Vol. 6 / No. 49

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CRUISE WEEK



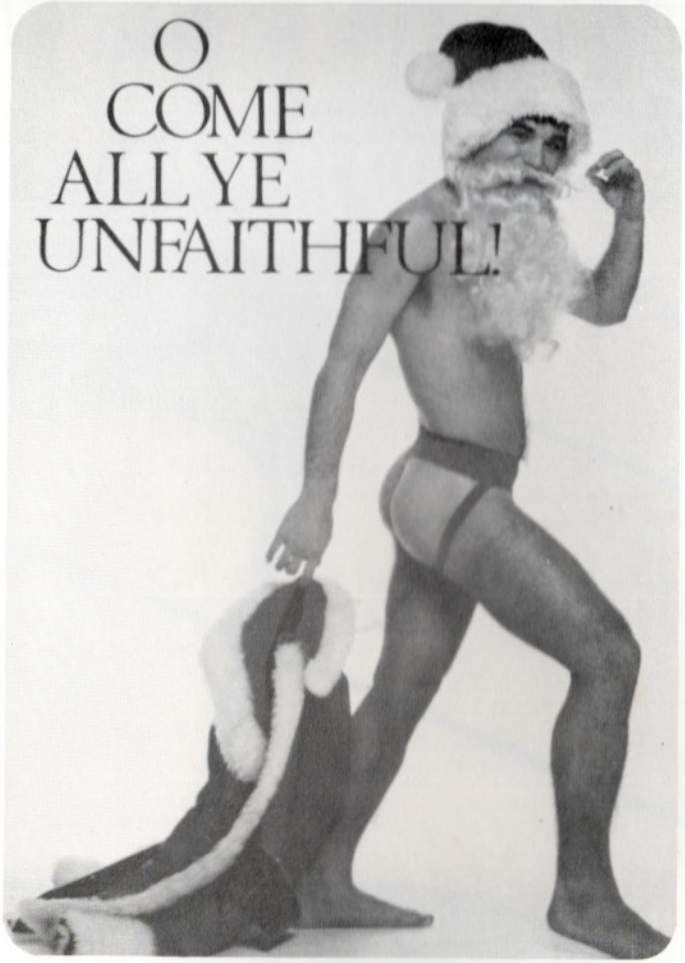
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COVER



If you are looking for a change of pace in music, Malcomo Gonick, pictured here is giving you "All That Jazz", every Wednesday night at the Pharr Library.

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M E M B E R
gpa GAY PRESS ASSOCIATION

FIRST WORD

THE POWER OF THE PRESS?

Last Thursday, while enjoying a cocktail in a local gay establishment, I was informed that there was a letter addressed to me in the GAZETTE Newspaper. Not only that, but the letter from Mr. Don Lindsey, which appeared in Volume 6, Number 47, of CRUISE, was also reprinted on the preceeding page. Why did the management of Backstreet choose to spend money on ads in GAZETTE and SUNSET PEOPLE to send me a letter? Backstreet cold have saved hundreds of dollars by sending the letter directly to our offices for a mere twenty cents.

The purpose of our "Letters" section is to give the gay community, at-large, a voice. All letters we receive are printed free of charge as a public service. We do not print letters for the purpose of supporting or not supporting our advertisers or any other gay establishents. The opinions expressed in these letters are those of the person submitting the letter, not those of CRUISE itself. Once a letter is received in our offices, it is, and remains, the property of CRUISE and may only be reprinted by written permission. We have printed letters for and against ourselves, our writers and many gay establishments in the area. We will continue to do just that in the future.

In our letters section this week we are reprinting Backstreet's response to Mr. Lindsey's letter with special permission from Gazette. We are also printing two additional letters we have received this week on the subject. As it turns out, one is supporting Mr. Lindsey's personal opinion, and the other is supporting Backstreet's position. We will let you draw your own conclusions.

In journalism, the publisher or editor cannot always please everyone, all the time. If we did, the publication would probably become very boring and meaningless. If Mr. Lindsey's letter had been completely false, would we have received a letter commending his stand? If the letter, on the other hand, had been completely true, would we have gotten a letter disagreeing with his position?

The purpose of Mr. Lindsey's letter was not to say that his treatment at

Continued on Page 6.

