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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5 ■ ATLANTA, GEORGIA ■ MAY 27 - JUNE 2, 1983

ANDREW YOUNG: INTERVIEW

Ken Bond

Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young said in an interview with Cruise Newsmagazine that he plans to "be a good mayor for four years," but that if drafted for National Office he "would reconsider."

The Mayor was interviewed for about twenty minutes in his office Tuesday evening after performing a wedding in the City Hall reception room. Sandra Walker, Communications Director for the Mayor's Office, observed the interview.

Young revealed that he will send a representative with a letter of support for AIDS medical research to a candlelight march which, at press time, was scheduled for Thursday, May 26th. He was to be out of town. The Mayor also acknowledged meeting with several *ad hoc* groups recently to discuss gay/lesbian issues and that he encourages input from the gay community of Atlanta.

Openly gay or lesbian activists have been considered for city positions already in his administration but jobs have gone to more available candidates. "Some of the officials I have appointed happen to be gay," he stated, although no names were mentioned. When asked about any possible plans to seek qualified gay recruits for the Atlanta Police Department Young said that "the Police Chief has said that we already have gay police." A strategy of encouraging leaders in the gay community to spread the word that gays are wanted to serve on the Atlanta Police Department will result in a higher quality of applicants than those who would respond to advertisements in gay publications, he said. A similar strategy is used in seeking Hispanic applicants. He is also prepared to rewrite a

question about substance abuse on the police application, "because it disqualifies so many young people."

From experience in his church Young believes gays play an important role in religious affairs. "There is a tacit approval of gays in the church," he said, adding that, "If all gays were removed from the Church, it would fall apart."

His decision not to sign a proclamation for Lesbian/Gay/Transperson Pride Week last year was in the community's best interest, he believes. Several reasons for that decision included "conflicting interests of community representatives in the wording of the proclamation." As it was written the proclamation could have adversely affected

Continued on page 7.





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SHIRLEY FRANKLIN TO SPEAK AT GAY CENTER



The Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Atlanta will speak to the lesbian and gay community June 7th at the Atlanta Gay Center (AGC) at 7:30 p.m. Shirley Franklin will discuss her role in the city administration and how it relates to the lesbian/gay community, according to Frank Scheuren, President of the First Tuesday Association (FTA). The meeting is sponsored by FTA and will be co-hosted by members of FTA and the 1983 Pride Week Planning Committee. It will be open to the public at no charge. The AGC is located at 848 Peachtree Street (across from Backstreet), third floor.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is second in line to the Mayor in the operation of city affairs. When the Mayor is ill or out-of-town the CAO is responsible for day-to-day city administration, although only the City Council President is authorized to sign official papers. Shirley Franklin is the first woman CAO of the City of Atlanta. She is a former Commissioner of Cultural Affairs and was an aide to Andrew Young in his mayoral election campaign. She is married to David Franklin, Atlanta attorney, and is the mother of three.

"We really want to encourage everyone to attend this meeting," said Scheuren. "This is a wonderful opportunity to have some input into city affairs," he said. People will be encouraged to bring up important issues during a question and answer period, he said. "Why are there no gay city appointees, where is the support from City Hall for the Center, things like that," he added.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO REGISTER VOTES

The First Tuesday Association announced that it is seeking volunteers to help register voters in an all-out effort before next year's presidential primary. A minimum of 20 people per class are needed by the Fulton County Voter Registration Office. Classes will be set up to fit with the volunteer's schedules.

The importance of voter registration was recently emphasized in elections in Califor-

nia and Chicago. Harold Washington was elected Mayor of Chicago on the strength of several hundred thousand newly registered voters led by Operation Push and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was narrowly defeated in part by the failure to register some 200,000 of his state's unregistered black voters.

Volunteers will be trained in the legal technicalities of how and where to register voters. For more information please contact First Tuesday Association or see the advertisement in this issue of *Cruise Newsmagazine*.

SPONSORS WANTED FOR RUNNERS

In an effort to raise money for AIDS research local runners are encouraged to get sponsors to pledge money on their behalf for running in the Midtown Classic at Piedmont Park Sunday, June 5th. The \$6 entry fee will also go to charity. All pledges and fees will go to an escrow account and will be donated to a research facility to be chosen by members of AIDS Atlanta with input from members of the community.

The Midtown Classic consists of 5-K and 10-K road race which will run a flat course through Midtown and will start and finish near the 10th Street entrance to Piedmont Park. Commemorative T-shirts will be given to all finishers. The benefit road race is sponsored by Better Brands, Inc. (Miller Beer), Regalo's and T's & Things. It is a joint effort of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild and AID Atlanta and the Gay Student Alliance of Georgia State University. It may be the nation's first benefit road race for AIDS research. Runners should be at the park by 8 a.m. Persons interested in sponsoring runners should call 875-4348. Pledges or checks should be mailed to ABPG, P.O. Box 52785, Atlanta, GA 30305.

MIDTOWN PROTESTANT CHURCH

In a recent business meeting the Community Baptist Church voted to change its name to the Midtown Protestant Church. Still a church that is run solely by the congregation, the name was changed because of the historically homophobic stands that Baptist groups have taken. We are a local church — thus the name "Midtown"; we have no desire to become a national church. The word "protestant" connotes for us a church that is Bible oriented rather than centering our service around the Lord's Supper.

However, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated often. The church has been meeting in a gay bar, Plum Nelly, next to Illusions, and on June 5, at 11:00 A.M. a guest minister from one of the gay religious groups will be present to celebrate a liturgical Lord's Supper observance. This will be the last meeting of the Midtown Protestant Church at Plum Nelly. (There will also be a service there on May 29, at 11:00 A.M.)

Beginning on June 12, and every Sunday night thereafter, the Midtown Protestant Church will be meeting in the Atlanta Gay Center, next to the Cabana Motel, at 848 Peachtree, on the third floor. The meeting time has been changed to 7:00 p.m. each Sunday. Also, on June 12, there will be a pot

luck supper at 5:30 p.m. The entire gay and lesbian community is invited to all of these events.

If anyone has any questions about the church, call the pastor, Rev. James L. Halliwill, at 876-5356. The pastor is an ordained and licensed minister and holds the Master of Divinity from an accredited seminary. The Midtown Protestant Church wants to serve the spiritual needs of the gay and lesbian community. In order to be responsive to the needs of the community, regular business meetings are held in order to shape the program and philosophy of the church to those needs.

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL NEWS

On May 22, the Hotlanta Softball got off to another start. Mother Nature thought that she was going to postpone the games with threatening skies but all the games were played. The Armory Falcons with their new uniforms and Dina Jacobs, took the field to play the red hot Cove, who is riding a (1) one game winning streak. The Cove jumped out to a one run lead but The Armory came back and tied the game and then went ahead to defeat the Cove with a score of 18-3.

The second game of the day was between the Cove and the Texad Drillers. The Cove, after much practicing and really looking good for a new team, came up on the short end of their doubleheader and was defeated by a score of 16-7.

The third game of the day saw Backstreet and Texas go for it. By this game the stands were filling up even with the threatening skies. A few rain drops here and there didn't dampen anyone's spirit and the teams played on. After being in Birmingham and playing in a torrential downpour all day, the players from Atlanta were not to be denied these games. Texas poured on the runs and defeated the Backstreet Cats by a score of 27-8.

