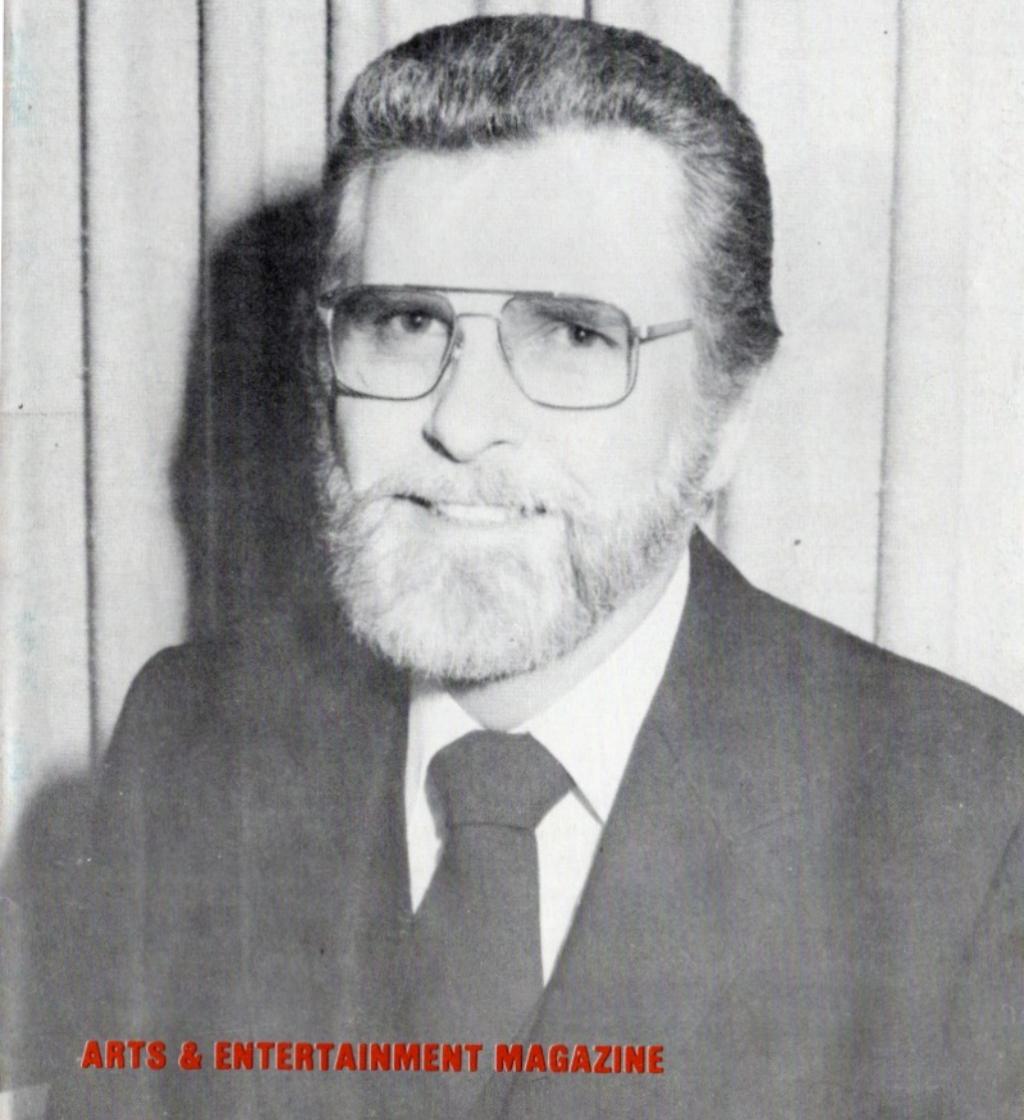


VOL. 7 / NO. 19

CRUISE WEEKLY



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE



TAKE A BITE!
Backstreet Presents

MARLENA SHAW
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Sunday, May 9th
Shows 9 pm & 1 am Promptly

845 Peachtree St.

BACKSTREET

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COVER COVER COVER

This distinguished gentleman is Tony Stingley, general manager of Pharr Library. As an avid supporter of every Gay activity and function in Atlanta, he is sponsoring the new Miss Pharr Library Pageant next Wednesday, May 12th and awarding \$1000 in cash to the winner.