A ROYAL GATHERING

Atlanta Royal Court

AT GENE & GABES UPSTAIRS

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Dora DeVille
Christopher Scott
Taisha Wallis
Mickey Day
Tina DeVore
Sunny Moon
Crystal Lambega
Cara Devaron
Dean Turner

FIRST WORD
Continued from Page 4.

Backstreet or his opinions of Backstreet are true in all cases or with everyone that enters. All he was stating was that this was HIS opinion and this was what had happened to HIM. CRUISE printed this letter for a member of our community and the Gay community itself. We will continue to print letters for you and the Gay community. Isn't that why we are here?

- James G. Heverly

LETTERS

The following letter is reprinted by permission from a paid advertisement which appeared in Gazette, Volume 2, Number 48.

An Open Letter to the Editor of Cruise Magazine:

Dear Editor,

In response to Don Lindsay's letter in your last issue, let me correct his misunderstandings.

First of all, a promotional event or a promotional item is a valid method of soliciting and building business. As costs of promotional items and events increase, the promoter must regain his initial expense; a business cannot give itself away and remain in business.

Mr. Lindsay claimed that everyone has to be a "programmed clone." Backstreet clientele has continued through the years to be the most diverse and interesting in the Atlanta gay community. I have seen nothing in Backstreet's lounge, disco or roof bar to indicate that Backstreet's patrons are masochists — contrary to Mr. Lindsy's contention that they are.

Our door policy, while sometimes on the surface is seemingly restrictive, minimizes problems inside the club by keeping them where they belong — outside away from the business. Misunderstandings will occur in strained situations.

Mr. Lindsay seems to believe that the membership fee should pay for all promotional events and for all entertainers. Entertainers brought to Backstreet are promoting themselves; they are not promoters for record companies. Different entertainers charge different prices; some by contract require limosine service. All charges are taken into account in setting an admission price. The membership card offers the holder reduced admission prices, but if cover charges are insufficient to pay the entertainer. Backstreet absorbs a loss on drink sales — in effect giving away business.

In recent years, Backstreet did replace lost or stolen cards at little or no cost. As a result, Backstreet issued duplicate cards that went into pockets for whom they were not intended.

Buying a membership does entitle the member to full membership privileges, but the Club cannot continue to issue cards to spurious cardholders.

Backstreet welcomes people who like "grandeur" — in simpler words, a clean, tasteful environment in which they can enjoy themselves. If one cannot be with friends, meet new people, and have a good time, I suggest that personal problems are the cause, not a wholesome atmosphere.

No. Backstreet is not the only bar in Atlanta; we encourage the support of other gay businesses. Our club is for those who enjoy it. There are businesses for those whose tastes lie elsewhere; we encourage their success.

And we continue to welcome you to Backstreet.

Sincerely,
David Owens
Backstreet Atlanta

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Dear Mr. Heverly:

Let me first start off by offering my congratulations to your magazine for the fine job you have been doing in contributing to the livelihood of the gay community in Atlanta. In Los Angeles, we have five magazines that do not even come close to your publication in providing news, local events, sports, commentary and community participation.

While on the subject of commentary, I recently received Volume Six, Number 47 of your magazine. In it was an article by a Mr. Don Lindsay, a local resident of your community. Mr. Lindsay is obviously mis-informed on the events being presented by BACKSTREET. I represent the BACKSTREET chain on all phases of live entertainment. We handle all of the bookings for the chain and NONE of them have ever been promotional. As a matter of fact, I personally see to all of artist bookings done in the Atlanta club. I book an average of five LIVE artist engagements at BACKSTREET-ATLANTA, and not only have they had exclusive rights to all of the artists booked, but they present encore performances within two months by bringing that particular artist back into the club.

In regards to limousine transportation, the only artists who actually receive a limousine, are groups of three or more. It is done since it has been my experience that these performing groups are a little more comfortable when they can ride together. They do not; however, have access to the limousine other than being driven to and from the airport, hotel, and club. Never once have or would BACKSTREET pay for a chauffered limousine to go on a tour of Atlanta. As a matter of fact, all of the artists who perform there usually arrive six hours prior to the first show and leave the next morning at 8 am or so for their next tour engagement. That does not leave much time for shopping, or seeing the sights in Atlanta.

