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B.A.R.

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IN THE BAY AREA
.25 ELSEWHERE

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5

March 4th

NEXT ISSUE OUT MARCH 18

NEXT DEADLINE: MARCH 12

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION AND READERSHIP IN THE BAY AREA

GAY HATE CAMPAIGN GROWS

... SEE PAGE 4

"Lanford Wilson
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THE NEW YORK TIMES

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by Jack Fritscher

"THE MADNESS
OF LADY BRIGHT"

by Lanford Wilson



March 13, 14 - 20, 21 - 27, 28 8:30pm SIR Theatre

TICKETS: 673-4258

Liberal Democrats Hold Convention

Over 1,200 Democrats from the largest group within the Democratic Party, the California Democratic Council of Democratic Clubs (CDC) held their 24th Annual Convention in Los Angeles at the Hilton downtown this past weekend.

With 116 gay delegates in attendance, compared to 6 gay delegates in 1972, the CDC went on to endorse anti-war activist Tom Hayden as their choice for U.S. Senator, and Fred Harris won the nomination for President of the U.S.

It was the first time that the CDC has ever endorsed anyone for President. Governor Jerry Brown, Senator John Tunney, Mayor Tom Bradley, Congressman George Brown, Assemblyman Larry Kasiloff, Tom Hayden and many others spoke to the delegates.

The gay rights plank here, was

adopted without dissent. It was prepared by the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles.

The Democratic Party affirms the right of all persons to define and express their own sexuality and/or affectional preference, and to choose any lifestyle that does not infringe upon the rights of others. We pledge an end to all social, economic, legal and psychological oppression of gay people.

The Democratic Party encourages qualified gay people to seek office within the party, and encourages qualified gay women and men to seek public office.

Therefore, the Democratic Party endorses:

1. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

2. Passage of civil rights legislation to prohibit discrimination against gay people in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodation and public services.

3. An end to the systematic exclusion of gay women and men from the armed forces. We further call for the upgrading

of less than fully honorable discharge for reasons of homosexuality to the level of fully honorable, with retroactive benefits.

4. Prohibition of discrimination against gay women and men, in hiring, promoting and otherwise, in the federal civil service.

5. An end to the denial of security clearances, at all levels, based upon sexual orientation and/or affectional preference.

6. Elimination of tax inequities victimizing single persons and same-gender couples.

7. Elimination of bars to the entry, immigration and naturalization of gay female and male aliens.

8. Inclusion of prohibitions against discrimination directed toward gay women and men in all contracts between agencies of the United States government and their contractors.

9. Legislation banning the compiling, maintenance and/or dissemination of information on the sexual orientation and/or affectional preference of an individual, for dossiers and data banks,

and directing the immediate destruction of all such existing data.

10. The establishment of an Office on Gay Awareness, under the auspices of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It would be the mission of said Office to recruit qualified gay women and men, under the civil service, to conduct Gay Awareness Workshops within all federal government agencies, and thereby commence the eradication of homophobia — the unwarranted and unreasonable fear of homosexuality.

11. The immediate addition of gay women and men to the Federal Civil Rights Commission.

12. Funding for qualified gay social service agencies.

13. A policy change in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, encouraging all persons to choose housing and living arrangements in accordance with their own preferences, and ending discrimination against gay people who reside in public housing projects, seek federally guaranteed housing loans, and in all other areas under HUD's jurisdiction.

14. Legislation to enable persons covered by Social Security and/or benefits provided by any and all federal pension programs to designate whom-ever they so choose to receive unexpended benefits in the event of their death.

15. An end to the National Parole Board requirement that, as a condition of parole, gay women and men associate only with persons not of their sexual preference.

Transsexual Sues Bank of America

On February 24th, Robert "Helen" Hazelton filed a suit through his attorney, Dick Gayer, for \$799,250 in Superior Court against the bank for false arrest and imprisonment, and the resulting physical and mental pain and suffering that he has gone through as a result of the arrest, jail and trial, in which the charges brought against him were dismissed.

Hazelton was arrested on October 29, 1975 at the Bank of America's Van Ness and Market branch, by part-time teller Donald Merkley, who is a member of the San Francisco Police Dept. and "moonlights" as a teller at the bank. (he makes nearly \$20,000 a year as a police officer).