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MOTHER'S DAY**

**In Honor of Our Mother Dora
Who is Recuperating.**

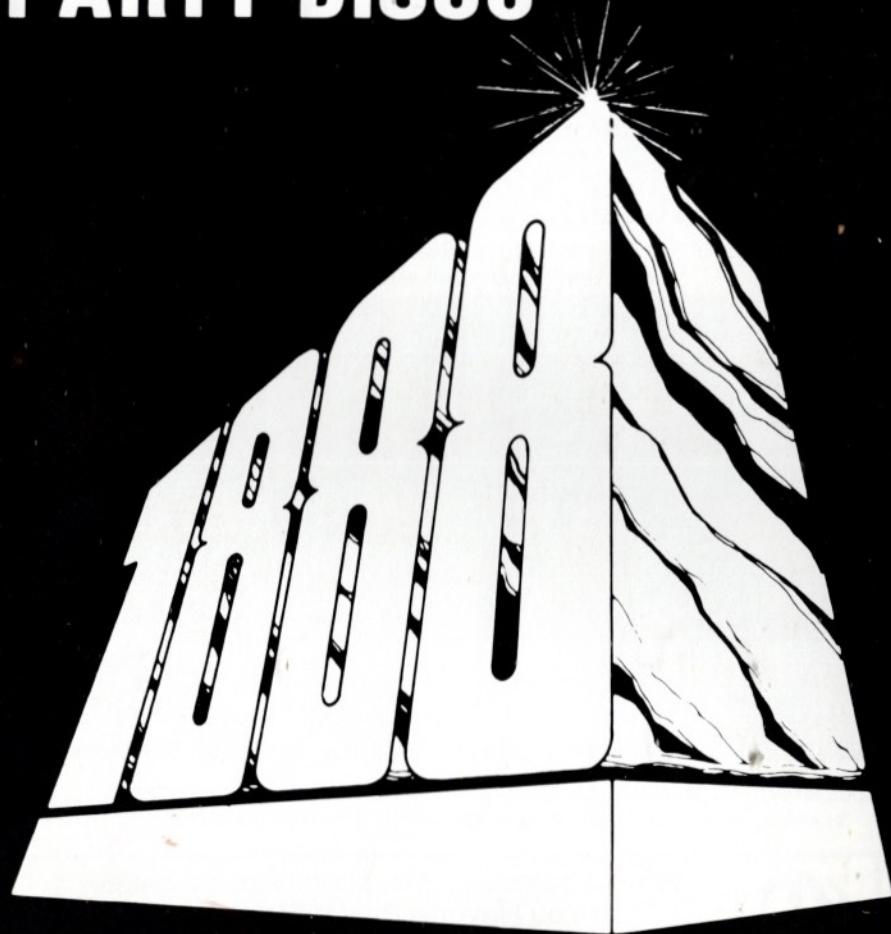
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Chena Black was wonderful in her special entitled "Just Because", on stage at Illusions last Monday night.

SOON

Sensations

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**FROM ONE
BEER LOVER
TO ANOTHER
...STROH'S OR
STROH LIGHT**



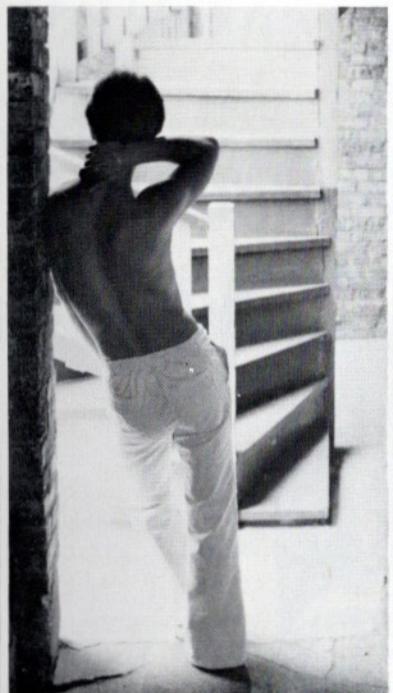
"What a Pair!"



