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MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS

Monday, February 4th

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CRUISE
volume 10 - number 5



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CONTENTS

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 5 JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 6 1985



STAFF	6
SPECIALS	9
CRUISING	10
TRAVEL	13
HOROSCOPE	14
REVIEWS	16
MARKETPLACE	22
PREVIEW	24
DINING GUIDE	26
LETTERS FROM THE FARM	28
DIAMOND LIL	30
CLASSIFIEDS	34

ABOUT OUR COVER: Backstreet Atlanta ushers the very, very DIVINE to the Atlanta stage Sunday, February 3rd, 1985, with Guest D.J. Gary Tucker. A definite DON'T MISS if ever there were one.

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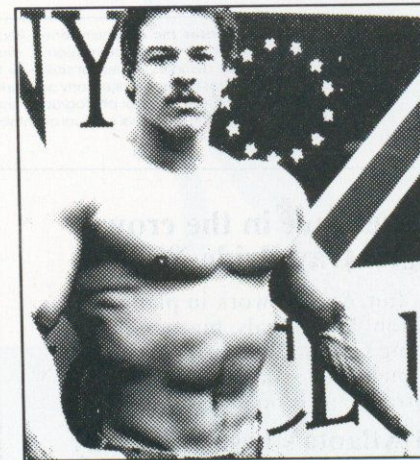
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Join in the annual excitement, fun, & hard work in planning Atlanta's Pride Week Celebration. Individuals, businesses & groups are welcome. The Planning Committee's first meeting is Tuesday, February 5th at 7:30 pm in the Atlanta Gay Center, 848 Peachtree Street, 3rd Floor.

Let's make June 22, 1985 Atlanta's best Pride Day yet. All of you can make the difference.



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DIVINE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1985

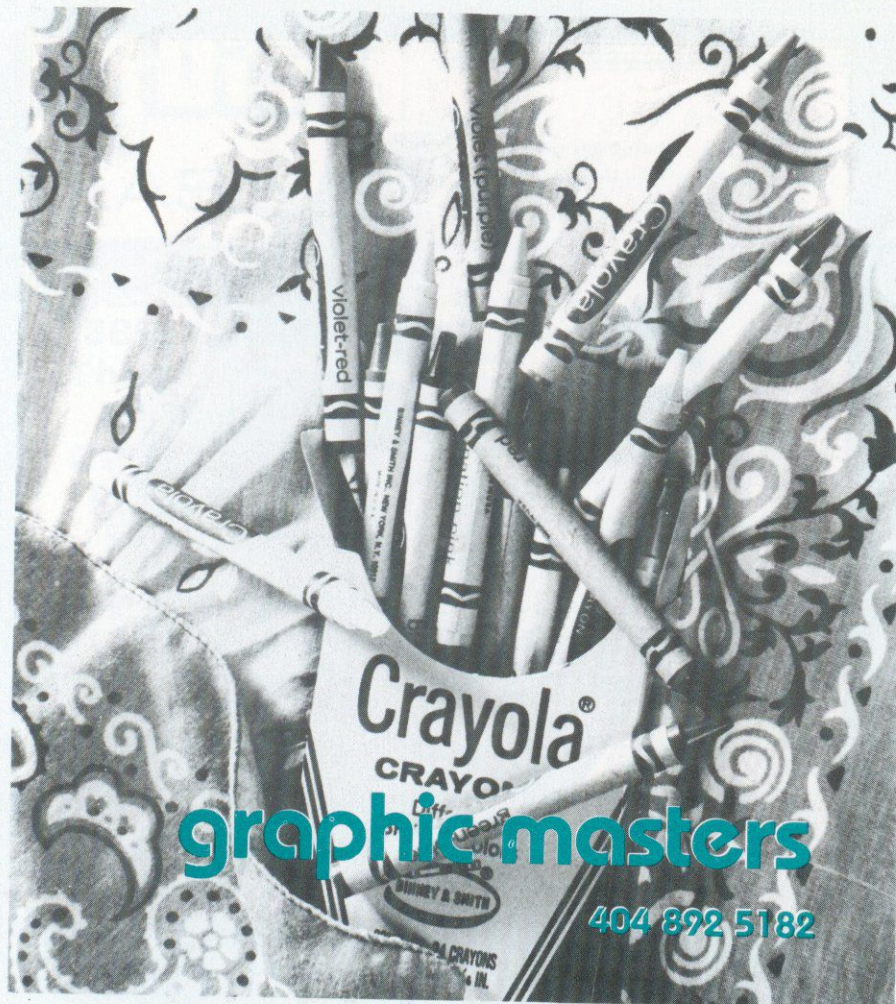
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231 IVY STREET, DOWNTOWN ATLANTA
DOWNTOWN - FEBRUARY 14, 1985
GONNA TURN IT AROUND
AUNT B's

V Day is B's Day

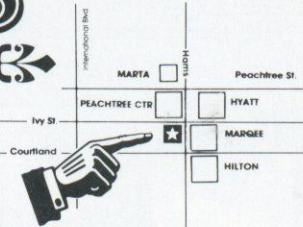
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231 Ivy St.
Downtown

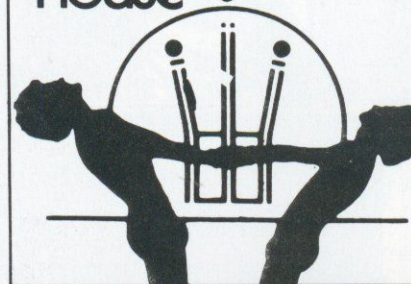
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Downtown, February 14



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IT'S NO TEASE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
WE OPEN-
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231 IVY STREET, DOWNTOWN ATLANTA

CRUISING



Why are these people smiling? They're taking Sunday T with Jeannie "Time Bomb" Tracey at Weekend's Warehouse.