Donald Merkley claims that Hazelton, who was wearing his normal apparel, feminine clothing, i.e., pants suit, blonde hair piece, shows. Merkley claims that Hazelton "fell asleep at the counter (at the bank) and babbled that he had just had a shot, and had fresh needle marks on his arms." In reality, Hazelton had just had his regular morning treatment of Methadone at the Ivy St. Clinic, and his thickened skin coupled with the lack of accessible veins in his arms (the result of 30 years of heroin addiction), make injection of anything into his bloodstream via his arms impossible. Furthermore, a subsequent urine test at the Clinic showed the **complete absence** of amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin derivatives. As might be obvious, all criminal charges against Hazelton have been dismissed.

Hazelton, now 55, had considerable difficulty getting into the Methadone program, but was accepted after he sought the assistance of the

KARL KAY PRESENTS

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ST. PATRICKS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1976

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

AT

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helping Hands Services Drug Abuse Prevention & Education Program under the direction of Rev. Raymond Broshears, who intervened on his behalf and he was then accepted. Rev. Broshears appeared at the press conference held outside of the Bank of America Bldg., along with Hazelton and attorney gayer, which was televised by KPIX TV, Ch. 5, and given good coverage in the Chronicle the next morning.

The arrest of Hazelton jeopardized his continued treatment in the Methadone program, as the former DA Ferdon tried, unsuccessfully, to revoke his probation for a previous drug charge dating some years or so back, and put Hazelton into state prison.

It was only through the efforts of the Public Defender and Nurse Bobi Carter, R.N., and others at the Methadone clinic that disaster was averted and the mental duress relieved in January of this year.

Hazelton now seeks damages for the anguish and suffering that he has gone through as a result of this arrest by a member of the S.F. Police Dept. working as a part-time teller at the BofA.

Gayer told B.A.R. that he hoped this suit would deter the Bank of America and others, from such discriminatory conduct in the future.

The right of Hazelton and other transsexuals to fair treatment by business establishments is also supported by Helping Hands Services, GLA, BAGL and the law...see Unruh Civil Rights Act, Civil Code Sections 51 and 52.

Public Hearing on District Elections

San Franciscans for District Elections (SFDE), the community based organization which wants to put a District Election of Supervisors initiative on the November ballot, has scheduled a hearing, open to the public, to get public interest and input.

The hearing will be held on Monday, March 15, at the Redding Elementary School auditorium, 1421 Bush St., cor. of Larkin, at 7:30 pm, and will be chaired by Bob Ross, Vice President of the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club, and publisher/editor of B.A.R. and by Ms. Elisa Rleigh, former staffmember of the Helping Hands Services.

Residents of Polk St., Nob Hill, Hayes Valley, Tenderloin and Lafayette Park areas are especially urged to attend the hearing, which is sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club, B.A.R. and the Gay Liberation Alliance.

Gay Pride

by Don Drake

GAY PRIDE means different things to different people. To some it means that they have their own special kind of freedom, this is not just the freedom of the body but also the freedom of the mind, which gives them the right to voice openly what they feel inside.

I, for one, know the meaning of this freedom because I was locked in a "mind prison" for a long time. First of all, knowing that I was Gay and yet not wanting to let my family or friends know the real feelings that I hid within myself.

I have been incarcerated in a state hospital for the past year, and I have

finally brought myself out of my mind prison. I have started bringing out the feelings that I hid for so long, and began to feel a pride within myself that I had never known before.

My second breakthrough came when I started letting the right-on people know my real gut-level feelings. For years I felt that I had to hide the feelings about myself being Gay, because no one would understand them or me, but I found that just the opposite is true. In fact, I began to see that when I let the right-on people know about my feelings, that they were very understanding and that this understanding was beginning to make me feel good about myself.

My third breakthrough came with the help of a friend. He has been incarcerated here with me for the past seven (7) months. We have a close relationship, and we plan to live together when we return to society.

My fourth breakthrough came when my parents found out about our plans. I had thought at first they would try to talk me out of this relationship

and this was the reason that I had not told them about our plans, but I found that just the opposite was true, in fact when I did tell them, their first words to me were: "If this will make you happy, we will accept you, even though we don't understand you."

So now after all of the trials and tribulations of my life, I finally know the real meaning of Gay Pride. Now instead of hiding my homosexual feelings I can say that I am Gay and I am proud.

