Between the Sexes

Statewide gay political group forms

The Georgia Equality Project will unite urban and rural communities with a mission of diversity

by KC Wildmoon

In the past two years, election time has meant open season on gay men and lesbians, increasingly on the state and local level—Lewiston, Maine; Oregon; Cobb County; Colorado; Cincinnati; Idaho; and Alachua County, Fla. Communities are opting to take matters into their own hands in states and municipalities where voter initiatives are available, and where they're not, they are electing candidates who share their conservative views—largely because the more progressive community has failed to counter that movement with its own grassroots organizing force.

In Georgia, that may soon end. For the past year and a half, a group of gay men and lesbians have been patiently putting together a new organization that will fill the void, uniting rural and urban Georgia and creating the opportunity to respond to legislation and other issues not just in Atlanta but all across the state.

The Georgia Equality Project (GEP) got off the ground some months ago with a proposal to take over some of the activities of the Georgia Political Action Committee (GAPAC) and expand upon them, both in the program and fundraising arena. At first, some GAPAC board members were resistant to the idea. "People weren't sure of some of the motives, initially," said Megan Phillips, GAPAC's vice chair. "Then, when everybody began to get involved, we realized our purposes were really the same, the same methodology, the same goals. People realized there was no problem."

GEP members felt it was vital to continue many of their activities—candidate ratings and interviews, lobbying at the state legislature. The original organizers of GEP agreed that those programs must continue, but at a more effective level.
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*For complete schedule see page 35 in this issue.
Appointment of new police chief signals hope, caution

Atlanta—Mayor Bill Campbell’s Oct. 26 appointment of Beverly Harvard as Atlanta’s Chief of Police signals the official end of the Eldrin Bell era—and area activists are hoping that the coming changes will be welcome for Atlanta’s lesbian/gay community.

Harvard has been Acting Chief since April, when Bell resigned to pursue the Fulton County Commission Chair post (Bell was disqualified because he did not live in Fulton County), but many activists believe that the 43-year-old Harvard, the first Afro-American woman to head a major police force, will come into her own now that she has been named Chief.

“She hasn’t had the opportunity to act with full authority [since April],” said David MacDonald, who serves as an advisor to the City Council Public Safety Committee’s Lesbian/Gay Task Force. “I really do think there’s a lot of opportunity for us to see change. And I’m very excited to see a woman in that position.”

Harvard has already come under fire from some in the gay community for launching a sting operation last month aimed partly at gay cruising spots in public parks. MacDonald said that the operation preyed “on the most vulnerable of us,” while Larry Pellegrini, an advisor to Mayor Campbell’s gaylesbian advisory panel, said that the sweep would be “a bone of contention.”

“We’re not going to say the gay lifestyle is wrong. The Bible says if you judge, you’re wrong. The Bible says if you SHAME, you’re wrong. But we’re going to say that government does not have the right to impose moral beliefs on its citizens.”

AIDS Legal Project attorney Chip Rowan said the lawsuit “goes to show there are people from all walks of life fighting for their rights.”

But most observers appeared relieved that the appointment of Harvard, who has spent most of her 21-year career with the Atlanta Police Department in administrative positions, said that she hopes “to be the best chief the city of Atlanta has ever had.”

The City Council must confirm Harvard’s appointment, and is expected to take up the matter as this issue of Southern Voice goes to press, on Nov. 7.

Paulding County to consider “family values” resolution

Commissioner says language would not single out gays and lesbians

Dallas, GA—The legacy of Cobb County’s anti-gay resolution continues to grow, this time right next door in Paulding County, where commissioners are considering a “family values” resolution—but the commissioner who is pushing the resolution says his version will not condemn gay men and lesbians.

Efforts to contact Commissioner Mike Pope were unsuccessful, but the commissioner told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “We’re not going to say the gay lifestyle is wrong. The Bible says if you judge, you will be judged. Ours will be broad in range and will not condemn. Hate is wrong. Government can’t dictate morals.”

Pope said that his resolution would promote two-parent households, the role of church in the family and Christianity. Polly Buford, the executive secretary to the board of commissioners, said that Pope requested that the county attorney draft a resolution after petitions requesting action on such a resolution were presented at last week’s commission meeting.

“We’ve had petitions presented,” Buford said. “There were 8 to 10 churches represented, and they had one spokesperson.”

The petitions requested that the three Paulding County Commissioners adopt a “family values” resolution and send a letter to Cobb County in support of their anti-gay resolution. Paulding’s petitions were similar to letters sent to the Chatham County (Savannah) Commission by several area churches last month. Chatham’s commissioners took no action on the matter.

Karen Mathews, a Paulding resident who opposes the resolution, said that the resolution would damage the county.

“This would hurt too many people,” she said. “It will hurt the whole county, just like it’s hurt Cobb. I think it’s a disgrace. Anybody with a Christian bone in their body would not put forth anything like this.”

Just east of Paulding County, the Cobb County Citizens Coalition sent out alerts to its mailing list as soon as they learned of the Paulding actions, asking for phone calls to the Paulding commissioners.

“We wanted to send out the same kind of alert that was generated in Chatham County” to stop the proposed resolution there, said Coalition cochair Noel Lytle. “If the commissioner who asked for this resolution in Paulding County realizes what a terrible cost this resolution will have, they will either vote it down or put it on indefinite hold.”

Lytle said that the Paulding resolution would not target gay men and lesbians for special condemnation offered “some comfort,” but he added that government does not have “the right to impose moral beliefs on its citizens.”

“We’re finding a variety of family structures in today’s society,” he said. “And many of them are positive. Instead of focusing on structure, they should be focusing on the quality of the family. Love, respect, commitment—that’s what makes a family.”

Initial reports indicated that the Paulding commissioners would take up the issue during a work session on Nov. 7 and vote on the matter at the next commission meeting on Nov. 8. But Commissioner Pope told the AJ-C that no vote would be taken before public hearings are held, and that the process would take about a month.

Lytle said the delay may be good news for those opposing the resolution.

“The longer it takes the better,” he said. “The churches already have their network together. The opposition will need some time to build.”

Strip club fired man with HIV, lawsuit charges

Atlanta—A lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court last week charges that a local nude bar discriminated against a patron at the club because he is HIV-positive.

Salvatore DeFalco charges that his supervisor at the Cheeta III did nothing when he voluntarily told him about his HIV status in the fall of 1993. But according to the lawsuit, the supervisor in December informed him that a customer had told the owner’s son about DeFalco’s HIV status.

“Mr. DeFalco’s supervisor told him that since customers were now aware of his HIV status, business at Cheeta III would suffer,” reads the lawsuit. “He informed Mr. DeFalco that customers at Cheeta III were part of the ‘Hookers’ crowd and would not be accepting of Mr. DeFalco’s illness. He informed Mr. DeFalco that he would have to conceal his illness from customers.”

But most observers appeared relieved that the appointment of Beverly Harvard, who has spent most of her 21-year career with the Atlanta Police Department in administrative positions, said that she hopes “to be the best chief the city of Atlanta has ever had.”

The City Council must confirm Harvard’s appointment, and is expected to take up the matter as this issue of Southern Voice goes to press, on Nov. 7.

KC WILDMOON

Attorney Chip Rowan said the lawsuit “goes to show there are people with HIV in all workplaces.”

KC WILDMOON

AIDS Legal Project attorney Chip Rowan, who filed the lawsuit for DeFalco, that the suit has been filed under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

“It’s a case in which my client alleges the Cheeta III fired him because he told his supervisor and some co-workers about his HIV status,” Rowan said. “It’s ironic that a place that’s promoting sex can’t face up to HIV in the workplace. It goes to show there are people with HIV in all workplaces.”

DeFalco is seeking unspecified damages in his claim. The Cheeta III has not yet responded to the suit.
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**S.C. gay center holds grand opening**

Columbia, SC — South Carolina gays and lesbians will celebrate the grand opening of the newly relocated S.C. Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Nov. 13 from 3 to 8 p.m.

The Grand Opening Gala will also feature the dedication of a "Wall of Honor" and the presentation of awards to volunteers, organizations and businesses by the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement.

The center is a project of GLPM, and home to several other organizations, including Les Ms., a lesbian coming out group; PFLAG; The Brigade Club; Lutheran Concerned; The New Hope Christian Church; M+ B+, a gay men's HIV social group; the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Business Guild; and First Saturdays OUT.

For more information, call (803) 771-7713 or write GLPM, P.O. Box 12648, Columbia, SC 29211.

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**S.C. AIDS conference announced**

Columbia, SC — Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services of South Carolina (PALLS) announces its ninth annual AIDS conference to be held Nov. 28-29 at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia.

The conference is divided into two days: Day one, "Pediatric Policy and Practice," focuses on issues of treating children and adolescents; day two, "Policy and Practice in the Plague Years," focuses on the needs and care of adults with HIV.

Participants may register for one or both days. Registration fee is $35 for one day, $60 for both. The fee includes lunch, certification and materials.


For a brochure or more information, contact Midlands AHEC at 5 Richland Medical Park, Columbia, SC 29203, (803) 434-6886.
Skinheads Interrupt Gay Meeting: About 20 skinheads, members of a group called the Army of Israel, interrupted a panel discussion with several southern Utah gay and lesbian groups Oct. 22. Cedar City, Utah, police checked the group for weapons and allowed them to be seated. The group shouted anti-gay epithets at the panel members before being told that further disruptions would lead to arrests. The group left and passed out anti-gay literature. Police officers stayed at the meeting until it concluded and all audience members had left the parking lot.

Church Leader Cancels Lesbian Minister's Service: A top official of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) canceled a Nov. 4 prayer service by Rev. June Adams Spahr at the church's Louisville headquarters, calling it a sensitive issue. Rev. James D. Brown, head of the church's governing body, also canceled a reception for Spahr and notified staff members that meetings between Spahr and staff could happen only with prior approval. Spahr said the cancellations seemed to contradict the church's stated desire to have "dialogue" about the roles of gays in the church. "I thought why I was coming... [was] so a dialogue could happen," Spahr said. "How can you study something if you don't have the people there who you're supposed to be studying?"

Professor Resigns After Advocating Tolerance For Gay: A theatre profes- sor at Messiah College in Carlisle, Pa., was pressured to resign after he advocated tolerance for gay men and lesbians, according to a published report. During a class discussion at the conservative Christian school in the fall of 1993, Earl Genzel was asked whether he thought gays should be priests or accepted into Christian congregations. Genzel said that he agreed that St. Paul's writing condemns specific forms of homosexual behavior that occurred in ancient times, but he questioned the use of biblical passages "to condemn gay Christians who are living in monogamous, mutually caring, loving relationships." Officials told Genzel he wasn't being fired but it was "not a wise decision" for him to remain at the school. Neither Genzel nor the school would comment on his resignation.

Parolee Cleared In Slayings Of Two Gay Men: DNA test results have cleared an Arkansas parolee of involvement in the slayings of two gay men in living, Tex., police say. Edwin Bernard Perkins remains charged in the Aug. 18 stabbing death of another gay man, Larry David Allen of Garland. Perkins has admitted killing Allen but denied killing Larry Leggett in January and Leopoldo "Paul" Quintanilla, Jr. in June. DNA test results released Oct. 28 and other evidence backed up Perkins' claims that he was not involved in those two murders. Perkins is being held without bond on a murder charge and a probation violation.

Sodomy Charges Tossed Out In R.I. Case: DNA test results have cleared the Aug. 18 stabbing death of another gay man, Larry David Allen of Garland. Perkins has admitted killing Allen but denied killing Larry Leggett in January and Leopoldo "Paul" Quintanilla, Jr. in June. DNA test results released Oct. 28 and other evidence backed up Perkins' claims that he was not involved in those two murders. Perkins is being held without bond on a murder charge and a probation violation.

Student Review Board Ousts Texas Gay Group: A student review board at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Tex., has voted to revoke the organizational status of the school's Gay and Lesbian Student Association, according to a report in the Houston Voice. The review board, a subgroup of the Student Government Association, cited the Texas sodomy statute in voting 4-2 to oust the gay group, saying GLSA violates a resolution prohibiting any group that "advocates blatant violation" of any federal, state, or local law from holding organizational status. "What's next?" said review board Bryan Simmons. "Are we going to have a mass murderers' club and say it's okay just because they may not be murdering anybody right now?"