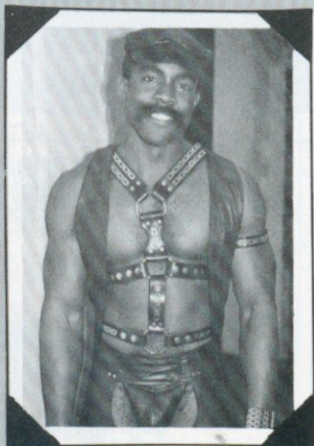
Two of Bertha's even better. The fabulous Festival treated us to two shows Sunday, with the everescent Bertha Butt.



Bertha Butt takes precious spare moments from her always-exciting, sometimes-hectic schedule to mend a few dresses.



This electronic solitaire caught our eye at The Cove, and perhaps we caught his.



Texas' Black Party featured this breathtaking picture of human perfection, Ron Moore, Mr. International Leather.



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Saturday, February 9th

and
with
love

Valentine Love Me

TO MY HUNK If I took a full page
and I still couldn't tell you how
much I love you. You're the best
and I'm the luckiest. Happy
Valentine's Day! Your Baby

TO GLENDA I, my wife and mommy
to be, you know you mean the
world to me. I'll love you forever
until we grow old. I'm not dead
from the house being cold. But
you're still the greatest and I'm
proud to say how much I do love
you on this special day. Love
Scotch Bear

uhh
ge or
n off
wing

and
with
love

TO PAPA We love you lots and
lots and better. Please be our
Valentine. Love, Your Little
Monsters. XXXXOOOOO

TO MR. VICE-PRESIDENT My
Porchie is shir red. Your jeans
are faded blue. At our good times
together spread. I fall more in love
with you. Happy Valentine's Day.
Babes

TO DEVA We are not together
again on that special day. I will be
yours forever after graduation
and Karen. Your favourite Italian

TO MOM AND DAD Happy love
day from your Valentines. Keith

TO MY BIG MOUSH! Half of us is
nicer than the other half it's true.
half of course is sweeter and that
you are the better half. But though
all, the lucky half is everyone
Valentine's Day with love. Your
Little Duck

HONEY PIE - Sugar baby -
honey puns - ma doll - stay beautiful
- Always Michael

JIM Love you like a mountain that
touches the sky like fire that
refuses to die. LIL

KELLY It's finally in the
newspaper. Yes, we're having an
affair. Love you. Rathie

MICHELE BEBE What can I tell
you that you haven't already heard
together?

I LOVE YOU
MIKE

POOPSIE
Roses are red
Violets are blue
I wish you were
this ad from me to you
Love Charm

A LITTLE REMINDER to the
world's greatest pussycat that he
is my one and only. I love you

CHARLES
Since you are my Cookie Monster
Life has been divine
And now to make it perfect
BE MY VALENTINE
Cookie

A-I Grow along with me. The
best is yet to be. I love you.
Heather

POOPSIE
Roses are red
Violets are blue
I wish you were
this ad from me to you
Love Charm

OLD POOP. I love you
anyway and I love you
everyway. TUFFY.

AUNT Blanche, roses are red,
violet are blue. I'm so lucky to
have an aunt like you. Lots of love.
Boo Boo.

MY MAN, it only tak
say "I love you". Th
lifetime to show y
much I love you. T
Maria XXXXXX

JE T-AIME BEAU
MOI

PUMPKIN Just wante
Happy Valentine's Day.
love, hugs and kisses.
FLUFFY XXXXXX

PUSSYCAT you're the only c
my life. I have never been hap
With all my love. Your Sweethe
hypnotized. Love PATTI

STREET PUNK I love you the w
you rock me because you have n
times a year. Pigeon

BOO BOO Since you came into
you know who!

HA HA. Free Hee. I love you. from
you know who!

OLD POOP. I love you
anyway and I love you
everyway. TUFFY.

AUNT Blanche, roses are red,
violet are blue. I'm so lucky to
have an aunt like you. Lots of love.
Boo Boo.

ARTHUR
you? Happ
out there
sweet, sure
Don't sur
you. No wa
paper toda
will the res
when you ge
made out to
to you do

BABYFACE you're irresistible
I fall in love with you everythi
see you. Your Big Man

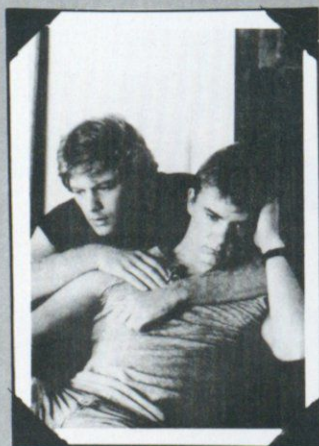
BROWN EYES you've got my lov
just for yourself. Just take you
time and work it out. Yamaha

BABE, you're crazy, pig-headed
and forgetful. You leave your
never on time for supper. You work
time at home. But I spend enough
complain because you are also th
most loving, loyal, understanding
What else could I ask for? Our time
together is most precious and I
love you more now than ever
before. Be my Valentine forever
DIGS I heard a lot about you. We
don't know each other yet but in
the secret of my heart I know one
day, I will be your Valentine, and
you will be mine. Taloo

CORRO We have to hide behind
closed doors. We are the great
pretenders. Just don't forget, it's
me who knows the truth about
Smoke Enders. You make me
happy. You make me mad. On you
of this crush. What proof have I
toothbrush! Princess

TO MY TEDDY BEAR My
superstar is what you are. Happy
Valentine's Day. Love Mima

I CAN DO without a Lamborghini
and a Challenger and a vacation in
Hawaii and a yacht and a casino in
Monte Carlo. But I cannot do
without you. You know who ME



Well, okay, we didn't really catch these two at the Bar, but you can catch them as *Consenting Adults* Monday on ABC-TV.