Being undefeated and on top is not an easy task to hold on to no matter what team it is. As the Pharr Library and Redoubt took to the field it was obvious that Redoubt wanted the game from the beginning. With the Pharr Library behind 5-3, it was time that they got to work and slowly wore the score to a tie of 5-5. With the ballgame into extra innings, it looked like Redoubt was not to be denied a victory. With hard playing and good plays by both teams the game went into the ninth inning. To say that the game was not a thriller was far beyond the reach of the many fans who were screaming and hollering in the stands for both teams, but the Pharr Library pulled the game out and remained undefeated by winning 6-5 in nine innings. Congratulations to both teams for giving the fans all they could handle.

The Hotlanta Softball League again would like to thank all the fans who stayed and cheered on their favorite team. Without you, the games would not be as exciting as they have been. On May 26, 1983, the Pharr Library, The Armory and Redoubt will board a plane for Milwaukee, Wisconsin to play in the Wreck Room Classic. Atlanta will be hoping that one of the three teams will return with a first place trophy. Good luck guys and make Atlanta happy and proud of you. All that can be said about the three teams flying on the same plane to Milwau-

kee, is loot out airlines. You will have your hands full.

League standings:

1. Pharr Library	6-0
2. Texas Drilling Co.	6-1
3. Redoubt	2-3
4. Cove	1-4
5. The Armory	2-4
6. Backstreet	0-4

FREE VD HEALTH SCREENING

The Atlanta Gay Center VD Clinics reminds you of their next free screening clinic this Saturday, May 28. The clinic will be held from 4 to 6 pm in the Atlanta Gay Center, located at 848 Peachtree Street. The clinic screens for the sexually transmitted syphilis and gonorrhea. The monthly schedule is as follows:

First Monday of the Month—9 to 11 pm — New Order Lounge

Second Friday of the Month — 10 pm to Midnight — Club Bath Atlanta

Fourth Saturday of the Month — 4 to 6 pm — Atlanta Gay Center

DEAR DIAMOND LIL MAKES TELEVISION ON THE DR. BURT BRADLEY SHOW



Sometimes in the gloom of it all a ray of sunshine will appear. Such was the case a few weeks ago when I received a telephone call from a soft-spoken voice identifying himself as Chris. He was calling in regard to the Dear Diamond Lil column and suggested I could be of a greater service to the community if I would consider being interviewed on the Dr. Burt Bradley Show, Channel 36. Well, children, this came as a pleasant surprise; and negotiations were underway.

Remembering my last great interview on the show, "Tell All," in Augusta, Ga., in the early '70's, I knew how much I worshipped television. It gives me a great feeling to be in such a professional atmosphere. Girlfriends and boyfriends, they really treat you with great respect and roll out the red carpet (in Augusta, it was blue; but they made up for it by giving me a red-velvet chair). I recall being so "heavy" there, and remember so much loud stomping and screaming going on in the control room during my interview, that a major circuit was blown after the conclusion of my appearance. The entire station went dark for about 10 minutes when, at last, the technicians were able to come out of a general state of shock over my appearance. After all, it could take a period of adjustment for your basic Augustan to "accept" a cantankerous, mysterious Atlanta belle —

EDITORIAL

by Ken Bond

What do the Gay Rights Movement, the (Feminist) Women's Movement and the Civil Rights Movements have in common? They inevitably will become intertwined in a larger struggle for equality for all human beings.

There is, without a doubt, a considerable lesbian/gay presence in Atlanta. Whether or not there is a sense of "community" here is a matter of debate.

Meanwhile we watch as the "Black Power" movement has come of age. Tuesday, May 24th, the Reverend Jesse Jackson met Alabama Governor George Wallace and spoke to a joint session of the Alabama Statehouse.

Jackson is determined to register millions of Black American voters before the 1984 Presidential elections. The newly registered voters will likely play a key role in determining who is elected the next President (and Vice-President) of the United States. Therefore Black input will be sought by the makers of both the Republican and Democratic Convention Platform Committees.

Jackson wants to take the movement that he has worked in since 1964 one step further; from the Statehouse to the Whitehouse." However, he admitted later that evening, to Ted Koppel on *ABC Nightline* that he would defer running as a presidential candidate if office-holders such as "Mayor Andrew Young or Republican Shirley Chisholm are not dismissed" at ticket-making time.

Remarkably all six announced Democratic candidates for President have sought gay support and have heard gay issues this year. It appears that similar issues of the gay, women's and civil rights movements will become intertwined in the next eighteen months.

Nationally, America's lesbians and gay men should bring their issues and their resources to the conventions. Locally, we should take up our Mayor's offer to meet with him and discuss our issues. It is time for representatives of our community organizations to form a group which regularly meets with Mayor Young.

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M E M B E R
GAY PRESS ASSOCIATION

attired in full-length, white fringe-gown; Zebra coat, rhinestones, etc.

In rounding out the presentation of the television show here in the "Big Peach," Keith, a very delightful and amiable chap, indicated that he would very much like another kind of guest on the show — one who wasn't necessarily theatrically-oriented, but someone who had had difficulties with sexual identification and/or sex-change problems, who could provide an entirely different slant on things not experienced by Dear Diamond Lil. Jerri, a buxom "gal" from Warner Robbins, was located and accepted the invitation to be on the show, which was aired "live" on Tuesday morning, May 17th, at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Bradley, or Dr. Burt, as I called him informally on the show, was a most distinguished, sophisticated, pleasant gentleman; and I was very much impressed that his presentation of pros and cons about Gay life, female impersonators, trans-sexuals, and transvestites was so open and uncensored. I can't recall a more enlightening show being presented in Atlanta, Ga., to the open public; and I think it's wonderful!

The "live interview" went so well that I'm still taken aback, and the response was marvelous. Children, I do believe a few steps forward have been taken here in Atlanta to make better aware your basic, uninformed public that the "Gay life" is really a good, responsible, productive, and acceptable life-style - it always has been; a little ignorance has gotten in the way here and there, however. Through a little more education to your "average" citizen, I feel even more progress can be made to fill the communication gap that exists between "gays" and "straights."

Telephone callers to the program were very favorable on a noticeably higher average. One lady was so impressed with "Miss Diamond" and what I had to say that she asked if it would be possible for me to meet and talk with her 10-and-12-year-old children. I told her she might check on the possibilities of bringing them to the show at Gregory's that night, since it was a restaurant open to the general public.

Jerri did well informing the viewers about the many problems — emotional, mental, physical, financial, and social — involved in trying to have sex-change surgery. At 40, her hopes of having the surgery look dim; but the then I read about a 60-year-old father who made his decision "to change" and did become "the woman" he always wanted to be!

The very engrossing, hour-long show seemed to fly by; and Dr. Bradley said he would be sure to catch me at Gregory's with some of the "crew." From noon that day until ten that night was an awful long wait for "Miss Diamond" to do still another human-interest show — one with an entirely different kind of interest — glamour and grease with my "live" band!

Oh, my Captain....let me fly....I'm on!

— Diamond Lil

PROVINCETOWN TRIP

TRIPS UNLIMITED is pleased to announce that a trip to Provincetown has been scheduled for the second week in July. The tour will be hosted by Ray Alfond, a native New Englander and fully familiar with "P'town." The tour will depart Atlanta early

AM on Saturday, July 9th and return late evening Sunday, July 17th.

