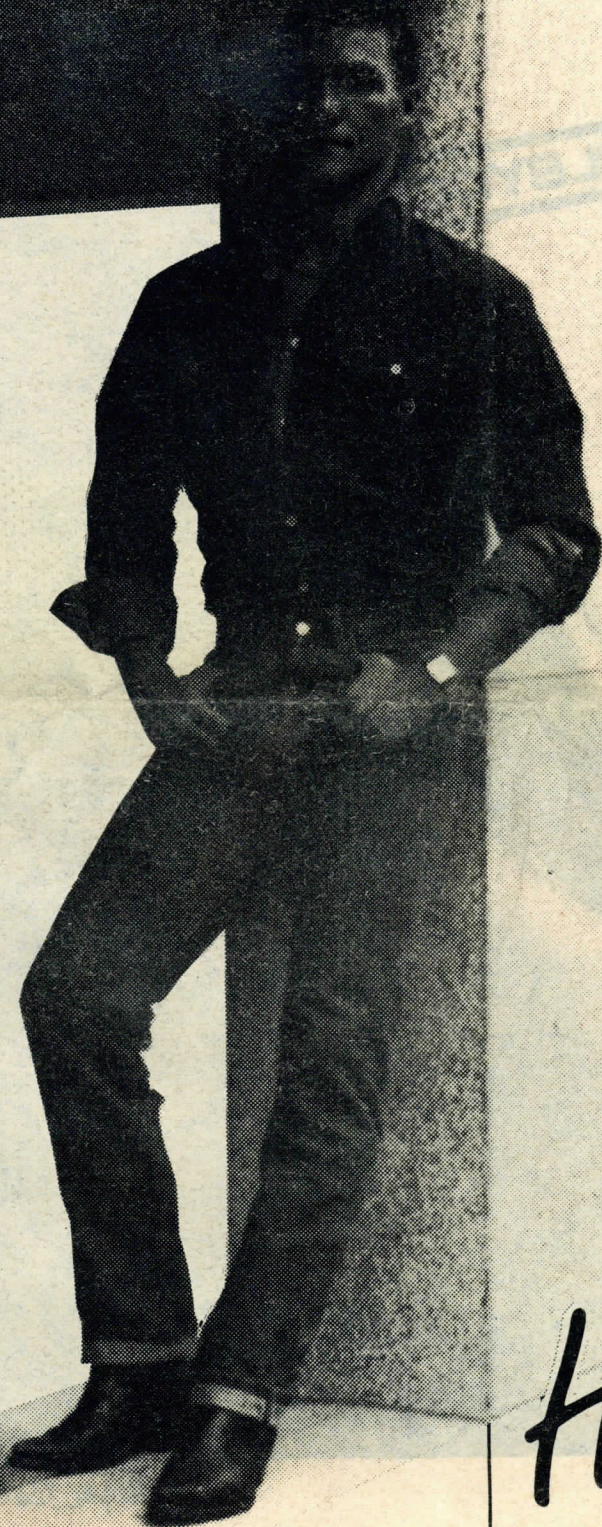


CRUISE NEWS

VOL. 1, NO. 26 - ATLANTA, GA., - OCT. 21 - OCT. 27, 1983



High Fashion!

Page 8



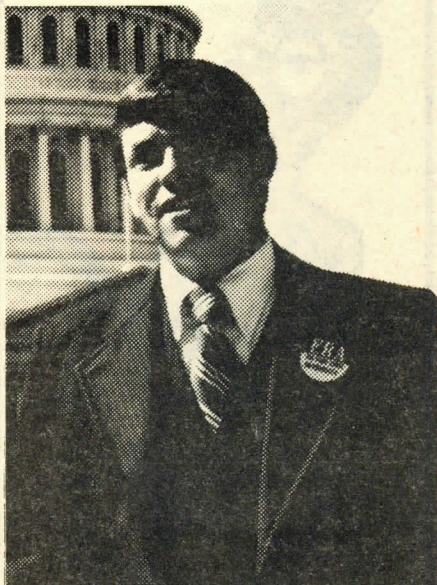
Roger Rutledge

The Boy Next Door Atlanta

MENS CASUAL CLOTHING

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Compelled By Controversy: Endean Resigns



Controversy has induced Steve Endean to resign as director of GRNL.

Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, offered his resignation Saturday, October 15th. The resignation will not be effective for three to six months, said a spokesperson for the Washington, D.C. lobbying organization.

Endean told the GRNL Board of Directors that "the air had been poisoned by internal enemies," rendering him ineffective. Board member Jerry Weller, who is assuming greater responsibilities during the transition period, said "The Board expressed regret that such an atmosphere had been created by David Goodstein (publisher of *The Advocate*) and Larry Bush (Washington, D.C. journalist). We felt very sorry that Steve felt that this is what he had to do." Weller said he does not intend to become a candidate to replace Endean.

"We have a firm transition plan," Weller continued. "We have a Search Committee looking at future leadership and a Policy

Committee forming our long-range goals. Right now we have three women and two men who I think would do a fine job."

Endean leaves a huge void in the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Movement and a brilliant reputation among his peers in the nation's Capitol. "He has the best lobbying and political strategy skills I've ever seen," Weller said. "He is one of the top people in the movement." When Endean assumed leadership of GRNL 5½ years ago the organization had a desk, a telephone, thousands of dollars of debts and \$9 in the bank, Weller recalled. Now GRNL has a \$400,000 annual budget with paid staff in San Francisco, Chicago and Washington D.C.

Endean had compiled 13 years of service as a gay activist. He began his career as a lobbyist in the Minnesota state legislature. "After the transition, Steve will not be actively involved in the gay movement while he regroups his life," Weller said.

Advocate publisher David Goodstein had previously asked for Endean's resignation, claiming "the job has grown too big for the man." "Until there is a change in leadership," Goodstein said, "I will not contribute one red cent to GRNL." Goodstein encouraged Larry Bush to report on GRNL's leadership and its alleged shortcomings in his biweekly national newsmagazine for several months prior to Endean's resignation.

Contributions to GRNL have dwindled in recent months due to speculation about a change in leadership, Weller told *Cruise News*. "We face the possibility of staff layoffs because of our difficult financial situation," Weller said. "Steve offered his resignation for the good of the organization. The executive board has tremendous respect for the work Steve has done." The GRNL hopes that national grass-roots support of their lobbying efforts will resume in the aftermath of Endean's resignation.

Police Deny Raid in Park: Unidentified Man Injured

In the midst of an action by Atlanta police, an unidentified man was injured when he ran into a fallen tree while fleeing from officers Sunday in Piedmont Park.

The injured man was taken by Star Life Ambulance to Grady Hospital for treatment of lacerations and a possible broken leg.

According to police, Officer E.T. Smith was ticketing illegally parked cars on Westminster Drive when he ran into the woods to investigate unusual noises. Jamil El-Shair of the Public Affairs Office of the Department of Public Safety said no charges were filed in the incident.

Witnesses on the scene dispute the police version of the incident claiming this was an

organized sweep of the park. Three patrol cars along with plainclothes officers in unmarked cars pulled up to the area surrounding the tree trails and then entered on foot.

In a meeting earlier this year the Lesbian/Gay Police advisory committee had suggested in a meeting with Police Commissioner Napper that plainclothes officers not be used in this type action in the park. According to Ray Kluka "the idea was that if persons engaging in private activities could not spot a uniformed officer coming towards them, neither could would they spot a member of the general public." Buren Batson, former member of the advisory committee specified, however, that there was never a formal agreement.