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6:00 PM



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10 - CRUISE



France Joli wore the crowds out with
her two shows at Backstreet last
Sunday for T-Dance.



Who will be Miss Pharr Library 1982?
Come to the contest on Wednesday,
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Pictured above are the finalists in the Miss Sportspage Contest. The winner was Michelle Rhea, (holding flowers) Tony DeMarco's lover.

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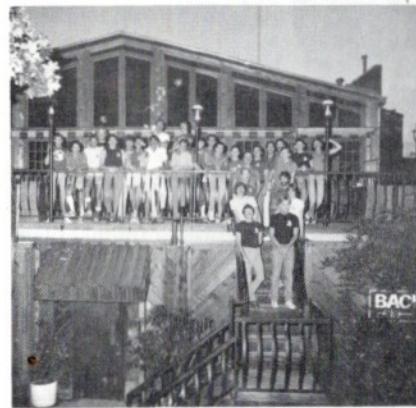
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THE HISTORY OF BACKSTREET



(Editor's Note: This weekly series highlighting the history of Gay bars and clubs in Atlanta is offered to give the community an idea of how we, as a community, have grown and lived in this city and perhaps give an idea of how we'll continue to grow. For the sake of fairness the bars will be handled in alphabetical order. We hope you enjoy this little bit of nostalgia.)

Backstreet is somewhat symbolic of our Gay growth and expansion here in Atlanta and has kept close pace with the city's rapid growth and reputation as the South's most sophisticated "big small town."

Physically, Backstreet, as we know it today, has gone through a series of owners and changes to arrive at its present state.

In 1974 Backstreet was opened under the name Finoccios and the bar actually consisted only of what is now the front lounge and the disco itself.

In 1975 the bar became "Peaches Backdoor," named after the vivacious and beloved "Peaches" who still graces the place as bartender today.

Due to some internal difficulty, in 1976, the bar once again changed names and owners, but many of its loyal employee's remained. One such employee is Todd Hunter (public relations) and he remembers well how in 1977 the "Encore" once again became Backstreet.

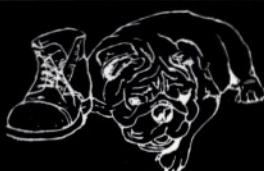
The new owners, the Vara family, started to pump money back into the business. It was at this time that Backstreet was completely shut down, revamped and retrieved its former name.

The room upstairs was redecorated and used as a New York type cabaret for those seeking temporary relief from the disco sound. In this room, called the Tut Tut Tut Room, which was done in a surrealistic Egyptian motif. Candlelit dinners were served. Today you can find quite an assortment of video games.

Simultaneously neon was introduced throughout the club, along with many wall mirrors, mirrored beams and, at one time, what was thought to be the largest mirrored disco ball in the Southeast.

With all these physical improvements, Backstreet's clientele improved in size and quality. As the crowds got larger, so did Backstreet. In 1980, Backstreet completed what has been thought to be its final addition called Up On The Roof. However, the Backstreet owners are now trying to purchase the property directly north in order to allow for the disco expansion and perhaps a swimming pool. For those hesitant to leave the disco floor for fear of missing the action there, you will be happy to know that soon you'll be able to catch all the action on large screen TV in the lounge.

The owners have spared no expense in creating many atmospheres which encompass the diversified needs and moods of many. Disco, comfortable lounge areas, game rooms, outside patio and, of course, many well placed bars ... all under one roof.



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Along with Backstreet's tremendous physical expansion through the years, came the expansion of quality entertainment. Larger crowds meant more money and more money meant more funds available to purchase the best in entertainment.

Some of the larger names in disco music have been featured live here at Backstreet; Linda Clifford, France Joli, Gladys Knight, and Mary Wilson and the Supremes are just a few.

Not only does Backstreet draw the entertainers here to Atlanta to entertain, but often "big names" drop in just to be entertained themselves. Recently, Yul Brenner, appearing in "The King and I," attended a cast party given in his honor and returned for the Sunday evening tea dance to catch the performance of the The Boystown Gang.

Some other famous people that have come to Backstreet to play are Donna Summers, Farrah Fawcett, Cher, Hall and Oates, Shirley Bassey, Pernell Roberts and the late Paul Lynde.

