietta female roommate wanted for 2BR/2BA. No smoking indoors, no drugs, no pets. \$280/mo + 1/2 utilities. Call (404) 419-1142. (7.28)

EMORY - Roommate wanted to share 3 BR, 2 BA home, W/D, D/ W. Non-smoker. Must like pets, fenced yard. \$350/mo. + 1/2 util. (404) 325-4343. (7.28)

GWM, 31, seeks clean responsible roommate to share spacious 2 BR, 1 BA apt. in Lenox/Emory area. W/D, CATV, pool. No smoke or pets. \$400 includes all. 325-8276. (7.29)

Midtown GWM looking for same to share large 2 BR, 2 BA apartment. W/D, private entrance. Serious only. \$375/mo. + 1/2 util. Michael 724-0220. (7.27)

Grant Park—Share spacious 4BR, 2BA home w/3. W/D. \$300/mo includes utilities except phone +\$100 dep. (404) 622-0384. (7.30)

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

Decatur/Clarkston. Lesbian housemate wanted to share home. No smoking/drugs. Must love pets. \$300 includes all. Susan 299-7881(h), or 727-0696(w). (7.27)

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

Service

Pet Portraits. Framable art of your favorite family member. Canvas or pen & ink. Reasonable. Pawprints (404) 688-9142. (7.30)

Residential cleaning service. Looking to establish small clientele for weekly or biweekly service. I'm flexible, dependable, thorough. Willing to do lawn work. (404) 352-0106. (7.28)

Travel

Mountain Ridge Farm Bed & Breakfast. Lake, canoeing, swimming, fishing, boat dock, bikes,

jacuzzi, massages, more! Great space/rates! Blairsville, Georgia (706) 745-7772. (7.30)

SWIFTWATERS WOMANSPACE Wooded, riverfront Campground/Bed & Breakfast with in-room HOTTUB in mountain foothills near Appalachian Trail an hour north of Atlanta. (706) 864-3229. (7.28)

THE OLD MILL - Bat Cave, NC. B&B on banks of rushing mountain stream near Asheville. Call (704) 625-4256. (7.40)

Stillwell House B&B, Hendersonville, NC. (704) 693-6475. Queen size bed. Private baths, mixed, European style home architecturally, built 1920. MC & Visa welcomed. (7.34)

Volunteers

WHO'S DINING WHO, an Atlanta AIDS Survival Project benefit needs volunteers to help with the event. Event will be held September 24, 1994. Please contact Dana at (404) 798-6913 and leave message. (7.29)

AIDS Walk Atlanta needs volunteers to help produce the annual event that benefits AID Atlanta, Project Open Hand, and other AIDS Service and Education providers. Volunteers needed NOW through November, day and evening. Join the fight against AIDS. Please call Jamie at (404) 876-9255. (7.28)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to par-

MORE ON PAGE 46

SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM
 (404) 876-1819

TO PLACE AN AD:
In PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Southern Voice offices (M-F, 9-5pm) 1189 Virginia Ave., NE, Atlanta.
By MAIL: Mail completed order form with payment to Southern Voice Classifieds, P.O. Box 18215, Atlanta, GA 30316.
By PHONE: Call in with completed order form to (404) 876-1819.
By FAX: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds (404) 876-2709.

AD POLICY: Southern Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Ryan Publications' standards. No refunds for early cancellation.
MISPRINTS: Southern Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

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

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

INDIVIDUAL

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

BUSINESS

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

VOICE CONNECTION

- VOICEbox
- Written Response

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Category _____ # of Issues _____

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

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

Text _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATES

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

Up to 20 words \$3.00

___ additional words x 50¢ _____

Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk. _____

SUBTOTAL _____ x _____ # issues

TOTAL = _____

BUSINESS RATES

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

Up to 20 words \$12.00

___ additional words x \$1.00 _____

Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk. _____

SUBTOTAL _____ x _____ # issues

TOTAL = _____

VOICE CONNECTION

Up to 20 words & VOICEbox **FREE**

___ additional words x 50¢ _____

Giant headline @ \$3.00/wk. _____

SV forwarding box \$10.00/wk. _____

Other P.O. Box \$5.00/wk. _____

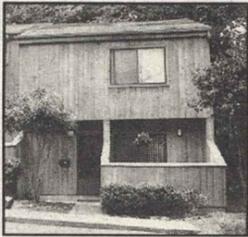
SUBTOTAL _____ x _____ # issues

TOTAL = _____

CHECK ENCLOSED _____ CHARGE MY MC/VISA _____

_____ exp. _____

THE CONDO COLLECTION



1230 Druid Knoll
Brookhaven Bargain!
Charming-Tranquil-Convenient describes best this wonderful 2 Bedroom Townhome with fireplace, patio, balcony, a pool and tons of trees! FHA, VA Approved. Only \$ 77,500