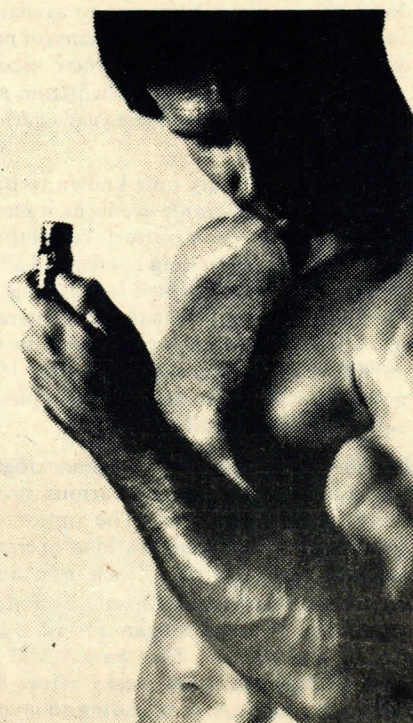
Voter Registrars Sought by FTA

A training class for volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars has been set for next Saturday, October 29th, at 11am.

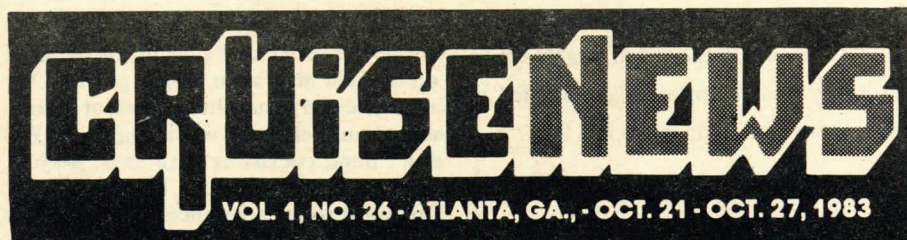
The class will be held at 136 Pryor Street, Room 103. The only requirements are that volunteers must be Fulton County residents, over 18 and registered voters. Deputy Voter Registrars are a key part in a nationwide plan to add millions of new registered voters before next year's presidential elections. Without volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars, the massive voter registration drive will be a flop.

If you can volunteer some of your time, and would like to attend the training class this Saturday, please call in advance: Ms. Colson, 572-2581 (Fulton County Voter Registration).

Locally, the voter registration drive could have on the mayoral and city council races. Many have spoken of an openly gay city council candidate in the 6th District.



Despite advertising to the contrary poppers do pose health hazards.



Use of Poppers Denounced By CDC Physician Curran

Dion B. Sanders via GPA Wire Service

A columnist for San Francisco's *Sentinel* quoted a leading AIDS physician as charging poppers manufacturers with misleading the gay community into believing that the drug poses no health hazards.

Randy Alfred, a columnist for the *Sentinel*, reported that Dr. James Curran, director of AIDS studies at the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, sent an angrily worded letter to Joseph Miller, president of Great Lakes Products, a major poppers distributor.

In his letter, Alfred reported, Curran asserted that contrary to the industry's claims of no link between poppers and AIDS, "other health hazards from the misuse of these drugs have been documented.

"Your press releases and advertisements . . . are misleading and misrepresent the CDC's findings and their implications," Alfred quoted Curran as saying.

"While it is unlikely that nitrites will be implicated as the primary cause of AIDS, their role as a co-factor in some of the illnesses found in the syndrome has not been ruled out," Alfred quoted Curran.

The columnist added that Curran's letter "may be the first time that a ranking government scientist has directly termed amyl and butyl nitrite a drug."

San Francisco Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman accused federal agencies of neglecting regulation of poppers, which have been suspected of causing serious

health problems — including what one doctor insisted was a possible link to AIDS.

Silverman recommended the mayor and the board of supervisors put pressure on the federal Food and Drug Administration to regulate the sale and distribution of poppers, pending investigations on their safety.

Poppers manufacturers have for years advertised amyl nitrate in gay newspapers nationwide as "room deodorizers" or "liquid incense," under such brand names as Rush, Locker Room, Thrust, Bolt, and others.

The poppers industry is believed to earn as much as \$50 million a year.

Marilyn Smulyan, legislative aide to Supervisor Nancy Walker, chairperson of the health committee of the Board of Supervisors, that "manufacturers are advertising they (poppers) are being found to be totally safe and (telling the public) not to worry about them."

Silverman charged that the products are mislabeled and that "in essence, it is a fraud because it is not a room odorizer. I don't know how many people would want to odorize their room with smelly socks, which is what I'm told the stuff smells like."

Silverman added that poppers are not being regulated by the FDA because they "are not being intended for the use by which would affect the body.

"But what is happening here is that it is being manufactured, labeled, and sold with a purpose of being abused," he continued.

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NUMBER 26**

**October 21 -
October 27**

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ABOUT OUR COVER:

Fall Fasion at the High Museum, R.C. Cola salutes Southern Man's grand opening on our cover. Clothes from Crackerjacks and Boy Next Door are also included in this photo feature on pages 8 & 9.

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M E M B E R
GAY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Los Angeles Heterosexuals Say No To Minority Status

by Ernie Potvin via GPA Wire Service

Many posters, announcing the first public rally of the newly formed Heterosexual Society of West Hollywood, were ripped down from utility poles by county sheriffs and gays, prior to the October 9 event in this highly concentrated gay neighborhood of Los Angeles. The sheriffs were concerned about defacing public property, and the gays of what sounded like an anti-gay group in the making.

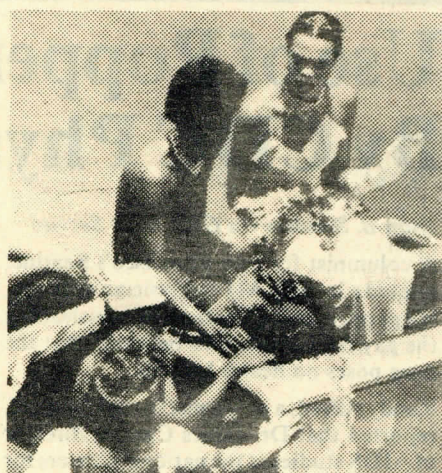
That was not the case according to the group's founder, Larry Carpenter, a West Hollywood graphic designer. "We just want to see a balance in our community," said Carpenter. "West Hollywood has become a gay Disneyland attracting a lot of outsiders into hanky codes and unusual behavior. The financial and political forces here strongly lean towards the gays. There are no bars or restaurants here for us straight people."

Carpenter spoke with the hurting pangs of an isolated man in an all-gay ghetto. "We need to set up social alternatives for heterosexuals in West Hollywood," he said. "We don't mind coexisting with gays, we just want to see a balance. The gays have just want to see a balance. The gays have

stepped out of their closet, now we want to help the non-gay step out of their front doors, but many are frightened. A lot of them fear and hate fags. Gays affront the sensibilities of a lot of elderly people here. Many parents are concerned about their teenage kids being propositioned on the streets. They tell me they're tired of seeing faggots in the alleys and all over the park. I understand their concerns, and I think the West Hollywood Heterosexual Society can help lighten them up."

The rally turned out to be more of a social outing. A buffet lunch was served, a couple of speeches were presented, and three rock bands, plus a woman musician, provided entertainment. There was also an information table, and a softball game to round off the event. Two hundred people were on hand, buttons and t-shirts were sold and a newsletter, The Hetero Herald, with several gay community advertisers, was distributed free.

"Straight people are part of this community too," said Carpenter, "that's why we've already approached the Gay Pride organizers to have our own float in next year's parade. As far as I know, they said we'd be welcome."



Atlantans demonstrate gay pride with a march down Peachtree each year.

Black Gay Coalition Opens Office in D.C.

The National Coalition of Black Gays, which represented the gay community at the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, is currently establishing a permanent national office in Chicago.

The coalition, which originally formed as an umbrella organization for Third World groups, will have a full-time paid Executive Director and staff. The move grew out of a perceived need for a professional organization which would give voice to the multiple discriminations faced by Third World lesbians and gay men, and which would bridge the gay and Black civil rights movements.

The NCBG's major focus in the near future will be on voter registration in the Black gay community, as well as providing support and technical assistance in the formation of local Third World gay/lesbian groups.