Last year, the movie "For Ladies Only" was filmed at Backstreet. Backstreet allowed all filming of the movie in daylight hours and opened up for business as usual in the evening.

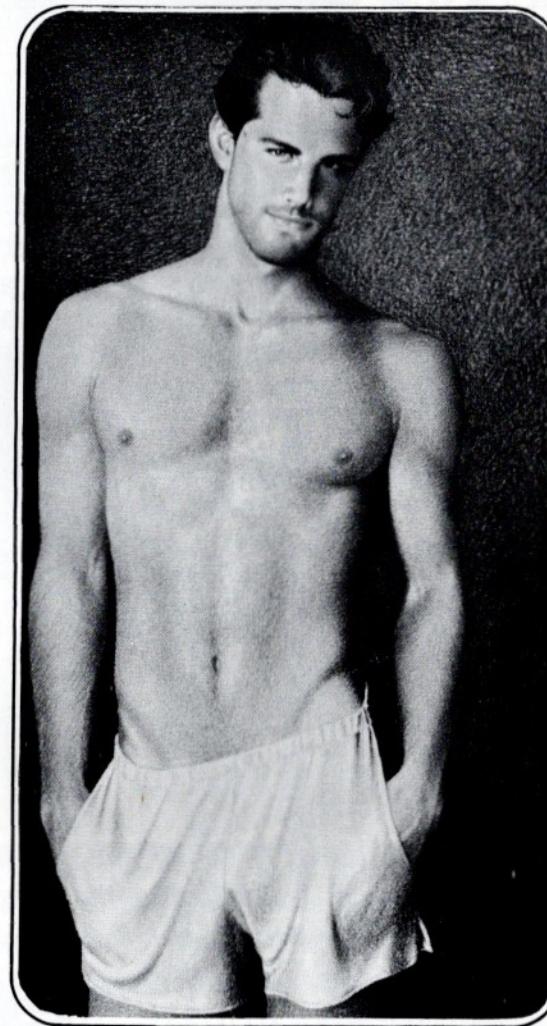
Backstreet tries to keep relations with other Gay businesses open and good. All visiting celebrities stay at the York Hotel and entertainers appearing at the Plush Room are often promoted at Backstreet.

As Atlanta and its Gay community grows, Backstreet, based on past achievements will no doubt be one of the leaders for Gay entertainment.

Backstreet would like to give special thanks to Joey Messina, the present award-winning DJ, and a very special thanks to a DJ out of their past, Angelo Solar who was largely responsible for building Backstreet's huge Gay audiences.

Michael Voss

SUMMER SHORTS



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THE SPORTS PAGE

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NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS

PLANNING FOR ATLANTA'S GAY PRIDE MARCH

Atlanta - Amid reports of cancellation of Gay Pride festivities in new Orleans, Orlando, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale, representatives of Atlanta's Lesbian/Gay/Transperson Pride (LGTP) Committee have affirmed a commitment to proceed with plans for Pride Week festivities.

According to Melvin Ross, the group has discussed and is finalizing plans for the annual parade/march to be held on Saturday, June 26th. Efforts are currently under way to secure the necessary authorization for parade route and time. The group plans to release the information as soon as city approval is granted.

“Additional plans for benefits and festivities are still in progress,” said Ross, “and we urge anyone interested in working with us to attend our regular meetings each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm.” The group presently meets at the Atlanta Gay Center, 931 Ponce de Leon.

The LGTP committee has also announced that plans are being made to sponsor a fund-raiser at Illusions on May 25th, 1982 and is seeking local Gay talent to fill the show bill. The benefit, according to LGTP representative Ron Greer, will help raise funds needed to stage this year's Gay Pride March, slated for June 26th. Persons interested in appearing in the benefit should contact Lewis Routh at 872-7006 or 892-9015 for information about auditions. The group plans to release more details about the benefit as plans are finalized.

ROYAL COURT DONATES PROCEEDS TO MCC

The Royal Court of Atlanta is donating \$567 to the Metropolitan Community Church from the proceeds of the Royal Quest, which was held at Illusions on April 19th.