Don C. Drake
Drawer A
Atascadero, Calif. 93422

Gay Academic Union

The Gay Academic Unions of California announced their first annual conference — Symposium '76. It will be held April 15, 16 and 17, 1976 at San Francisco State University. Keynote speakers will include Mass. State Rep. Elaine Noble, Calif. State Assemblyman

Willie Brown, and Kinsey Institute researcher Alan Bell. A wide range of lectures, workshops and panel discussions will be presented by faculty and students in the 21 sessions to be offered.

For further information write or call Prof. John De Cecco, Psychology Department, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, Ca. 94132, Tel (415) 333-6117.

"Happy hustler" Book Party

Michael Kearns, aka Grant Tracy Saxon, author of the bestseller, *The Happy Hustler* will be present at an autograph party given for him by Rooks and Records, 1501 Polk St., Sturday, March 6th from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Michael Kearns will also be displaying the cover from his 2nd book, *Making Love* due to hit the stands in April on Warner Books.

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George Mendenhall FINDING THE ANSWERS

(George Mendenhall is the San Francisco correspondent for The Advocate newspaper-magazine.)

The Family Lobby "Pervert" Haters Exposed

The anti-gay crusaders are at it again, convinced that homosexuality — which has been around since the beginning of time — will somehow destroy the world, not to mention Walnut Creek! This time around they call themselves, *The Family Lobby*. These are the same self-righteous fundamentalist Christians who in 1975 were the *Coalition of Christian Citizens*.

Eighty Christian bookstores across the state are now distributing petitions,

which when completed may produce 312,404 valid signatures. That is what is needed by May 3 in order to place on the November ballot a proposition that, if approved by the voters, would again make private, consensual sex between adults illegal. The bill which legalized oral and anal copulation (AB-489) became law on January 1 after being carried in the Assembly by Willie Brown and in the Senate by George Moscone.

The major effort of the *Family Lobby* will be in rural, small-town counties, inland farm areas and small coastal towns. Many people in these areas pay close attention to the local police chiefs and mayors and ignore the officials in the "sinful" city. For example, Sheriff Tom Kelly of Trinity County believes the legalizing private sex points to an "outright degradation of morals" that will not be tolerated by "grass root American citizens." He says that the *Family Lobby* must "arouse the silent majority and appeal to their better judgement to turn around the present

course of the demise of 'the girl next door' and 'Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy.'" He is convinced that citizens must sign the petition in order to "fight for right and decency . . . things our country was founded on and that the American people have built pride in for two centuries."

Although the proposed initiative petition is titled "Sexual offenses" by the State the *Family Lobby* people have labelled it the "Public Decency Initiative." The state coordinator for the Lobby is Attorney Robert Sassone of Santa Ana. His treasurer is Marilyn Afeldt of Fresno. Three other attorneys head the effort: James Clancy of Sun Valley, John Cormack of West Los Angeles and David Depew of Alhambra.

Sassone is active in Pro-Life, an anti-abortion group, while Depew is an attorney for the Women's Christian Temperance Union. It is Depew who headed the Christian Coalition petition effort last year in the Los Angeles area.

He publishes, with his mother's help, an anti-gay, anti-alcohol newspaper.

Locally, the petitions and the *Family Lobby* newsletter are available at two San Francisco locations — The Western Christian Bookstore, 131 Franklin St., and the Christian General Store, 551 Taraval. In Marin, the effort is being launched from two Christian general stores, 2130 4th St., San Rafael, and 972 2nd Ave., Novato. Alameda County petitioners are working out of the Western Christian Bookstore, 1618 Franklin St., in Oakland, and the Bible Bookstore at 4071 Fremont Hub in Fremont and the Bible Bookstore, 2281 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. Palo Alto has the Newton Christian Bookstore at 320 California and *Family Lobby* News may be also obtained from many Christian bookstores in San Jose, including Newton's at 1559 Meridian. In Daly City the anti-gay effort comes from the Western Christian Bookstore at 2386 Junipero Serra.

Bay Area locations for the petitioning effort are significant but the real effort is in counties and small cities that few Californians can locate on a map such as Mendota, Irwindale, Seaside, St. Helena and Turlock. The police chief of Mendota, like many other city-county officials, ignores the constitutional separation of church and state by quoting Biblical scripture on city stationery to support his contention that passage of the Brown bill "hurt us, by lowering our moral laws." He claims that "we will be praying that our Lord will hear the *Family Lobby's* efforts and convince through hearts the change in this outrageous law . . ." Chief police James Provenza of Irwindale concludes that "the passage of the Brown bill will bring about legalized prostitution by 1977."