National Gay Pride Slogan Chosen For '84 Celebration

An Atlanta woman attended a recent meeting in San Diego designed to develop a national agenda and create a unified theme for the 1984 Gay Pride Celebrations. Pride Week celebrations commemorate the 1969 Stonewall rebellion in New York City which unofficially launched the modern gay rights movement.

Sixty conferees representing organizations from 18 American cities met to exchange information, and coordinate plans for next year's celebrations. It was their second annual conference, and participation was three times greater than last year's gathering in Boston.

Eighty-two cities are now known to hold some form of gay pride event, be it picnic or parade, carnival or concert. Ten of those cities have gay marching bands, and all of them have agreed to come to Los Angeles next year to participate in that city's parade as well as in a combined concert in the 18,000 seat Hollywood Bowl. The 1984 activities will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion.

For the first time a single national slogan was agreed upon by the various pride committees represented. The option of also using it for local celebrations, or creating one's own, was left to each individual city. Los Angeles, has already agreed to adopt the national slogan for its 1984 parade and festival. That parade will be held on July 1st, a few weeks before the Olympics, and L.A. is extending an invitation to the entire country to join them in making it a massive affair. The national



slogan is "United & More in '84." A uniform poster for national use will be designed to incorporate the slogan, and the Las Vegas committee has offered to handle its printing and distribution. Vegas holds its gay pride celebration in May and has also extended an invitation to others to come to fun city and join them.

At the San Diego gathering a stirring and heart-warming address was delivered to the conferees by Harry Hays, the founder, in 1953, of the early homophile organization, the Mattachine Society. He spoke of the need to recognize that we are a "separate people" with a special gift with which to celebrate each other.

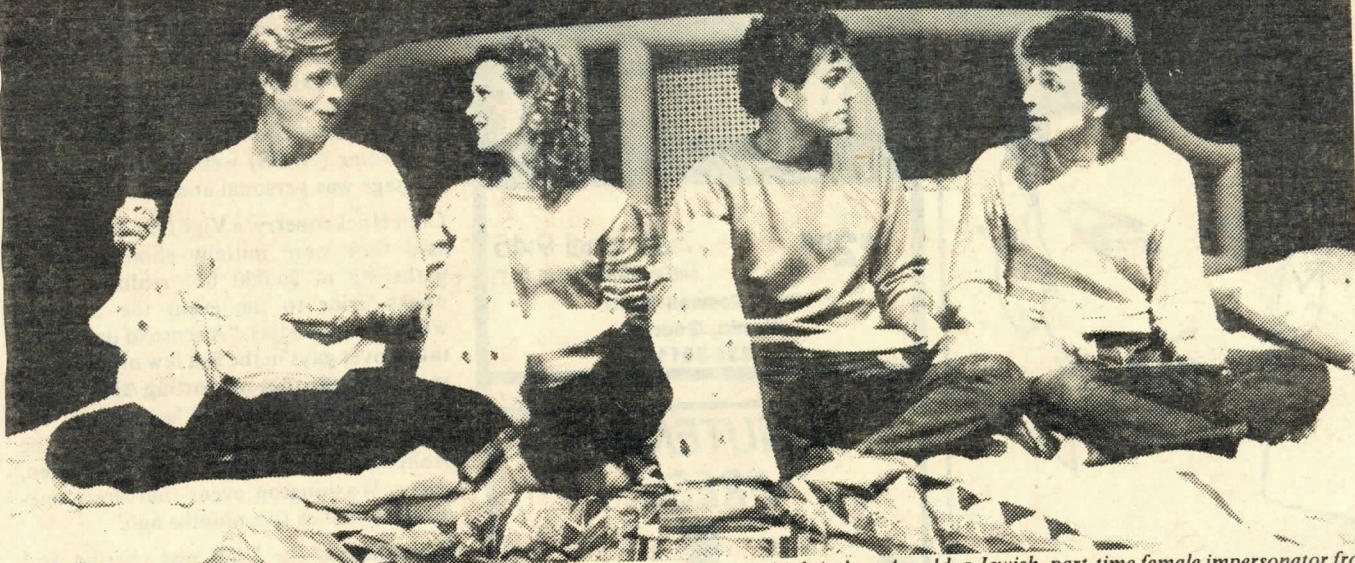
Smoke Fire at Bulldog Caused by Cigarette

A careless smoker caused a little smoke and excitement at Bulldog & Co. last week. "Last Wednesday or Thursday," explained owner Jerry Pyzka, "somebody dropped a cigarette in an air conditioning vent. The vents are cleaned four times a year but dust collects in there. The dust started smoldering so the fire department was called. They responded very quickly."

The popular Peachtree Street bar was never in danger, although one can only speculate the stares made at the uniformed firefighters. "There wasn't any flame, just a lot of smoke," Pyzka said. "They used a chemical extinguisher to smother the smoke."

by Steve Warren
via GPA Wire Service
(Original Photos available from
author @ \$10)

Fierstein's Fame: From Broadway to Television



The entire second act of *Torch Song Trilogy* takes place on a bed. Harvey Fierstein (right) plays Arnold, a Jewish, part-time female impersonator from Brooklyn.

San Francisco — Playwright/actor Harvey Fierstein once went through a 2½-year period of voluntary celibacy. "It was great — I got so much work done!" he half-jokes, beginning a story that must someday find its way into a play.

It didn't begin by choice. "What happened was, I didn't have enough money to take a subway into Manhattan (from Brooklyn) to get laid; so that created a situation of celibacy. And if I did have the 75 cents to get into Manhattan I didn't have the dollar to buy the beer to stand in the bar and they would throw me out."

Then the struggles to get "*Torch Song Trilogy*" staged without compromise paid off, providing a modest but steady income. After Tony awards for Best Play and Best Actor that income has multiplied with the addition of a national touring company (opening Nov. 18 at the Huntington Hartford Theatre in Los Angeles after more than four months in San Francisco), an Australian company and soon a London company in which Fierstein may star.

"*Torch Song Trilogy*" will become the inevitable "major motion picture" in the spring of 1985, Fierstein says. "I'll write it and probably star and maybe even produce." It will be an independent production so he can retain control and keep his 3½-hour play from being cut.

While "*Torch Song*" was working its way to Broadway and trying to build an audience there, Fierstein's talent was recognized by Allan Carr, the flamboyant film producer ("*Grease*," "*Can't Stop the Music*") who owned the American stage rights to "*La Cage aux Folles*" and had been trying for years to mount a musical version.

Like Yenta the Matchmaker on a good day, Carr brought together Fierstein (book), Jerry Herman (songs) and Arthur Laurents (direction) and turned them loose on Jean Poirer's original French script. Fierstein says Carr never bothered them until they had completed the first act. When they read that for him he loved it and let them finish the show without interference.

Not expecting to like it, Fierstein had avoided seeing the movie. Now he says he would never have accepted the assignment if he had seen it. When he finally did, after his own script was completed, he was so upset by Albin's self-hatred, he says, "I went home and called Arthur Laurents at

like three in the morning and said, ' "*La Cage aux Folles*" the play will have to run for 20 years to sold-out houses to undo the damage that "*La Cage aux Folles*" the movie is doing.'

While he didn't derive the satisfaction from adapting someone else's work that he gets from creating something himself, Fierstein enjoyed the collaborative process: "The three of us worked day and night together. I loved that relationship and had a ball doing it and I now have two closest friends in the world . . . but as far as artistic satisfaction it's a little bit better to go home and jerk off."

As for George Hearn and Gene Barry, who play the leads in "*La Cage aux Folles*," announcing their heterosexuality in every interview, Fierstein believes "the press went out for that angle." He's pleased that Hearn finally tired of it and "said the other day, 'I'm not letting anybody say I'm heterosexual anymore.'"

He wouldn't insist on a gay actor playing the lead in the film version of "*Torch Song Trilogy*," Fierstein says, denying that he rejected Richard Dreyfuss for that reason; "I just think that when it comes to playing '*Torch Song*,' that it's a hell of a lot easier to play it if you're gay . . .