Even though BACKSTREET is a private, and membership club, and keeping in mind that I usually, personally accompany the artists to this club, I have never once witnessed any act of rudeness or nasty treatment of BACKSTREET members or their guests. I have gotten to know each and every employee of

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BACKSTREET and find each and every one of them dedicated to the satisfaction and loyalty of this club. I have seen doormen and off-duty Atlanta Police officers actually drive inebriated or sick members home in cases when they could not drive, or being accompanied safely. I am truly shocked and dismayed that you would print a letter such as this without first checking the facts with the management of BACKSTREET. The only conclusion I can come to is that you printed the letter as a slap in the face, as BACKSTREET has not been an advertiser of your publication for some time now. That is not good business practice and I truly feel that a rebuttal of some sort should be printed, or at least an open apology by your publisher, when a trade, magazine, newspaper or journal is dedicated to serving the needs of the special minority it caters to, it is inexcusable to print adverse, incorrect and insane letters such as the one I read while traveling back to the West Coast by plane this past weekend. Had I been in Atlanta for one more night, I would have personally contacted you.

Certainly you understand the MAIN reason why Mr. Lindsay wrote this letter. He was upset about the rules and regulations set upon him for recovery of his membership privileges at BACKSTREET. Because he lost his membership card, and the club management did not "bend" their rules for him, he attacked them publicly. when someone applies for membership in any club, whether gay, straight, black, white, or purple, a private club gives such prospective for new members a copy of their club rules and regulations. It would not seem wise for a private club to bend any rules for anyone, or why have any rules at all?!

In closing, I do not seem clear on why the writer of that letter would try and compare one discotheque to another. SENSATIONS cannot be compared to BACKSTREET or vice-versa. I also book entertainment into the other club and I can honestly say, without prejudice, that the two clubs have completely different crowds, as do NUMBERS, UPTOWN and the LIMELIGHT. I hate to say it, but I can say it because I happen to be gay and consequently book an average of 85% gay clubs; that when gay people or clearer; gay "queens" have nothing to talk about, they usually invent things to say whether in good karma or not. It is a very bad shame that there are those of us who gain satisfaction in contributing to someones misfortune as I feel that letter represented.

Thank you for the column space in which to correct any negative feelings toward BACKSTREET, your magazine and it's readers.

Sincerely
Robb I. Cooper

Dear Editor:

In response to Mr. Lindsay's letter to the Editor, Volume 6, Number 47 of your publication.

Hooray for Don Lindsay! At last someone has expressed the opinion of so many people of this city. Rise up Gay populace of Atlanta. Unite and stand together repeating the phrase, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!"

Why should we pay a fee to enter an establishment *for* Gay people and be affronted with such obnoxious attitudes? Why should we pay to enter this establishment only to be charged outrageous prices for membership, lost cards, drinks, and "*name entertainment*"?

Mr. Lindsay was correct in saying "people make the bar and not the bar itself." We don't have to go to Backstreet for entertainment. Wake up Atlanta! Wake up bar owners! It's time for us, the patrons of these establishments, to set the rules. Without our dollars there would be no bars. Give support where support is given.

I was surprised, after a year's boycott of Backstreet, to find the same attitudes and abuse offered by the same rude, uncaring employees. And, I was even more surprised to find people were still accepting this treatment. Mental masochism still abounds! But why? Aren't we harrassed enough by the police and rednecks of this city without receiving it from people of our own minority? We don't have to accept this treatment. Hit them where it hurts. don't pay their outrageous fees. Don't buy their drinks. Don't accept their attitudes.

We are a powerful, viable block of people. Let's utilize this power for *our* benefit for a change.

Richard Curtis

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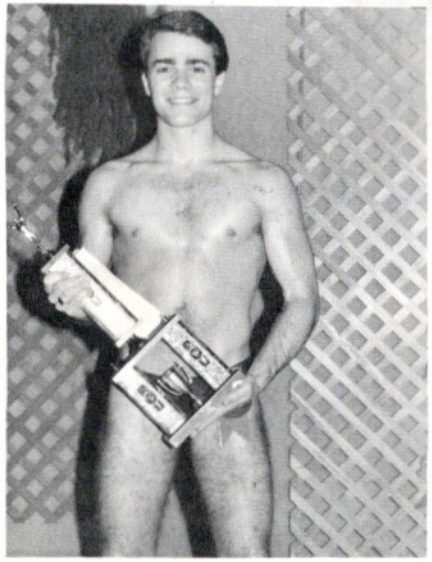
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CRUISING AROUND



The Mr. Answer Contest was held last Sunday night at the Answer Lounge. (l-r) Ron Ellis, 1st Runner-up; Dean Turner, Mr. Answer 1981-82 and Michael Varner, 2nd Runner-up.