FOUR BARS JOIN FORCES IN BENEFIT FOR MCC

Four Atlanta bars have joined forces in a benefit to be held May 11th for the Metropolitan Community Church.

The star-studded show will be held at The Answer Lounge and will spotlight talent from Bulldog & Co., The Cove, and The Gallus as well as regular cast members from The Answer.

Producing the show is Gary Slovinik, well-known to local party goers for the extravagant Halloween parties he has produced over the past few years.

ARNEY'S TO HOLD BENEFIT FOR AGC

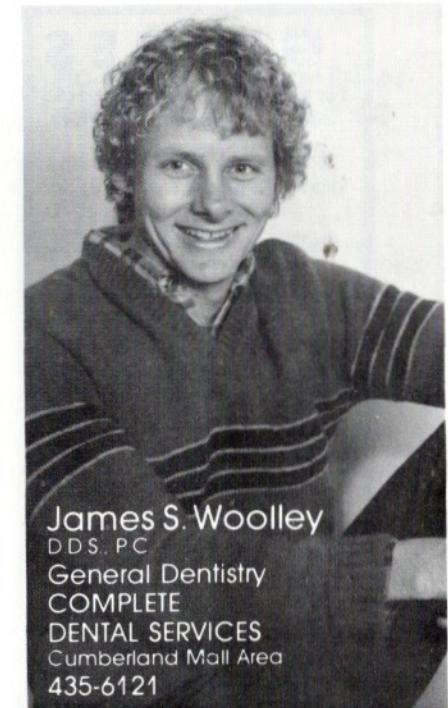
The Atlanta Gay Center announced this week that Arney's, in conjunction with Premium Beverage Co. distributors of Stroh's and Stroh Light, will hold a gala benefit on Tuesday, May 8th from 8:00 pm till midnight.

A \$3 contribution will be accepted with proceeds going to the Atlanta Gay Center. For the \$3 you will be given a mug compliments of Premium and you can fill it from 8:00 till midnight.

Entertainment will be provided by Carolyn Mobley and Steve Margrave and a raffle will be held with some great prizes.

ATLANTA GAY CENTER ET AL OFFER DISCOUNT TICKETS TO “CHICAGO”

The Atlanta Gay Center and other organizations including BWMT, AVS, The Business & Professional Guild, the religious caucuses, MCC and the ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter are offering tickets for the Atlanta Civic Center engagement of Bob Fosse's “Chicago” at a discount rate. The show runs for one week beginning May 11.



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Ticket prices are as follows: Front orchestra and lodge boxes \$14.85, Rear rear orchestra 12.15, dress circle 9.45, and balcony 6.75. This represents a 10% discount on regular prices. An additional 10% from each ticket will be donated to the LGTP Committee and 30% will be donated to the Gay organization of your choice. Checks should be made payable to the Atlanta Gay Center and tickets may be purchased at the Center or through organizational representatives. They will be held at the Civic Center Box Office for pick up.

A private party for all special ticket holders will be held at the Hotel York immediately following the performance with a cash bar and a special performance of Liz Spraggins in the Plush Room. For more info call AGC at 876-5372 or 875-4348.

AGMC BUILDS SKILLS AND NUMBERS

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus has come a long way since its first performance in mid-October of 1981, and those who attend the group's first spring concert May 15th at 8pm in the Peachtree Playhouse can anticipate a treat.

Chorus members who were reluctant to sing "America" at auditions are

blossoming into promising choristers, according to AGMC director and founder, Jeffrey McIntyre.

"The difference is amazing," says McIntyre, "we've been able to work on more difficult music, and the cooperation from the members has been wonderful. The group began with forty-four members and promptly showed its potential by moving its first audience to a standing ovation. "We were stunned," says McIntyre, "we hadn't been rehearsing long enough, we thought. We didn't even have an encore prepared."

The chorus went on to draw the "largest crowd together at Lenox (Square) for any staged event ever" when it performed there during the Christmas season. Again came a standing ovation, which seems to have become the rule rather than the exception for AGMC.

Since October, the chorus has swelled to sixty-five members, and chorus manager Frank Butler is hard-pressed to respond to the demand for appearances by the group. "We have to turn down four for every one we say yes to. It's a nice position to be in." AGMC is well on its way to becoming "one of the most exciting and important Gay organizations ever to form in the city." It has made a tremendous start toward becoming a force for true Gay pride in the South.