Amateur Radio Club Wins Discrimination Case: The Lambda Amateur Radio Club in Connecticut will now be allowed to advertise in the American Radio Relay League's classified section, following settlement of a discrimination complaint filed by the club six years ago. The league rejected the club's request to advertise at that time, claiming the group was a "special interest." On Oct 20, a settlement was announced that requires the league to adopt a nondiscrimination policy and accept LARC's advertisements. Connecticut law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Cases: The U.S. Supreme Court last month declined to hear three cases of interest to the lesbian/gay community. The Court refused to consider a Texas law that bans the sale of dildoes or use of them for vaginal penetration. The Court also rejected a case involving an employee of Shell Oil Co. who said he was subjected to "severe and pervasive sexual harassment" by two male supervisors, and a third case involving the discharge of gay Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Jackson, who was discharged when civilian police discovered evidence of his sexual orientation and turned it over to military officials. The lower court rulings in all three cases will remain standing.

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Ga. Equality Project
Continued from page 1

"GAPAC [came to understand] that we were not trying to annihilate them," said GEP organizer Caroline Amory. "There will basically be a collapsing of the two organizations. It is very clear to us that we need to do this and get it done."

"We need to do the lobbying, ratings, get out the vote activities, but we need to do it better," said Ed Stansell, GAPAC's chair. "We need a broader vision and a professional scope. We've not been able to fund things as well as we should be. The key thing, frankly, is to be able to hire an executive director. Someone working full-time on this issue will make all the difference in the world."

But why a new organization? "GAPAC has done a good job," said Phillips, "but we still sort of operate as a mom and pop store. We were going to need to turn ourselves around anyway. It's simply time for more professional, more full time people."

And starting afresh seemed the best way to accomplish that. "There's interest in supporting this kind of work in places other than Atlanta," said Stansell. "That's not lost on us. That's one reason GAPAC is interested in shifting. We want a concerted effort to do something new."

The "new" will be a sharper focus on fund-raising and building statewide networks to disseminate information, a trend that has been growing nationally in the face of tightly organized radical right groups and increasing attacks on lesbian and gay rights on a grassroots level.

"These elections are going to show that Congress is going to become increasingly difficult to work with in a proactive way," said Cathy Woolard, a Georgian who serves as HRCF's Federal Action Network (FAN) coordinator. "The status of state assemblies is also getting worse. The need for statewide organizations is ever more necessary now."

HRCF's FAN is an attempt to organize on a local level. But with its central focus still on Washington politics, it does little to combat the daily battles lesbians and gay men face in small towns across the country. Enter the statewide organization.

"The problem is that only about ten states have political organizations that are in any position to hire staff and make any kind of effort on their own," said Woolard. "The rest don't have anything at all, or it's so fledgling it's not very effective. GAPAC has done a very good job of starting that work, but it's time to expand resources."

GEP is currently soliciting board members for the new organization, and the emphasis will be as much on fundraising as it is on political activity. Add to that a concerted effort to attract support and membership from the entire state.

"Only about one third of Georgia's population lives in the Atlanta area," said Georgia Southern University political science professor Dr. Charles Gossett, a GAPAC board member. "If anything is going to happen in this state, we need the other two thirds."

"In Wayne County, Chatham County, Tifton, Macon—the issues are just as critical in those communities as they are to people in Atlanta," he continued. "There needs to be some regularized method of communicating..."
San Francisco man shot in brutal hate crime

San Francisco—A $10,000 reward has been offered in the hunt for the men who taunted a gay man, pinned him against the wall with a car and then shot him with an automatic weapon.

"They followed him as he tried to walk away," said police Inspector Mark Mahoney. "They blocked his way" with the vehicle.

"It is dismaying to think that in a city that is known for acceptance of individual freedom that this senseless act of violence still occurs," Mayor Frank Jordan said in announcing the reward on Monday.

Victor Rohana, 24, and his boyfriend were walking from a restaurant to their car October 28 when two men in a white Suzuki Samurai jeep yelled at them.

"We were gay and they didn't like that we were holding hands," said his friend, Steven Damron.

HRCF moves up in civil rights coalition

Washington, DC—The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR)—a coalition of 185 national organizations representing minorities, women, persons with disabilities, older Americans, labor and religious groups—has granted the Human Rights Campaign Fund a position on its 30-member governing board and its 25-member executive committee.

"With this announcement, the civil rights movement has reached a new milestone," said LCCR executive director Ralph G. Neas. "We recognize the persistence of widespread discrimination against lesbian and gay people, and understand that the elimination of such discrimination is a fundamental civil rights issue. We also welcome the contributions of the gay community to furthering equal rights for all people.

LCCR has been the legislative arm of the civil rights movement for 44 years and the driving force behind every major piece of civil rights legislation passed since 1950. HRCF joined the coalition in 1982.

Canadian court hears spousal benefits case

Ottawa, Ontario—The Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments November 1 on whether an elderly gay couple—together for 46 years—should be eligible for federal spousal pension benefits.

"It's the capstone of a lifetime of gay activism," said 73-year-old James Egan of Courtenay, British Columbia.

Egan, who began getting his pension in 1986, applied for spousal benefits for his partner, John Nesbit, 67. Spouses of pensioners can get an allowance—now a maximum of $687.88 ($516 U.S.) a month if they are aged 60 to 64 and the couple's yearly income is less than $20,688 ($15,516 U.S.).

Ottawa refused Egan's request, saying the Old Age Security Act defines spouse as someone of the opposite sex. The couple lost their case last year, but have appealed to the top court.

The court is not expected to rule for several months.
N E W P O I N T S

GUEST EDITORIAL

DENIAL = DEATH

by MARVIN LIEBMAN

As of January 1994, 63,000 young American teenagers are between the ages of 20 and 29, had AIDS. The overwhelming majority of them were infected while they were teenagers. These authoritative statistics come from the federal government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

What will be the figures for the balance of 1994? 100,000? 150,000? Whatever the statistics report, they will show that we are losing yet another generation to the disease. This time it will not be silence and ignorance that will result in death. It will be because of our denial and our refusal to deal with the plague that is killing our youth.

After living in the midst of the AIDS epidemic for 14 years, a generation of gay men have become inured to the everyday abominations of fear, the revelation of illness, and the specter and reality of death. For the first 10 years of the epidemic, when the slogan "silence = death" held sway, I was sadly silent. I was in the closet, and I reacted like most other Americans. AIDS was a disease that infected "them." One took a rather cursory interest, felt sporadically sorry for "them," even grieved when a friend died of the disease, but then "he-brought-it-on-himself-didn't-he?" I even thought it was a unique idea if my friend Bill Buckley suggested that gay HIV-positive men be tattooed on their buttocks as a warning to their sexual partners. I was alternatively amused or appalled by the actions of Larry Kramer and ACT UP. It was all rather distant, even though it had nothing to do with me.

And, then, in the summer of 1990, just days before my 67th birthday, I came out publicly. In a blazing revelation, I understood it was not them. "It was us." It was me.

From that point on, I devoted myself to our community in every way I could think of, desperate to make up for the wasted, the silent years. And I knew that outsiders could never really understand this terrible plague that had wreaked havoc on our community and had killed off too many of our best. Only we, gay men, could take full measure of our losses and assume responsibility for our future. Certainly, we have compassionate allies in our lesbian sisters and men and women representing all facets of America's mainstream. But, in the end, it is we who will die and it is we who must take action. Silent for so many years, I know that I now have the duty to speak out as a gay man deeply concerned over the future and the fate of all of us.

We are, in a way, the citizens of Sodom who are going to hell in a handbasket. While the constant bombarding begins to seem less terrifying over time, we become able to accommodate the ritual of thunderous assault, the negating of guilt, and continue on, somewhat nostalgic, but resigned. Pre-cariously alive, we are impeccably trained in self-defense with our民眾 as the core. The siege has become particularly commonplace for young gay men, maturing in the crucible of AIDS, highly schooled in safer sex survival tactics. Yet, too many, while well-versed in AIDS prevention, carry on with sex and love as if there were no consequences, convinced alternately of immortality or an inevitable death with HIV.

Another onslaught, another new and still more horrifying round of casualties, is now taking shape. A study recently completed by Columbia University which tracked gay male, bisexual and heterosexual Americans indicated that overall pattern of decline in incidence is so fragile that adding scarcely one more new and unsafe partner per gay man per year would begin to increase the total number of cases after years of decline. The conclusions from the study are chilling. "Young men are the future of this epidemic," says Dr. Martin Morris, co-author of the study. First-hand reports from San Francisco, New York, Dallas and Los Angeles show that young gay men are adopting or simply falling back upon sexual behaviors which dramatically increase the risk of contracting HIV, most notably anal intercourse without a condom. The Whitman-Walker Clinic reports that the rate of adolescent infection in Washington, D.C., is doubling every 16 months.

Why? There are many theories discussed at inconclusive meetings of physicians, social workers, psychologists, and AIDS bureaucrats in this country and throughout the world. Not one of them has come up with an answer to the self-destruction of gay men who bring death to others. It is deeply depressing to note that the present trend in unsafe sexual activity by younger men persists and grows. I must unhesitatingly repeat former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's recent somber remarks on AIDS at Ohio Wesleyan University on September 7 of this year: "There will never be a cure, and the likelihood of a vaccine is dim. We Americans do a better job of preventive maintenance on our cars than we do on ourselves."

I thus rage against the possibility that this dreadful plague will not only outlast me, but also the generation of gay men 50 years my junior. This horror can no longer be blamed on Ronald Reagan or the Christian Right or the Republican administration; it can actually or on silence alone. We have heard the basics over and over for more than a decade—getting tested, knowing our HIV status, communicating that knowledge, being honest before and maintaining absolute correctness of conductions during intercourse.

My good friend, Greg Scott, a veteran activist who lives with AIDS, exposes a more personal, direct and radical approach: "Only those of us who can break our silence and prevent its spread. To stop HIV transmission, those of us who are already infected must act having told any kind of the same who may still be capable of doing something about it. Whatever the methods, the blame will be ours if the AIDS holocaust is to continue to decimate our community. We hold the future in our hands. Our struggle for civil rights, our marches and demonstrations, our national and local organizations are all dependent on our ability to put down the self-destruction of gay men."

American freedom struggle, would weaken the struggle against racial discrimination. But if I feel strongly that the opposition is true, it is that we will strengthen our coalition against racism. This is why the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, one of the nation's most important civil rights coalitions, has appointed the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which is the nation's largest gay and lesbian rights organization, to its executive committee. The civil rights movement thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion.

If the basic rights of one group can be taken away at the ballot box, all groups are vulnerable. Those who oppose discrimination and truly support equal rights should stand together to resist all attempts to restrict civil rights in this country. I urge everyone who believes in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of a nation free of bigotry and discrimination to vote "no" on any and all attempts to deny the promise of American to any group.

Sincerely,
Coretta Scott King

LETTER

A letter from Coretta Scott King to Alachua County, FL
When I’m out doing book promotion, I get scheduled as a guest-by-telephone on some radio stations in small towns not even big enough to have their own map dot. And this one was no exception. In fact it was so small that the host’s hopes for a call to his program were dashed twice when he asked the first callers if they wanted to talk to his guest, and both replied, “No. I’m looking for the ad department.” Seems the station only had two telephone lines, and I was already on one of them, so the show and the business office had to share. Now that’s small.

A lot of people have asked me why I bother with these stations, because appearing on them doesn’t sell many books, which after all, is, theoretically the whole point. I do them because in some of these towns I believe there are gay and lesbian people who have no contact with the rest of us. Isolated for—who wouldn’t even know where to send for a paper like this, much less have a local place to buy it. My imaginary friend—and you thought I was too old for that—has probably only had exposure to bullies which shout his or her name with expletives attached, and has never heard a GPWA. (That’s Gay Person With Attitude) before. Much less an LPWA like me. It had happened for me a long time ago, hearing a KGWPA (Radio Gay Person etc.), and that singular seminal incident instilled an attitude adjustment in my soul. For the first time I heard a gay person neither defending nor being defensive. What a radical concept. Sure, with each other we could do that, I knew. But I’d never seen it modeled in a gay/straight interaction before. It sounded so good, it instantly changed how I related to the rest of the world. Naturally, it seemed only fair to turnabout. So now that I get chances to be East Dinkwarter’s (Pop 6543) biennial encounter with a real, live (whisper), lesbian, I do it every chance I get.

And I don’t whisper. I say the L-word right out loud. Repeatedly. On the radio! The show does with such as much attitude as I must when simultaneously being bombarded with both biblical and Darwinian, an odd metaphysical concurrence, doona think? Besides, it never hurts for everybody else, even the ones merely looking for the ad department, to hear somebody say that being one, you know, isn’t such a terrible thing. That it’s not the end of the earth if you’re a parent. That, no, Mama and Dad didn’t cause it. And the reason so many nongay people have thought so badly about us for such a long time is that so far we’ve just had really lousy PR.