Historic Druid Hills
Lion's Gate
Fabulous Townhome with three sides of light in sought-after Lion's Gate. Only six years young! 3 BDR. 2.5 BA. Huge kitchen & breakfast area. Lovely garden. Newly Reduced \$ 176,900

If you're looking to buy or sell a condo, town home or cluster home in intown Atlanta... Call the experts.

26-CONDO



2140 Peachtree Rd., NW Atlanta, GA 30309 262-6636 Fax: 355-5341



The perfect home fits your taste, budget and lifestyle. Call me to help you find it.

Your dream bungalow complete w/rocking chair front porch, LR fireplace & master suite is now for sale. This one even has rental income. Very friendly neighborhood! Call today!

Chris Carroll



RE/MAX metro atlanta

**321-3123
933-4707**

If You're Not Dealing With

LEE SMITH

You're only getting 1/2 the attention you deserve!



Large all brick 3BD Ranch with completely new black and white kitchen. Great Decatur/Market Square Location. \$96,900

LEE SMITH

Associate Broker, GRI (office phone) 874-2262 (24 hr. phone) 453-1945



WHY??

When choosing a REALTOR to market your home, why should you call Charlene?

SHE'S THE EXPERT!

Charlene Cothran

adams
Vintage Home Sales

(404) 673-6099



Serving the Community for 10 Years

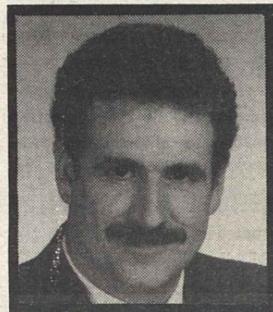
- A Wide Spectrum of Mortgage Products
- Competitive Rates
- Free Consultation

RAINBOW FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mary Swinford, President
233-9901

GA Res. Mortgage Licensee

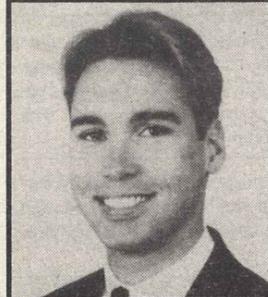
2609 Apple Valley Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30319



Chuck Daily
RE/MAX

of Buckhead

**(O) 233-4633
(H) 873-9999**



Carey Lokey
Welcome Hotlanta Rafter!

Office: 874-2262
Home: 892-8692

A Home for You and the Kids.

When it comes to selling or buying your home, Andy gets the results you're looking for.

ANDY PHILHOWER
Re/Max of Buckhead
233-4633



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Call **JEFFREY HALEY**

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- FHA & VA Loans
- No Income Verification
- Cash Out Refinances
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- Fixed & Adjustable
- Condo & Investor
- Commercial Loans
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Exceptional Service

Variety & Convenience



JEFFREY HALEY

Office: 404/475-3984

After Hours: ext. 134

Home: 872-JEFF

Shea Embry

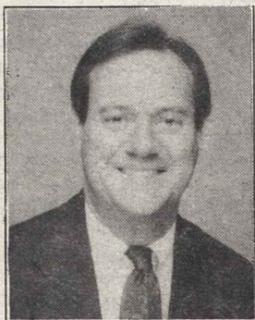
Lifetime Member Million Dollar Club

I will donate 10% of my take home commission to an AIDS Research or support group of your choice when you mention this ad at closing.

321-3123 378-9069

RE/MAX Metro Atlanta

Each office independently owned and operated.



EXPERIENCED.

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847-0808

Each office is independently owned and operated

Go with the Winning Team!



DIXIE CARD SALLYE PARSONS
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RE/MAX METRO ATLANTA 321-3123



Serving our community for over ten years.

JIM HILLIARD

RE/MAX In TOWN
622-2127/609-9898

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

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

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

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

HOLLYWOOD HOTS!