"If I play it I'll have to turn gay!"

Because Fierstein created the role of Arnold

Beckoff for himself, it's widely assumed that the play is autobiographical. He says this isn't true — "any more than '*A Streetcar Named Desire*' is autobiographical." A lover did leave Harvey for a woman, but he didn't come back as Arnold's does. Nor did Harvey ever have a lover who was killed by fag bashers. And the mother, he says, is not his mother, though he thinks any gay man will relate to their confrontation.

It becomes apparent at the San Francisco press conference — the first he's ever held, incidentally — that the most recognizable part of Fierstein in "*Torch Song Trilogy*" is his philosophy — an extremely conservative one favoring committed relationships and even a gay version of the nuclear family. "Marriage, family, commitment, love — are not heterosexual words," he declares. "Those are human experiences and have got to be taken as such.

"I am not against one-night stands and living that kind of life. I am against it at the moment because we've got a disease that we've got to control and we've gotta take very seriously.

"I am very FOR setting your life goals. I don't see how — for me anyway — that I could have continued my life by running around a lot and gotten my work done." (I told you he was just half-joking before.)

Fierstein carries his crusade a step further:

"I would like politically to get past the point where we discuss whether homosexuality is a sickness, is a condition, is a 'born with,' is a — whatever. I don't think all those arguments get you anywhere.

"Once you accept homosexuality, there's a great role . . . I think gays can play — and that is in adoption. I know many gay homes that would love to adopt children; and we could — if they would . . . finally accept us as loving human beings . . .

"We've got the money to take in the unwanted children — the severely retarded, the (physically and) emotionally handicapped — and I think it's time we were allowed to play our role in this world. We could close down every orphanage in this country, maybe the world — if it was allowed. Those children have a right to be in loving homes instead of being in institutions. I think it's time to let us give it a try."

Although this message comes across in "*Torch Song*" and — except for the adoption part — "*La Cage*," Fierstein says he doesn't intend to push it in all his writing: "I would like to show all the life choices there are. You can live any way you like, but know that the choices are there."

He admits that he told Newsweek San Francisco is "a sexual Disneyland." Of the visible part of the Castro scene he adds, "If

Continued on Page 11

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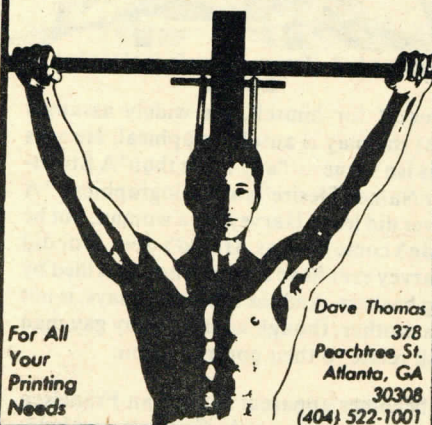
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MINUTEMAN PRESS



Report on AIDS Vigil

by Ernie Potvin via GPA wire service

The Oct. 8th National AIDS Vigil in Washington was unique in that no politicians or recognized gay leaders took the podium to address the 1,500 people assembled. Only persons with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) were heard, and their message was personal and powerful.

Clint Hockenberry, a Vigil co-coordinator, said they were initially shooting for a gathering of 25,000 but realized a few weeks prior to the event the numbers would be much less. "A sense of denial has taken over gays in the last few months," he said. "They are not supporting AIDS fund-raisers as they were only last spring." He cited the disappointing turnouts at the Hollywood Bowl concert, New York Rodeo, and a Washington event that drew one-tenth as well as five months ago.

Nevertheless, the Vigil was stirring and 10,000 petition signatures were delivered to N.Y. Congressman Ted Weiss endorsing the Vigil's stated goals, including a demand for increased federal funding for AIDS related research and health care.

Especially impressive was the national television coverage the Vigil received, in particular from ABC, where it appeared on the evening news, weekend reports, and Good Morning America.

On Friday, Oct. 7, the day before the Vigil, the Washington Post reported that "Week-end Vigils Are Set in 16 Cities to Call Attention to AIDS; Thousands Expected

to March From Ellipse to Capitol Tomorrow." That same day Mike Walsh, of the Gay Rights National Lobby, was coordinating a lobbying effort in the Capitol. Despite sponsorship by Senators Kennedy and Weicker, and Mayors Feinstein of San Francisco and Barry of Washington, D.C., as well as a number of gay and lesbian organizations, the thousands didn't materialize.

By midweek the national coordinating office was in the process of shutting down, and unable to report on any of the events planned for the other 16 cities. Hockenberry did say that, at the last minute, New Orleans activists got their city council to pass a resolution endorsing the Vigil, and the Mayor had agreed to address a gathering of Vigil supporters in that city. A twilight vigil was scheduled at a San Diego church, and the San Francisco Chronicle covered a press conference held on the Federal Building steps.

Los Angeles Human Relations Commissioner Morris Kight was at the Vigil and reported it to be a "stunning affair." The march passed in front of the White House to the West portico of the Capitol, and the light of the candles in the reflecting pool of the Mall was inspiring. Kight said the numbers were unimportant. What was significant was the fact that the persons with AIDS were speaking out for themselves and that, through the wide television coverage, millions were made to listen.



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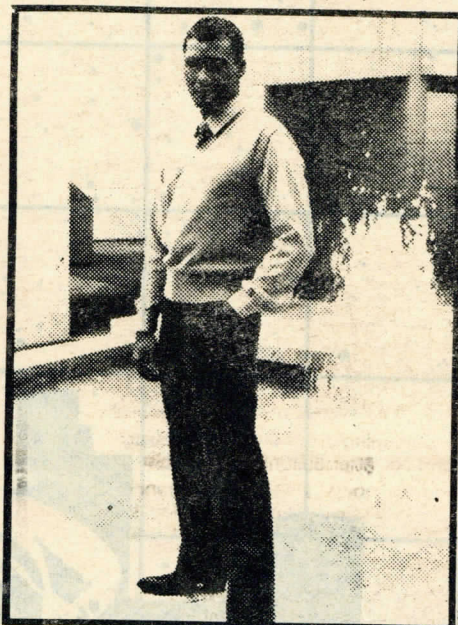
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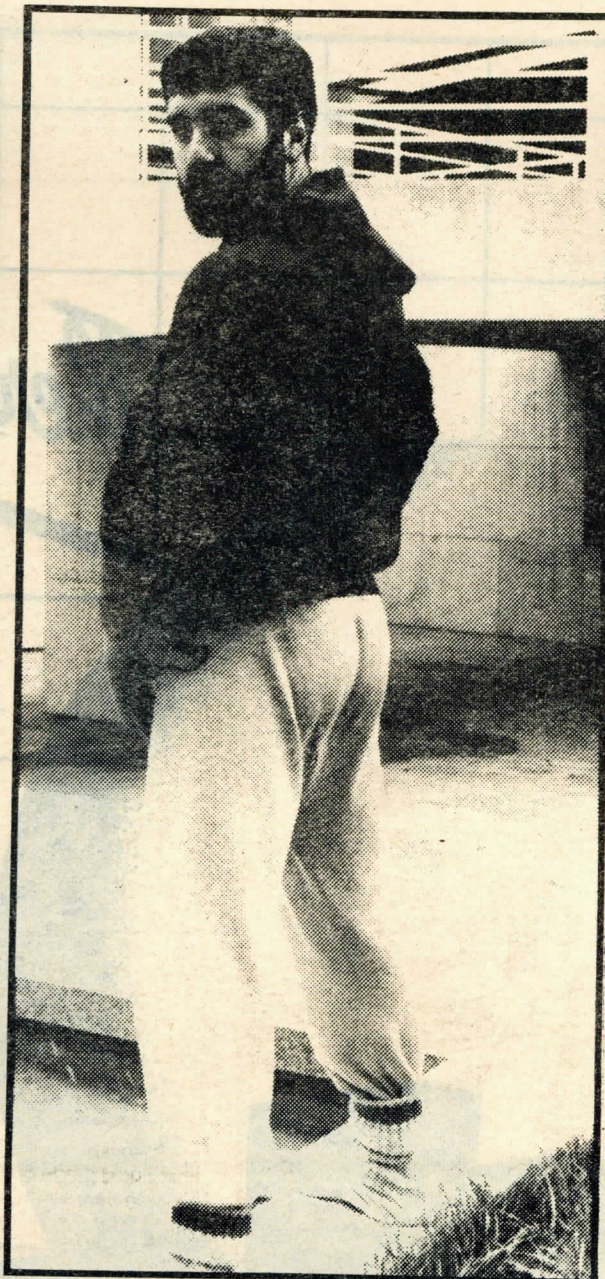
High Fashion!