Fear of a new "Sodom and Gomorrah" is rampant in communities like Seaside where the mayor, B.J. Dolan, says that "the common decency and moral fibers of our families are being challenged, eroded and require a direct attack to eliminate the adverse results of AB-489." Mayor Grete Ericson of St. Helena agrees and calls the legislation of private sex acts "disastrous." Temple City's mayor Louis Gilbertson called private sexual freedom "human pollution" and "a piece of ridiculous legislation that will be rejected by the vast majority of our citizens who decry the adverse moral trends in our Country." In Pacific Grove, city council member Thomas Drakes says that AB-489 is legalized amorality. He dismisses the gay lobbying effort as the work of "loud spoken minority who would subvert the concept of family life as the basis for the most successful human relationships." Drakes is convinced that "this trend increases crime and encourages a "breakdown in moral and ethical concepts."

In nearby Turlock ("Watermelon Capitol of the World"), mayor E.S. Christoffersen is vocal in quoting scripture to justify his contention that homosexuality is "against nature" and "the work of the devil."

Using the old Christian Coalition mailing lists, Attorney Sassone is mailing out petitions and his *Family Lobby* News. Although Sassone insists that with *Family Lobby* "the main issue is not homosexuality" almost all of its literature is anti-gay. Sassone says that the real issue is "public decency" but he stresses that the new sex legislation allows "public school teachers to perform in private sex orgies and still

continue teaching in school." He also attempts to inflame readers of the *Family Lobby* News by writing that "sex perverts and child molesters" may now be hired as policemen and serve as scout leaders." What he does not say is that there are some gay policemen and scout masters — with or without Brown's successful legislation. Sassone further confuses the issue by inferring that prostitutes and pornographers now have a "green light." In fact, the Brown bill did not effect these prohibitions in any way.

A bill that would have extended the state fair employment act to include non-discrimination against gay people. A Lobby publication asserts that "sex perverts feel that California legislature can be used to pass legislation to force all employers to hire — and not to be able to fire — homosexuals and other perverts." The Foran bill failed and will be re-introduced in another form in 1976.

The *Family Lobby* is also well aware of gay activist George Raya, who was instrumental in the passage of the Brown Bill. It calls him the "lobbyist for

being doused with rice. Angry shouting gay activists are shown in a mob — demanding their rights. Cartoons also portray a Lesbian, speaking to a large crowd, and several sketches that depict how homosexual activity allegedly destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. The commentary is partly accurate: "Their power structure is widespread. They occupy all kinds of jobs. Their identity for the most part is carefully hidden. Some have been reported to be in high government positions. Homosexuals are invited to speak at clubs and religious meetings. They cry for equal rights — boasting that homosexuality is normal, healthy, a desirable form of sexual outlet." The comic book concludes on how "tragic" the homosexual is and how he and she can escape from that "tragedy" through accepting Jesus. (MCC has an excellent pamphlet that refutes this "scriptural" basis for anti-homosexuality.)

Sassone sent literature to his reporter which stated that "probably 50% of all suicides and homicides in the big cities can be attributed to homosexuality." This blatant lie was refuted by Suicide Prevention in San Francisco, which says that less than one out of ten of its calls are from homosexuals and that the 50% figure is "preposterous." Gay-related homicides are less than one out of ten in San Francisco, which has a high ratio of homosexuals in its population.

Obvious facts do not bother the *Family Lobby* people. They go ahead with a claim that "the greatest threat that homosexuals impose on our society is the seduction of children." All recent research literature on this subject clearly indicates that child molestation usually comes from close family friends and relatives — overwhelmingly heterosexual.

Attorney Sassone evidently sees no moral wrong in sending out material which uses material from a Dr. Daniel Cappon, "Canadian psychiatrist." Cappon says that homosexuals are "heavy into the drug scene in many cases, and degenerate too often into sado-masochism and are extremely vicious with one another." He further concludes that "homosexuality is not a mental illness, but is a moral issue. It is a spiritual illness." That such statements could come from a "psychiatrist" is almost inconceivable.

Family Lobby literature also uses a religious writer, David Wilkerson, to relate that he allegedly met three girls in "a Southern city" who related that after reading homosexual literature in a bookstore they had become gay. The implication is that a person can change his or her lifestyle merely by reading. Few psychologists would agree with that contention.