The first leg of the tour is to Boston. Upon arrival in Boston a tour of the city is planned for those who wish to see it. (Boston's waterfront is lovely on a summer afternoon and the Faneuil Hall Marketplace is nearby.) Saturday night everyone will be free to do their own thing by taking a cruise through Boston's bars, etc. Early Sunday AM we will depart for our cruise to Provincetown aboard the M/V Provincetown arriving at the Town Landing, just like pilgrims, shortly before 1 PM. We will be met at the landing by Paul & Bill, our hosts at the Sea Drift Inn. The Sea Drift Inn is conveniently located on Bradford Street right across the street from Backstreet, one of the towns most popular discos and bars. The Sea Drift Inn is composed of two old Cape Cod houses that are serene and quaint. All of the charm of the Cape will abound here in our home away from home.

P'town offers many things to do during the long lazy days of summer as well as lively evenings. The beaches are conveniently located as well as is the Boat-slip. The Boat-slip is famous for its deck, pool and Tea Dances held every afternoon all summer long. The Atlantic House, one of the oldest bars in P'town is just a couple of minutes walk from the Sea Drift. The restaurants in this community will rival the finest the world over. One may dine at everything from a Dairy Queen to a five star restaurant in this the landing place of the pilgrims. Late evening one will find himself at the Maderia Room to see top notch entertainment, at one of the local bars or just cruising the shops along the busy Commercial Street.

The town has something for everyone. Why not join us on this odyssey to the North. The cost of this P'town Escape is just \$498.00 per person double occupancy. For more information contact Ron Hill at Trips Unlimited (404-872-9334) or Ray Alfond at The Supply House at Redoubt (404-872-0209).

NEW GAY MEN'S STUDY GROUP TO EXAMINE GAY LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

A study in Gay Loving Relationships will highlight the spring and early summer series of Gay Men's Study Groups, with a new group starting on Friday, June 10th. A full schedule of study groups will be offered throughout the summer.

Leader Jack Ortmann said the newest study group will focus on "what love is and, most important, what love is not." He said the four-week series will discuss communication, understanding, acceptance, growth in love and life, and planning and sharing goals together.

"Gay Loving Relationships" will follow the same small-group affirmative discussion format praised by participants in Ortmann's ongoing series, "Key to Yourself," which he describes as "a positive growth experience."

The "Key to Yourself" series, now in its second year, also will be offered throughout the spring and summer, with a group beginning on Wednesday, June 15th.

Learning to use the power within yourself to achieve inner peace, harmony, freedom, happiness, abundance, joy and energy in

your life is the focus of "Key to Yourself," the leader explained.

"In the 'KTY' series we learn how we can love ourselves more fully and completely. We examine how we can team up our intuition with our other five senses, how we can become more aware of what is really going on around us, and how to use affirmations in positive ways," Ortmann said.

Participants in the preceding 56 sessions of "Key to Yourself" have turned in written evaluations of the study groups, Ortmann said. "All responses have been favorable. People have remarked on drastic changes in their outlooks and attitudes, expansion in their awareness and in their circle of friends. One member said the course was more valuable to him than years of psychotherapy."

As an outgrowth of earlier study groups, Ortmann leads a weekly growth group for anyone who has attended an earlier series or is currently enrolled in one and is interested in additional reinforcement and support.

Each study group meets for four, three-hour sessions in a home setting, with enrollment usually limited to fewer than 12 participants. A modest fee is charged for all groups. "We deliberately keep the groups small to let everyone get to know each other well and feel comfortable sharing in a supportive environment."

Ortmann said he developed the Gay Men's Study Groups after years of personal study and growth which was often painful. The founder of a multi-million dollar national direct marketing firm, he began to question why his life had been so successful on the outside and so unsatisfyingly painful on the inside.

"I've spent a great deal of time recovering from old ideas and replacing them with new ones which work in all areas of my life," he explained. "The Gay Men's Study Groups give me a wonderful opportunity to share in the personal growth of positive men." In addition to a full schedule of study groups, Ortmann also remains active as a business consultant.

Anyone interested in enrolling in a group or receiving additional information may call Jack Ortmann at 636-4775 or write to Gay Men's Study Groups, PO Box 29321, Atlanta, GA 30329.

DAVID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Beginning immediately, the International David Society is developing a major

membership drive to inform Gay individuals nationwide of the success of the Society and to encourage participation in one of the most secure unity efforts ever undertaken for Gay individuals.

They have been building the service to gay women and men for nearly two years, operating under the philosophy of "taking care of our own." The concept originated as a result of a planner who felt that gay women and men must care for their own needs without depending on others to provide jobs, housing, medical research, insurance, etc.

The impressive network includes a healthy membership, a monthly magazine, an insurance program, an employment service ("Book of Jobs"), housing service (Two's Company), funding for medical research and lobbyists, in addition to an elaborate discount program which provides an opportunity to save money. Offices are now located in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and San Francisco, California. It is becoming evident that other cities are rapidly approaching a membership level that will warrant opening other offices.

Your membership card provides access to a number of time and money saving services. Membership is \$10 per year and can be had from the International David Society, 605 SW 12th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312. Please state that you are over 18.

POSITION AVAILABLE FOR AGC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applications are now being sought for the position of Executive Director of the Atlanta Gay Center. The responsibilities of the position include the day-to-day operation of the physical planning and administration of most major Center programs under the direction of the AGC Board of Directors. Qualifications include management experience, knowledge of the community and community activities, public speaking, and communications skills. A college degree is preferred. Apply to the Chairperson, Personnel Committee, Board of Directors, AGC, 848 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308.

1983 Summer Quarterly Meeting of Alabama Conference for Personal Rights

LAMBDA announces the 1983 Summer Quarterly Meeting of the Alabama Conference for Personal Rights, to be hosted by the Gay Student Union of Tuscaloosa. The meeting shall be held June 4, 1983 at the

MIDTOWN PROTESTANT CHURCH

*Serving the Spiritual Needs of the
Gay and Lesbian Community*

Servicess Every Sunday, 7:00 PM*

Atlanta Gay Center

848 Peachtree Street, NE - 3rd Floor

Next to the Cabana Hotel

*Call Rev. James L. Halliwill, Pastor
at 876-5356 for information.*

*** NOTE: The Church will meet at Plum Nelly, at 11:00 am on May 29th and June 5th only.**

Conference Room in the Holiday Inn at the I-59/U.S. 82 exit in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The meeting shall start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

The primary purpose of this conference is to ratify the proposed constitution and bylaws, which was revised by the committee chosen in Montgomery.

After the discussion of the constitution, every organization is requested to present a quarterly progress report of activities and "happenings" in their area.

A casual reception/pool party hosted by the GSU shall follow the business meeting.

Overnight lodging is available in private homes.

For more information, please contact either Elliott Jones at 349-1735 or Natalie Maiden at 752-3301.

See you June 4th!!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES PASSES RESOLUTION FOR AIDS RESEARCH

In late business on Friday, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for "substantially increased funds and a high priority for research and information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and AIDS-related diseases." The resolution goes on to direct Council leaders "to inform the President of the United States, Members of Congress, the National Institute of Health and the Center for Disease Control of this action."

The resolution also encourages "the public news services to provide wider dissemination of *responsible* information concerning AIDS." It directs N.C.C.C. leadership to "monitor this issue and be an advocate for public information and human policies concerning AIDS."