DC Sports can catch this one too. Anywhere in town with balls & cue.



Tiffany Middlesex takes time to unwind at the Cove during a busy week which included *Monday Nigh Madness* at Illusions.



Susan & Don at the Cove.



Terry at Locker Room



Typical Conch Mansion on Key West.

OLD ISLAND DAYS: AN ISLAND-WIDE OPEN HOUSE IN KEY WEST

Don't visit Key West. Experience it instead.
And what better time to bask in the flavor of the Old Island than during *Old Island Days*.

When quaint Cayo Hueso comes alive with historic house tours, sidewalk art festivals and a Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet steeped in tradition.

The Blessing, on March 31st, is the grand finale of the Festival. This island-wide party winds through picadillo luncheons, fashion shows, auctions and numerous theatrical productions, including a Tennessee Williams Playwrights Festival on February 9 at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center.

The piece de resistance of the annual celebration of Key West's heritage is a trio of house and garden tours, featuring grand Conch Mansions as well as contemporary island homes swathed in lush greenery. Sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation, the house tours will be conducted February 15-16 and March 15-16. For \$8 a person you can sneak an insider's peek at laid-back lifestyles in the nation's southernmost city.

Art exhibits in Key West, long a magnet for art lovers, traditionally feature a multitude of mediums. The Sidewalk Art Festival on February 23 and 24 lures craftsmen & artists from throughout the South. Other exhibits feature works by the island's numerous resident artists.

Typical small-town fare like beauty pageants and pancake breakfasts is sandwiched between the merrymaking, which involves a good portion of Key West's 28,000 full-time residents.

Some twenty-five groups and organizations warmly toss out the welcome mat for the island-wide open house.

Only St. Augustine is older than this history-heavy, inviting island—roughly eight square miles of tropical solitude at the end of the Overseas Highway.

With more charm than Charleston, Key West's grand Conch mansions reflect a stylish side of island living. You'll see the aged-in-wood elegance of homes built more than 100 years ago by Bahamian ship's carpenters. The palaces of time-treated hardwoods will be at their finest, with gardens ablaze in floodlights and with guides relating each home's own history and special features.

Old Island Days traditionally culminates with the Blessing of the Fleet on the last Sunday in March. Shrimping crews will seek the blessing of a Catholic priest to continue mining the seas for "pink gold." At noon, the gaily-decorated shrimp trawlers will ply past Mallory Dock, where your front-row seat to tradition is free.

Just be sure to save room for some of those blessed shrimp.

Nearly three months long, *Old Island Days* is sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation. For a complete listing of *Old Island Days* events and assistance with accommodations, write to: **Key West Business Guild**, P.O. Box 1208-OI, Key West, FL 33401.

For February 2nd-8th

AIRES

(March 21 - April 19)

Sexual adventures take up lots of time this week. You look good & others graciously tell you so. Some may decide to tie love knots. On the 4th & 5th business opportunities should be examined carefully. Don't leap just yet. Domestic strife on the 6th can be avoided by eliminating useless friendship. On the 7th romance is enviable. After the 8th career tensions lighten. Take giant steps forward. Pass go.

TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)

Secrets & ambiguity surround romance. Keep feet firmly on the ground. On the 4th & 5th investment sense is sound. Business & friends couple nicely. Disappointment on the 6th stems from misplaced affections. After the 7th relatives demand a bigger share of your life. Domestic pursuits on the 8th are discouraging. Patience is required.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 21)

Legalities & educational pursuits favored all week. Romance over weekend leaves you bewildered for a change. On the 4th domestic matters need immediate solutions. Business efforts bring recognition on both the 5th & 6th. Lucky financial breaks on the 7th come from friends. On the 8th travel advantages are offered.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 21)

Changes in career keep you hopping. Positive shifts can be counted on all week. Interview for the best positions. Over weekend friends launch you into unique & correct directions. Complications in love on the 4th are followed by temporary disappointments on the 5th. All is clear sailing by the 6th however, so don't panic. On the 7th & 8th cash flow improves. Creative career moves bear fruit.



by Mike Voss

LEO

(July 22 - Aug 21)

Retreating to romantic matters soothes nerves over weekend. Heart strings may be pulled in two different directions all week. We should all have such problems! On the 3rd & 5th opposition arrives on career & business fronts. Enemies come forward. After the 6th domestic bliss.

VIRGO

(Aug 22 - Sept 22)

Credit issues look hairy this week. All goes well but don't expect to be bailed out until the last moment. Cash flow is increased on the 3rd. Love matters leave room for improvement on the 4th & 5th. Career receives boost on the 6th. Recognition easily attained. After the 7th domestic issues bring smiles.

LIBRA

(Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Pressures this week stem from partnership adjustments. Try not to push too much for marriage. You could end up alone. Attitude may need serious adjusting. On the 5th take cash bonuses while you can. Changes in career are positive on the 6th. On both the 7th & 8th kiss & make up with recent "honeys."