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL OPENS SEASON

Texas towered over P's, the Pharr flew past the Answer, the Panthers tiptoed by Illusions, the Bulldogs squeaked by Birmingham's Cruisers, and finally the Cruisers bounced back in their second game to stop Arney's Army.

A multitude of fans covered the bleachers and hillsides of Piedmont Park on Sunday, opening day for the Hotlanta Softball League (HSL). City Councilwoman Elaine Valentine (that's val-unteer) threw out the first official softball to kick off the '82 season. The weather was perfect — magnificent even. Hundreds of curious, often enthused, spectators stood or sat savoring the colorful events. At day's end umpire Pici was heard to comment, "Atlanta will never be the same on Sunday!"

In the first game, The Answer faded fast to the Gators. After two disastrous innings, The Answer did manage to hold the powerful Pharr Library to a mere run, but too late — the confidant Pharr prevailed 20-zip.

Then the GAME. The one the fans were waiting for. Visiting Birmingham looked to be about to bottle up the Bulldogs. But the Bulldogs roared back in the bottom of the seventh with three runs to win 6-5. Great game. Great game!!!

With bats booming, the Texas Drillers appear to be "Hotlanta's Hot'braves" of '82. A winningless team in '81, the Drillers wasted no time shellacking the Pirates from P's 13-2. That should put a smile on Jay Evans' face. With a little playing time, however, watch out for P's Pirates — the talent is there!

A team from Illusions? Petry's Panthers almost found out the hard way who they were. Illusions jumped on the Panthers in no time with pitcher Doris belting a bases-loaded double to give Illusions a comfortable 4-0 lead. For sure it was Illusions' fleet-footed, smooth-gloved left fielder who stole the show and pleased the fans time and again with her hustling, inspiring play — enough to keep the Panthers at bay much of the game. Nonetheless, the Panthers proved to be no pussycats and took it 6-4. Thrills were plentiful.

At last Birmingham came back against Arney's Army to record their first win. The highlight of this one came in the fourth inning when the Army's grandstanding shortstop treated players and fans alike with a jubilant celebration of one of her fielding gems. The crowds stood applauding, and the "spirit" of Arney's lives.

Birmingham rushed out after the game to bury their sorrows of the Bulldog defeat. They found a comforting shoulder in the "sponsor bars" of the HSL. The Cruisers were plain and simply "overwhelmed" by the genuine, much-appreciated hospitality they received, especially when they went to Arney's. Keep it up, Arney's!

It was satisfying. It was wonderful. May all the teams carry the "spirit" throughout the season.

The next two Sundays have been preempted by the Piedmont Park Arts Festival. The next games will be Sunday, May 23rd beginning at 1:30 pm (see CRUISE vol. 7 no. 18 for schedule). Many teams can still take on players, coaches and fans. Call Information Line 874-BALL.

David Francis

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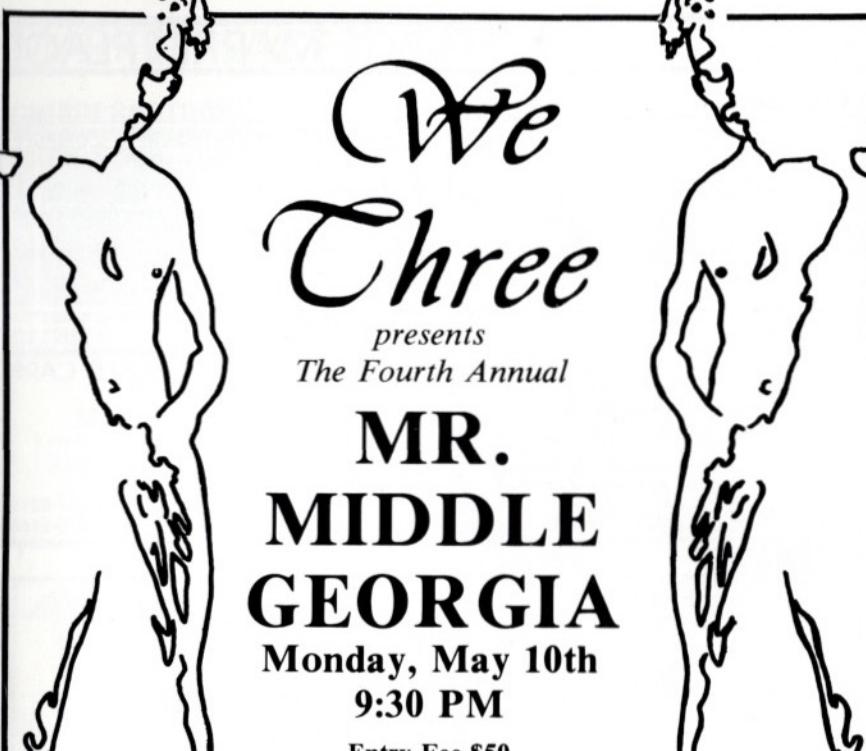
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It is decidedly homophobic to think that all ballet dancers are Gay. I personally know one that isn't. But come to think of it, he's a lousy ballet dancer. But I digress.