Usually it gets at least a grudging grin. This day it brought a real call in, which was thrilling for the host that someone actually meant to call, and not someone inquiring about the 30-second ad rate for putting their combination cream separator-grain thresher in the show. I, frankly wasn’t so thrilled.

I’d heard this lady before. She, or her clone, often calls in a querulous voice designed to conceal her true identity: Mephistopheles’ mother wanting to give my patience a try. This Lucifer in old lace said “...pervert” to me, and “disgrace to the community” to the show host. After the sermonette, she asked me if I ever read the bible, then hung up—not, I thought listening to my response.

Forgot the “judge not that ye be not judged” stuff—much too weak ammunition for this dowager who, speaking of judgmental, could have replaced the entire Supreme Court in a heartbeat. I went straight to the counter-admonition that if she were going to use Leviticus against me, she ought to read the rest of it (including the part that you couldn’t go to the bathroom without a pass and had to keep a thimble in your appendage). I went straight to the American Medical Association’s position saying: “the rape victim is not Mr. Innocent.” Would the paper apologize to the Emory doctor as well as the rape victim? I patiently explained that as far as I knew, the Atlanta Constitution’s Saturday, 10/29, coverage of the occurrence/crime was open.

Innocent; she was at a notorious bar in an LPWA. “...pervert” to me, and “disgrace to the community” to the show host. After the sermonette, she asked me if I ever read the bible, then hung up—not, I thought listening to my response.

Usually, it defuses. Apparently, instead, it rankled. Because two minutes later she cranked the handle of my Smallville radio host and I, having entertained the rural masses for as far as the crow could fly. I’ll do it again the next time North Oshogbo or West Anywhere calls. For all the people who need to hear a little attitude adjustment in their lives. Ours and theirs. Including my favorite radio phone-in LPWA (Laughably Overbearing Looneysox), from outside Atlanta, who accused me of being “...nothing but a... a... a... SHAMELESS LESBIAN!”

“Yes,” I responded, after a significant 30-second wait. “So, ah...what’s your point?”

Here’s me sending you a radio wave.

---

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Attention: Mr. Ron Martin, Managing Editor

Dear Mr. Martin:

I have become very disappointed with your reporting. What has happened to good investigative reporting? Case in point, last Saturday’s edition, October 29, 1994, “Front-Page Headlines, Reverence ATM Shooting”; and the Atlanta Constitution’s Saturday, 10/29, coverage of the occurrence/crime. I am appalled at the Atlanta Constitution’s Saturday, 10/29, coverage of the occurrence/crime. I am shocked you would print the remarks of that plain-clothes official describing that “plain-clothes official was dashed twice when he asked the first callers if they wanted to talk to his guest, and both replied, “No. I’m looking for the ad department.” Seems the station only had two telephone lines, and I was already on one of them, so the show and the business office had to share. Now that’s small.

Shame on you and your staff for weak and biased journalism. I may not renew my subscription when it is time to renew in November.

Also, I would sincerely like for you to apologize to the Emory doctor as well as the gay and lesbian community since I don’t believe your intentions are hate-motivated to this minority. Your bigotry and bias serves no good purpose. If you had done your job, this story would have been news within 48 hours of the occurrence/crime.

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Black gay group struggles to achieve national scope

Three years into its mission as a national organization, money is tight and membership disappointingly low.

By Sidney Brinkley

Los Angeles—In February 1992, the membership of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (BGLLF) voted to make the group a true national organization. While BGLLF has increased its national profile, almost three years later, the Los Angeles-based organization is still struggling to make that leap into the national arena.

"In Los Angeles, we are seen as a local organization that has a national scope, but outside of L.A., we are seen as a national organization," said BGLLF co-chair Vallerie Wagner. "There is a need for a national black gay organization and we are looking towards changing the Forum to meet the call, but we are taking our time. We have to make sure the structure is in place that will carry the organization forward."

Wagner and Gregory May have co-chaired BGLLF since June 1993 and are charged with the task of taking the organization to the national level. Established in 1987, BGLLF is governed by a nine-member board of directors, which also doubles as the board of governors.

"The board of directors handles the day-to-day operations of the organization," said BGLLF co-founder Phill Wilson. "The board of governors and board of directors are the same people, but the board of governors has a more expansive role. It decides the political policy of the organizations—for example, our position on gays in the military. Their other role is to provide a bridge between the organization and the local community. Our board member in Colorado engaged black gays and lesbians around the Colorado boycott." Wilson, along with Ruth Waters, co-chaired BGLLF for its first six years. Though he officially resigned from the board six months ago, Wilson remains instrumental to the organization.

In Los Angeles BGLLF has established an AIDS Prevention Team, which targets black gays and bisexuals. On the national level it is a part of the "Fight the Right" campaign and has activist Mandy Carter organizing black gays in states with anti-gay ballot initiatives. But BGLLF is primarily known for its annual black gay conference, which attracts several hundred participants every year. Though the conference is by far BGLLF's most visible and successful project, actual membership in the organization remains disappointingly low.

"We are quite behind in memberships," Wagner acknowledged. "Our mailing list has 3,000 people on it, but paid membership is somewhere between 150 and 200. I think people are just not aware that you can join the Forum."

Low membership, however, is not BGLLF's only concern. Earlier this year, it found itself facing a severe financial crisis. "We've gone through some challenges this year with money," Wagner said. "Funding is something we struggle with on a continual basis, but a tax situation presented itself this year which we had to take care of which caused a minimal setback.

According to Wagner, BGLLF's current annual budget is $350,000 "just to keep the programs going." The board of directors is all volunteer. Neither Wagner nor May gets a salary, and both hold outside jobs. The only paid staff at BGLLF is on the AIDS Prevention Team.

Funding sources include money from the Ryan White Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Burroughs Wellcome. "Founder Phill Wilson is still very much involved in bringing in money on a daily basis," Wagner added. But the money needed to pay for the increasingly expensive annual conference has to be found elsewhere.

"The budget for the conference is $80,000 to $100,000," said Wagner. "We struggle every year, but we make it. We continue on page 18."
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New look at breast cancer causes

Boston—The rate of breast cancer is on the rise, and evidence is pointing to outside factors such as environment—including pesticides, pollutants and electromagnetic fields—and whether a woman has had an abortion, recent studies say.

Peter Montague, a consultant who spoke at an Oct. 29 conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, stressed the environmental connection. "Government will never lead the way in cleaning up the environment," Montague said. "That’s why I wanted to talk to 500 angry women, because [government] is going to have to feel pressure from the people who hurt.”

Montague, the director of Environmental Research Foundation in Annapolis, Md., was one of several dozen doctors, researchers and activists who spoke at the conference, driving home their theme that there is "substantial evidence" linking cancer to controllable factors in the environment.

Meanwhile, the coauthor of a study concluding abortions may increase the risk of breast cancer is warning that the data is only preliminary and should not be a factor in any abortion decisions women make now.

Dr. Noel S. Weiss, part of a team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle that conducted the research, said last week it would be "premature" for women to make any abortion decisions based on the belief that their risk of cancer would be increased.

A study by Weiss and his Hutchinson Center colleagues found that women who had induced abortions had at least a 50 percent increased risk of breast cancer. The study was published last week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Weiss’s study is based on an analysis of interviews with 845 breast cancer patients and 961 healthy women of the same age group.

Rosenberg also said the 50 percent increase risk found by the study is actually a "very small added risk.

Weiss concurred. He said that the annual risk of breast cancer for a 40-year-old woman is 0.4 per 1,000. A 50 percent increase would raise this risk to 0.6 per 1,000.

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National task force on AIDS drugs meets in Washington

Washington, DC—"Cautious optimism" is perhaps the best way to describe the tone of the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development meeting that took place October 27-28 near Washington. The group is a major initiative by the Clinton administration, through Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, to facilitate development and approval of AIDS related therapies.

"I think the last two days were definitely better than our July meeting," said Peter Sisley, a member of the Task Force and of the Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York City.

"Up until now I have been very frustrated with the Task Force’s work because we have kind of been all over the map and not come up with any hard recommendation on specific issues, with the exception of gene therapy and the regulatory process." Discussion of protease inhibitors, the most promising family of next generation antiviral medications, highlighted the first day’s activities. Sisley is encouraged that the next full meeting of the Task Force, in February, will be dedicated to "looking comprehensively at development of protease inhibitors."

The subject of women and clinical trials opened the second day and ran twice its allotted time. After a challenge in December 1992 by the HIV Law Project. Both the FDA and National Institutes of Health (NIH) modified their gender-biased restrictions on enrollment for clinical trials of drugs for life threatening illnesses, except where there is "medical justification." They have also issued guidelines calling for gender inclusiveness and analysis in order to gain approval of new drugs.

AIDS and women’s advocates want more. ACT UP demonstrated outside the FDA in September, and several dozen members from around the country were back for this hearing. Dr. Maxine Wolfe, a researcher and member of ACT UP, was invited to speak from the audience. She called the current policy "totally unwarranted paternalism."

She pushed the government to move beyond simply dropping restrictions, to formulate an affirmative mandate to include women in all phases of clinical trials, and to put resources into enforcement of those guidelines.

Theresa McGovern, attorney with the HIV Law Project and a member of the Task Force, was encouraged by the direction the panel was moving. However, she noted there were "no teeth" in monitoring and enforcement provisions, saying those need to be built into the system.

BOB ROEHR
CDC adopts new TB guidelines for health care workers

Atlanta—After two years of debate and revisions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is pressing hospitals to adopt stricter guidelines to prevent the spread of tuberculosis among health-care workers.

The increasing number of TB patients who fail to respond to drug treatment, and outbreaks in hospitals and prisons, prompted the changes, the CDC said Oct. 27.

"This is an important step in providing protection in places of very great risk," said Dr. Alan Hinman, director of the CDC’s National Center for Prevention Services. The guidelines give the agency a way to tackle the problem of drug resistance, what Hinman called "one of the scariest aspects of TB."

The guidelines came after an outpouring of criticism forced the CDC to compromise on its original proposal, including a rule that workers wear battery-powered hoods and masks when caring for people who have infectious TB. Those masks cover the face and provide germ-free air, but are considered cumbersome and expensive.

Instead, the CDC decided on face masks, which are cheaper than the battery version and protect better than dust masks recommended in the previous guidelines. Some hospitals already are using the face masks on a voluntary basis.

The guidelines apply to hospitals, prisons, medical and dental offices and nursing homes.

The last draft of the guidelines drew more than 2,500 comments. Hospital representatives argued that the CDC’s proposal would cost a typical 300-bed hospital about $200,000, and said there’s no proof that workers wear at-risk patients are infected in hospitals that follow the old rules.

The new guidelines are more flexible, Hinman said. Hospitals in areas where TB is rare won’t have to follow as many guidelines as will those in areas where TB is more common, such as New York City.

Dr. Joseph H. Bates, a TB specialist and the president of the American Lung Association, said, "These guidelines are more aware that there is some risk and that it cannot be reduced to zero," no matter what precautions are taken.

The American Hospital Association, which was also critical of the drafted guidelines, would not comment until it has a copy of the recommendations, said spokeswoman Alicia Mitchell.

Tuberculosis declined in the United States for 30 years until 1985, when it began to skyrocket, mostly because of AIDS sufferers’ susceptibility to the disease and an increase in immigrants carrying the infection from other countries, the CDC said.

At least 10 million Americans are infected with TB, but only about 10 percent will actually develop the disease.

Most of the 26,000 cases a year still respond to drugs, but one of every six cases now resists to at least one of the major drugs used to combat the disease, according to the CDC.

CDC spokeswoman Kay Golan said the agency does not know how many health-care workers are infected with TB on the job, but is now gathering that information.

The CDC already recommends that hospitals quickly isolate patients suspected of having TB in special rooms that blow contaminated air outside, and that hospital workers wear disposable face masks while treating them.

The revisions tighten standards for hospital records and policies, for ventilation and airflow, for the use of ultraviolet light to kill airborne TB germs.

A.J. HOSTETLER

The CDC’s Dr. Alan Hinman says the guidelines are "an important step."

Oral drug promising against CMV

Atlanta—Results from an early analysis of a clinical trial under way at the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) show strong evidence that treatment with an oral form of ganciclovir may prevent cytomegalovirus (CMV) disease in people with AIDS.

The ARCA study is part of a nationwide trial sponsored by Syntex Research.

An intravenous form of ganciclovir is already approved for treatment of patients with CMV. However, the Syntex study is evaluating an oral form of the drug as a CMV preventive agent.