Mr. Answer 1981-82, Dean Turner.



The award winning Dina Jacobs performed at the Mr. Answer Contest.



As promised, Mother Swinden did return the turkey to Ray and Ted of Crazy Ray'z at their 2nd Annual FREE Thanksgiving Buffet.



Jim "Rose" Hatner provided the cocktails for the Pharr Library's Thanksgiving Day Celebration.

Martin Dubler

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He Had Everything ...

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MCA

CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th

ANSWER - Nikki Adams, Miss Florida, appears tonite and tomorrow in concert.

INSIDE OUT/AUG - Tonite is the Second Annual Miss Augusta Pageant with Tina DeVore as special guest Emcee.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th

ARMORY - Today is Falcon Fever with Falcons vs. Tampa Bay at 4:00. Come join the fun with the Armorettes and all the fans.

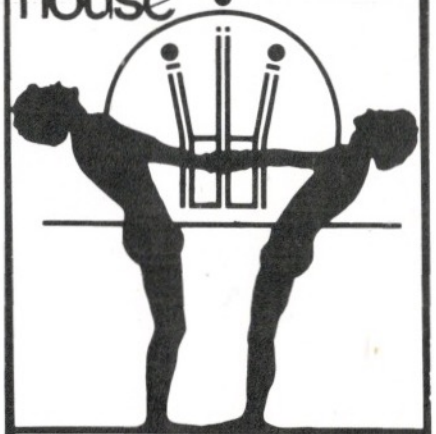
GENE & GABE'S UPSTAIRS - Tonite is A Royal Gathering featuring the Atlanta Royal Court at 8p. Tickets available at Crazy Ray'z or from any Atlanta Royal Court members.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7th

BACKSTREET - Tonite Backstreet hosts "CELEBRATION" a benefit for the Georgia State Gay Student Alliance. 9p until closing. Feature entertainers are Hot Chocolate, Lisa King, and disco star Debbie Jacobs.

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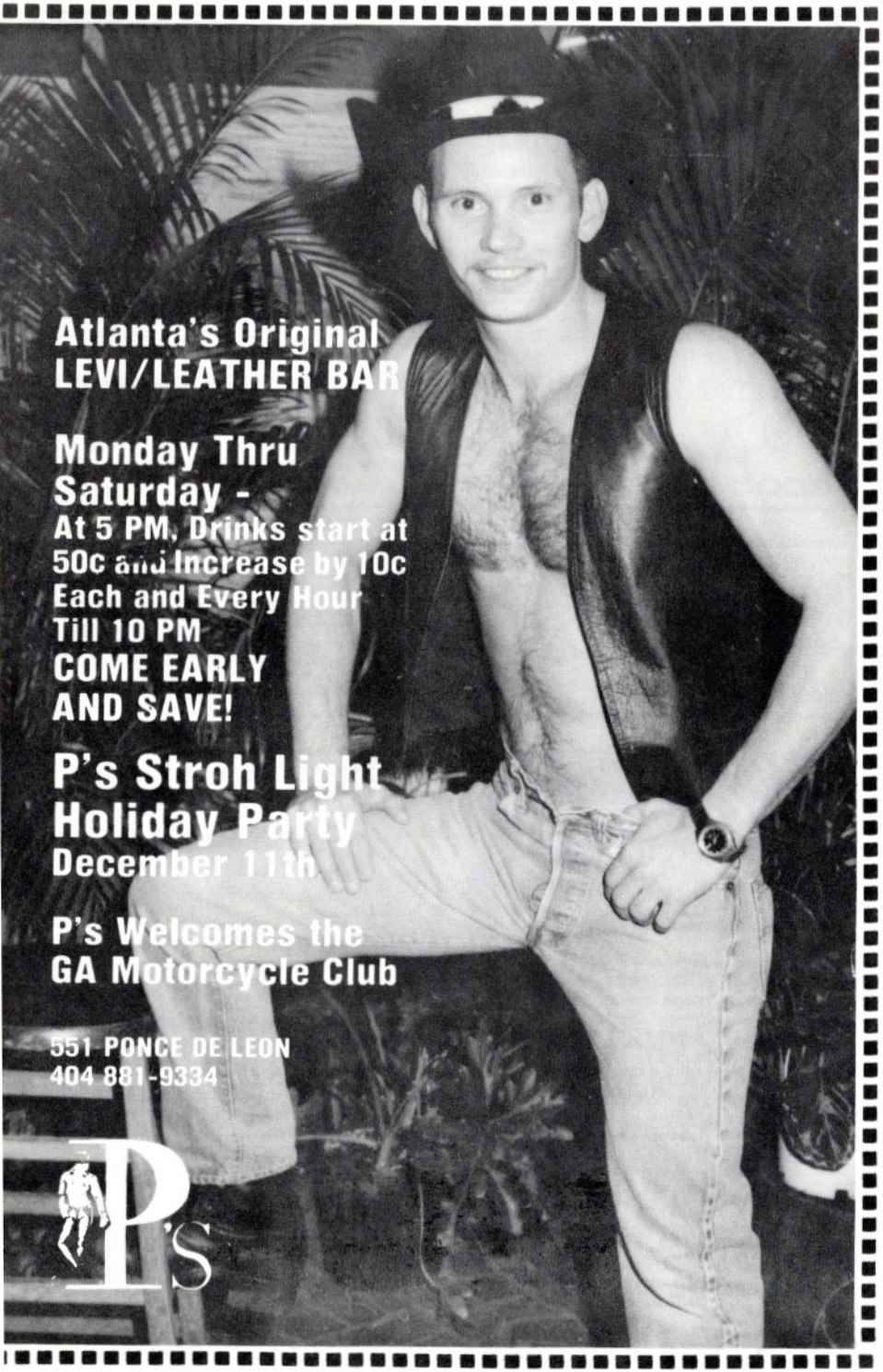
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COMMUNITY NEWS