AIDS THROUGH HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

By Joseph McQuay

MIAMI — Medical experts are dismissing as ludicrous "and utterly irresponsible" reports that the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome might be transmitted through routine household contact.

The story, based on a study released last week by the Journal of the American Medical Association, was released by ABC and NBC during nightly newscasts May 5. The Miami Herald expanded the subject, starting a two-column front page article entitled, "Infants caught AIDS at home, study says."

Everyone leaves AIDS statements open-ended because it's such an unsure subject," said Dr. Margaret Fischl of the University of Miami Medical Center. It looks like they took one sentence out of context and ran with it. It was a gross exaggeration — totally speculative on their part."

Since eight children have reportedly contracted AIDS from households containing adults in the high risk group, the report said it is plausible to us that the illnesses in these youngsters were related in some way to household exposure and their residence in communities involved in the current epidemic of AIDS."

Of the children — aged one to nine months when they got the disease — four have died. It seems . . . that the epidemiology of AIDS may now have taken an ominous new turn, with otherwise normal infants and children as additional victims," the report stated.

This statement — that AIDS could be spread through less than intimate contact has the potential to spread new panic waves, Fischl said. "It's already alienating some people. We've gotten numerous callers worried about people who are teaching some of the children."

Fischl said the outbreak among the children was most likely spread through blood contact. Officials at the Centers for Disease Control agreed that the transmission probably occurred before or during birth, when the children are exposed to a lot of the mother's blood.

Frankly no one knows exactly what all the modes of transmission are," said Dr. Mary Ann Fletcher, another Miami researcher. It doesn't appear to be an extremely communicable disease. We have to assume the contact was either very close or prolonged."

A spokesman for the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York said they had received only one other call on the subject the day after the story was released.

"But from what I can tell, the story seems ludicrous and very irresponsible," he said. "Just considering all the health workers who have had three years of fairly close contact with AIDS patients, and none of them have gotten it."

Neither I nor any co-workers have gotten AIDS," Dr. Fletcher assured. If AIDS were as communicable, say, as tuberculosis, we might have some medical cases. But there are none as far as I know. It's not what we could categorize as a highly communicable disease."

Dr. James Curran, head of the CDC Task Force on AIDS, reminded readers that many of these infants were sick from the time that they were born. This isn't evidence that AIDS is going to spread routinely through household contact."

I certainly don't think this should be a dictate to start locking people with AIDS in leper asylums," Dr. Fletcher agreed.

AIDS VIGIL IN HOUSTON

By Hollis Hood/Montrose Voice

"It could be any of us," Houston City Controller Lance Lalor told approximately 1000 persons who assembled for the AIDS candlelight vigil Monday night, May 2, in front of Houston City Hall.

"I'm glad," he continued, "that we live in a city that has recognized the problem and is specifically dealing with it instead of being like the ya-hoos and neanderthals in their homophobic rantings," referring to Dallas State Representatives sponsoring House Bill 2138, the proposed new Texas anti-gay statute, and the "misanthropes" of Dallas Doctors Against AIDS that "use a disease to spread their bigotry and intolerance. They want to outlaw holding hands and kissing. We are blessed with a leadership of greater stature," he told an audience of candlelight faces and solemn expressions.

The prayer and memorial vigil, sponsored by Citizens for Human Equality and the Montrose Clinic, was a happening simultaneous with demonstrations of concern in San Francisco and New York. The purpose was to pay tribute to those who have died of AIDS and to encourage citizens to write or call President Reagan supporting the release of needed research funds to find a cause and treatment or prevention of the condition.

However, federal officials seem to approach the problem with embarrassment, said Steve Shiflett of CHE, declaring that it is a local issue. Local authorities around the country claim that they can do without national coordination. "However, it has become apparent that the sexual orientation of many of the victims is slowing progress on the federal level as it is "to risky politically," said Councilman George Greanias.

"I content that the lack of money for research and treatment reflects the low esteem in which the entire victim population is held," he said. "Herpes, Legionnaire's disease and toxic shock syndrome all received ample funding without any delay." Washington must get the message. AIDS is a priority. We have paid our taxes. We want adequate funding now," to which the audience shouted approval.

MEXICAN MORAL RENOVATION TARGETS GAYS

For GPA by Ernie Potvin

Mexican gays have become a scapegoat for the downturn in that country's economy according to spokesmen for Grupo Lambda, Mexico's leading gay rights organization. During last year's election campaign Mexican President De La Madrid called for a program of "Moral Renovation" to stop the widespread practice by government officials and civil servants of demanding bribes for services rendered. Following the July elections, police and other agencies have misinterpreted the intent of 'moral renovation' to launch a morals campaign against the nations homosexuals and prostitutes.

Bar raids and harassment on the streets have increased markedly according to Jesus Rico. Assaults and extortion have become common place. Activists who stand up for their rights, however, or tourists with foreign papers are seldom bothered, according to Marcos Osorio another Lambda member. Most of this activity has centered around the chic Zona Rosa district of Mexico City which contains almost all of the capital's dozen gay clubs.

As has been reported in other Mexican cities, many attacks on gays have come from off duty police. During the election campaign a gathering of 200 gays was attacked by a political goon squad in which 70 people were injured. Prompting these attacks is the support the gay movement has received from the left wing Revolutionary Workers Party which has participated in the gay marches since their inception in 1979. The largest march in 1980 resulted in 6,000 participants.

Another ramification of "moral renovation" has been the mass firing of homosexuals from jobs. In one widely publicized incident ten renowned actors were dismissed from the television networks.

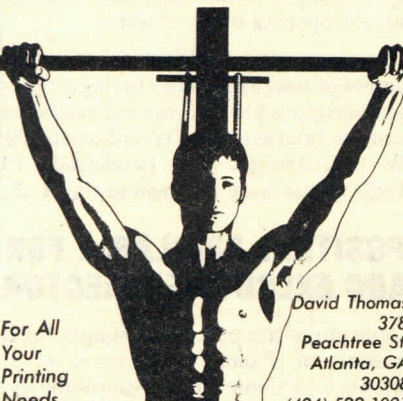
In November an Obscenity Decree was issued prohibiting the publication of all articles, photographs, or sounds depicting sex, as having a negative effect on the moral fiber of the nation. This was met with open protests from several intellectual writers as well as the gay movement and was later rescinded.

Probably the most prominent lesbian group is Oikabeth, named after a group of Mayan female warriors who were renowned for leaving a trail of flowers in their wake.

One of Mexico's earliest groups, FHAR, is reported to no longer exist. FHAR, the Homosexual Revolutionary Action Front, dissolved shortly after the expulsion of thousands of homosexuals from Castro's Cuba. FHAR wanted to protest the action by chaining themselves to the iron fence of the Cuban embassy in Mexico City. Group Lambda argued in favor of sending an emissary to Havana to investigate the situation along with letters of protest to the Mexican press. Only two newspapers in the country carried their press releases.

Grupo Lambda's emissary returned with an unsatisfactory response from the Cuban government which included a justifying text from a 19th century German psychologist. Although disappointed with the Cuban position on gays, many in the Mexican gay movement have remained steadfastly aligned with the socialist left.