SCORPIO

(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Domestic & career matters brighten simultaneously.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Domestic problems of last week appear to iron themselves out like magic now. Interests shift from career to romance. With you, when it rains it pours. Expect new partners all at once. On the 3rd, 5th & 6th your heart keeps you pretty busy. Domestic issues & surroundings improve on the 4th. After the 7th your heart rules.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 - Jan 20)

Changes on the homefront can be expected all week. On both the 2nd & 3rd attribute them to love matters. After the 4th good career steps can be taken as someone throws you the correct bones at last. Good news on the 5th surrounds all legalities. Cash bonuses possible. Eat crow & a dear friend on the 6th. On the 7th turmoil involves money, domestic concerns & unreliable friends. Love matches get Aere born to them. No one likes a know-it-all so you'll just have to settle on being unpopular.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 21 - Feb 19)

A very happy birthday to the infamous Holly Blackwell.

PISCES

(Feb 20 - March 20)

Financial matters put off or forgotten have a way of cropping up this week. Surprises are not fatal, just annoying. Romantic upsets on both the 3rd & 4th stem from poor communication. Understanding is required. Career shines on the 5th as friends open appropriate doors. Travel looks like a plus on the 6th. On both the 7th & 8th its time to take loves hostage. Shut out the rest of the world if you can. You won't be sorry.



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At the Movies: Valentine Drama to Spring Breakdancing

by Steve Warren

After Hollywood analyzes the Christmas boxoffice results, don't be surprised to find Eddie Murphy playing a wooden puppet in outer space. In the meantime, we have plenty of teenage love stories, musicals with emphasis on breakdancing, and even a few films which might be aimed at grown-ups, including late-breaking oscar hopefuls.

As always, schedules are tentative and guaranteed to change, but here's a generally specific idea of what you can anticipate in February and March:

FEBRUARY 8th

Mass Appeal: Jack Lemmon's the comfortable old priest who teaches and learns from fiery bisexual seminarian Zeljko Ivanek in the film version of Bill C. Davis' excellent comedy-drama.

Mischief: Doug McKeon, the kid from *On Golden Pond*, is old enough to try to get laid. So's his friend Chris Nash. With Kelly Preston and Catherine Mary Stewart as the girls of their dreams in a nostalgic (Ohio, 1956) teenage comedy.

Mrs. Soffel: The latest movie from Pittsburgh isn't about the living dead but a living doll! Mel Gibson plays a turn-of-the-century prisoner aided in his escape from Death Row by warden's wife Diane Keaton. Australia's Gillian Armstrong directed this romantic adventure, based on a true incident.

Witness: Harrison Ford shocks Amish culture as a Philly cop invading Pennsylvania's Dutch community with a homicide investigation. He gets a grudging assist from Kelly (*Reuben, Reuben*) McGillis, whose son saw the murder.

FEBRUARY 15th

The Breakfast Club: Detention becomes an encounter session for five high school students in an "adult approach to the subject of kids," from writer-director John Hughes, re-teamed with his *Sixteen Candles* stars Molly Ringwald and Anthony Michael Hall.

Fast Forward: Sidney Portier directed, and Quincy Jones scored, this breakdance musical about eight kids going to New York to be in a talent competition.

The Mean Season: The relationship between Mariel Hemingway and reporter Kurt Russell is interrupted when a publicity-seeking killer makes Russell a confidant and Hemingway a target. Phillip (*The Grey Fox*) Borsos directed.

The Purple Rose of Cairo: Woody Allen wrote and directed but does not appear in this comedy in which housewife Mia Farrow acts out her crush on screen idol Jeff (*Terms of Endearment*) Daniels.

VisionQuest: Matthew (*Streamers, Birdy*) Modine has the hots for Linda Fiorentino, a big city woman boarding in his small town house. Michael Schoeffling, the hunk from *Sixteen Candles*, co-stars.

FEBRUARY 22nd

Heavenly Bodies: Toronto-filmed musical set in aerobics class. What hath Jane Fonda wrought?

MARCH 1st

The Sure Thing: Rob (*This Is Spinal Tap*) Reiner's tale of friendly enemies John Cusack and Daphne Zuniga, who accidentally find love on the road to what they thought was romance.

Sylvester: The title refers not to the gay disco diva, but to an ugly horseling Melissa Gilbert turns into a champion. Tim (*Tex*) Hunter directed, Michael Schoeffling is the horse's rival for Mellisa's attention, and Richard Farnsworth gets top billing.

MARCH 8th

The Aviator: Rosanna (*Baby, It's You*) Arquette finds "Mr. Wright" in Christopher Reeve in a romantic adventure about early airplanes. Directed by George (*The Road Warrior*) Miller.

Into the Night: John Landis somehow found time during his *Twilight Zone* trial to make a new comedy with Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Pfeiffer, Irene Papas, Richard Farnsworth and Dan Aykroyd.

MARCH 15th

Ladyhawke: Richard (*Superman, The Omen*) Donner directed this tangle of dayes of olde, with Matthey (*WarGames*) Broderick as a pickpocket who tries Rutger Hauer for a knight and Michelle Pfeiffer for a lady.

Rustler's Rhapsody: Tom Berenger's a singing cowboy, Marilu Henner the love interest and Andy Griffith the evil, gay (uh oh!) cattle baron in a western spook from Hugh Wilson, director of *Police Academy*.

MARCH 20th

The Slugger's Wife: Neil Simon's version of *The Natural*. Marriage to Rebecca DeMornay improves Michael O'Keefe's batting average, but when she resumes her singing career he goes into a slump.

MARCH 22nd

Dreamers: Nothing is known about this late entry except that Charles Grodin directed it.