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

Voice Connection

WOMEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

GWF—very goodlooking, alternative, petite, professional, fun and physically fit. Seeks: same or a gorgeous hippie-chick. ☎ 1993

Gorgeous and outrageously daring GWF ISO androgenous and sensual GWF. 35-45 in relationship but seeking quality time with discreet partner. ☎ 1994

Our life is dull! GBF (couple) seeks other couples to befriend. Nothing sexual. Just lunch - movies or 2 hang-out with. Give us a call - Let's do lunch! ☎ 1980

Stable, professional, GWF, 37, who enjoys movies, reading, walks in the mountains and along the beach, eating out, travel and romance. Seeking somewhat feminine, non-smoke with similar interests. 35-45 yrs. ☎ 1981

GWF, 43, feminine, educated, professional, passionate, affectionate, honest and adventurous. Seeks warm heart, intelligent mind, playful spirit for quality relationship. ☎ 1982

GWF, 29, attractive, fit, non-smoker, settled, honest, caring, affectionate. Seeking spiritual growth. Loves music, sports, animals. Desires mature relationship. ☎ 1983

Attractive, feminine, GBF artisan, 30's (laid-back, nature-loving, spiritually-expressive) sks GF for conversation, friendship & intimacy. ☎ 1984

GWF, 40's, trim, petite, shy, mature, stable, just coming out. Seeking serious relationship with butch woman. ☎ 1985

KEY TO MY HEART

Cute GWF, 29, semi-butch, open minded, brn/grn, fin. secure, loves to laugh, dance & romance. ISO: similar semi-fem, 26 and up GWF, "over Ex." Come try your key! ☎ 1986

Relationship oriented, professional GBF seeks same. Must be emotionally stable, disease free, and over your X lover. ☎ 1712

GWF, 25, blonde, blue-eyed, slim, addicted to coffee and music, enjoys traveling, writing, movies, psychology, seeks attractive, intelligent, creative woman. Let's talk. ☎ 1713

Quiet GWF, 42 seeking warm, healthy, stable GWF over 35 who likes sports. I like sunbathing in summer and fireside talks in winter. No smokers/druggies. ☎ 1714

SEE THE HUMOR in Newt Gingrich donating snake to zoo? GWF, 31, professional, politically aware, physically fit seeks self-assured GWF, 27-37, with eclectic musical tastes, diverse interests, liberal philosophies. Must possess passion for life, sense of humor. No smokers, emotional vampires, addictions. Write Les Bian, P.O. Box 2554, Beaufort, SC 29901.

WF wants serious relationship with tall, slim, feminine woman. Prefer long hair. Must love animals, and fun. Outgoing, trustworthy and honesty a must. No butches or Bi's. Age 23-35. ☎ 1619

GWF, 25, attractive professional. Love golf, all sports, quiet evenings. ISO feminine women age 30-38 w/similar interest for dating. ☎ 1620

GWF, 37, tall, attractive, blonde/blue, fit, feminine, professional. Appreciate: humor, honesty, spirituality. Interest: music, sports, movies. ISO similar traits, appreciation/interests. Age 32-42, for friendship/dating. No smoking/drugs. ☎ 1621

38 y/o GWF in committed relationship seeking Butch Buddy for friendship/pal. I'm honest, hardworking, nature lover, in recovery. Alcohol/drug-free. ☎ 1622

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

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

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

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

NE Ga. GWF 35, wks nights/week-ends, smoker seeks sincere, monogamous relationship-oriented GWF. No drugs, bar scenes, games, butches. I am seeking soulmate. P.O. Box 1115, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

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

als/alcoholics. ☎ 1500

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN

SoVo Pick of the Week

Black male seeks masculine black male for uninhibited adventurous mouth watering fun. ☎ 1995

BM, 30s, 155 lbs, 5'8", masculine, trim, hung, versatile, seeks butch brother with same qualities. No fats or fems. ☎ 1996

Boy-next-door, shy, masculine suburbanite, clean-cut, handsome, healthy, horny, good body and endowment seeking sugardad with good skills. ☎ 1997

Submissive, responsive, WM bottom seeking dominant, endowed top over 35 for pleasure sessions. ☎ 1998

BOY! NEED DISCIPLINE? gwm, 37 masculine, top. Romantic, HIV negative, into safe, sane S/M, B/D, seeks boyish but mature comrade. ☎ 1999

GWM, 34, 5'9", 165, br/grn, smoker, masculine seeks masculine Latino or Black 25-35 to share time. ☎ 2000

Handsome North Georgia Mountains WM, 38, 5'8" 148, healthy, fit, HIV-, endowed, seeks eager French active WM for regular service. ☎ 2001

HOT TOP seeks hot bottom. Me: 30s, 5'11", 165, moustache, HIV-, dominant. You: submissive, attractive, safe, 202-30s. Afternoons or evenings. ☎ 2002