The fearful anti-gay, small-town fundamentalist Christians are now at work in Glenn, Mariposa, San Benito, Plumas and Del Norte — counties that are only vague names to Big City dwellers. They are circulating the petitions that could result in a November ballot proposition. Gay activists are in agreement that it will take a considerable amount of money to defeat an anti-gay measure, if it gets on the ballot. People, even "liberals" are not prone to vote against "morality." Whether the *Family Lobby* can muster the support they need, is debatable. They had six weeks to get enough valid signatures last year. This year they have three months to do it.

It appears that there is nothing gay activists can do to stop the *Family Lobby* effort, except to challenge the tax-exempt status of some involved churches. Patiently, gay people will have to wait until May to see if the *Family Lobby* was successful. Will the right to enjoy sex in private - legally - be taken away by self-righteous Christian fundamentalists?

S.I.R. Rap

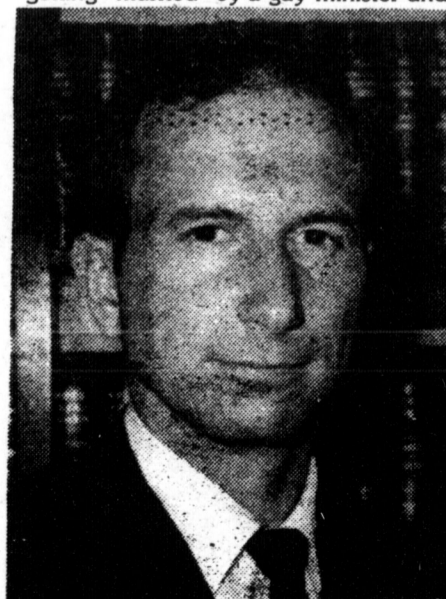
MEETS FRIDAYS 8 PM

March 5 - Changing Attitudes and Values in the GAY World — An Examination of Current Values.
March 12 - Parapsychology, Are there Witches? ESP? Does Astrology Work?
March 19 — Gay and Healthy - A Look at Aid to Good Health & Nutrition.
March 26 — The Baths, an Exchange of Attitudes & Values.



SAN FRANCISCO METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. John Barbone
Sunday services: 1PM and 7:30PM
Wednesday service: 7:30PM
23rd & Capp Sts., 1 block off Mission
Mission United Presbyterian Church
All services signed for the deaf
Counseling available
Church office: 1076 Guerrero, S.F., 94110
(415) 285-0392



ROBERT SASSONE
Santa Ana attorney and state
coordinator for Family Lobby

There is considerable anti-gay literature available for those who enjoy reading it. Sassone mails out a reading and tape-recording list and such material can be ordered from Good Neighbors, Box 73, Clovis, Calif. It includes "Joy" — a hardbound book by singer Pat Boone about a young Lesbian who gave up sex for Jesus; and analysis of how homosexuals use the worship of Satan to seduce young atheists — "Hell on Earth" by Rev. Bob Larson; and a colorful analysis of "The Gay Church" in which the writer claims that the Metropolitan Community Church follows the Pentacostal faith, "speaking in tongues and performing physical healings." Tapes available (\$5.50) each include your choice of three "scripture" attacks on homosexuality — Christian View, Straight Answers and Homosexual Arguments.

One of the major problems faced by the *Family Lobby* is that it is attempting to use evangelical and fundamentalist churches to circulate petitions. Strict requirements by the federal and state government state that churches remain non-political in order to retain their tax-exempt status. Attorney Sassone attempts to circumvent this requirement by dealing with ministers as "citizens." The Christian Coalition attempted the same thing in 1975 but ran into fearful ministers who saw their tax exemptions being challenged by a San Francisco-based gay group, The California Committee for Equal Rights. Sassone knows of the Equal Rights group, headed by activist Paul Hardman.

In its spare time, *Family Lobby* has found time to attack Assemblyman John Foran (D - SF) for his introduction

sodomites" and indirectly credits him and other urban gay activists with having considerable influence in Sacramento.

When not publishing anti-gay pamphlets and books and recording "hate" tapes, the self-righteous fundamentalists are publishing comic books. This allows them to reach the very young and those who like cartoons with messages. The most blatantly anti-gay is *The Gay Blade* which has a sketch of a swishy looking, limp-wristed male on the cover. It is 24 pages and can be purchased for only six cents from the Christian bookstore at 131 Franklin St., San Francisco.

"Gay Blade" depicts two males getting "married" by a gay minister and



COMMUNITY AUCTION FOR A FRIEND OF THE COMMUNITY!

MONDAY, MARCH 8th
8:00 P.M.