Mask: Cher is the biker mother of Eric Stoltz, a young man with a disease that swells his head out of proportion, in this new Peter Bogdanovich drama.

MARCH 29th

Baby: William Katt, Sean Young and Patrick McGeehan star in a Disney fantasy about a dinosaur discovered in modern Africa.

Desperately Seeking Susan: Rosanna Arquette plays an *American Dreamer* in America, a New Jersey housewife who takes on the identity of free-spirited Madonna. Susan (*Smithereens*) Seidelman directed this comedy which co-stars Aidan Quinn.

Return of the Jedi: The Vader-Skywalker clan fights to the finish of George Lucas' zillion-dollar trilogy, which returns in time to earn money to pay Fox's 1984 taxes.

With all those spring break pictures open, things should be relatively quiet until Memorial Day, but we'll tell you about that in two months.

UP & COMING

■ **For Women Only.** Atlanta **Women's Coffee House** hosts **Alix Dobkin** with ASL Interpreter **Gayle McKay** Saturday, **Feb 9**, 7:30 pm, 1st Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Pk Dr. Admission \$6.

■ **Consenting Adult**, a made-for-TV movie all about a college student coming to terms with the realization he's gay & the ways those around him deal with it, airs **Monday, Feb 4**, 9 pm on ABC.

■ **Once More With Feeling.** Atlanta's **Pride Week Committee** hosts 1st meeting for '85 Planning Season, **Tuesday, Feb 5**, 7:30 pm, Atlanta Gay Center, 848 Peachtree, 3rd flr. Help needed to plan & execute 1985 Pride Week Celebration. Interested organizations, businesses & individuals urged to attend.

■ **NOVA** writes the book, **AIDS: Chapter One.** Award-winning science series takes indepth look at AIDS story, focusing on medical & scientific aspects as researchers attempt to close in on the lethal disease. Premieres **Feb 12**, 8 pm, on PBS.

■ **Can she talk, or what?** Joan Rivers doing schtick from her aging album, **What Becomes a Semi-Legend Most**, as well as her usual blend. Hear her **Saturday, Feb 23rd**. Two shows only, **7:30 & 10:30 pm** at the **Fabulous Fox**. Tickets **\$15.25 & \$17.95** at all **Tic-x-press outlets**, **Fox Box Office**, or charge by phone **(404) 436-2500**.

■ David McWhirter & Andrew Mattison, authors of **The Male Couple**, make a guest appearance at **Lambda Rising Bookstore**, 1625 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC, on **Thursday, February 21**, 6 pm. The authors' appear to promote the new paperback edition of **The Male Couple**, which surveys 156 gay male couples, documents six stages of growth in gay male relationships, & examines the qualities that make for long-term living commitments.

■ **Piedmont Psychological Center** delivers a wide range of self-improvement sessions, seminars & workshops during the Winter Season. Included are: a **ten-week treatment program** for gay/bisexual men who demonstrate **sexually compulsive behavior**; a four-session mini-course on **integrating spirituality & gay identity for gay men**, scheduled for Sundays, 4-6:30 pm, beginning February 17; a one-day workshop, **One-to-One: A Workshop about Dating for Gay Men**, on Sunday, February 10th, 11 am to 6 pm; & much, much more. Contact **Piedmont Psychological Center** 1293 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 730, Atlanta, GA 30309, (404) 873-5510 for details.

■ **Atlanta Couples Together (ACT)**, a non-profit support/social group for gay male and lesbian couples, is currently being formed. For information send phone number and/or SASE to P. O. Box 723291, Atlanta, GA 30339.

We're Finally Open!!!



Chameleon

ATLANTA'S PREMIERE NIGHT CLUB

Now inside the **SAINT** complex

Opening Tuesday, January 22
open 11 pm 'til...