CMV disease is one of the most common and deadliest manifestations to strike persons infected with HIV. One common form of CMV disease is CMV retinitis, which often causes blindness. It is estimated that 5-28 percent of AIDS patients develop this form of CMV disease. CMV can also attack the gastrointestinal tract, lungs, esophagus, brain and other organs. Autopsy studies show that more than 70 percent of people who die of AIDS-related causes had evidence of multiple-organ CMV infection.

The trial included 725 volunteer AIDS patients nationwide. Thirty-four of the participants live in the metro Atlanta area and gained access to the study free of charge through ARCA. Trial participants received either oral ganciclovir or a placebo given as 1,000 mg every eight hours.

Because of the promising results, the Data and Safety Monitoring Board has unanimously recommended termination of the placebo arm of the study.

Thus, all participants will now receive oral ganciclovir treatment.

“The results represent the possibility for improved quality, and perhaps length, of life for persons living with HIV,” said Dr. Melanie Thompson, ARCA’s principal investigator and founder. “We are extremely grateful to all the participants enrolled in this study.”

The CDC's new TB guidelines require hospitals to adopt stricter measures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis.
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Conference draws 2,000 AIDS workers to Atlanta

Surgeon General and CDC director were among keynote speakers at National Skills Building Conference

by JAMES PITCH

Nearly 2,000 AIDS service workers from across the country met October 29 to November 2 at Atlanta’s downtown Hilton for the fourth annual National Skills Building Conference. The nation’s premier AIDS conference this year featured keynote speeches from U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. David Satcher, in addition to more than 190 workshops, seminars and institutes.

Nearing his one-year mark as director for the CDC, Dr. Satcher set the tone for the conference Saturday morning with an optimistic speech that laid out the CDC’s priorities in the fight against AIDS.

“What I really love to see is the dawning of a new day,” Satcher said. “This movement is a movement from night to day. We’re probably moving more in the right direction than anywhere else in the world. . . . We have the opportunity to work it out together. And that’s why a conference like this is so important.”

Satcher said the CDC has identified some major problems in public health, namely in the health-care delivery system. Reform of the system, he said, is priority number one. Other priorities include improving the ability to respond to emerging/reemerging infections and other urgent threats to health, including violence and environmental toxins; development of nationwide prevention strategies; and increased attention to women’s health, a women’s health, a movement is a movement from night to day.

Previously, Satcher stressed the importance of involvement and planning from communities—particularly schools—in the fight against AIDS. “In public health, our focus is on community, and we regard the community as the patient,” he said.

Less reserved was Surgeon General Elders, who spoke Monday afternoon to a group already riled from a workshop session on remembering the history of AIDS.

Before Elders took the podium, an activist presented her with a T-shirt emblazoned with a “Surgeon General’s Warning” about sex without a condom. “We need you to talk about AIDS to our children. Not be afraid of what Jesse Helms is gonna do to you,” she said.

Elders, however, reminded the crowd early on of her disregard for conservative attacks by being introduced by a woman who identified herself as a Filipino-American postoperative transsexual and bisexual.

Elders responded immediately to the T-shirt. “I think you need to know that the Surgeon General—long before she was Surgeon General—was going around talking about condoms,” she said, referring to her unofficial title as “Condom Queen.”

“Believe me, if I thought it would do any good, I would put that crown on and wear it every day,” she added.

Of the battle against AIDS, CDC director David Satcher told conference attendees that “we have the opportunity to work it out together.”

Nearly 2,000 AIDS service workers from across the country met October 29 to November 2 at Atlanta’s downtown Hilton for the fourth annual National Skills Building Conference. The nation’s premier AIDS conference this year featured keynote speeches from U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. David Satcher, in addition to more than 190 workshops, seminars and institutes.
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Skills Conference

Continued from page 15

cal issues in AIDS service. Courses ranged from "Intercultural Communications" to "Grant Writing" to "Managing Burnout." Institutes were offered on such topics as holistic healing, AIDS and the black church, and youth and HIV/AIDS.

In a session on AIDS and the black church, pastor Sam Johnson, who founded and runs an outreach ministry in Macon, Ga., spoke and answered questions on educating the religious community about AIDS.

"I believe, as we look at the illness and challenge of HIV/AIDS, the only institution that has already been commissioned to address the issues is the church," Johnson said. "If you're not ministering to the needs of your people, you don't have a church.

Johnson's optimism raised questions from participants who felt that a majority of black churches were under the direction of pastors unlikely to share his point of view.

A lot of our ministers are not trained to deal with some of the issues," Johnson reasoned. "They're uncomfortable, afraid, and don't understand.

"Talk to your pastor," he added. "Sometimes you have to do it in a subjective type of way to get them to move." Down the hall, youth AIDS activists were giving information about their programs and experiences in a room filled mostly with teenagers.

Raphael Sainz spoke about his Boston-based organization, Positive Youth, which is the first all-gay club for young men of color. The group does educational outreach and performances in clubs and on the street.

"No offense, but most AIDS organizations are run by upper-middle-class whites, or straight African Americans or Hispanics," Sainz explained. "This group gives us something to say, as consumers, to the statehouse.

Stephanie DuBois, a teenage educator in Philadelphia, talked about the trials of her organization, Youth Outreach Community AIDS Project (YOCAP), which puts on musical plays about safe sex and HIV/AIDS in schools.

"We have a lot of problems—even with teachers," DuBois said. "They're flabbergasted, saying 'Close your ears, children! But teens listen to teens. They really do.

"Not a teen herself, Mary Cowans spoke about the adolescent clinic for which she works at Grady Health Systems and gave some sobering statistics about teen AIDS cases. According to Cowans, there are currently 68 reported teen AIDS cases in Georgia, 30 of which are handled by Grady. Of those, 30 are female, and 11 have children. Four of them have two or more children.

Besides serving as a reminder of how devastating AIDS has become across the board, Cowans' statistics drove home the single point that, these days, you're never too young to be an activist.

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The transgendered community, long silenced, is finding its voice by Pamela Evans

I knew very little about Richard Michaels when I entered the restaurant in Union City, Ga. As I walked past the booths filled with children eating fat scoops of ice cream and adults talking over steaming cups of coffee, all I knew was that the 42-year-old man I was about to meet had been, anatomically, a woman only four years before.

The gentleman with the mustache in the dark suit smiled and nodded as I walked toward him. We shook hands, exchanged greetings, and began a sometimes humorous, sometimes sad conversation that let me see past the texts and political philosophies and into the heart of a transgendered person.

The definition of "transgendered" is still evolving. Much of today's literature uses the term to include transsexuals, who are committed to living as members of the other biological sex; transgenderists, who are less committed to physical change but who identify mostly with the opposite biological sex; and cross dressers, who dress up in the clothing of the other sex, sometimes in private, sometimes with other cross dressers or at gay bars.

Transgendered people may be gay or lesbian or heterosexual, or they may identify as one thing during one phase of their lives and something else later on, depending on the gender identity they choose.

Consider, for example, the couple in Florida who began their relationship as lesbians. One of them underwent sex reassignment surgery (SRS), so their label became heterosexual. Then the second woman confronted her gender issues and also opted for SRS. The two today are a gay male couple.

The transgendered community numbers as many as one in 40,000 men and one in 100,000 females, according to Dallas Denny, M.A., executive director of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEIGIS).

"I actually believe it's many more than that," says Denny, a male-to-female transsexual who did not know any transgendered people until four years ago, a fact she does not find astonishing even though she has been cross dressing most of his life.

"We [transgendered community] were incommunicado for so many years," she explained. "It was only about 10 years ago that we started to define ourselves rather than being defined by the medical community."

According to Denny, for years transsexuals believed the optimum result of their surgery was to assimilate into the mainstream. Many male-to-female transsexuals married, moved to the suburbs, and lived out their lives, their secret known only to a very few privileged people. Some, like jazz musician Billy Tipton, even kept their secrets from their families—not even Tipton's wife nor his adopted sons knew until after his death in 1989 that he was biologically a woman.

Today, such secrets are becoming fewer as more members of the transgendered community, like Michaels, are choosing to come out, to demand respect and understanding from heterosexuals as well as from the gay and lesbian community.

Born in Vicksburg, Miss., where everyone knows everyone, Michaels (whose first name then was Lynn) was a popular girl and a shapely teenager who attended the prom in a beautiful satin gown. No one suspected that the pretty, 115 pound, 5 foot 4 cheerleader was a man inside.

Michaels continued living a heterosexual life during two brief marriages to men, by whom he had two children. Then, still biologically a female, he married a woman during a lesbian commitment ceremony in 1986, but his desire to become a man physically was still overpowering.

"I told everyone that there were other people out there like me. There had to be," Michaels said.

After his lesbian lover left him and his family told him to leave the state and never come back, Michaels did just that and came to Atlanta, where he found a job driving an 18-wheeler and eventually saved up enough money and enough nerve to have SRS. Today most family members still will not speak to him or see him, including his daughter. Thankfully, his son, who calls him Richy, has come around. And Michaels never gives up hope about the people from his past whom he still loves deeply. He also refuses to hide from them in shame.

"Every Christmas since my surgery," he says, "I've gone to Vicksburg, rented the same room at the same motel, then I've called my family to tell them where I am and how long I'll be in town, even though I never hear from them."

One transgendered person who can relate continues on page 18
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Gender
Continued from page 17

to Michaels' pain as well as to his conviction about speaking out is Kate Bornstein, the transsexual performance artist whose recently released book, "Gender Outlaw," stirred debate in many communities because of her assertion that she is neither male or female.

Instead, Bornstein sees herself in another space, a third identity, where she believes transgendered people have the opportunity to "deconstruct" the theory that there are only two genders, a system that she wants people to understand has not always been in existence.

Bornstein is optimistic about the growing transgender movement, but she understands the silence. "The pressure on us as a transgendered people, as transsexuals, is not to talk. And you add to that the weight of where that comes from, it comes from every place in the culture that says there's no place for us, it comes from therapists who tell us to lie."

The concept of "passing"—fooling the world about one's birth gender—is today a raging debate in the transgender community. "It keeps the gender system in place," says Denny, "but then so does every man who tries to be more masculine and every woman who tries to act more feminine."

Many transgendered people, including Denny, believe they are welcomed into the gay/lesbian community when needed—like drag queens who are often asked to help raise money for various gay and lesbian causes—but then are ignored when more serious moments occur.

"When a serious statement is to be made to the mainstream press," Denny has written, "it is made, in most cases, by a male in a business suit—despite the fact that the most profound things are often said by drag queens and drag kings, who use their outrageousness to make powerful political statements."

Outrageous is what some leaders believe they may have to be as the transgendered community gains strength, claiming what they believe is rightfully theirs, and asks to combine political efforts with the gay and lesbian community.

As Denny writes, "The murmur of today will be a roar tomorrow."

Dallas Denny will be among the panelists at the "Splendor of Gender" Workshop, to be held November 18-19 at the Marriott Hotel at Tampa International Airport. For more information, call (813) 879-5151.

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Linda Grishman displays her Gay Bar chocolates at the New York lesbian and gay business expo.

Variety of firms target gay consumers at business expos

New York, NY—Kerri Ferrante has nothing against mainstream greeting card companies, but the usual messages just don’t fit the bill when it’s her girlfriend’s birthday.

“When I wanted to buy a card for her, I had to go into a store and read between the lines” of conventional cards, she said, nodding to her companion, Lynda Hartmann.

Motivated by frustration, Ferrante and Hartmann recently founded their own gay-oriented greeting card business, Gender Benders, based in Newton, N.J.

“It’s a two-girl operation,” Ferrante said with a smile. “We want to make a Hallmark-kind of card for gays and lesbians.”

The pair were among the roughly 150 vendors who paid at least $700 apiece to show their wares at OutLoud, a gay and lesbian business expo held Oct. 8-9 in Manhattan.

The following weekend in Atlanta, over 2,700 people visited the Lesbian and Gay Business Expo ‘94, held at the Georgia World Congress Center on Oct. 15 and sponsored by the Greater Atlanta Business Coalition. Both gatherings attracted businesses owned by gays and lesbians as well as those that marked products to the demographic group.

Gay business expositions have proliferated across the country in recent years and are an indication of the growing awareness—among corporations and gays themselves—that the estimated 15 million gay and lesbian Americans have considerable economic clout. And since most mainstream companies still do not recognize gay consumers, those that do court the market are rewarded with customer loyalty.

Linda Grishman, creator of Gay Bar chocolates, was among the 150 vendors at the New York expo. “I’m a lesbian and I wanted to come out with a product for gays and lesbians,” said the Burlington, Vt.-based Grishman. “Pink triangles are the symbol of gay and lesbian liberation.”