Dresswear (Southern Man) gives divine inspiration with this grey v-neck sweater-vest by Ron Chereskin made of 100% wool (2750) French poplin multicolored vertical striped dress shirt by Henry Grethel (26⁰⁰) accented by blue Knitted cotton tie by Ron Chereskin (12⁰⁰) Slate blue Henry Grethel dress slacks made of 100% cotton (40⁰⁰)



Sweat up a storm in these Cotton Colors hooded 100% cotton shirts, also available in crew-neck and zipper styles, in various colors (30⁰⁰) Match them to The Boy Next Door, Atlanta's sweat-pants by Bare Parts (30⁰⁰) Rag socks of 100% cotton are only (3⁰⁰)



Intelligent design is accented in Michael's sweater by Henry Grethel (62⁰⁰) All cotton sportshirt by Grethel (24⁰⁰) Slacks by grethel (41⁰⁰) Available at Crackerjacks!



For a more casual look Harris dons a Creme Union Bay sweater accented by peach, blue, and tan horizontal stripes made of cotton and acrylic (29⁰⁰) Five pocket preshrunk stonewashed 501 Levis with front button fly (29⁰⁰)

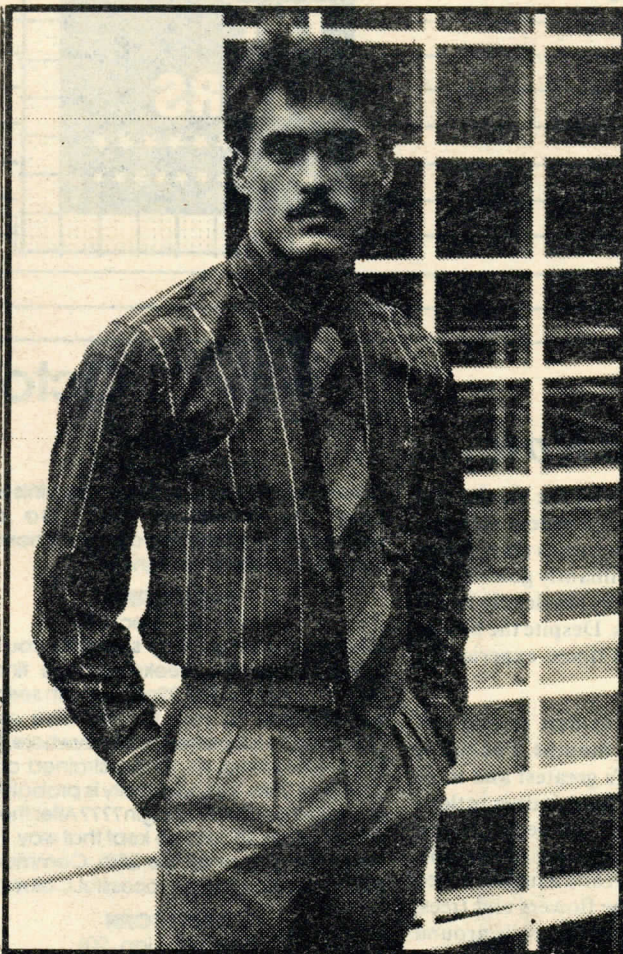


Willie and Len know that The Boy Next Door, Atlanta is T-Shirt territory! Logos include, Colbyco and Denver-Carrington, Autumn (shown), Atlanta, Ewing Oil, 1984 Olympics, Oriental (shown) and of course, The Boy Next Door! (7⁵⁰ -12⁰⁰)

The human body is a masterpiece of design. The knee flexes in a 150° arc for forward motion. The back is composed of 26 bones that allow one to bend and twist. Arms and legs contort into a virtually endless variety of positions. Unlike some clothes, designed to accommodate trends and fads, the clothes on these pages are designed with something else in mind: the people who wear them. Contrasting colors, eclectic knit wear options, cotton classicss — merge together to dress these men for the fall season. Photos are taken at Atlanta's High Museum of Art by CRUISENEWS photographer Jim Teague. Special thanks to Chene Black.

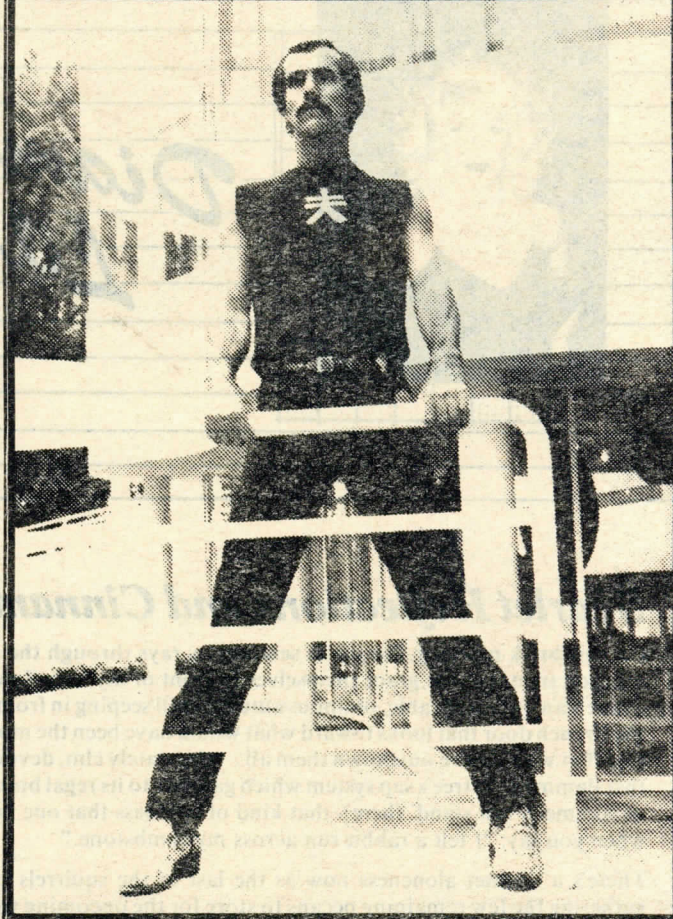
Tom shows an air of relaxed confidence with this cotton weathered shirt by Henry Grethel (36⁵⁰) 4 color diamond block sweater by Henry Grethel (49⁹⁵) All cotton pleated dress slacks by Henry Grethel (41⁰⁰) available from Crackerjacks

Crackerjacks dresses Michael with a cotton symmetrical shirt by Brittania (17⁵⁰) Corduroy outer shirt by Henry Grethel (36⁵⁰) Field Jacket by Henry Grethel (110⁰⁰) Belted cotton Brittania slacks (25⁵⁰)