Research has shown that an equal number of heterosexual men would become hairdressers, interior designers and ballet dancers if society weren't so tough on people who do. Consequently, fewer straight men have the guts for a more "artistic" profession. And it has been said about every male actor except John Wayne at least once in print. That's probably because John Wayne couldn't act. But he could do a damn good John Wayne. But I digress.

It is patently unfair to put someone down because they are Gay. I think any reader of CRUISE would agree with that statement. But if there is one thing I detest worse than heterosexual homophobia, or a Gay person who is "out" and homophobic; it's an obviously Gay person who tries to convince the world they are straight and who put down other Gay people. It's a case of "...methinks she doth protest too much."

That makes me madder than the sight of Adolf Eichmann rowing through the Suez Canal.

The one I have in mind is so swishy he wears out his clothes from the inside. I am moved to lyric.

Once upon a time the world loved faireys.
Every little storey had a few.
Some of the could sing like a canary,
And once a sailor grabbed one, and it flew.
Tinker Bell is gonna' have her hey-day,
There'll be leprechauns and elfenfolk again.
So, wake me on the morrow if it's May day, mother.
The fairey queen says, "Let the dnce begin."

Well, chorus girls and chorus boys are filling up the joint,
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
That's not the patter of little feet; it's Kissinger on point.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
The chauffeur staff all start the day by working on their turns.
The gardener got stoned again and danced "Three Grecian Urns."
And ev'ry time the "Firebird's" done the Lincoln bedroom burns.

I think there's a fairey in the White House.
The maids and valets do *pas de bourres* up and down the halls.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
The orchestra shout bravo at the presidential balls.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
It's rumored that the Senate is rehearsing for "Giselle."
The F.B.I. has photographs and don't buy William's tale.
They say he'll dance the *pas de deux* when he gets out of jail.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
When Nancy meets the press again she'll use a follow spot.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
She wants to do a "Swan Lake" off the presidential yacht.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
The army khaki's gone, it's now an olive drab tutu.
Marnies will join the corps 'cause, "Uncle Ballanchine wants you!"
They'll march across the golf course shouting, "May we plie through!"
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
So, step into the Capital and do a *tour jeté*.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
the bar is always open for a quickie rondeley.
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
The Met's replacing football Monday nights on N.B.C.
If Reagan runs again Baryshnikov will be V.P.
Just write for season tickets: "Washington A.C.D.C."
I think there's a fairey in the White House.
Why don't they just get taller girls?
Mange toute! Aucune vache est sacree.

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PERSONALS
Attractive 17 yr. old seeks wealthy older w/m to take care of him. Send photo & letter. PO Box 11127, Martinez, GA 30907. 7-20

Need Water Sports Buddy. Atlanta Area. Martin, PO Box 87131, College Park, GA 30337 7-20

TOM - Please tell people you are straight. You are an insult to all decent Gays. You haven't even got the balls to honor your own word of allowing me a rebuttal to your filth. Lloyd. 7-20

RON - All the stories about you must not be completely true since you have enough sense to be upset about being barred from a place of business that deals with quality people. Lloyd. 7-20

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