TUESDAY INSANITY NIGHT
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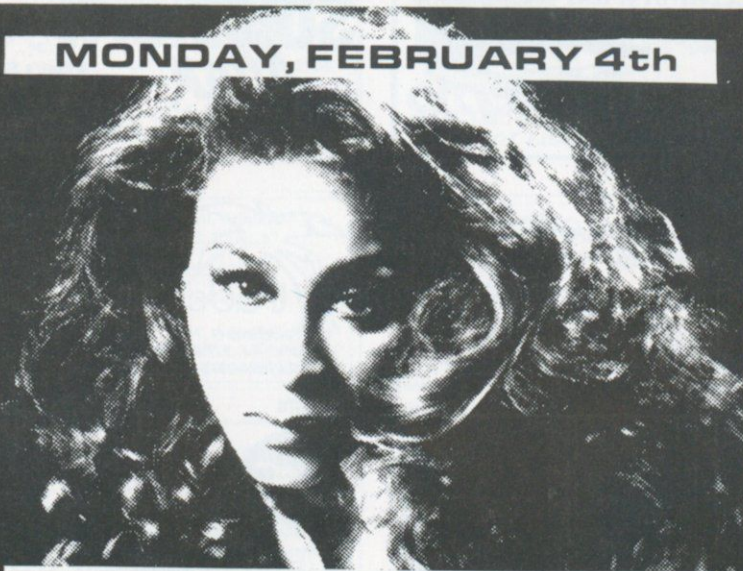
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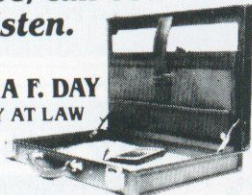
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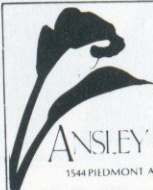
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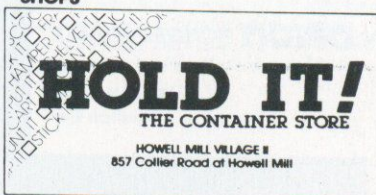
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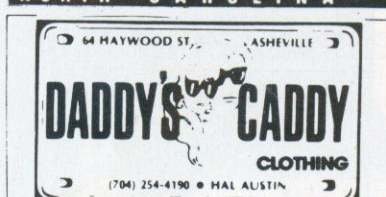
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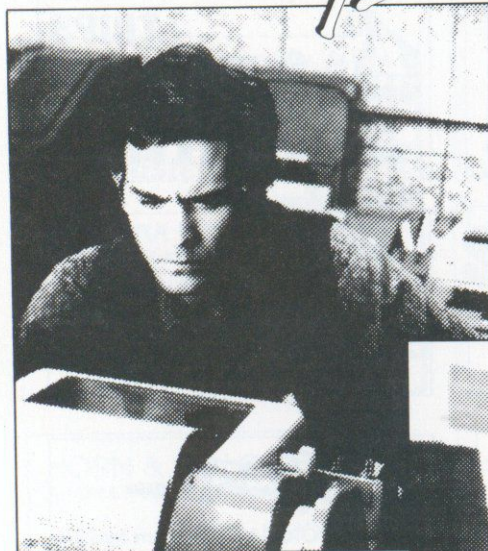
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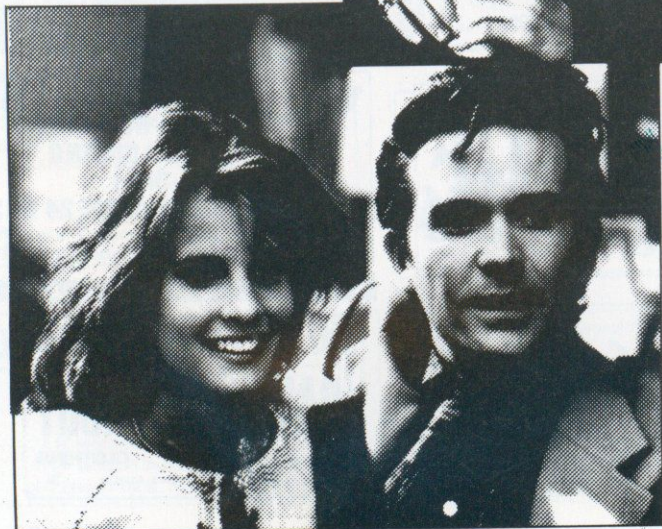
CRUISE *Preview*



Timothy Hutton as
Christopher Boyce

AN **ORION** PICTURES RELEASE

Sean Penn as
Daulton Lee



Lori Singer
as Lana
and
Timothy Hutton
as Christopher
Boyce

Christopher Boyce grew up in Palos Verdes, California, an affluent, ultra-conservative suburb of Los Angeles, overlooking Santa Monica Bay.

The son of a former FBI agent and specialist in security systems, his youthful passion was falconry. At times, he'd imagine himself a heraldic knight, training birds of prey for medieval missions.

As early as the third grade, he said his ambition was to enter the priesthood, then become a saint. But his faith wavered in adolescence and after spending a year in a Jesuit school, he chose instead to study pre-law.

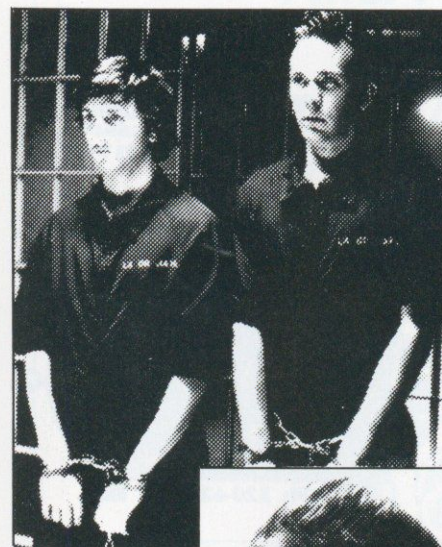
THE FALCON & THE SNOWMAN

A true story

Between college semesters Boyce took a job (arranged by his father) with a company which monitored intelligence-gathering satellites for the CIA. Through rapid promotions—and security clearances—he came to know some of America's most closely guarded secrets.

He sold them to the KGB.

Andrew Daulton Lee was Boyce's neighbor in Palos Verdes, the adopted son of a well-to-do doctor. He stopped growing in his early teens and one friend would later recall him as a "plucky little guy, self-conscious about his size, who walked with a swagger."



Sean Penn and
Timothy Hutton as
Lee & Boyce.

He was introduced to marijuana in elementary school. In high school, he sold it to his classmates, particularly girls who had previously paid him no attention. Afterward, he added cocaine, then heroin, to what was now a thriving business enterprise.

But a series of untimely drug busts, and a growing taste for his own wares, led Daulton Lee to consider a proposition from his friend, Chris Boyce.

Boyce wanted to make a statement to an apathetic world.

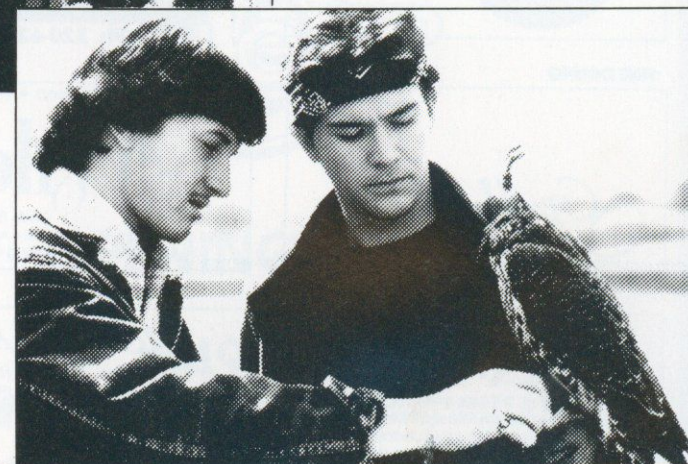
Lee wanted to make money.