Some of the products represented business sectors that have emerged from the AIDS crisis: POZ magazine, a national glossy publication launched last April for people living with HIV, attended the New York expo, as did several firms that advertise in POZ—viatical companies, which purchase life insurance policies from people with terminal illnesses.

“People take that money that might have been left to heirs and take a vacation,” said POZ advertising director Robert Del Rio. “The companies buy [the policies] at a discount, they make money, but it’s a good service.”

One non-gay business that was featured at both the New York and Atlanta expos was IDS, an American Express financial planning company. IDS has been marketing to the gay market for 2½ years, said IDS financial planner James E. Law.

“The money is there,” Law said, “and it’s a nice way to leverage the American Express name.”

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LOOK FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT GAPAC IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF: SOUTHERN VOICE !!!!
Continued from page 6

with each other. My hope is that GEP can provide that kind of leadership." It's a daunting task. But organizations exist in many locales in Georgia—some political, some social—and Gossett says the type of organization doesn't matter.

"There are more organizations than people are aware of," he said, "some quite informal, but they are there. They know in their community has money, can write letters. That has to be tapped in a systematic way."

"The focus is to get out and identify the sparks and wheels in rural communities, who may be feeling isolated," said Joan Garner. "I think it's going to take some work, but I don't think it's monumental."

Still, the idea of organizing the lesbian/gay community across the state seems a gigantic task, especially given the turbulence created by clashing egos and methodologies seen just in the Adanta area.

"We all know that the radical right has had better finances and organizations than we have," said lobbyist Larry Pellegrini. "And we've all had this vision that if we put our minds and efforts together we could do better. This is our opportunity for realizing the potential we know we have."

"We're so creative," he added. "This could be the vision of how this collective energy could work for us."

Part of that will of course entail coalition building, not just between other progressive groups and individuals, but between the diverse elements of our own community.

"[GEP] is being diversified from the beginning," said Hubert Alexander, a local activist who began work with GEP but took time off to work with Gay Games this summer. "It won't have to come back later and try to pull that diversity together."

GAPAC board member Sadie Chestnut, who heads Emory's Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Life, said that element would be a crucial one.

"I certainly hope that GEP will be bringing more diversity as far as race, class and gender are concerned," she said. "If a bunch of white people start a group it's much more difficult than if you start out diverse, especially given the right wing's divisive tactics."

"The problem is finding those people."

But the intentions of GEP are on target—create a statewide organization that can effectively mobilize a disparate community, monitor legislation and candidates for office, educate the communities, and have enough money in the coffers to keep all the activities rolling.

Stansell says the group is bringing "new blood and talent" into the effort, and that gives it the foundation it needs to succeed.

"We've got a new vision of the scope of what's needed," he said. "We've never been able to do things on this kind of scale. And we need to. And it's not just the gay community that needs to do it, it's the whole progressive community. We could be a big leader in that."

The Georgia Equality Project is conducting a statewide search for board members. Contact Caroline Amory at (404) 875-1467 for information.
**Victory Fund holds candidate training here**

With its Candidate Training Institute, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is working to forge a solid political foundation for the gay and lesbian movement. The Institute, which provides training for running a successful campaign, will offer a course in Atlanta, January 6 through 8.

The intensive three-day course targets a serious group of aspiring gay and lesbian politicians. Beginning with basic concepts and analytical tools, training encompasses all aspects of campaigning, including building a broad base of support, raising money, preparing speeches, and writing a competitive campaign plan. Role-playing exercises are incorporated to prepare participants for one-on-one meetings with community leaders. Atlanta becomes the eighth city in which such a course has been offered, and, outside of Miami, the first in the South. “We try to reach a wide variety of geographic regions,” said Dave Fleischer, coordinator of training for the Victory Fund. “We try to go to areas where there’s enormous opportunities, or where the radical right has targeted gays and lesbians.”

The Institute is open to Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Tuition for training is $250, with a limited number of partial scholarships available. There is a size limitation, and the deadline for requesting applications is November 23. For information, call Fleischer at (718) 230-9865.

**AIDS Survival Project holds rummage sale**

As you clean out your closets to prepare for winter this year, remember that AIDS Survival Project accepts donated items. The ASP is having a rummage sale on Saturday, November 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The donation deadline—November 12—is right around the corner, though, so start that cleaning!

Take your treasures to be sold to 44 12th St. and ask for a receipt. All donations and purchases are tax-deductible.

Come out and find those holiday presents at dirt-cheap prices, and support the ASP in the process. Call 874-7926 for more information.

**Wellness day for abuse survivors**


Billboard’s “Day of wellness for women survivors of sexual abuse,” the seminars include Holistic Cleansing (conducted by Marcianna Bowman), Nutrition Alternatives (Dr. MacIntyre), Befriending Your Body (Stephanie Blackton) and Your Money, Your Self-Worth (Suzanne Murfee). It all happens Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come and “learn to be your own best friend.”

Cost is $40. To register, call the Council at 496-4353.
BGLLF

Continued from page 11

broke even in 1993 at the sixth conference. The seventh conference in 1994 was in the black for $2,000. So we cleared a little seed money.”

BGLLF’s eighth conference is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles Feb. 16-20, 1995.

While it manages to find, all told, close to half a million dollars a year, BGLLF has had no success in finding money to open and staff an office in Washington, D.C., a move that it sees as vital if it is to become a national organization.

“To really do the work that is needed on a national level, you need to have people who are being paid specifically to do that job,” said Wilson. “But it’s easier to find money to pay for AIDS programs than it is to find money to pay for political organizing in the black gay and lesbian community.”

But lack of funding has not completely stopped the forward momentum of the organization. One plan under consideration is the establishment of BGLLF chapters in cities across the country. That organizing tactic, however, was already tried by the now-defunct National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays in the 1980s with little success, and Wagner indicated she did not personally like that option.

“I expect we would learn from the National Coalition’s efforts and not repeat their problems, but that’s still scary. BGLLF is struggling, but it’s doing good on its own. But if chapters are what people want, then that’s what we will do.”

Wilson, who tested HIV-positive around the time he helped found the organization, admits he had no “vision.” I thought of doing it for two or three years, but that was all,” said Wilson. “I didn’t think that I would be alive past then.”

Now, Wilson says he clearly sees the role that BGLLF is to play and where the organization fits among the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and the other national gay groups.

“The Forum is vital if the lesbian and gay community is to ever successfully deal with civil rights for gay people,” he said. “We provide bridges to other progressive movements. The Forum, more than the other gay organizations, is part of the progressive social change movement. We are thinking about the entire scope of humanity.”

“It’s easier to find money to pay for AIDS programs than it is to find money to pay for political organizing in the black gay and lesbian community,” says co-founder Phill Wilson

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For registration or additional information, please call 885-6800, ext. 306.
SONNY ROWE and Tina Hall, both of Covington, Ga., will be celebrating two years together in November. The couple say it’s great knowing when they look at each other that they’re looking at the person they’ll be spending the rest of their lives with.

Amy and Rhonda are celebrating their 1st anniversary on Nov. 14.

DATE OF BIRTH
Steven Tunnell celebrates his 30th birthday Nov. 11 with friends and family. Jim Perry turns 51 on Nov. 12. Jim is a member of the board of directors of AIDS Survival Project and owns his own business in Norcross. His soul mate, Greg Sowers, will be taking him to Asheville, N.C., to see Biltmore Estates in celebration.

Happy 40th birthday on Nov. 12 to Karen from her daughter Nikki and partner Marcie, who say they love her very much. A happy belated 28th birthday to Candy Dansby on Nov 4 from Baby Bear.

PASSED THE BAR
She’s a lawyer now! Be afraid, be very afraid. But, sincerely, our warmest congratulations go out to Susie Kezh for her success on the infamous killer test from hell. Remember, you can’t do everything pro bono, just stuff for us, your closest friends.

Big congrats also go out to Deborah Bedsole, who passed the Georgia Bar. We’ll assume it was with flying colors since they’re no longer revealing the actual grades. We haven’t heard from Deborah since the news came in, so we’ll just assume she’s celebrating with some traditional attorney-type ritual involving alcohol.

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The Unofficial Gay Manual is an insider's send-up of gay male life in the '90s.

Do you have a penchant for track lighting? Have you ever wondered about your natural affinity for Judy Garland? Do you take pride in the organization of your cookware? If you've answered yes to any of the above questions, you might just be a full-blooded American gay man.

Don't worry, research in the gay publishing industry has shown that being gay is not only okay but "cool." And in their new book, "The Unofficial Gay Manual: Living the Lifestyle (Or At Least Appearing To)" (Doubleday), Kevin DiLallo and Jack Krumholtz tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the gay male but were afraid to ask.

Written in the style of Lisa Birnbach's "The Official Pre- ping and Pantry Guide with the wit of Jeff Foxworthy's "You Might Be a Redneck If..." the humorous and informative manual is for men who are, who could, and who should be gay.

Are you and your significant other wearing the same clothes? When you put your left hand in your right pocket, do you both have your keys in there? Has your mother ever wondered about your natural affinity for Judy Garland? Do you spend hours planning your meal? If you've answered yes to any of the above questions, you might just be gay.

"Beneath their superficial differences, all gay men share common experiences," say Krumholtz and DiLallo in their introduction. And those differences are what make "The Unofficial Gay Manual" a unique male bonding experience.

"Before we wrote this book, we scoured gay bookstores for a guidebook that would fill a void on the nation's gay bookshelves with their new spin on an ancient literary form," says DiLallo.

"We figured it was time to remind ourselves why we like being gay... and to remind many in the heterosexual community that there is much more to gay life than the tragedy of AIDS."

The book was conceived as a lighthearted look at gay men, and Krumholtz and DiLallo were determined to keep it that way. The chapter titles alone are worthy of a stand-up routine. From "Perfecting Your Personal Madonna Move Over" to the last chapter on AIDS and centuries of persecution and discrimination against gay men, our society finally seems to be coming to grips with the fact that gay men have a lot to offer.

And what about the stereotypes that the book might perpetuate? Well, the authors have thought of everything. "In writing the book, our primary objective was to destroy stereotypes... The stereotypical fairy is as mythical as the straight guy who can dance," says Krumholtz. "We hope that everyone will learn more about the contributions of gay men to society and will appreciate the gay community more as a result."

"One of us—we can't agree who—we can't agree who—we can't agree whether the world would be a better place if we'd never written it ourselves. After all, he's the one who said, 'Life is too important to be taken seriously.'"

"We were visiting Laguna Beach, Calif., a popular gay hangout, and we noticed the guys on the beach were virtually indistinguishable from the guys on the East Coast," explains Krumholtz.

"They wore the same clothes, listened to the same music, even used the same slang. One of us— we—can't agree which—observed that there really is a definable gay culture, and that someone should write a book about it."

The couple of 11 years began an outline for the project right there on the beach. Less than two years later, a major publishing house in New York has distributed thousands of copies of "The Unofficial Gay Manual." Currently, the authors are on a book-selling tour in endorse not only paperback but what they see as gay men's movement toward unity.

"We hope that people will learn more about gay men and will appreciate the gay community more as a result."

"No one can refute the American fascination with the gay male. Perhaps a manual is exactly what is needed to help clarify just who gay men are and what's so special about them. Maybe Krumholtz and DiLallo haven't changed the world with their tongue-in-cheek approach to the tough subject of two men loving each other. But, in addition to helping gay men think and live more freely, the authors provide an eye-opening guide useful to anyone on the path of sexual enlightenment."

"As a character actress, I've always been interested in the inner world of gay people," Wiest says. "This is my first opportunity to work with two men loving each other."

"The statistics on lifestyle behavior were drawn from hundreds of questionnaires sent out to gay men around the country," says DiLallo. "And whatever gaps were left were filled in with the help of gay hotline operators in over two dozen cities. One of the basic premises of the book is that, despite AIDS and centuries of persecution and discrimination against gay men, our society finally seems to be coming to grips with the fact that gay men have a lot to offer."

Dianne Wiest plays for camp in Woody Allen's latest film

"First you're another sloe-eyed vamp, then someone's mother, then you're camp..." When confronted with that line from Stephen Sondheim's "I'm Still Here," Dianne Wiest said, "I thought it was way too important to be taken seriously."