GWM-Looking for real soldier boy(s). Men in uniform. Let's create our own maneuvers. Fulfill our fantasies. Write first. Then... P.O. Box 18875, Atlanta, GA 31126

COMPLETE THE FANTASY... Hot, masculine blue-collar/leather top wanted to discipline

VOICE CONNECTION

TO PLACE FREE AD

Fill out the classified order form in this section. 20 WORD MESSAGE FREE. An SV forwarding mailbox costs \$10.00 per week or you may use your own PO Box for \$5.00 per week. Mail or drop off your completed order for with payment. A simple instruction sheet will be mailed to you which will enable you to record your spoken message AT NO COST.

TO RESPOND

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

CALL NOW

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

exotic, muscular bottom boy while hairy Italian lover watches. ☎ 1987

HIV+ - Brains, eyes, heart, tan, 5'10", 155#, healthy, ready for love maybe. ☎ 1988

GWM, 34, 6', 190, hairy, hot, versatile, looking for GBM for private parties. Age/looks unimportant. Discretion assured. ☎ 1989

GWM, 29, brn/blu, very attractive seeks similar in West Metro Area. ☎ 1990

GWM, 32, affectionate, professional, non-smoker/drinker, non-stereotypical, seeks similar eclectic partner. ☎ 1991

Attractive GWM, 30, blk/bl, 5'10", 155#, healthy HIV+, seeks friendship for hiking, scuba diving, motorcycling, boating, movies, and fun times. ☎ 1715

Hairy, short, stocky, 40something tiddy bear workaholic tired of looking in all the wrong places for quality companion. ☎ 1716

GWM, 24, 6'3", 250#, brown/green. You GWM under 40 masculine NO ATTITUDE for friendship/relationship NO drugs, NO fems. ☎ 1717

GWM 30something 6', 155#, bl/bl, sensitive, good conversation, professional, relationship oriented. ISO younger, 25-35, easygoing slender guy who's not into games. ☎ 1718

Personable, witty GWM, 6'4", 37. ISO a mature GWM who never fears spontaneity and enjoys the art of conversation. ☎ 1719

GWM student seeking a generous male to satisfy my wants. I will satisfy his needs. ☎ 1720

Gay BM 38, HIV+, seeks GBM sincere, honest, masculine top, for friendship/possibly more, reoccurring addict. ☎ 1721

WM, 50, slim. Loves pets, motorcycles, beaches seeks very masculine lifemate. TLC. P.O. Box 2095, Atlanta, GA 30301

GWM, 23, tall, fit, into 99X, outdoors. ISO same 21-30. Dark hair, blue/green eyes a +! Real people only! ☎ 1722

Dominant GWM 47, 6', 165, seeking masculine GWM bottom with muscular sensitive pecs into B/D, TT, CBT. ☎ 1723

Versatile leather man 41, 5'7", 140, into being serviced and submissive, cock and butt play of all kinds.

Safe action seeking same. ☎ 1724

Sharp GWM 56 into writing music, movies, psychology, gardening, self growth, slight kinks seeks partner any age. ☎ 1387

Any hot-looking Queer Nation leftovers out there wanna have some fun??? Kick ass/move society and laugh. ☎ 1702

Cute, BM, athlete, 22, 5'8", smooth body, great personality. Seeks interesting WM 25-35 for fun Friendship/Relationship. ☎ 1624

GWM, 47, responsible, attractive, masculine, professional, no smoke/drugs/drink seeks GWM son, under 30, for long-lasting monogamous relationship. ☎ 1700

Hairy? Horny? 34 year old cub seeks aggressive nonsmoking sexy kinky Dad (30-45) for intense relationship. ☎ 1701

Hot GWM wants hot OUT friend. No cowards. Sex maybe. Fun. Adventure. Any race. Change world. No fats/fems. ☎ 1703

Hunting for bear! Attractive, hairy, athletic, GWM, 31 looking for a beefy, stable WM into sports, movies and travel. ☎ 1704

Two attractive, HIV-, discreet, GWM, versatile tops, 37-40 seeking mutually satisfying ongoing explorations. Anything SAFE/kinky. Bottoms preferred, versatile okay. ☎ 1705

GWM 30, 5'8", brn/hzl, 170lbs. Bottom. Enjoys books movies and adventurous sex. Seeks top for good times possible relationship. ☎ 1706

WM, 23, 5'7", 138, seeks W/B/ Muscular males 18-30 for honest friendship and adventures. Endowed and tanned are plus! ☎ 1707

GBM, 34, 5'7", 135 healthy, interesting. Seeks tall, heavyset, country type Dominant Top 40-50, 200-300 lbs. ☎ 1708

Attractive, masculine, caramel Southern Virginian male, 36, healthy, screenwriter desires goodlooking, muscular, blonde beau, hairy, creative professional into romance. ☎ 1710

GWM seeks GBM professional, mature and sincere wanting to improve the Quality of his Life with massage. Erotic and Safe. ☎ 1711

GBM 38, professional. Dislike club scene. Very masculine seeking same. Financially independent.