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On yet another front religious lesbians and gay fellowships in Mexico City are growing in number. A study group called Fidelidad meets regularly. The Metropolitan Community Church meets in a private home with a weekly attendance approaching fifty, and an out-of-the-closet priest conducts Sunday mass for the gay community in a suburban church filled to capacity.

The address for Grupo Lambda is Apartado 73130, Mexico 12, D.F.

TEXAS SODOMY LAW

Montrose Voice/Montrose Voice Austin Bureau/via GPA Wire

Austin spectators in the old superior courtroom of the Texas State Capitol laughed Tuesday as the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence took testimony describing "hand balling" and other sexual acts.

But Richardson's Republican representative Bill Ceverha's attempt to pass a bill outlawing homosexual acts is no joke to Texas' gay population — estimated at 700,000 by the federal judge who overruled the previous sodomy law, Section 2106 of the Penal Code.

Several persons appeared in the April 19 meeting to face the anti-gay forces who are trying to revive the sodomy law which was struck down by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last fall.

Committee members heard more than two hours of emotion-filled testimony on HB 2138, but took no action saying they needed more time or Dallas Rep. Sam Hudson, said Hudson has introduced HB 111, which will effectively "do the opposite of HB 2138."

Rep. Debra Danburg (D), Houston, became visibly upset as she raised points of order and disputed testimony of Ceverha's supporters who testified that homosexual activity poses a public health threat.

Those who supported the 2138 bill, presented graphic descriptions of homosexual acts to support their contention.

Paul Cameron, a Nebraska psychologist, and Clem Mueller, a doctor, testified that gays are major carriers of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a rare disorder that strips the body of its disease-fighting capacity. They also testified that gays carry Kaposi Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

Danburg pointed out that only 26 cases of AIDS have been confirmed in Texas. "That's .000371 percent," she said.

Danburg's biggest problem with 2138 supporters — who included two Dallas policemen — was their lack of expertise.

"None of them has expertise," she said. "The two doctors have never treated anyone with Kaposi Sarcoma or an AIDS victim. They have never participated in any research, given any time, expertise or money or worked in any way with any organization for the purpose of treating or preventing Kaposi Sarcoma or AIDS."

"I think they are homophobic," she said.

Danburg said she does not think the bill has the five votes needed to make it out of the nine member committee. But, she said, she is afraid to be confident about something this important.

If the bill makes it to the full house, she predicted, it will pass by a vote of 120-30. "Not because it is rational or of good quality, but

because the way the media reports it, it will look like a referendum on homosexuality, and the members will not vote for that."

ANDREW YOUNG: INTERVIEW

Continued from front page.

Atlanta lesbians and gays in their struggle for community acceptance, he felt.

"There could have been a backlash," he said. He is currently working on a major human rights speech, which if completed to his satisfaction, will be released during Pride Week 1983, although he will be in a trade meeting in Trinidad at that time.

Young's discussion roamed to history and philosophy. "Socrates ... there was no mention of his having a wife ... the Greeks were a very sensual people, and their culture produced the first democracy." He pointed to objects of art from Korea, China and many other countries in his sitting room. Later he said, "We all have to learn to learn to live with one another."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

We are at a critical point in the progress toward ensuring civil rights, human dignity and equal justice for lesbians and gay men in the United States. We must analyze where we've been, and what tools we need to utilize to reach our future goals. This open letter sets forth what I believe are some of the current challenges and what it will take to meet them.

Critical to this analysis is an understanding of the increase in issues which the gay com-

munity rightly demands that the Gay Rights National Lobby handle and an understanding of the structures which exist in order to win on gay issues in Congress.

When I took responsibility for the then non-functioning Gay Rights National Lobby in late 1978, there were two major issues on the Lobby's agenda: co-sponsorship of the federal Gay Civil Rights Bills to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, etc., and the defeat of the anti-gay "McDonald Amendment" to exclude gays from the federal Legal Services program. Today, the Lobby is working hard on both of these issues PLUS: reform of immigration laws, Congressional veto of D.C. sexual assault reform, and the defeat of anti-gay appointments to the Reagan Administration. GRNL is now turning substantial attention to securing adequate federal funding for research into the cause and cure of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Most people think the task of GRNL is what I call 'direct lobbying': talking with Members of Congress to persuade them to vote in favor of basic fairness for gay people. Indeed, back in '78 this was a major focus for me, but it was clear we had to build the sort of structures to reinforce our Capitol Hill efforts. Recently, we've created GRNL's Lobbying Team, which is made up of experienced, Washington-based people, to provide broader direct lobbying on Capitol Hill.

In addition, GRNL's Field Program provides a way to generate pro-gay grassroots constituent pressure on Congress. GRNL's Field operations are handled by one Field Director in Washington and one Western

Continued on page 12.



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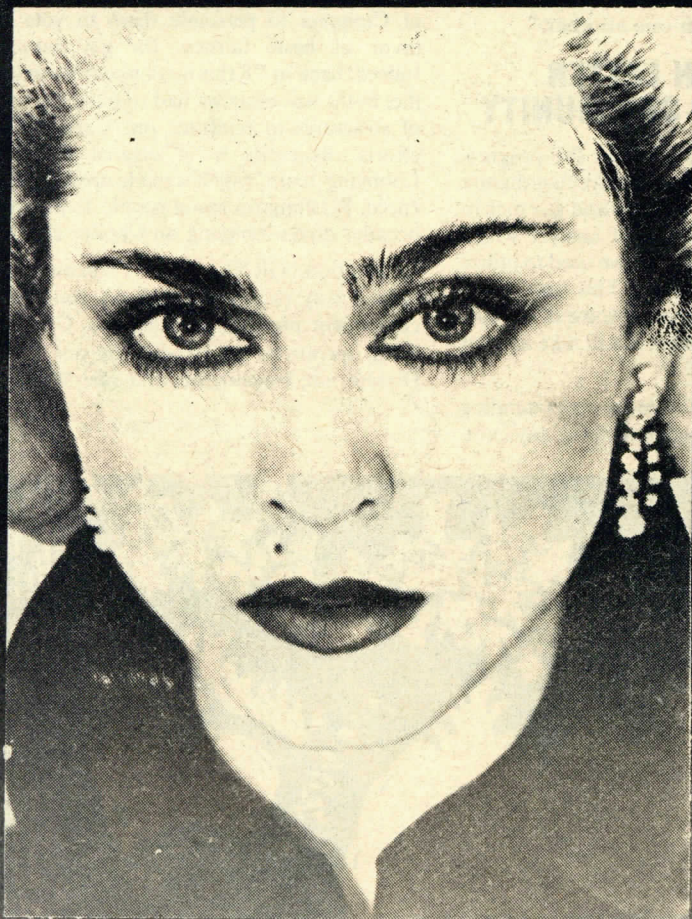
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GEMINI

(May 21 - June 21)

Vitality should be very high all week. Short trips favored. Demands from friends may interfere with what you really want to do all weekend. Relax... what they offer is better anyway. On the 31st emotional hassles stem from

financial differences. Best to keep your mouth shut. Collect past-due debts on the 1st. Let others pick up the tab but not the trick. Ingenious schemes to increase your revenue are obtainable on the 2nd. Keep your ears open. Romances should be kept temporary, or lies quickly follow on the 3rd.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 21)

Career directions may be confusing this week. Being pulled in two is not exactly your cup of tea. Good luck. No... this does not mean you'll be fired! On the 30th emotional states good or bad can be blamed on your partner. Moods pass as quickly as they arrive. Joint financial affairs get a real boost on the 31st by lucky connections. Love life has an element of secrecy all week. Tim Ragan you should be ashamed of yourself! Get rid of excess baggage (friend) on the 3rd... it's as easy as slicing baloney.