"You could do this whole movie as a camp stage," Woody Allen once said of "Bullets Over Broadway." Wiest gives maximum diva as Helen Sinclair, a once-cel- lated stage actress who has seen better—and more sober—days. Worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as Margo, Dianne Wiest has always been a character actress. My first memory of her is looking too young to be Kevin Bacon's mother in "Footloose," but after touring with the American Shakespeare Company, she had already played such film roles as Jill Clayburgh's psychiatrist in "I'm Dancing As Fast As I Can" and, in 1983, the battered wife in Robert Mandel's "Independence Day" ("one of my favorite roles," she says).

"I haven't thought about that," she says. "I don't think it's a gender or sexual thing. Women have also responded to Helen in a way that's very surprising, and so have straight men. I'd expect women to go with the romantic lead, not the over-the-hill diva."

"Far from over-the-hill herself, Wiest has always been a character actress. My first memory of her is looking too young to be Kevin Bacon's mother in "Footloose," but after touring with the American Shakespeare Company, she had already played such film roles as Jill Clayburgh's psychiatrist in "I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can" and, in 1983, the battered wife in Robert Mandel's "Independence Day.""
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BREDING IN LIGHIT. Thurs. 15. A video installation by artists from the Center for Poppy Art. Modern Museum. 735-4444.

DIPPING OMINING. Thurs. 27. Woodrow Wilson. $15. Thru Sat. 7:30 pm. $10. 873-6344.

ELECTION '94 CELEBRATION. CAFAM hosts a big election night celebration. 7-11 pm. Fernbank's IMAX tours the Yellowstone. Thru May 31.


BROADWAY. Thru Dec 27. Decatur's Vulcan Stage presents "Les Chanteuses de Vincennes," a revival of a musical comedy. 7 pm, $15. 514-0004.

ELEUSIS. Tues. 28. 19th-century vindictive cookery as staged by Mrs. Wheelwright. "Bohemians & Eccentrics" program, featuring interviews, news, arts & entertainment and music. 10-10:30 pm and again, Wed 5:30 pm. Call Ch. 12.

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

MARY-CHAPIN CARPENTER. Nov. 21. Country diva presents "Robinson & Scars," featuring a string quartet and piano. GA State Concert Hall, Center Galleria and Peachtree Centre. 8 pm. $22.50. 241-1228.

THEATRE OF THE STARS presents "Embracing Our Lesbian Identity." Dec 8-23. Performances are twice every week on People TV Ch. 12. 2:30 pm and again on Sat 10, 7-9 pm.

SHOPPING. Thurs. 23. The Emory Dance Company's full concert at Mary Gray

ATLANTA'S CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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BAIT & TACKLE. The complex. Thurs-Sat 8 pm. $4 & 7 pm. 577-6940.

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SOAP. Comedy Central has the most popular. 681-6261.

THEATER IN THE SQUARE again perform their annual afterlife and the controversy about the Wes Cochran Theatre of the Stars presents "Embracing Our Lesbian Identity." Dec 8-23. Performances are twice every week on People TV Ch. 12. 2:30 pm and again on Sat 10, 7-9 pm.

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Geffen talks about work, love and money on ‘20/20’

Openly gay entertainment mogul David Geffen talks to Barbara Walters about his career, love life, money and other subjects on ABC News ‘20/20’ on Friday, November 11, at 10 p.m.

The billionaire businessman, whom Playboy called “perhaps the most powerful openly gay man in America,” initially made his career in the music industry by spotting talent in others and using his record company, Asylum Records, to build the bankability of such acts as Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne and the Eagles. Later he formed Geffen Records, which includes Guns ‘N Roses, Nirvana, Peter Gabriel and Aerosmith. Geffen has also produced such films as “Risky Business” and “Beetlejuice” and backed several hit Broadway musicals.

Though long rumored to be gay, Geffen did not formally come out until 1992, when he told the audience at a benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles, “I’ve come a long way—as a gay man—to be here tonight.”

In the time since his coming out, Geffen has emerged as a high-profile power player in the gay community and in the political arena, donating money and wielding influence over elected officials.

In the course of the wide-ranging interview, Geffen talks about growing up poor in Brooklyn and how he worked his way up from the mailroom at the William Morris Talent Agency. He discusses becoming a millionaire at 25 and his thoughts about money and happiness. And he reveals how a cancer scare and the death of John Lennon helped him realize that life had to be lived openly and honestly.

Warren Beatty, a friend of Geffen’s, also was interviewed for the report. Following is an excerpt from the transcript:

Beatty: Ordinarily I wouldn’t talk about this, but David really doesn’t have anything to hide, and he’s gay, and he’s proud to be gay, and he’s a very good role model for gay people and for straight people.

Geffen: When I was retired, during the late ‘70s, a friend of mine who was going through recovery...used to say to me all the time, ‘You’re as sick as your secrets,’ and I totally believe that. I believe that a healthy person is a person who doesn’t have to hide anything. I’m not perfect, and I make lots of mistakes and I hope I learn from them, and I hope I don’t make the same mistake twice, but I’m very optimistic about life.
The elections are over. Now, head over to the Georgia Political Action Committee (GAPAC) Victory Party at the Lowe Gallery, 75 Bennett St. Join GAPAC as they welcome a dozen state legislators who have recognized and responded to the political clout of the Atlanta lesbian/gay community. Over 12 restaurants have donated food for the event—there’ll be enough to feed an army of voters. So come out and mingle. Tickets are available at the usual local places and at the door. Saturday, November 12, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Matt Howe is a local actor whom you may recognize from his role as Jeff in last year’s Outproud Theatre production of “The Sum of Us.” Since his Atlanta debut, Howe has been busy writing his own material, and he’s ready for his one-man show to hit the road. First stop is Sylvia’s Art of this Century in Inman Park. The performance piece is called “The Matt Show” and features the many sides of one man’s twisted yet sensitive psyche. Characters like Sparky, the nude dancer at a gay bar, and Dick Duress, a fabulous lounge singer, will surface to give Matt advice on how to lead his life. “It’s definitely a work-in-progress,” says Howe. “But come anyway.” Join Matt as he takes his audience on its own search for signs of intelligent life in the universe. Saturday, November 12. Doors open at 8 p.m.

“Cobb County will never be the same.” At least that’s the slogan being used to push the new mixed alternative nightclub in Marietta, of all places. Brenda and Wayne Dillard are the straight-but-not-narrow owners of the homophobic county’s first gay bar, called Players Good Time Emporium, located at 800 Sandtown Road. Radio Station 99X broadcast the grand opening live, but there’s still no word yet as to what the locals think about having such an emporium in the neighborhood. Maybe it’s exactly what Cobb County has been asking for all along. Mondays are female, Tuesdays are male, Thursdays are country. Call 429-9115.

The Greater Atlanta Business Coalition (GABC) invites all open-minded business owners to their first official meeting to discuss new ways to improve the visibility of gay goods and services to the Atlanta community. Nearly 3,000 people showed up for the Business Expo that GABC sponsored last month. So the market’s definitely there. Tuesday, November 15, at 7 p.m. at the 14th Street Playhouse. Call 377-4258.

Business aside, let’s get down to pleasure—music. There’s a top-notch band in town this week, and I’d be remiss in my duty if I failed to report its whereabouts: Violent Femmes. Sure, they’re harsh, vulgar, maybe a tad lewd. But these qualities have produced some great songwriting. And besides, someone’s got to balance out the cool, calm and collected people. They mix rock fundamentals, folk simplicity, rockabilly rhythms and a lyric approach that’s one-of-a-kind. We should lick their boots, except that they’d probably like that. Wednesday, November 16, at Masquerade.

Has anyone else noticed the gradual transformation of Rio Mall? What was once a ghost town is now quite the hotspot. The latest new business to open in the bright blue building with the herd of bronze frogs in the courtyard is called The 3rd Act. It’s a restaurant, a piano lounge, and a musical revue theatre all rolled into one. Open seven days a week with several shows going on per evening, it would be hard to miss the action at The 3rd Act. The Melody Room piano lounge features live entertainment each night beginning at 7 p.m. The Musical Revue Theatre is performing the musical comedy “Nunsense” by Dan Goggin now through November 28. Call for reservations and information about upcoming performances, 897-3404.

Who was it that said we all go a little crazy sooner or later. Maybe I did. This Friday, November 11, at 8 p.m., Oscar-winning screen director Allie Light’s “Dialogues With Madwomen” will be shown at the High Museum’s Hill Auditorium, 1280 Peachtree St. The film won the Freedom of Expression Award at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival and documents the stories of seven women who have journeyed through the darker side of the imagination. There’ll be a chance to meet Ms. Light, whose own experiences with mental illness are woven into the film. Call 733-4438 for more information.
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### PORTABLE SPAS

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### TANNING BEDS

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The South's Source for Information on Our Lives
EAT
A FOOD COLUMN BY GARY KAUPMAN

My friend the Doctor is one of the most articulate humans I know. His command of the language is fierce, and when something displeases him, long strings of scathing and accurate invective tend to gush from his mouth and/or pen.

But sometimes, when profoundly disappointed or annoyed by a product or service, he is reduced to simply describing it as a "mess." Search my thesaurus as I may, I just can't come up with a better word to describe the overfilled new home of *Tina's Steakhead Bread Company* and its sit-down sidekick, the *Corner Cafe* (3070 Piedmont Rd., 237-8396).

If you've driven this far north on Piedmont in the past three months, you've no doubt seen the large salmon stucco building (topped with an oversized gold cornice that looks like it might have come from a bordello just outside Versailles) that houses the B.B.C. Opinion on the exterior is mixed: the Taste Sheriff calls it "yucky" (that's his version of the Doctor's term "mess"), and the Therapist in Training thinks it looks like a grand Italian wedding pastry.

Me? I wonder what's the use spending this much money to house what was already arguably the best all-round (bread) bakery in the city when most folks would be happy to buy the product were it sold out the back of a Quonset hut. And, incidentally, is the style of structure that houses the storage part of the B.B.C.

The retail area and cafe are about as far from Quonset hut as it gets: the floors are stainless steel. The open kitchen and serving areas are glistening of the B.B.C. Even the cash registers are the latest in state-of-the-art glitz—so high-tech that even a customer's face here is downright confusing. From counter help that doesn't know the names (or ingredients) of many of their products to cashiers who slam one customer's delicate pastries into bags and then don't even offer bags to the next guy burdened with numerous purchases, much of the stuff would be prime candidates for the Keystone Kops.

A cop (or someone pushy enough to manage scores of piggy drivers who believe that a $40,000+ car gives them license to behave like a boss) would be more than welcome in the parking lot, where the situation on a rainy Saturday afternoon was somewhere between mayhem and chaos.

OK, enough of your kvetching, you say. The food is fabulous, isn't it? Well, the bread sure is. The bakers here have managed a near magical balance between crust, internal texture and flavor. I've yet to take a slice I didn't like. Sesame sunflower, pecan raisin and walnut wheat are my faves, but I doubt there's a bad loaf in the house.

And the few pastries that I've tried were mighty good, too. Fruit cups (think of a pop-over filled with just-cooked fruit) are fabulous. Big profiteroles (spherical eclairs) filled with coffee or chocolate pudding are too sweet by half, and an all-butter cream to the way to spend two bucks. Fruit tarts are beautiful to behold, long on flavor, and exquisitely balanced.

Discretion seemed like the better part of valor after dealing with the parking lot and the counter staff, so we decided to take out rather than waiting half an hour for a seat in the cafe (where the prices range from $3 for a bowl of soup to $13.75 for a sauteed filet mignon). The food is fabulously balanced, long on flavor, and exquisitely cooked.

I doubt there's a bad loaf in the house. The food is fabulous, isn't it?
Continued from page 31

the meat is chopped, not ground, and there is plenty of it.

In short, the Buckhead Bread Company in its current state is a mess.

Surely the employee slackness and logistical problems inside the store will improve with age. And problems with the food will be fixed. But the zoo in the parking lot is another question altogether. There is only one entrance and one exit and a finite number of spaces in which to park. But the number of cars in Buckhead too often seems to be infinite...plus at least one.

Salt of the Earth

The scene at the newly remodeled OK Cafe (1284 W. Paces Ferry Rd., 233-2888) the previous night was definitely less chaotic.

Despite remodeling and an addition, the main dining room here remains one of the most pleasing in its price range in the city. The room looked like it was a well-cared-for 40 years old the day it opened. Seven or eight years later, it’s almost identical. The new (circular) addition merges well, and the shape makes for some interesting spaces. But a very large and very silly money tree (dripping with faux cash and lit with green floodlights) fills the middle of the space and makes almost no sense except as a comment on the price of real estate in the neighborhood.

But while the efficiency and ambiance here may get an OK, the cafe’s food (at least what we tried) tasted more like a promotion for Morton’s than what the menu promised. I won’t bore you with a detailed recitation of how excess sodium ruined most of an otherwise tasty table of food; suffice to say I could easily be searching for superlatives for much of the meal had it not.