BACKSTREET PRESENTS CELEBRATION

On Monday, December 7th, Backstreet will be hosting a benefit for the Georgia State Gay Student Alliance entitled Celebration. Starting at 9:00 pm and going on until closing, you will be entertained by such greats as Hot Chocolate and Lisa King, not to mention disco recording star Debbie Jacobs. The benefit is being held to celebrate the end of finals for GSA students and the entire Georgia State community has been invited. They are expecting up to 1,500 people to attend. A door prize of a free trip for two to Key West will be given away. So come and help celebrate.



CLUB ATLANTIS PROUDLY
PRESENTS
THE SHIRELLES
December 1st - 12th

In 1958 singing at dances while attending High School in Passaic, New Jersey, Tiara Records signed the Shirelles and their first single release "I Met Him On A Sunday" was an instant hit. The group went on to release a second recording, "Dedicated To The One I Love," which sold over one million copies, followed by yet another hit "Tonight's The Night." Carole King then wrote and helped arrange their next single "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," which sold over three million copies. Hits followed, "Baby It's You," "Foolish Little Girl," "Everybody Loves A Lover," "Dedicated To The One I Love," and, of course, their five-million seller, "Soldier Boy" ... the Shirelles' songs became classic's through out the world ... the Beatles even recorded the groups' hit, "Boys!"

Voted by the show business trade magazines as the number one female vocal group for five years in a row, The Shirelles became one of the hottest groups in the world.

Gentlemen Always Welcome!

THE SPORTS PAGE

2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 404 636-7517

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TUESDAY: Crystal Lambega's Amateur Talent Contest - Womyn Only

WEDNESDAY:25¢ Beer & 75¢ Schnapps 8pm Until ...

THURSDAY: 75¢ Schnapps and Other Announced Drink Specials

FRIDAY: Crazy Night! Announced Drink Specials

SATURDAY: Disco the Night Away! Hot Music and Good Times ... !

SUNDAY: FREE BUFFET! "Come & Get It!"

Open Every Day from 4 pm
Happy Hour: 4 pm til 8 pm

Sunday, December 13th
ERICA & ALL THE GIRLS
Special Christmas Show
ALL-GIRL REVUE

Tuesday Amateur Night
DON'T MISS IT!!!
The Electrifying
CRYSTAL LAMBEGA TALENT SHOW
Dancers - Puppeteers - Magicians
The Show That Tops Them All!!!
Featuring PIC! as Emcee

23 years later, The Shirelles are still singing your old favorites, as well as a blend of current tunes. Their performance is so energetic you'll find yourself singing along. For an evening of true entertainment, you won't want to miss The Shirelles!