LEO

(July 22 - Aug. 21)

Friends and social obligations may

keep you on the run all week end. Friends want and bide for your time. Lovers may not be so inclined. Watch for separations on the 29th. On the 31st however, partnerships formed are both favorable in the love and money department. What a lucky break! Recent communication difficulty in career matters is now over. Now say what's really on your mind!... especially on the 2nd. On the 3rd don't be surprised if some faces are changed at work.

VIRGO

(Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)

The urge to travel over this weekend may be tremendous. However duty calls. If you leave us expect work to accompany you out of town. On the 31st sex may consume most of your waking hours. I'm proud of you! Partnerships can be successfully formed on both the 1st and 2nd. For those of you who are already married, keep him to yourself on those days... you won't be sorry. Legal affairs of a friend might cost time and money on the 3rd... or maybe that particular friend.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Try to keep all thoughts in the 'present' or at least in the 'future' this weekend... not the past... please? Dwelling on recent romantic failures could bring not only you but close friends down. On the 29th stay busy. Bigger and better opportunities for happier love match may be available on the 31st and the 1st anyway. Career matters look promising all week. Re-education in your chosen field now could be priceless. Responsibilities might run high but then so does your paycheck. On the 3rd expect domestic changes without warning.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Improvements in domestic situation can be attributed to loving friends. Entertain this weekend. On the 31st watch all that you sign... legalities could be tricky. Travel might be in your head but not in your budget right now. Try again next weekend. Opposition could result on the 3rd from partner. Confusion in communication difficulty stems from secretiveness on your part. Skeletons?? Not you I'm sure.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

If you don't find a playmate this weekend... then I suggest not wearing your hair in a 'bun' anymore. If anyone finds romance now it should certainly be you. On the 29th any work done brings more money than anticipated. Good day for finances. On the 30th the reverse may be true... expect nothing. You could paralyze and devastate others

with you sex appeal on the 31st... ALL DAY! Creative endeavors pursued on the 1st and 2nd might result in future job changes. Collect all outstanding debts on the 3rd. This may be your last chance.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Even though your new love interest may be as cute as 'HOWDY DOODY'... I suggest not pulling his strings. You're treading on very thin romantic ice. Look where it got Buffalo Bob!?? On the 29th have a garage sale or something. Finances and new friendships look great. Women on the 30th could be the big tolerance testers in career matters. By focusing all attention to career on the 31st and the 1st, new directions bring with them more personal freedom. Domestic changes on the 3rd could be avoided by engaging in a good two sided conversation for a change.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Travel and friendship look great over the weekend until love interests get in the way. Complications could result in who wants to do what? when? and where? On the 30th ignore nagging legal issues... they should come up again on the 3rd anyway. Best career day is on the 31st when all should-go your way. Be arrogant. Others love it. Ask for what your worth. Lack of understanding from loved one on the 1st could prove to be very disappointing. Stay in bed on the 3rd. Pull all the shades.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)

Beware of domestic disputes this weekend. There may be an invisible wall between you and your partner. Temporary financial strain and the inability to share domestic responsibilities equally could result in World War III if you let it. Career matters might keep you away from the homefront and provide an excellent outlet for excess energy. Friends may offer a shoulder to cry on on the 29th. Take it. It helps. Minor love disappointment on the 30th is ammed on the 2nd. Enjoy some one special for a few days.

ARIES

(March 21 - April 19)

Romance right now can best be described as confusing and temporary. Some good orderly direction might be required in this area. On the 28th friends are helpful. You who is usually so decisive could be reduced to 'cream puff' status for most of the week. Use the 29th for re-evaluation of existing attachments. Correct answers come on the 1st. On the 3rd expect your heart and ambitions to be at odds.

TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)

Short trips taken with a loved one this weekend couldn't be better. Renew romantic ties. If you don't have a loved one... it shouldn't be hard to find one. On the 30th work issues might put a damper on things but you might still be purring. Your a wizard that day. Money right now probably is coming in pretty easy but can come in even easier for those of you who are wise and cautious. On the 3rd expect not only 'red-tape' but —'red-lights' all damn day.

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Dear Mom,

Dear Mom,

I know it seems pretty strange my getting a second letter off to you without giving you more than half a chance to answer the first one but I just felt like sitting down and gabbing and bit. You know, just talking about anything that comes up.

But, where to start? That's funny, too; me without anything to say.

Well, Memorial Day is coming up and, for some reason, it almost looks like there's going to be some kind of partying going on up here over the weekend. It would make you think that it was turning into one of the most important gay holidays in the year (next to Halloween, New Year's, Labor Day and Easter of course).

Then again, gay men will use any excuse they can come up with to have a party! I've known guys who celebrate their pets birthdays. Of course the pets don't get to do as much celebrating, but it evens out in the long run, I guess.

You remember, too, that group of friends I hung around with that all studied French in high school and how we used to always celebrate Bastille Day? I guess my partying instinct was already pretty well developed; even 10 years before I found out I was gay.

Memorial Day is a really strange choice, though. I had to look it up in the dictionary to find out exactly what it was all about. I mean, celebrating dead men? I guess what they did was important since they all died defending our right to be free but I sure don't remember anybody I know celebrating it. When was the last time you baked a Memorial Day Cake? (I know; bad joke!)

Anyway, some of the bars around town are going all out to bring in customers (that's probably the main reason for the celebrations, but I'll give them the benefit of a doubt). They're offering all kinds of drink specials and entertainment and it's going to go on all weekend.

Anyway, I guess you've figured it all out already, anyway, that this is going to mean a lot of extra-heavy work for your sweet, hard-working, conscientious, thrifty, brave, loyal ... your little boy, and I guess I'm looking for a little sympathy, also. Of course, when I see that extra money in my hand I'll probably forget about the sore feet anyway.

Oh yeah, I'm thinking about moving. No, now, before you get excited, I'm not coming back home. No.

I was looking at a house the other day that I was half-wanting to rent. It's twenty or thirty miles out of town but that's really not too bad a drive up here if you watch your timing and don't get caught in rush hour traffic.

The house was in real bad condition, too, and I mean really bad condition. The walls and floors were sound enough and the roof didn't leak but the vinyl tile on the floors was cracking and pulling up, windows were boarded up for who knows what reasons, the ceiling looked like crap and the whole place was as dirty as a trash dump. You know how it is, though, when a house sits empty and this one must have been sitting like that for years. There was a lot of garbage dumped around the place, too, which didn't make for a great first impression.

But there was something about it, though, that made it almost impossible to turn down. That was the fact that it was located on nearly seventy-five acres of land. Seventy-five gorgeous, green, wooded acres with a few trails and one or two overgrown backroads, and the best of all, a big fishing pond that looked like it covered almost a full acre itself.

Brad just loved it. We went walking back through the woods for hours, enjoying the solitude. That was really like being back home, but, if we had gotten that place, it would have taken a hell of a lot of work trying to fix it up just to make it livable. On the days we could take off, however, it would be great just to be able to walk back in to the woods, sit by the pond ... maybe even do a little fishing. It looks like it should be pretty good, too, from the ones I could see up near the shoreline.