But the milkshakes are fab and so are the burgers, and neither of those is at high risk of invasion by the salt squad. Order one (or both) and you’ll be happy. And if you’re willing to risk simultaneous 20-point increases in your blood pressure and cholesterol, the chicken fried steak (with super salty cream gravy) is nothing short of heaven.

There’s also a take-out store in the new addition. If you live in the neighborhood (or regularly cruise that part of town on your way to and from) it’s worth a look-see. But avoid the oven fried chicken, which makes Shake ’n Bake taste pretty fine.
Restaurant Listings

Continued from page 32

North Carolina style pork, Brunswick stew, chicken, and ribs. Lunch and dinner 7 days. Catering any occasion. Prices $5.75 & up.

1815 Briarcliff Rd • 320-6244

Einstein's—Featuring massive salads, pastas, sandwiches & more. Located 1 block from Piedmont Park, Tree Parking. Sun-Thur 11:00-9:00, Fri & Sat 11:00-2:00 pm. 1077 Juniper St • 767-7955

Elena's—From crawfish enchiladas to baked gnocchi, we've got something for everyone. 469 N. Highland Ave • 522-9111


Frances—Family owned and operated for 25 years. Pasta dishes, salads, sandwiches, hoagies & ‘cations. Wide selection of beer on tap. Open 7 days. '10 late.

Piedmont at Cheshire Bridge • 873-1577

Gallato Express-oh!—European coffee cafe with cozy seating and delectables. Coffees from around the world. Gift Baskets. 983 Monroe Dr at 10th St • 724-5204

Gourmet Grill—Original wood-fired grilled pizza, steak, seafood, vegetarian entrees, pasta dishes and salads. Gourmet dining in a casual atmosphere.

Peachtree Bottle Shopping Ctr, Next to Oxford Books • 266-8477

Java Jive—Return to the days gone by to enjoy 100% vegetarian. No animal products. No Dairy. No cholesterol. No sugar. Prepared with eclectic creativity. Lunch M-F 11-2:30, Dinner 7 days a wk. Lunch $3.-10, Sun-Thurs 5-9, Fri-Sat 11-3. 1409-D N. Highland Ave, N.E.

790 Ponce de Leon Ave. • 477-0900

Jewel of India—Thanks for your support. Voted one of the best Indian restaurants in town. Open 7 days. Lunch-Dinner. Served Sunday & brunch.

900 Ponce de Leon Ave. • 487-7290


2916 N. Druid Hills Rd. Tooc Hills • 315-8555

Le Lafayette'ouffle—The best salad bar in Atlanta. Mon-Thurs: 11-10, Fri-Sat: 11-11, Sun 12-2. 929 N. Highland Ave • 477-4800

Mambo—Voted "Best Cuban Restaurant" by Atlanta Magazine for '92. '93. Specializing in seafood with a Cuban accent.

1402 N. Highland • 876-2636

Mama's Seafood Grill—Serving Atlanta's finest seafood for 14 years. This "Best of Atlanta" restaurant offers only the freshest

fish and shellfish—grilled to perfection or prepared with eclectic creativity. Lunch M-F 11:30-2:00, Dinner 7 days a wk. Lunch $3.50-, Dinner $5.50.

1782 Cheshire Bridge Rd • 874-7363

Mary Mac's—Featuring traditional southern cooking. Atlanta's best fried chicken and fresh vegetables. Don't miss the GA peach cobbler or the Cotten custard. Mon-Fri 11-3, 5-10, Sat 5-9, Sun 11-3.

224 Ponce de Leon Ave • 477-1600

The Melting Pot—Atlanta's one and only fondue restaurant. Come enjoy a memo- rable evening of fun with delectables entrees in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Sun-Thur 3:00-10pm, Fri-Sat 5-9 MId.

637 Peachtree Rd • 351-1811

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

Mid-City Fish Company—Home of the "we shock 'em, you suck 'em" oyster bar and serious seafood.

961 Amsterdam Avenue • 872-0114

Milo's Pizza & Pub—Complete menu, salads to desserts. Common Market Place. 756 Ponce de Leon • 874 CALL (2255)

2146 Johnson Ferry Rd. • 481-3200

Hilton/Redon, St. Mtn. • 297-0007

Moscow Restaurant—Authentic Russian cuisine. Mon-Thurs 11-10, Fri-Sat 11-11, Sun 12-2.

900 Peachtree Plaza 2581 Piedmont Rd. • 237-2417

Pappasito's—The intimate bistro with Mediterraneo-nian and cross-cultural fare. Tue-Sat open at 5:30 pm.

1399 N. Highland Ave. • 876-8104

Pastabilities—Design your own perfect pasta dish. Gourmet pastas, fat free and vegetarian specialties. dine in or take home. Lunch Tu-Sat, dinner Tu-Sun. "Open 'til midnight" Fri & Sat. Roswell Road location near to General Cinemas.

5920 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs • 847-9393

Peachtree Salad & Bar—Casually elegant dining in the heart of Buckhead. The Peachtree Restaurant & Bar is the perfect place for a special occasion.

3402 Piedmont Rd. NE • 231-8740

RJ's Uptown Kitchen and Wine Bar—Enjoy Chef Scott's creative menu while dining on the patio or in the cozy dining room. Largest selection of wines by the glass in Atlanta. American menu, eclectic atmosphere. Mon-Thurs: 11-10, Fri-Sat: 11-11, Sun 12-2. 1785 N. Highland Ave • 477-8104

San Gennaro—The home of award winning Fried calamari and hearty Italian cooking. Two patios allow dining "al fresco." Full service bar. Separate banquet facilities available.

2196 Cheshire Bridge Rd • 636-9447

Thai Chilli—Robert S. Khokhcr presents Thai Chilli, the most authentic Thai Restaurant In Atlanta. Mon-Fri 11-230:10, Sat-Sun 5-11. 1490 Briarcliff Rd, Briarstone Shopping Center • 315-6750

Veggie Delight—100% vegetarian. No animal products. No Dairy. No cholesterol. No sugar. Low salt, low calories. Open Mon-Sat: 11am-9pm

Ponce de Leon (next to Pizza Theater) • 872-4639

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NEWS BULLETIN:

Let's set the record "straight"

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Fri-Sat: till 11:30 pm
1409-D N. Highland Ave., N.E.
874-1343

SEVANANDA

COMMUNITY OWNED NATURAL FOODS MARKET

34
Compelling queer cinema marks last days of film festival

If you haven’t had a chance to catch the 7th Annual International Lesbian and Gay Film & Video Festival, now in full swing at the Plaza Theatre in Poncey-Highland, there’s still four more days worth of films and videos, and the organizers have saved some of the best pieces for last. Here’s the schedule for the remaining days of the festival:

Thursday, November 10
- 7:00 p.m. — Imagine “Kramer vs. Kramer” with a transsexual twist. You’ve got Sex of the Stars, a moving full-length feature about a father trying to balance his daughter’s needs with his own gender change. (No second screening.)
- 7:15 p.m.— Fast Trip, Long Drop is a cornucopia of exciting visual images, challenging philosophies, and intellectual stimulation as activist Gregg Bordowitz gives us a glimpse into his rather unusual life. With The Last Time I Saw Ron, a big hit at several gay film fests around the country. This Belgian film about artist-performer Ron Vawter is an emotionally charged piece that explores art as a life-giving force. (No second screening.)
- 9:00 p.m. — A gentle, Japanese comedy about closeted lovers and their “fag-hag” friend, Okogé (which literal translates as the rice stuck to the bottom of the rice pot—"Fourth Man") and Maarten Smith. The film was acclaimed as a life-giving force. (No second screening.)

Friday, November 11
- 7:00 p.m. — From The Netherlands comes For a Lost Soldier, a coming-of-age memory story about adolescence and a first erotic encounter, starring Jeroen Krabbe (“The Last Time I Saw Ron”). The film was acclaimed as a life-giving force. (No second screening.)
- 7:15 p.m. — A rare first- ever kind of video, a special safer sex compilation for women loving women. It’s a batch of spicy public service announcements intertwined with a sampling of erotic videos and sexy scenes—all done safely! (Second screening: Nov. 12 at 11:15 p.m.)
- 11:00 p.m. — For those interested in the steamier side of lives. It’s a piece worth seeing. (No second screening.)

Saturday, November 12
- 4:00 p.m. — Two pieces about women that are both controversial and stirring. Long Time Comin’ explores the subjects of racism, sexism and sexual identity in a look at a group of black lesbian feminist artists. In Daughters of Dykes, heterosexual teenage women discuss their mothers and the break-up of their parents’ marriages, as well as the embarrassing questions they need to deal with themselves. This has also been a popular piece on the gay film fest circuit, and critics have cited its frankness as one of its big assets.
- 4:15 p.m. — A rare first— Out in Atlanta is a chronicle of Atlanta gays and lesbians at this year’s Gay Games and Stonewall 25 celebration in New York City. (Second screening: Nov. 13 at 4:15 p.m.)
- 9:00 p.m. — Noted British director Derek Jarman’s film Caravaggio is a brilliant look at the life of the 17th century painter, his scandalous works, and his unconventional life. It’s a piece worth seeing. (No second screening.)
- 9:15 p.m. — The Changer is a chronicle of the work of Chris Williamson, who in 1975 became an icon of the women’s music scene. Alternating between then and now, this documentary takes a lighthearted look at the people who helped forge a new force in music. (No second screening.)

Sunday, November 13
- 4:15 p.m. — The effects (and sometimes oppression) of religion on gays and lesbians are explored in two important films which will close out the festival. First up is Oy Gay, an intense look at the struggle that lesbians and gay men have in reconciling their Jewish upbringing (which is decidedly homophobic) with their own sexual identities. Body of Dissent is a look at Mennonite homosexuals who try to resolve their inner conflicts over religion with their gay lives.

Tickets for all screenings are $7 at the box office. Call 609-9590 for more information.

Jeroen Krabbe and Maarten Smit in “For a Lost Soldier.”
Impreza™ Sedan

Still sexy after all these years

Madonna comes back with “Bedtime Stories”

For Madonna fans, the last couple of years have been rough. After the lukewarm reception given to her last album, “Erotica,” and the overly hyped “Sex” photojournal—not to mention the David Letterman debacle—it appeared that the Material Girl’s best years were behind her, both artistically and commercially. Now, with the release of “Bedtime Stories” (Sire), it seems the old girl still has a few tricks left up her sleeve.

Like George Michael did with his “Listen Without Prejudice” comeback album, Madonna has successfully ventured beyond her icon status and produced 11 new songs that prove she still has something worthwhile to say to both her admirers and critics. “I’ve been up and down and all around/It’s all about survival,” she concedes on the soulful “Survival.” Virtually all of the tracks share a funky sort of techno-soul very reminiscent of the artist formerly known as Prince. Some songs, like “Don’t Stop” and the ubiquitous “Secret,” could do with a faster disco remix, which the latter has already received at the bars. Yet while “Stories” has no offerings like the joyous pop grooves of her earlier CDs, Madonna’s voice has never sounded silkier or more sensuous.

As always, Madonna’s lyrics are most intriguing when she sings about herself. In an homage to one of her earlier personae, “Human Nature” begins with a whisper: “Express yourself, don’t repress yourself.” This is followed by a loud and clear “I’m not sorry...I’m not your bitch/don’t hang your shit on me.” And while “Inside of Me” ostensibly speaks to a particular love interest, the words “When foolish people try to put me down/I just think of your smiling face/I’m flying” could very well be a love letter to her fans.

Typifying the understated sexiness of the album as a whole, the title track, “Bedtime Story,” combines a traditional dance beat with an overly slow vocal track. A palpable nervous tension is created, leading one to involuntarily begin hip grinding. The dynamics build until finally, a discernible climax is reached: Let’s face it, this is good music to, uh, get down with.

Pondering her recent pounding by the media, Madonna in “Human Nature” asks, “Did I stay too long?” The answer rendered by “Bedtime Stories” is a resounding no. It proves what her fans have known all along: this is one girl who’s not going down without a fight.