Would like to enjoy life. HIV+. ☎ 1600

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

EX SOLDIER BOY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Genuine, masculine, GBM, 24 seeks sincere romantic, masculine, open-minded GMs of any race for exploring stimulating new friendship/relationship. ☎ 1609

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

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

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

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

Muscular GWM, 40, 6ft, 180lbs, HIV+, vgdkg, in relationship, needs more. Seeking submissive

PERSONALS

boy, 25-30, for role playing, B/D. Discreet. ☎ 1504

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

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

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

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

BUTCH BOTTOM

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

CUTE 28 GWM

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

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

Oriental male fit/safe cleancut seeks quality full body massage once a week. Please non-smoker. ☎ 1513

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GM couple, 27 and 33, down to earth, masculine, likes outdoors, seeks similar GM couple for fun and friendship. ☎ 1490

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

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

SPREAD & SMILE!

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

GWM, 40, 6', 210, br/blu, into 99X, sports, travel, poetry, seeks GWM 35-55 for dating and possible relationship. ☎ 1578

RU SHORT&LONG?

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

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

America's #1 GAY DATELINE. All lifestyles. In Your Area. 1-900-860-1333 \$2.50/minute. CCI BOCA, Florida. 18+

SIZZLING HUNKS LIVE!! 1-800-284-2739. \$3.50/minute. Wild Gay Party Line \$2.00/minute or 1-900-745-0833. 18+

TV/TS

Smallish, easily passable TS - pre or post - sought by healthy, well-endowed WM for Harley adventures. Sun/Stars. ☎ 1992

CROSS-DRESSER'S GUIDE! A complete information resource. Wonderful Fantasies, InfoGuide, Personals, Catalogs, True Experiences, More! Newest Fantasy: "Pampered In Panties!" Hear full details (recorded, 24 Hours). Call 333-6455.

BISEXUAL

Bi-Female: Sensual, health conscious, responsible, youthful, playful companion for couple: male is straight, athletic (6-1, 180), international entrepreneur; fem is bisexual, fit (5-7, 125), adventurous, into native American spirituality. Let's meet, talk, then proceed if there's mutual interest. ☎ 2003

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

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

WM 48 slightly submissive oral devotee and enthusiast ISO G/Bi/S female attractive requiring daytime stress relief, reciprication not required. ☎ 1615

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

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

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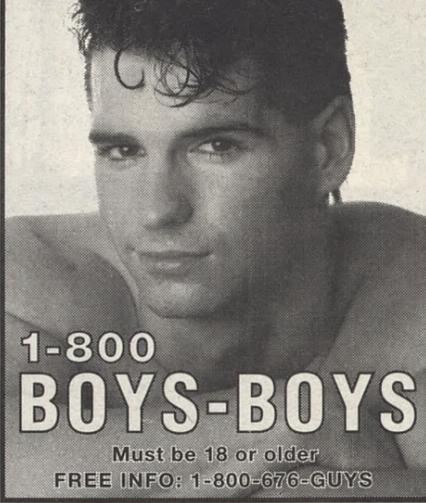
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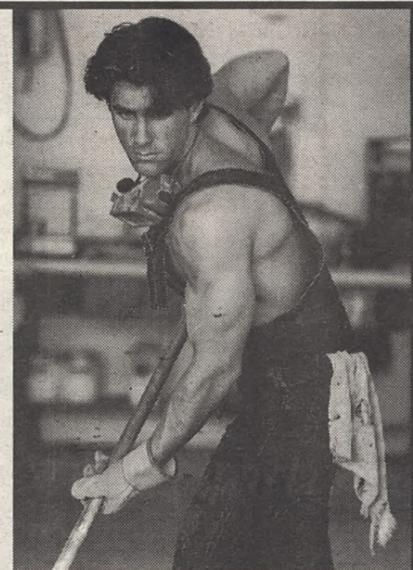
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