Club Atlantis will be closed December 13, re-opening December 31 for a Gala New Year's Celebration with The Platters for a six week engagement! Call for reservations: 577-1234.

VALESKA REPRESENTS GAY COMMUNITY AT NBC CONFERENCE

Wide Range of Special-Interest Groups Participate

NGTF Executive Director Lucia Valeska attended a special conference sponsored by NBC-Television, October 30 to November 1, 1981. The conference was designed for representatives of minority and special-interest groups. The purpose of the conference, according to Valeska, was "to let the many special interest media lobbyists see that they are not alone, that they have plenty of competition in trying to influence TV policies, and also to show us how decisions are made at NBC."

Among the participants were representatives of the National Council of Churches, the American Jewish Committee, the National Urban League, the Gray Panthers, the PTA, the AFL-CIO, and the National Education Association. In addition, there were representatives of a range of ethnic minorities (Polish-, Japanese-, Hispanic-, Italian-, and Afro-Americans), groups speaking for the rights of the handicapped, retired persons, students, and representatives of the evangelical right.

Valeska said that it was important that gay people lobby not only the networks, but also the producers, the writers, and the advertisers. She encouraged gay people and gay organizations to become involved in working with their local media, particularly their local NBC affiliates. Valeska commented, "The weekend conference can be used by gay people as a lead-in to contacting media professionals."

NGTF has published two educational pamphlets designed to assist gay people in this lobbying work. "What Can Gay People Do About the Media?" is oriented toward gay people and discusses what issues to raise with media representatives, how to approach them etc. The second pamphlet, "A Media Guide to Gay Issues" is oriented toward non-gay media professionals and discusses what gay people want from the media in terms of a more accurate portrayal of gay people and gay lifestyles. Copies can be obtained from NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

NATIONAL COALITION TO STOP THE FPA HAS SECOND MEETING

The newly formed coalition of progressive organizations working to fight the Family Protection Act (FPA) had its second meeting November 14 in Washington, D.C. The broad-based coalition agreed that the FPA must be fought in its entirety, even though a few of its provisions may not be objectionable to some of the targeted groups. The new group, named the "National Coalition to Stop the FPA," has a loose structure. At this point it is not yet clear if it will become an instrument for direct action or serve primarily as a clearinghouse for the many groups working independently against the FPA.

Lucia Valeska, Executive Director of NGTF, was named at the coalition's first meeting to head the Public Education Committee. Mel Boozer, NGTF's Director of Civil Rights Advocacy, was named to its Legislative Lobbying Committee. Roz Richter of Lambda Legal Defence and Education Fund was named to its Legal Research Committee.

Valeska commented, "We see coalition-building with other progressive groups as one of the most important components of our comprehensive strategy aginst the Radical Right. We urge all gay people and gay organizations to get involved with this and other coalitions working against the Right."

Some of the other organizations represented in the Coalition are: The American Civil Liberties Union, the Ms. Foundation, B'nai B'rith Women, the National Education Association, the League of Women Voters, the National Women's Law Center, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, The National Organization of Lesbians and Gays (NOLAG), Gay Rights National Lobby, and the Children's Defense Fund.

For further information about the Coalition and the NGTF campaign against the Radical Right, contact NGTF: 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011, 212 741-5800.



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★★★★★ CRUISING THE STARS by MIKE VOSS

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
The multifaceted aspect of your personality may keep others spellbound all week. Excellent time to show others how versatile you really are. Opportunity for great sex on the 5th. Someone who's been in the background may suddenly demand to be in the foreground. Or is that ... someone on the bottom now wants to be on the top?? Whatever?!! Career matters remain the chief source of tension. Mixing business with pleasure??