When Vasily Ivanovich Okana, a Soviet consular official and KGB operative in Mexico City, asked Boyce how two such unlikely spies had joined forces, Boyce answered honestly.

"We were altar boys together."

Timothy Hutton and Sean Penn star in the John Schlesinger Film, *The Falcon and the Snowman*, an Orion Pictures release of a Gabriel Katzka and Hemdale Presentation.

The true story of friendship and espionage was directed by Schlesinger from a screenplay by Steven Zaillian, based on the best-selling book by Robert Lindsey. Richard Dysart, Pat Hingle, Lori Singer and David Suchet co-star in the film which was produced by Katzka and Schlesinger, and co-produced by Edward Teets, with John Doly as executive producer. Original music by Pai Metheny and Lyle Mays.



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LETTERS FROM THE FARM



"...a plain brown wrapper"

They're coming at me again. They wait until the days are gray and snowy—day after day after day. They wait until the nights are bitter cold with gusts of hail and sleet thrown in to weaken my spirit. When just getting out from under the covers and stoking up the fire turns my whole body into one massive shiver.

The I have to go through the mud or snow to feed the horses. By the time I've slipped and slid to and from the barn I'm a broken man and only my keen sense of survival reminds me to bring in an armload of firewood and a bucket of coal. Later, muffled to the eyeballs, I'll plod to the mailbox. It's been at least a week since the last one came and on a day like this, with the snow bending the cedars as if in prayer, it can't fail. I'm practically pleading with the Man upstairs: "Don't let them do this to me. Don't they realize that I'm just a po' country fella all alone up here in these mountains." There's no one I can do it.... No one to help me get my.... There's nothing!

I approach the mailbox slowly. Maybe there will be the long awaited check from the Reader's Digest or Life Magazine. Maybe a publisher begging me for my latest book idea. Or maybe there'll be another one of "them."

There's the usual assortment of junk mail, a bill from Ma Bell, one from the electric company, the truck insurance is due. My sense of depression is deepening. Will the grayness never end? "Snow, snow go away. Come again another day." Beneath the pile of bills and direct mail fire starters I see one. The familiar "plain brown wrapper."

Quickly stuffing it under my jacket—musn't let anyone see—and with a growing sense of anticipation (just cause I'm a po' country boy all

alone in the mountains don't mean I ain't human!), I race back to the house. Pulling the draperies and locking the doors—the Amway lady could appear at any minute—I tear off the wrapper. "Oh, Geez. This one's in full color!" Scrunching down in my easy chair my eyes devour the pages—staring wide-eyed in awe and envy. "Do you believe the size of that thing! My gosh, that's a good ten inches long and as big around as my wrist!"

The ad read: "Be the first to have this new discovery for your very own. Be the envy of your friends." Shit, my hands were shaking! It continued, "We call this one 'Big & Beautiful' and best of all it's burpless! Yes, it's true, Burpee's new improved Hybrid Cucumber is burpless!"

Furiously turning pages I see beans: bush beans, pole beans, garbanzo beans. Garbanzo beans! And corn, and 'maters n' taters—oh my God—I'm doing it again. I can feel the symptoms creeping up on me. Those pages are fairly singing—"Spring is just an order and a check away." I've got to fight this off. I promised myself last year and the year before that this would not happen. I will not be seduced again! Last year the loneliness, boredom and cabin-fever really got to me. Just how much can one poor lil' ole country boy take? I sent in my biggest order ever. "This will just have to make spring come sooner," I said while slipping the check in the mail. And look what happened. We had that big freeze in June and it zapped everything.

Seventeen dollars worth of vegetable seeds alone! Do you know how many veggies you can plant with that many seeds? Let's put it this way: at one foot intervals you could hoe, hoe, hoe all the way from here to Atlanta! Peanuts were fun to plant but not to dig up. Six varieties of melons were a good idea, to extend the harvest season. But I didn't recognize some of them. I cut into a whole lot of hard, bitter melons before I figured out the secret to knowing when they were ripe.

The cucumbers and zucchinis almost did me in. A slice of cucumber in a gin & tonic is nice but what if you don't like pickles—which I don't. What then? Well, you pick 'em anyway and fill the fridge and watch them shrivel, turn gray and get hairy. There's no way a guy can eat zucchini

(continued on page 32)

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DEAR DIAMOND LIL

c/o Cruise Weekly
729 Piedmont Ave., NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

*a column for the misguided, lovelorn,
confused and otherwise lovelorn in
these trying modern times...*

Now Children, how are we accepting or dealing with our present age these days? Are we too young, too old, or too in-between? Is the actual number that important to us, or to anyone else? Do we feel that time has passed us by, or that there is no time left? Whatever the rhyme, reason or season, Laddies and Lassies, why not share with the world by writing Dear Diamond Lil, c/o Cruise Weekly, 729 Piedmont Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30308. Scribes, is it later than we think?

Dear Diamond Lil,

As I write this letter and pour it all out, I am so sure your kind advice will help be greatly.