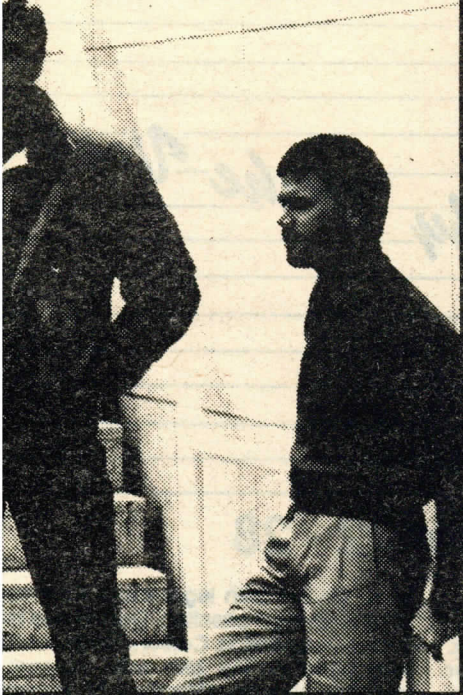


Harris Franklin is outfitted for an evening out in wheat color design RPM slacks made of wool and polyester. Buttons accent waist allowing wear with or without suspenders (35⁰⁰) Dark olive french poplin dress shirt (27⁵⁰) by Ron Chereskin with matching plaid Ron Chereskin tie of 100% lambs wool (14⁰⁰) Belt by Billy Belt of California (7⁵⁰)

Standouts at The Boy Next Door, Atlanta are these hand-knit, one-of-a-kind, 100% virgin wool sweaters, in seven different patterns of stripes on solids and pepper-and-salt, by Southern Exposure (70⁰⁰)

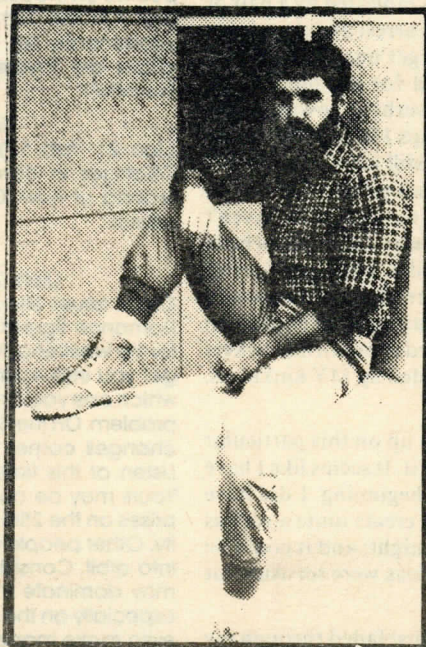
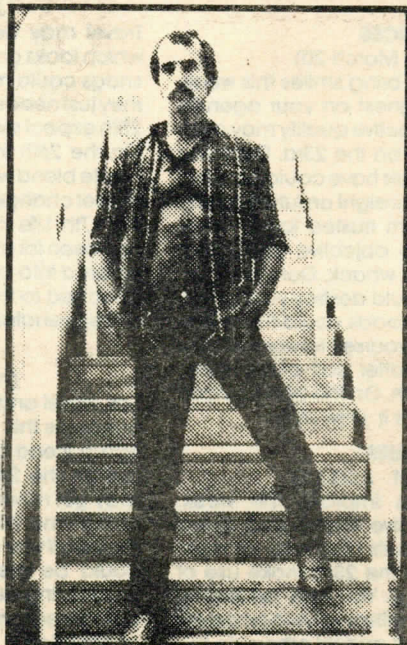


Willie in sleek "tomorrow" black from The Boy Next Door, Atlanta. A sleeveless sweat-shirt from Reminiscence, with the oriental character for "Man" in white (21⁰⁰) Levi-cut, five-pocket jeans of sexy "parachute silk" Nylite. Also available in charcoal and white (40⁰⁰)

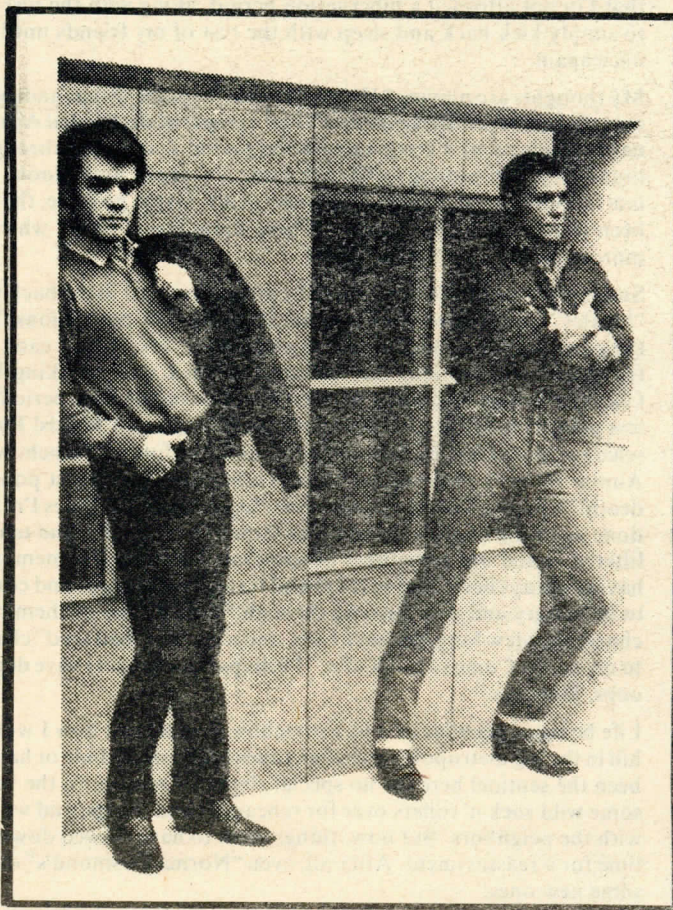


Willie, lookin' hot on a cool flight in Holbrooks 100% cotton flannel plaid shirt, in button-down or plain collar in various plaids (18⁰⁰) Bandanna in 100% cotton, many colors (1⁵⁰) Jeans come with the man!

Prunk cotton (Southern Exposure) lasting blue shorts by C.P. Dean in grey Southern Man's.



Framed in a museum window, Len wears classic 100% cotton Chinos in Khaki, also available in black, from Reminiscence (25⁰⁰) A long-sleeved 100% cotton thermal shirt by Cotton Colors in various shades (12⁵⁰) A Holbrook 100% cotton flannel shirt, button-down or plain collar, in various plaids (18⁰⁰) Boot sox with a black, orange or red top (2²⁵ - 6⁰⁰) Dune boots from Chris-Craft Footwear (34⁰⁰)



For that casual evening, R.C. Cola (right) dons these 100% preshrunk cotton sportshirts in contrasting colors of red and blue, worn as a "layered look" (29⁰⁰ each) Five pocket preshrunk stonewashed 501 Levis with front button fly (20⁰⁰) Dean (left) show a more relaxed look with Southern Man's red Ron Chereskin shirt with contrasting tan collar and vertical contrasting vents on shoulder blades made of 100% cotton (50⁰⁰) Black five pocket Levi cotton cords (26⁰⁰) Black polished cotton Members Only jacket accented with vertical shoulder vents and hood in zippered collar (78⁰⁰) Red belt by Billy Belt of California (7⁵⁰)



Diamond Lil!

CRUISING THE STARS

by Mike Voss

October 22 - 28

Scarlet Reflections and Cinnamon Rose...

On this brisk morning the sun is sending its rays through the spires of the scarlet and crimson treetops that grace themselves in front of my very Southern, timeless veranda. There's an unmistakable, ominous autumn chill seeping in from underneath the crack of the French door that looks toward what would have been the most brilliantly gold-leaved tree that would have outshone them all — the stately elm, devoured by the deadly beetle that dammed the tree's sap system which gave life to its regal branches. Despite the beauty of summer's last stand, there's that kind of coldness that one has, at times, experienced when you say: "I felt a rabbit run across my tombstone."