It was out there in the woods, too, that we found out one reason why the property has gone so long without renters or buyers. It lays sort of under the take-off area for the airport up here. I mean, it's like five or six miles away from it, but those big jets are taking off all the time; like every ten or fifteen minutes or so — sometimes even more often, and that's really disturbing out there where you don't have any other kind of noise to take your mind off the roar.

Well, we decided pretty well not to take the place, mainly because of that, and are still looking around for something a little out of the noise and traffic and all.

I'm going to have to go now though. One of the bars is having some kind of awards thingamajig tonight where they give prizes to things like the best bar and the most popular drag queen and so on, and my boss says since I'm not working he wants me to especially show up so we won't end up with an empty table. So, I'm going to go ahead and get all spruced up for the party. I hope it doesn't last as long as they usually do.

Bye-bye for now and give my love to Pop. Love you much.

Freddie

CRUISEWORD PUZZLE: THE GRASS IS GREENER

by Fritz Rathmann

CRUISEWORD CONTEST

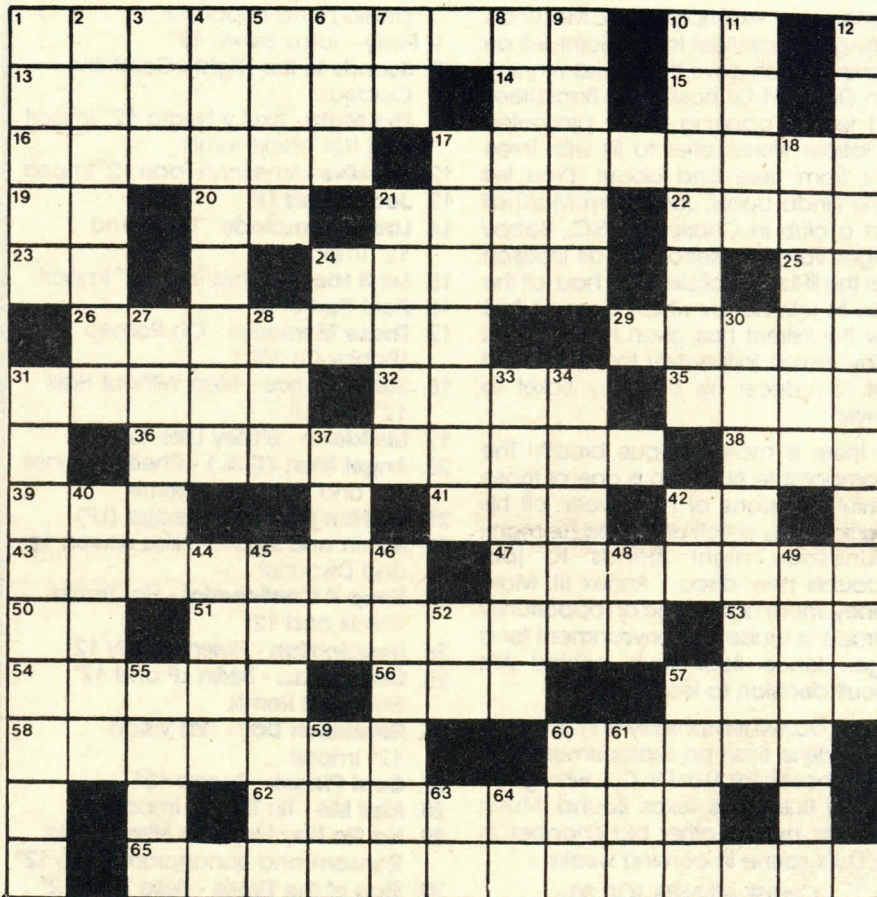
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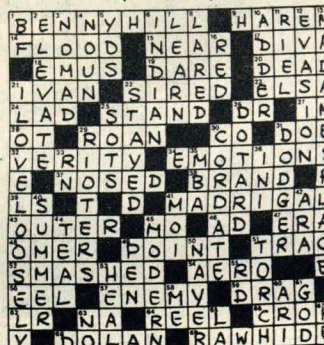
- Seedless, Spa.
- Gestapo initials.
- One more
- The unconscious
- Neuter pronoun
- Boredom
- Sparkling mixer
- Time period, abb.
- Paid, abb.
- Fat as in Tuesday, Fr.
- Waterproof canvas
- Left's opponent, abb.
- Upright
- Gold, sym.
- Charged
- Free for all
- Pointers of a kind
- Makes offers
- Speculation
- Philosophy of beauty
- Ace
- Me, Fr.
- Hurt abductors
- Aluminum, sym.
- Little fairies
- Decorative art style
- Germanium, sym.
- Owing
- Afghani coin
- Made pink
- Third letter
- Encircle
- Large flightless bird
- Houston athlete
- Opening
- Central American communist

DOWN

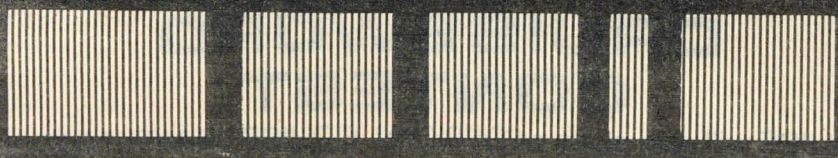
- Woodland deity
- Inactivity
- Droop
- Scholarships
- Biblical name
- Hebrew letter
- Ireland, abb.
- Pale Purple
- Scorched
- Nuns
- Portico
- Mexican riches
- Merits
- Sketcher
- Diving bird
- Easy, abb.
- by land, two ...
- Exists, Ger.
- Mom's dessert
- Personal crop
- Make wider
- Frighten
- Female red deer
- Large vat
- Marguerites
- Announcement
- Large vat
- Native American
- Biblical land
- Football abbreviation
- Spicy dish
- Exist
- Desist
- Small valley
- Certified Public Accountant, abb.
- Yes, Fr.
- Boy's name
- Sun god
- Thoron, sym.

Answers Next Week

Answers to previous puzzle:



MUSIC



So you thought the game of D.J. Musical Chairs had ended with the opening of the new disco's a couple weeks back — wrong B.P.M. breath. As friend C.J. the D.J. of "La Martine" predicted then it was only the beginning. A D.J.'s departure from one club to join another can cause a "domino" type chain reaction of change. For example, Joey Messina's anking of Backstreet for the Saint, left an opening which gave the award winning Alan Orton #1 DJ position at Backstreet, and left an opening which prompted Backstreet weeks after to fill with three D.J.'s from here and about. (You left some kinda boots, Joey!) Jim Marshall from a club in Charleston, S.C., Bobby Bridges from Weekends & Carl Dodson from the ill-fated Hot Lix. (Carl had left the Cove to join Hot Lix which closed.) And now Backstreet has given him a break today which fortunately for Atlanta led Carl to cancel his one-way ticket to Denver.

But there is more, slip-cue breath! The incomparable Al Tilman is one of those painful decisions of his career left his long time lofty perch at P's and his many Wednesday night friends to join Redoubts new disco - Annex III. More money, more nights, and an opportunity to trade a cruise bar environment for a large dance floor were behind Al's difficult decision to leave P's.