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
On the 4th, close associate may discover or reveal one of those many secrets of yours. No real harm done. Arrangement of domestic plans may keep life pretty hectic on the 5th. Short tempers exist. Excellent time to entertain new friends on 6th. Any groundwork laid in career matters recently, pays off financially after the 8th. How timely!! Extravagance likely on 9th as mate or partner cost you some bucks.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Over the weekend friends may cause financial and emotional strain. First they demand too much of your time and then second expect you to pay for it. Work issues might interfere with pleasure on the 7th as superiors are quick to point out. Romance still involves friendship and remains confusing. Stability in love affairs might be unattainable right now but energy should be directed towards career matters anyway. Excellent opportunities for advancement available all week.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)
Undercurrents still existing in relationship matters might have you emotionally down and out. Any gossip heard on the 4th will only add to the confusion. Social affairs bring pleasure on the 5th but might upset mate or partner. Forceful attitude gets you nowhere on the 7th as you and loved one buck heads. Secret fears or anxieties may surface at this time and you could regret pushing any issues. Career changes are too numerous to mention. You've definitely had better weeks!!

ARIES
(March 21 - April 19)
Far off distant places hold a special fascination for you right now. Perhaps you're planning a trip. If so February would be a good month to do so. On the 5th relaxation might be what you prefer. But don't count on it!! Others have your day well planned. Any social events centered in your home on the 6th, could prove to be not only exciting, but quite successful. Communication with a relative brings tremendous emotional satisfaction on the 7th. On the 8th and 9th curb the impulse to overextend credit on domestic needs.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)
This weekend looks excellent for investigating potential real-estate investments. Not a time to buy, but you can get some wonderful leads for the near future. Communications with relatives baffling on the 7th. Have you disappointed them again?? Love life should be on an upswing. Wonderful opportunities available for marriage all week. On the 8th pressure from tense or unsuccessful social event may let the rest of us see just how stubborn you really are. Travel for career purposes likely on the 9th.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 21)
Your actions might meet with some public disapproval on the 4th. A strong possibility of you being attracted to someone already spoken for exists. Think twice and carefully because confrontations with others look definite on the 5th. Opportunities to step up the career ladder may present themselves on the 7th. On the 9th good friends offer advice and support on a troublesome secret you share. Domestic issues involved here.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 21)
Disturbing messages from a distance concerning family members may shock or surprise you on the 5th. Don't be alramed!! What seems to be bad news in actuality has been exaggerated. If you've finally accepted the fact that romantic interest from past year is truly over, love life looks promising. Abundance of admirers available. Get over yourself!! Many affairs for Cancer right now are work related and can be far more successful than they had imagined. Entertainment with friends probable on the 8th. Good Time. Spontaneous "devil may care" attitude holds a captive audience.