There's a distinct aloneness now as the last of the squirrels seem to dart to and fro, gathering the few remaining pecans to store for the oncoming winter months. The cup of cinnamon rose tea I'm sipping offers nothing cheer one as the year's greatest and most beautiful transformation is thrust upon me by the wonder of nature. And, it does little to comfort the soul with the impending knowledge that all of this beauty will be laid to rest for several months. It cares not that I will be left alive, alert, and alone to guard over this mighty, desolate terrain for the rest of the season. I feel somewhat hurt and a little crushed that I'm not afforded a hibernation period, along with the rest of the flowers and trees, to simply kick back and sleep with the rest of my friends until springtime rolls around once again.

My thoughts are playing "Hide and Seek" with the things and events that have happened over the last several years here at "The Temple of the Folded Arms" — my home's original name, courtesy of a certain cloistered period that I went through of regrouping and reorganizing. I'm coming forth with some new ideas; and it looks like I could be termed "a late bloomer" — if, indeed, I "bloom" at all! To the positive, the name of this chateau has been changed to "The Temple Where Time Stood Still," which at least sounds a little more romantic and Southern!

Suddenly, I recall the time when the girl who stayed in the back was molested by a pair of "hustler" types and relieved of some of her worldly possessions. The arrest and the trial of the perpetrators seemed to go on and on forever. And, I can't forget one of my "best" friends who broke into the "Temple" when I was "working hard for my money" on Cheshire Bridge Road and relieved me of nostalgic furs, period, riverboat gowns, priceless paintings, bronzes — not to mention the Crown Jewels! Perhaps I'll be a little more selective in picking my new companions in the future. Somehow, I still have to believe in Auntie Mame's philosophy: "Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death!" I'm told I've "tasted the wine," even though at times I'm apt to say I really haven't done anything worth writing about. Squatters, floaters, and temporary roommates have filtered in and out sometimes absconding with priceless memorabilia, although I recall having always been kind to them and fixing butterbeans and cornbread, if one happened to be hungry and just "passing through." One or two of them remained long enough to charge up a few long-distance calls, and a certain "bad seed" charged some airline tickets to my name. Come to think of it: "Perhaps the strangers have depended up MY kinkiness, oops, kindness."

Life being as peculiar as it is, I somehow wonder just how I wound up on this particular hill in the big metropolis; and sometimes I can't make hide or hair of it. It seems like I have been the sentinel here for no special rhyme or reason. In the very beginning, I did have some wild rock n' rollers over for rehearsals and things; and we did create quite a ruckus with the neighbors. But now, things seem to have slowed down a might; and it could be time for a reassessment. After all, even "Norma Desmond's" old ideas were set aside for some new ones!

The herbal tea has grown cold, and thoughts of a bygone husband just faded through my mind. I'm wondering if he's still working on a barge outside of Shreveport, married, dead, or what? Down below, the streets have grown silent. A year or two ago the hookers left for better working grounds. I think the gal who did the dance with a cucumber flown in special from Hawaii has now moved to New Orleans — a more open port.

Now, children, I'm going to warn you. November is not my basic, favorite month. In an effort to get through it, I may have to drag out some of my old show-biz paraphernalia and try to peddle it about town. Who knows, if I'm seen, someone might just have me over for turkey and giblet gravy. But, "pass the cranberries, please..."

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Career ambitions may be realized this week. Love life improves also. Go after whatever you want. You can get it now. Personality should be magnetic.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Career endeavors may separate you from close friends this weekend. Take time to make money on the 22nd, as cash seems to be attracted to you. On the 23rd expect good sex to be presented everywhere. Relations with others might be strained on the 24th and 25th. Responsibility is probably the issue. Did you fuck up again???? After the 26th secret affairs should be kept that way. Travel looks like a must on the 28th. Communication of any kind looks successful. Call mother.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Friends and business plans go hand in hand this week. Don't be afraid to venture out and try new ideas. You're right on target now. On the 23rd cement all deals. Work and travel on the 24th may be connected and profitable. Romance may be somewhat disillusioning all week. Perhaps your expectations are too high. Re-evaluations on relationships may be put back into perspective on the 26th. Enjoy a very sentimental day. On the 27th work and friends figure prominently for more cash again. Illicit affairs are favored on the 28th. Goodie, Goodie!!!

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Changes in career direction should be leaped at now. Opportunities are not unsound.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)

Credit issues should bring smiles this week. Romance figures highest on your agenda for the weekend. Attractive quality may even get you into trouble on the 23rd. Deciding which one you'd rather have could be a big problem. On the 24th insight on future career changes comes from trusted loved ones. Listen at this time to objective viewpoints. Yours may be out of whack. Domestic surprises on the 25th could destroy your serenity. Other people's moods could throw you into orbit. Consider yourself forewarned. Sex may dominate the latter part of the week, especially on the 27th. On the 28th you can even make money at it. How nice!

ARIES

(March 21 - April 19)

Partnership finances improve this week. Money matters involve family and loved ones. Domestic pursuits may take up most of this weekend. On the 23rd make use of excess sexual energy. You may be feeling past horny. Career matters solve themselves on the 24th. Lay back and let others do the

work. On the 24th legal issues may need your undivided attention. Good news may involve more dollars. Career matters could look better on the 26th. Take chances; direction change. After the 27th romance and business don't mix. Try to stay away from affairs at work. They'll ill-fate any way. Best romantic day is on the 28th.

TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)

Travel and romance offer unique opportunities this weekend. New loves possible. Sexual energies may be all wrapped up or confused with friendships now. Be careful; one seems to be seeing clearly. You could be disappointed until the 25th when excellent marriage material appears on the horizon. Career and money take care of themselves effortlessly all week. Tension; career matters may have magically disappeared.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 21)

Creativity, work and fortunate contacts should be your main concern all week. Love life may be put on the back burner for a while. You need the rest anyway. You've probably gotten more than the rest of the week. On the 24th, the 25th and the 26th big bucks can be made on new ideas for those who have patience. Lovers quarrels can be expected on the 27th. On the 28th earning power may increase again. Don't be afraid to do some people-pleasing this week.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 21)

Get ready for romance. You're really in the mood this week.

LEO

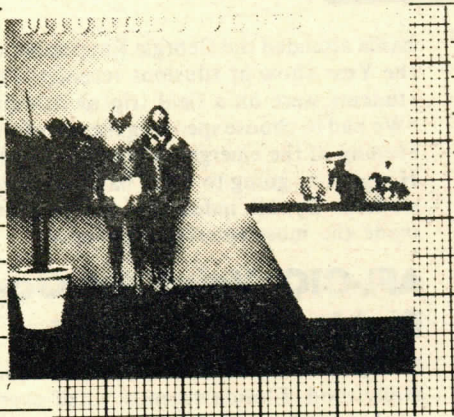
(July 22 - Aug. 21)

Travel may be offered over the weekend which looks great. Relationship problems or snags could melt away by the 24th. Maybe they just needed a new perspective. After the 25th expect extra luck in all domestic affairs. On the 26th friend and fortunate contacts made blend well for pleasant and profitable career changes. Legal issues are favored on the 27th. Life should be getting better than it has been for awhile. Romantic involvements entered into on the 28th have permanency attached to them. Old love affairs can also be rejuvenated or renewed on that day.

VIRGO

(Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)

Sex, travel and money should be your main concerns this week. On the 22nd romance with a friend could be successful, but look out on the 24th and 25th when someone may get more serious than you're ready for at this time. Money and career improve on the 26th if you're quick. Grab at all offers; you could be pleasantly surprised. Domestic issues bring welcomed relief on the 28th. Not a bad week; you should still be receiving lots of attention. *Continued on next Page*



Music

by Steve Pierce

Michael Sembello: "Bossa Nova Hotel"
Warner Bros.

Michael Sembello has released the album "Bossa Nova Hotel" which contains his hit song "Maniac" from the movie "Flashdance." Although "Maniac" is a high point of the record it is not the only reason one might buy this album. "Bossa Nova Hotel" contains ten well done tunes. Of course "Maniac" is the strongest dance tune on the record, but "Automatic Man" is another very good song with a strong beat and playful sound that may draw you out on the dance floor.