C.J. the D.J. will temporarily fill in at P's but at deadline time no replacement had been chosen for Al at P's. C.J., who guest D.J.'s at Bulldog is Texas Bound. Music fans can expect other big changes in the D.J.'s scene in coming weeks!

CRUISE ATLANTA TOP 30

Based on Record Sales at Music City/Ansley Mall and what's popular at the cruise bars and disco's.

Compiled by Bulldog and Co. DJ Slim Stuart

1. **Memory** - Menage
2. **Flashdance LP and 12" Remix** - Irene Cara

3. **Maybe This Time** - Norma Lewis 12"
4. **Let's Dance** - David Bowie 12" and LP
5. **Solitaire 12" and LP** - Laura Brannigan II
6. **Burning Up** - Madonna 12" and LP
7. **Blue Monday/The Beach** - 12" & LP - New Order
8. **Beat It** - Michael Jackson LP (Thriller) and Import 12"
9. **Party** - Julius Brown 12"
10. **Sounds in the Night** - Geraldine Cordeau
11. **The Night** - Axul y Negro 12" Import and Hot Tracks remix
12. **I'm Alive** - American Fade 12" Import
13. **Joan Rivers LP**
14. **Lady Marmalade** - La Mama 12" Import
15. **Let It Loose** - Chris Rea 12" Import
16. **Paul Parker LP**
17. **These Memories** - Oh Romeo (Bobby O) 12"
18. **Safety Dance** - Men Without Hats 12" and LP
19. **Meltdown** - Shirley Liles 12"
20. **Angel Man (G.A.)** - Rhetta Hughes 12" and Hot Tracks Remix
21. **Let Him Go** - Sister Sledge (LP)
22. **Again and Again** - Nikki Lauren 12" and Disconet
23. **Keep It Confidential** - Hot Tracks Remix and 12"
24. **Imagination** - Helen Reddy 12"
25. **Sex, I'm a...** - Berlin LP and 12" Extended Remix
26. **Revelation Day** - First Vision 12" Import
27. **Cool Places** - Sparks 12"
28. **Kiss Me** - Tin Tin 12" Import
29. **Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him** - Linda Ransom and Bananarama 12"/12"
30. **Sign of the Times** - Belle Stars 12" Import and LP

New Product with Hit Potential
So Many Men, So Little Time
Putting on the Ritz - Taco Guilly - Lime
To Hell With Him - Taka Boom
Ready for some Action - June Pointer

Continued from page 7.

Regional Director. Even with the opening of the Mid-West Regional Office and appointment of a Mid-West Regional Director, this program remains too large for only two or three people. The volunteer Field Associates are very effective and dedicated, yet cannot provide the same service as full-time, paid staff.

Realizing that direct lobbying and constituent pressures are not enough, I founded the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national Political Action Committee, to raise money for contribution to Congressional campaigns. There is no doubt that actions by HRCF have the effect of increasing the support in Congress for lesbian and gay issues.

The number of issues the community has demanded GRNL deal with has increased dramatically. While some of the structures to assist these issues have been put into place, they are complex and require considerable attention. The support of the gay and lesbian community has been heartening and has allowed both staffs to expand. But, frankly, support hasn't expanded at nearly the rate necessary to keep up with our community's Congressional agenda, nor sufficiently to nurture the essential structures that will help decide the outcome of these issues in Congress.

I could go over the operations of the Lobby and the Campaign Fund point by point and show how the workload expected by the community are far greater than what staff sizes of either organization can handle. Anyone who chooses to do so could easily present the situation as helpless and hopeless. It is not.

What can be done to work toward a balance between expectations and output?

Utilize volunteers? That's being done, both in GRNL's national network of Field Associates and in its Capitol Hill Lobbying Team. The Campaign Fund has made incredible use of volunteers through its network of dedicated City Committees.

Limit our focus? Clearly that would be a logical suggestion in the context of movement organizations that have diverse, undefined agendas. Such does not apply here, however. The Campaign Fund's purpose is clear: to raise funds to help federal candidates. And, despite the expanded Congressional agenda, GRNL attempts to manage our efforts by clearly defined goals and objectives, approved by the GRNL Board of Directors each year.

When I look at the staff people of both groups I see dedicated individuals who work extraordinarily hard, facing both immediate challenges and building the critical groundwork for future victories. These people, as well as myself, live with both a deep sense of responsibility for the progress of our movement and constant frustration in seeing opportunities which go unfulfilled because of lack of staff time.

How do we — as a community — deal with these problems?

First, we must increase the size of these staffs. Additional funds *must* be raised. It's been correctly suggested that the Boards of these groups (as well as others) must raise funds for the organizations. This is particularly true if we're to hire — and keep — the best people to do the job the community needs done. While the Boards have, to some

degree, done fundraising in the past, their responsibility in that area must increase. However, if we are to ensure input from grassroots gay and lesbian America — including people of color and other minorities within our community — we must not make up our Boards solely of fundraisers. We need balance.

It isn't the task of Boards alone to raise the necessary funds. Each of us must do our part. To place the burden or blame for fundraising and contributing on the Boards alone is to avoid our share of responsibility. Only a tiny number of lesbians and gay men contribute to GRNL, the Campaign Fund or NTF, our community's three major national political groups. Speaking for the Lobby, if we're to effectively handle the expanded Congressional agenda demanded we must have increased support, funding and staff. This will go far to deal with missed opportunities and overextension.

As regards the Human Rights Campaign Fund, I've recently recommended we hire an Executive Director to lead the group. Based on the Fund's success, we can now make this critical move. Although it's hard to leave the Chief Executive position in a group I've founded, I'm convinced both groups must grow and the community is best served by this action.

As much as our organizations need dramatically increased funding and staff, we need something else from you as well. Calls for "accountability" from organizations serving the community are appropriate and I encourage them. What we need from you is for you to distinguish between "accountability" and "perfection." Even with increased staff (which is unlikely to appear overnight), mistakes will be made from time to time. Our community is growing and developing too quickly and related events happening too fast to proceed flawlessly.

Problems will develop. Ironically, this often happens as a result of our successes. We must address these as rapidly as possible, realizing that solutions take thought and time to institute.

It is easy to find things to criticize, and I realize criticism will come. It is welcome when legitimate, appropriate, and constructive. Unfortunately, often it is petty, destructive, and counter-productive. Second-guessing is easy. Such can bleed us of energy and time, and divert our focus from the real work.

As I look at what has been accomplished, and what must be done to take advantage of new opportunities for advancement, it is clear to me each of us must work for growth. I, and those I work with, can't rest on past accomplishments. We must learn new and better techniques to accomplish our tasks, and be willing to bring in others to supplement and compliment our skills. For the community, the willingness to expand financial support to match the increasing tasks we face is essential. And on an individual basis there must be a willingness to increase personal involvement in this effort.

We must all demand the best. We must stop demanding immediate perfection and start supporting steady advancement. In our demands we must show patience and an understanding that the national battle for our rights will be long, complex and ever changing. It is ours to win, but to do so we must work together to overcome problems as they arise. In that way alone will we achieve success.

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1-5

1-5

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1.5

1-6

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1-6

1.5

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C-49

MODELS NEEDED

C

8-24

8-21

1-5

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Atlanta WM 30's MS Tall seeks top into BD, SM, C&B, Boots, Levis, Fr, Gr, 69, etc. No FF, Scat, WS, Drugs. 873-9674. Experienced and requires same.

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