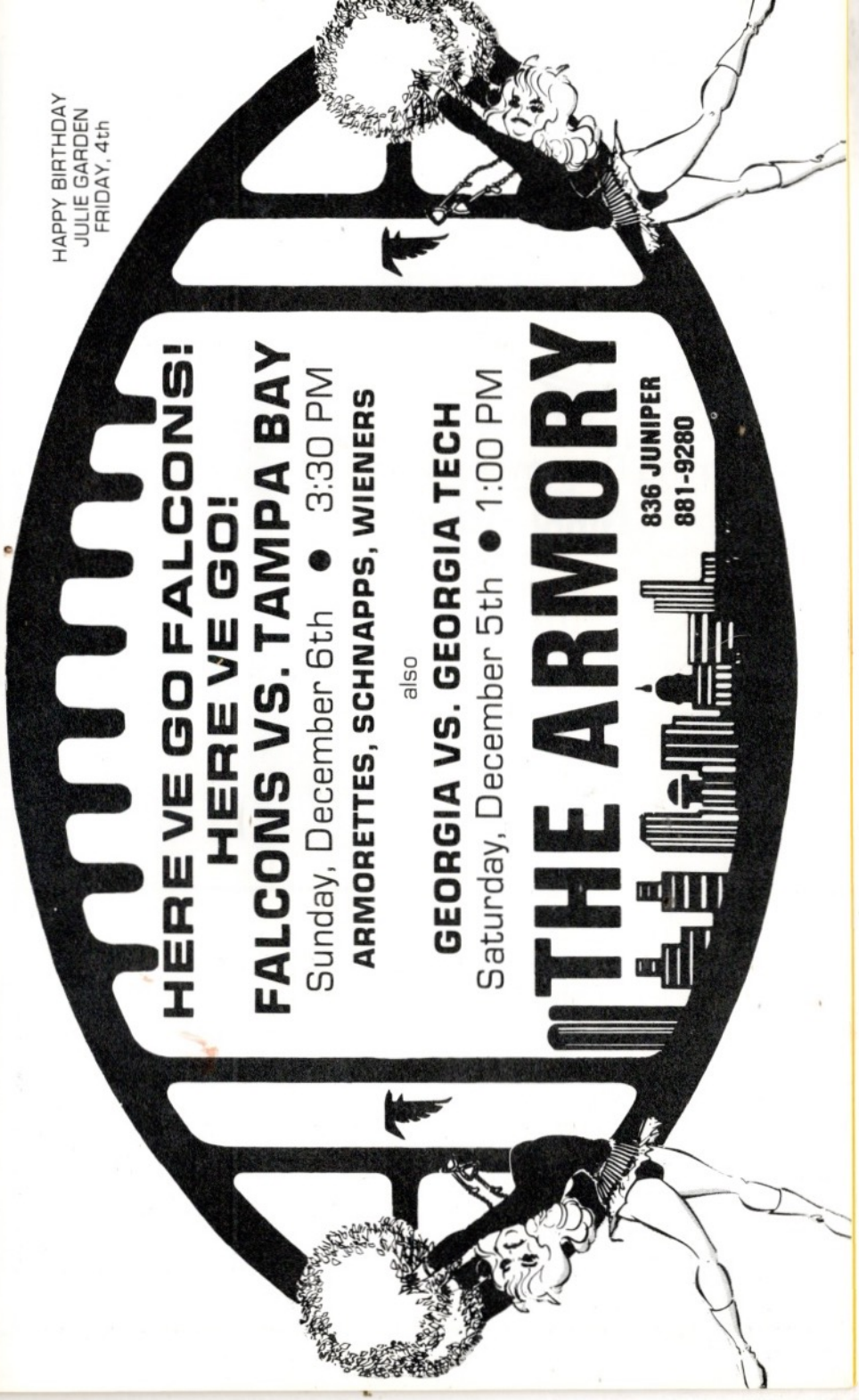
LEO
(July 22 - Aug. 21)
New love interests possible after the 6th. Travel involved. You seem to possess a fickle heart right now. Be Careful!! Recent favorable developments concerning domestic issues have you in better spirits. A heavy weight has been lifted. Having your cake and eating it too appeals to most Leos this entire month. Get your story straight on the 8th as any secret affairs might suddenly go public.

VIRGO
(Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)
Much in your life right now seems to be very family oriented. Like it or not many responsibilities lie here. Strong possibility of disagreements occuring on the 5th. Friends involved and money is the issue. Others may get a taste of your well hidden temper all week. Favorable news might reach you on the 6th or 7th concerning profit on real estate matters. Numerous surprises in anything related to your home. Unexpected guests probable. Love life can best be described as "evasive."

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Business outlooks excellent all week. Any investments made centering around creativity and beauty could prove profitable. Love life on the 5th could be depressing as mate or partner applies emotional pressure. Decisions in your personal life will best be attended to next month. Move might be suggested on the 6th. On the 8th parent or authority figure may create unexpected financial hassle.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Read ten dirty books on Tuesday. It's good for your complexion.

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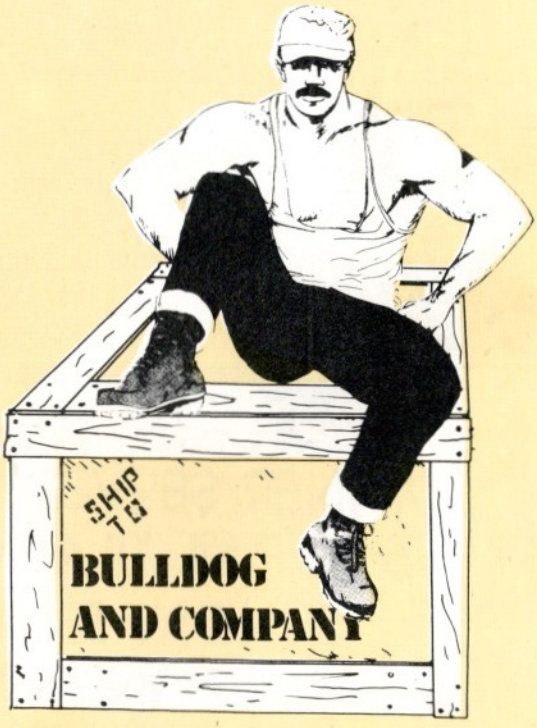


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