Almost six years ago, I lost my sweet man and lover of seven years due to a tragic auto accident. At that time, I thought that life would end for me too. Frankly, I just wasn't interested in continuing. At that time, I had been on the gay stage as a female impersonator for almost fourteen years. I loved my "love," the stage. It was hard, time-consuming, and I loved it, every moment of it. But when my sweet man and lover died, I just didn't care anymore. Crazy with grief, I gave away or tore up all my beautiful gowns, dresses, jewelry... everything. This took place down in Mississippi Bayou country and believe me, I was almost ready to let the Mississippi waters cover me over. But, on the very day I gave all my things away, and after I had buried my may and spent my last penny, a very nice, older gentleman who had been a dear friend *only* (and still is) offered to take me in to his home to be his housekeeper, cook and companion. Thus it has been the past six years, both in Louisiana and now Florida.

Lil, in the past few months I have been becoming restless. I am a GWM, 40, feminine. For years I have been serving as a nurse to this fine gentleman. I watch time—the days, months, years—slipping

past me, and want so much to return to the gay life and to the stage, to have my beard finally removed and my breasts implanted. Even as a child I wanted so much to be a *complete* female, and I still have this overwhelming desire!

At the age of forty, I am truly at the most serious crossroads of my life. I want so much to return to the stage and to find that one, wonderful man who will love and understand me, care for me, and be there when I need and want him most. But by the very nature of my job and my devotion to the present situation, I am unable to really have many promising gay (or otherwise) friends—male or female—and unable to make the gay night scene at all.

I need so much the *right break*, the *right situation*. If someone will take a chance on me they will not be disappointed. I am a good cook, love housework and all things feminine. I just need the right break. I can relocate to any point in the world, if someone really cares and understands. Since the 3rd of January, I have commenced treatments for my gender identity change. As you know, it's most expensive. I would love so much to continue through to the end, becoming a complete woman. But I must *face reality*. If I can find the right person to care, I would rather return to the gay stage and perform as nearly a woman as possible, with breast implants and so forth.

So, Dear Lil, please advise me. Tell me what I really must do. I enjoy your column so much and definitely respect your advice. Thanks.

Sincerely,
BJ
Fern Park, FL

Dear BJ,

Thank you so much for your most heartfelt letter. There is no doubt you have a lot of sorting
(continued on page 32)



WEEK
ENDS

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Letters from the Farm

(continued from page 26)

as fast as the damn things grow. I planted a whole row—just in case. In case the entire Saturday night crowd from Weekends Warehouse came for lunch.

My birdhouse grew better than anything else—but unless you're a bluejay, who gives a shit?

I was buried in broccoli, bursting with beans and bombarded with brussel sprouts.

I learned my lesson. Now the catalogs go up in smoke as quickly as they come. I will not permit myself to be seduced into spending wads of money on plants that won't grow, seeds that won't germinate or—even worse—seeds that do! Never again will I suffer from an attack of the giant zucchini.

Next year I'll measure my garden in inches, not yards—I'll accept veggies from neighbors who have nothing better to do than guide their Troy-Bilts up and down the rows. No Sirree. No way I'm gonna get suckered into the garden catalog syndrome again! Not me.

Been nice talkin' at y'all. The snow sure is coming down. T'aint much to do. Maybe I'll just bundle up and wander on down to the mailbox...

"Stay with us... please!"

Lee

[Lee welcomes correspondence from our readers. Write to him at Lee Valley Farm, Rt. 9 Box 145, Rogersville, TN 37857.

—Ed]

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DEAR DIAMOND LIL...

(continued from page 30)

to do presently. A new awareness seems to come over "actresses" (other people too) as we approach forty, commonly referred to as mid-life crisis. It's nothing to be alarmed about since we all, if we're around long enough, go through this challenging period. However, I think it's important to make the wisest decisions we can. Do we want to be like Norma Desmond, still looking for the correct comeback picture at age fifty? Do we want to be like Baby Jane Hudson, searching for a piano player for our new night club act at age sixty? Or do we have the stamina, financial backing, and endurance to continue, like Mae West or Marlene Dietrich, to the end?

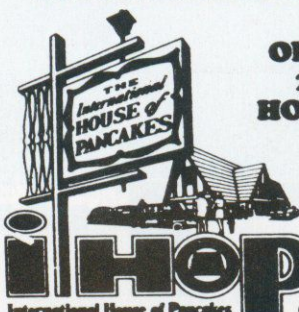
Sweetheart, I conclude you are, sincerely, a very warm, caring person and have genuine need for someone to care for and who cares for you. But such seems to be the present situation. I also understand your dreams and hopes of returning to the stage, of realizing your life-long dream of becoming a woman, so to speak. However, I'm wondering how much of this can be realized, how much is realistic.

You note the loss of your lover of seven years devastated you. I'm wondering if your need is simply for another lover relationship, rather than fulfilling your dreams of the stage and "real" womanhood. Perhaps you need the comforts and securities your former lover gave, so much so that you now seek someone to "take a chance" on you and for who you offer to relocate.

As you sort through the years and feelings, I would definitely suggest you see a counsellor with whom you feel confident and who is able to help you settle these presently undecided things.

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Diamond Lil

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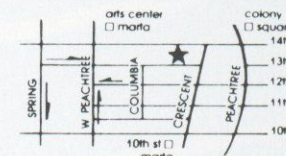
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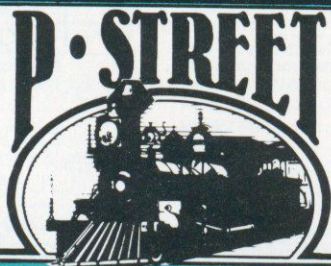
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