Over half the songs are not dance tunes. "First Time" and "It's Over" are two nice ballads that have a smooth, commercial jazz feel. "Godzilla" is a comic tune with a

bossa nova rhythm track that probably gave birth to the album title.

Over all it is not a profound work, commercially or otherwise. Although I found many odd things about the album as a whole: the cover has a photo of two very humpy muscle numbers; one is in a loin-cloth with a bleeding, pierced side, the other is in a red Speedo with a piece of kryptonite chained around his neck. I assume that they are there to illustrate the song "Superman," which is the last cut of the album. In "Superman," Sembello makes a bizarre equation between Jesus Christ and Superman. I found the idea of mixing disco and theology to be a little revolting, but he seems to have no problem setting to music what many people prefer not to talk about.

Cruising the Stars Continued from Previous Page

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Private affairs yield the most profit this weekend. Family members may be involved. On the 23rd friends offer unique ideas on career direction. Pay close attention and snatch up any bone thrown your way. Best career days this week are on the 24th and 25th. Use your own creativity and intuition. After the 26th money matters look a lot better than they have been. You might finally be able to breathe. Romance looks like clouded joy all week. On the 28th, however, get ready for someone new.

Fierstein

Continued from Page 5

Plans are already being made to tour "La Cage aux Folles" and to open it in London. The American company will start in Los Angeles, Fierstein says, because "I think this (is) the true meaning of gay liberation, then we've been fighting for very little."

Not that New York is any better. "The Village is worse, but the Village is smaller. Christopher Street now is all straight kids selling drugs." The bar scene isn't going to change, he says — what while "it's more profitable for the Mafia to keep us alcoholic... It's a whole marketing thing the Mafia has done to us."

Speaking of marketing, Fierstein is apparently becoming aware in that area. His San Francisco press conference was sandwiched between television appearances with Barbara Walters and Johnny Carson.

Lest we think the acceptance of the playwright and his work signals an end to homophobia in the media, he points out that Frank Rich, senior theatre critic of the

New York Times, "has only once in the two years 'Torch Song Trilogy' has been running, mentioned the words 'Torch Song Trilogy.' That was (in) his review of 'La Cage aux Folles' makes "Torch Song Trilogy" look like pornography." That is Frank Rich's only mention of 'Torch Song Trilogy.' He wrote a whole article about the Tony nominations, never mentioned it; he wrote a whole article about the Tony winners, never mentioned it — or me; as if the Best Play award was not given out, the Best Actor award was not given out."

A woman had agreed to write a story for Cat magazine about two "Torch Song" cast members and their pets, but it was rejected when the magazine learned that the play is about homosexuals. "Who does she think she's writing for?" Fierstein asks. "I told the Post, 'I don't know a heterosexual who owns a cat!'"

The royalties from "Torch Song" and "La Cage," which should be enough to keep Fierstein in style indefinitely, have merely freed him to be more selective about what he works on. He's turning down all offers to do musical adaptations — "There's a big pressure to repeat your hits" — but would like to collaborate with Jerry Herman again sometime on an original — "if he's gonna start cranking 'em out again, and I think he is."

"Spookhouse," a play he wrote between "Torch Song" and "La Cage," will open off-Broadway, "this season hopefully but otherwise next season." The story of a gay social worker's impact on a family he's trying to help, its author describes it as "the dark side of 'Torch Song Trilogy.'"

Continued on Page 13

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SHORT TAKES

Actress to Play Gay on Daytime Show

Donna Pescow, recently signed on to the cast of ABC's "All My Children," announced she will play a gay character, *The Atlanta Constitution* reported. Pescow made her revelation to Tom Snyder on the WABC-TV's "The 5 O'Clock News." Playing daytime TV's first gay character is a challenge Ms. Pescow accepts. "To be the first is always exciting," she said.

First Tuesday Program To Explore Male Rape

Discussion of the subject of male rape is quite often met with hilarious giggles in the gay male community. "Are you doing research? Can I be the victim?" The reality is far more serious. A victim of rape, whether male or female, heterosexual or homosexual, is often devastated both physically and psychologically. Rape victims can benefit by available community resources to help get their lives back together, says Peg Ziegler, Director of the Rape Crisis Center at Atlanta's Grady Hospital. Ziegler will discuss male rape and related issues at the next meeting of the First Tuesday Association at 7:30pm, November 1st, at the Atlanta Gay Center.

Students Take Illusions 101

About 45 sociology students from Jacksonville State College near Anniston, Ala-

bama attended the Georgia Entertainer of the Year show at Illusions recently. The students were on a field trip to Atlanta. "We had to choose spending the rest of the evening at the emergency room at Grady Hospital or going to a gay bar," said one student. By all indication the students made the most entertaining choice.

AFL-CIO Votes for Gay Rights, AIDS Funding

Delegates to the AFL-CIO convention in Hollywood, Florida recently voted overwhelmingly for a resolution supporting the rights of gay workers and urging the enactment of gay rights legislation at the federal, state and local levels. The delegates passed a separate resolution urging governmental action on the AIDS crisis. Media attention at the convention was focused on the union's endorsement of presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

Priest with AIDS Participates in Catholic Mass

About 500 people attended a special Catholic mass at a Greenwich Village church where more than a dozen persons with AIDS were anointed by an Episcopal priest who also has AIDS. The Reverend Mills Omaly, who was diagnosed with AIDS three months ago, encouraged participants in the sacramental anointing to open up themselves to the possibility of God acting in their lives.



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GAY-CLU Sponsors Night of Forbidden Books

"Night of Forbidden Books," featuring readings from banned gay and lesbian literature, will be held Wednesday, October 26th at the Atlanta Gay Center. The celebration of forbidden literature will begin at 7:30pm at the third floor meeting room of the center at 848 Peachtree Street. The event is sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Special Museum Tour For Business Guild

About 85 members and guests of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild (ABPG) will participate in a special tour of the new High Museum on Thursday, October 27th. A cocktail reception at 6pm at Form & Function Gallery will be followed by a stroll down Peachtree Street with the museum tour scheduled at 8pm.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ON GAY ARCHIVES BUTTON

The National Gay Archives has produced a series of 24 buttons featuring historic gay and lesbian figures including Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, and George Washington Carver. Other buttons include Amelia Earhart, Emily Dickinson, Dag Hammarskjöld and Harvey Milk. Lincoln was known to have a close relationship with the John Speed family while a law student near Louisville, Kentucky.

Fierstein

Continued from Page 11

they sorta promised Gene (Barry) that he could go and show 'em."

The busy writer has two television projects in the works. "Kaddish and Old Men" is a PBS teleplay Fierstein is trying to finish, about two old men who live together in an old-fashioned neighborhood. Everybody thinks they're brothers until one of them dies and the other comes out." More significantly, Fierstein has been commissioned by NBC to write and star in the pilot for a series about "a gay man just coming out of one relationship, just beginning into another." Perhaps he's just trying to avoid disappointment later, but he expresses little hope for the show: "It is my personal feeling it will never get on the air . . . I just think it's time to try."

One thing about Harvey Fierstein hasn't been changed by all this success: "I'm not what you'd call sexy." Still somewhat chubby at 200 pounds and 29 years, he's not finding himself surrounded by groupies and twinkies. "Pretty boys still do the same thing they always did to me, which is take me on the side and say, 'Oh, you know that guy over there — could you help me — ?' "

It's easy to joke about at the moment, because he's been in a relationship for nine months and that's more important to him. If this should be the one that lasts, that enables him to make a home and adopt children, it will mean more to Fierstein than all the money and fame he's garnering.

Time will tell about that. In the meantime he's enjoying the fruits of success: "I'm Cinderella and hopefully midnight won't come too soon."

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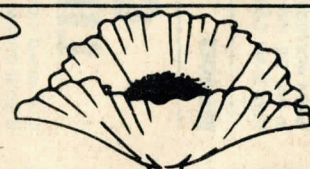
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