ADAM J. SANK
Joyed by the officers so far from home, the baths unhappily
Josephine grew 250 different types of roses, and cultivated
the Hearth: The Historical Relationship Between Women and
longing for the lushness of her youth?)
dozens of greenhouses she maintained in order to satisfy that
her introduction to Europe of many tropicals from the literally
one of the finest dahlia collections ever amassed? And what of
Plants," by Jennifer Bennett. How many today know that
about Josephine the horticulturist in the excellent "Lilies of
leon Bonaparte, bathed here, too. She had been born into a
fell into disrepair after the French Revolution.
Louis XVI granted monies for the construction of baths. En-
and Mineral Baths. They date back to the French colonials.
in volcano (you actually drive up to the crater).
boated down the coast. We trekked to the world's only drive-
raked and composted this fall? (Across from the High Museum of Art)
hidden, until Andre Du Boulay, the hereditary owner of the
estate; decided to excavate and repair two of them for familial
use (and some public ones which folks could use for a nomi-
nal fee).
Indulging a whim, Du Boulay ensured that the area lead-
ing to the baths became well-established with various citrus
and cocoas.
Joan Du Boulay Devaux, Andre's daughter, decided to
make a memorial garden of the place after her father's death
in 1983. Wild and wonderful transformation of the area began
to take shape.
Today, we find the grounds lushly landscaped in a truly
stunning display of tropical fecundity. You behold colors so
bright, they practically scourch the retina.
Emusnasts swoon over Ixora and Heliconias of every
shape (Lobster Claw, Hanging Heliconia and Heliconia elongata), gracefully standing higher than your head.
You see Vanilla, a member of the orchid family, delight-
fully climbing the trunks of cocoa trees (a natural host). You
swim languidly in the sweet scent of the variously colored
frangipani trees, following meandering pathways.
The mineral river, which provides the warm, black, sul-
phurous bath water, runs throughout the garden. It is fed from
an incredible falls in the westernly edge of the gardens. Your
innate sense of awe tells you that this is nature's own cathe-
dral, supported with flying buttresses constructed of trees and
the spray of the falls.
At the far eastern end, a formal garden stands in stately
harmony amidst the riot of tropical abandon!
But even so, this area seems completely at home. Coconut
trees, the leaves becoming larger the higher up she gets, with
fan palms... not to mention trees of nutmeg, chicle, breadfruit,
mango, and mahogany.
These all must vie for attention with the Flamboyants( ),
whose pods were beginning to swell and turn from green to
black. (The fiery scarlet of the flowers was earlier in the year,
unfortunately. But soon the seeds will resound rhythmically
within the pod when the tradewinds blow against them.)
The heart murmurs of its own accord as you behold dis-
creely placed bamboo stands reaching into the heavens. The
magnificent lavender of jacaranda sets off the ubiquitous
flowers (Alpinia purpurata) tower overhead, too, providing
enthralling punctuation to the gratuitously blue sky and the
depth green surrounding everywhere.
Now, what mad designer would think to group cocoas and
pink hibiscus together, near the Carambola ("winged fruit")
and purple perilla? Yet someone did, and it works!
You must tremble at the sight of white begonias growing
up to chest level. You're struck speechless by the beautiful,
exotic and stunningly pink Torch Lily (Phaeomeria magnifica).
The bright scarflet of the Chintille plant, also called Pussy
Tail (Acalypha hispida) adorns many alcoves, those furry tails
seductively beckoning. And we passionately adore the star-
ing shades of bougainvillea, which totally shock the senses
with theirearing tses.
Bird of Paradise (Strelitizia reginae) bursts against its green-
ery with multiples of orange, purple and red. And aurthumus
of all sizes and a surprising range of colors are as common as
weeds, unpretentiously adorning the paths.
Don't forget the bowers covered with fragrant vines! Nur
the papaya trees, queen palms, royal palms, coconut palms,
fan palms... not to mention trees of nutmeg, chicle, breaffruit,
mango, and mahogany.
These all must vie for attention with the Flamboyants( ),
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Now, what mad designer would think to group cocoas and
pink hibiscus together, near the Carambola ("winged fruit")
and purple perilla? Yet someone did, and it works!
You must tremble at the sight of white begonias growing
up to chest level. You're struck speechless by the beautiful,
exotic and stunningly pink Torch Lily (Phaeomeria magnifica).
The bright scarflet of the Chintille plant, also called Pussy
Tail (Acalypha hispida) adorns many alcoves, those furry tails
seductively beckoning. And we passionately adore the star-
ing shades of bougainvillea, which totally shock the senses
with theirearing tses.
Bird of Paradise (Strelitizia reginae) bursts against its green-
ery with multiples of orange, purple and red. And aurthumus
of all sizes and a surprising range of colors are as common as
weeds, unpretentiously adorning the paths.
Don't forget the bowers covered with fragrant vines! Nur
the papaya trees, queen palms, royal palms, coconut palms,
fan palms... not to mention trees of nutmeg, chicle, breaffruit,
mango, and mahogany.
These all must vie for attention with the Flamboyants( ),
whose pods were beginning to swell and turn from green to
black. (The fiery scarlet of the flowers was earlier in the year,
unfortunately. But soon the seeds will resound rhythmically
within the pod when the tradewinds blow against them.)
The heart murmurs of its own accord as you behold dis-
creely placed bamboo stands reaching into the heavens. The
magnificent lavender of jacaranda sets off the ubiquitous
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When Brian Helder told his parents that he is gay, they had a rather unusual reaction. "They couldn't quite believe this is happening again," Helder says. "But I had the advantage that my two sisters had already come out. [My parents] have handled it really well. They are incredibly supportive and loving people." Yes, it's true. Three fourths of the Helder siblings are gay. And his sisters, both older (Brian is the youngest of the four), rank as two of the most important people in his life. "If lesbian sisters are way, way high on my scale," he says. "They have both been in long, committed relationships and they were able to be the role models I never had. They helped me to realize I could be gay and still have a family, have a job, have a home—all those things you're not sure about when you're young and trying to figure those things out." It could have been very different. Helder's family, he says, is a strict religious one, and that made it difficult to accept what he slowly realized about himself. "I realized I was gay in my early teens," he remembers. "I'd always known I was different, but I had no context to put it in until I got to a point in school when people were calling me 'fag' and 'fairy' and I didn't know what that meant. I couldn't believe it. What I'd come to believe about gay people was so different from what I knew about myself."

But everything worked out well, in part thanks to those two lesbian sisters. And Helder, after graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in interior design, Helder, after graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in interior design, set off for New York City to be a designer. "I worked there for starvation wages," he says. "I had a lot of visions of what I expected New York to be, but day-to-day living is another very important area of his life. "I really think that part of it was growing up how I did, with such a strong religious background," he says. "Even though I didn't practice the religion my parents gave me, there is this desire for spiritualism." And that, too, translates into his creative side. Helder is making rattles from gourds for Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as a video called "Voices From the Sixth World," interviews with 25 gay men about their experiences living in the 90's. The video premiered at a film festival and aired on public television.

"Voices" was inspired by Helder's work with Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as another of the most important aspects of his life. "I really think that part of it was growing up how I did, with such a strong religious background," he says. "Even though I didn't practice the religion my parents gave me, there is this desire for spirituality." And that, too, translates into his creative side. Helder is making rattles from gourds for Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as another very important area of his life. "I really think that part of it was growing up how I did, with such a strong religious background," he says. "Even though I didn't practice the religion my parents gave me, there is this desire for spirituality." And that, too, translates into his creative side. Helder is making rattles from gourds for Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as another of the most important aspects of his life. "I really think that part of it was growing up how I did, with such a strong religious background," he says. "Even though I didn't practice the religion my parents gave me, there is this desire for spirituality." And that, too, translates into his creative side. Helder is making rattles from gourds for Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as another very important area of his life. "I really think that part of it was growing up how I did, with such a strong religious background," he says. "Even though I didn't practice the religion my parents gave me, there is this desire for spirituality." And that, too, translates into his creative side. Helder is making rattles from gourds for Gay Spirit Visions, which he counts as another...
**OUT & ABOUT**

**NOVEMBER 10/1994**

**HELL DOLLY!** Sometimes Dish has to wonder when camp is camp and when it's really just bad taste. Such is the case with "Kenny Angel," a revival of the "magnificently masculine doll" which premiered last year dressed in flowing white satin and lace angel wings, and sporting a metal halo above its (naturally well-endowed) head. The invention of entrepreneur Jim Tallman, Kenny Angel is meant to be a revival of the doll's angel drag, you can assure all your friends of your PC standing this year when you display it, because a stunning accessory has been added to the outfit—a red AIDS ribbon. Dish has no idea where you can—or why you should—buy this oddity.

**The Naked Truth?** Remember the superlatives they handed out in high school, like "Most Popular" and "Best Dressed?" Well, Dish would like to check the high school yearbook of incredible detachable man John Wayne Bobbitt, who, recently demonstrated that he is indeed a chip off the old block. Jeb Bush, who is running for governor of Florida, is connected to the heart of the universe or the source. Just relax you really are a grown-up? Well, you may be too deeply into unexpected events. Do whatever is needed to be centered.

**November 10—November 16, 1994**

Mercury is moving forward once again, and Saturn goes into direct motion on the 9th, leaving only Venus in retrograde. Now we are moving towards a lunar eclipse in Taurus on the 17th, so there may be a few emotional fireworks. Take your time making major decisions and don't fight having to make changes. AREITY, are you honoring your gut instincts and intuition, or are you staying too busy to realize their value? Make time to acknowledge and absorb your insights, so you can use them in your daily life. It's like finding precious gems in your pocket. TAURUS, this upcoming eclipse in your 1st house may add some emotional intensity to your life, so stay calm, cool and remember to communicate your personal thoughts and feelings to those you love. People who care need to know how they are doing in their lives together and find a husband. How's that for an oxymoron?

**STARSIGNS**

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**Cancer,** this may be an intense growth period for you, with many aspects of your life changing, shifting around or disappearing altogether. Change can be hard for Cancer people, so try to remember that life is change and it can be wonderful! **Leo,** being a fixed fire sign, you may be rather fond of having your own way most of the time. However, we do need to take turns being the chief, so let others have their chance to shine and express. It will be great for everyone involved. **Virgo,** life continues to change at a rapid rate, so the best you can do for yourself is get very creative and develop strategies that will allow you to cope with rapidly occurring unexpected events. Do whatever is needed to be centered. **Libra,** romance, romance, romance! Is there ever enough romance in the world? Probably not. So you may feel your special assignment is to fill in the gaps. However, there are people who just don't get it and may have to be educated, slowly. Happy birthday, **Scorpio,** are you having a wonderful month celebrating with close friends and loved ones? This is a golden opportunity to enjoy your life and focus on the beauty and joy possible in every moment. Let the petty staff go on by. **Sagittarius,** look to dreams, visions and the Collective Unconscious. So much to experience, and so little time! Well, slow down, relax and definitely keep track of your dreamtime experiences. You'll be amazed, later on, at the stories you hear.

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**Aquarius,** are you concerned with the injustice in the world, the prejudice, the violence? Then find ways to put your practical compassion to work actually healing the wounds and relieving the suffering that is at the root of our social ills. **Pisces,** are you still wondering what you will be when you grow up? Are you still doing your best to act like you really are a grown-up? Well, you may be too deeply connected to the heart of the universe or the source. Just relax and be yourself.

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**Dykes To Watch Out For**

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*This is an encore printing of one of our fave DTWOF strips—Fans are encouraged to light candles, incense and such to send spiritual support to Alison who has a really heavy" workload right now. Wy we wish ya, girl!—Morraine Snees—Production Dog.*

**On The Radio:** If you, like Dish, have always supported National Public Radio and its local affiliate, WABE-FM 90, but live in town and have never gotten a very clear signal from the station, we have some good news for you. As of October 20, the station has installed a new FM translator that enables the signal to be broadcast not only from 88.1 but also from 107.9. The new translator should help all intown listeners get the station "static-free," according to station engineers. If you try the signal now and it's a little fuzzy, be patient; testing is still being done to define the scope of the coverage area.

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**Honey, Why Are You Wearing My Pumps?:** The helpful folks over at The National Enquirer have just printed a list of telltale signs that your husband or boyfriend is gay. (We assume this list is for straight women; Dish has hard evidence, so to speak, that our boyfriend is gay). According to the article, one giveaway is if your husband greets another man by putting a friendly hand on his shoulder, but leaves it there just a little too long. Another is that wives and girlfriends should suspect heterosexual men who spend too much time on the phone; apparently, straight guys rarely talk for hours on the phone with male friends, unless it is to plan some many pursuit like a hunting or fishing trip. Though Dish has heard stories about those, too. But what wives really, really need to watch out for are husbands who are very affectionate, who bring home flowers and candy and like to prepare gourmet meals to be enjoyed by candlelight. In other words, macho gorillas are safe, but men who show they care about you are suspect. Some days, Dish is even more glad than usual that we're gay.

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**November 10, 1994**

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