PATROLMAN
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118 Jones Street
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Chief of Police Charles Gain

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Wayne Friday
Plus Many
Many More!

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will be in attendance

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Viral Hepatitis Type A

Viral hepatitis continues to rise in incidence in San Francisco, in contrast with the State of California. The statewide case totals remained about the same in 1974-75 (approx. 8,800 and 9,300 respectively). However, the San Francisco totals increased from approximately 600 reported cases in 1974 to 900 cases in 1975, and after only two months in 1976, the tall has reached approximately 215 cases.

Two types of viral hepatitis are recognized at this time, although there seem possibly to be other types not yet identified. Type A was formerly called "infectious" hepatitis and Type B was "serum" hepatitis. Type A usually occurs about twice as frequently as

Type B. Only Type B can be definitely identified by a laboratory test at this time, the hepatitis-associated antigen test (H.A.A. test). An infected patient may be able to pass either virus to a contact as long as a week before the patient even feels any symptoms of illness. The following, on Type A, is the first of a two-part outline of information important in the effort to diminish person-to-person transmission of the hepatitis virus. The second part will appear in the next weekly bulletin.

The Type A virus is most commonly food-transmitted: the patient contaminates his or her hands with the virus from feces or urine and then carries the virus by way of the hands to food or drink which is swallowed by a contact. The contact may develop symptoms of the disease in approximately two to seven weeks. The infection may also be passed directly

from the patient to contact in oralsexual or other intimate person-to-person, household contact. If the contact is given a proper dose of human gamma globulin in less than 10-14 days after being infected, (preferably as soon as possible), the disease and its symptoms may be prevented. However, the contact may still have the virus in the blood-stream and be able to infect others.

Symptoms of Type A hepatitis may vary from mild to severe; they generally resemble an influenza-type infection with fever, aches, pains, headache, perhaps vomiting, diarrhea and cramping. In a later stage, some days after the onset, jaundice may develop in about 50-60% of the cases (dark urine, pale stool and yellow color in the white portion of the eyes). Treatment must be prescribed by a physician, although a mild form of the disease may require no more than bed-rest and simple home nursing procedures.

Women's Tribunal

As part of the Bay Area's recognition of International Women's Day, local feminists are sponsoring a Tribunal on Crimes Against Women. Personal testimonies and workshops are scheduled for Saturday, March 6th, from noon until 5:30 pm, at the Benjamin Franklin School (Scott and Geary).

The aim of the Tribunal is: 1) to focus public attention on lifestyles and institutions which create and perpetuate the crimes against women as a class and 2) to demand changes in public priorities, policies and practices.

Personal testimony will include sexual crimes (rape, incest, "snuff" films), medical crimes (forced sterilization, unnecessary surgery, shock therapy), legal crimes (wife beating), economic crimes (lower pay, welfare), etc. and these will be followed by solution workshops. After the workshops conclude, women will symbolically reclaim the streets by marching to City Hall (bring your own flashlight) in memory of millions of sisters who have been brutalized.

For more information, contact Danette Mulrine at 983-2529.

DA Warns Pharmacist to Post Drug Prices

Pharmacists had better post their prices on commonly prescribed drugs, D.A. Joseph Freitas, Jr., warned today. In a letter sent to certain San Francisco pharmacies, the District Attorney warned that pharmacists who do not comply with the law will face a maximum sentence of six months imprisonment and \$500 fine.

"We have been informed by the State Board of Pharmacy that certain pharmacies are not complying with the law," Freitas said. "This law was designed to protect all consumers, particularly elderly and infirm people; we intend to enforce it fairly, but fully and vigorously. Pharmacists who choose not to comply cannot say that they have not been warned."

Freitas commended the professionalism and cooperation of most pharmacies in their cooperation with the law requiring the conspicuous posting of drug prices. He said that it was most unfortunate that the minority who were

not complying with the law were darkening the reputation of the majority of ethical and honest pharmacists.

Rising Son

The Rising Son collective will present poetry night, the second in a series of three benefit cultural events on Monday, March 8. Local poets Mark Weiaman, Tode Matthews, Jon Hertzstam, Stanley Rutherford, and March Huestis will read their work at the Blue Dolphin, 3819 17th St., near Sanchez in San Francisco.

The Rising Son is a collective of gay men who plan to open a non-profit community coffeehouse and cultural center in the Castro area. At present it is a coffeehouse without a house. The benefits at the Blue Dolphin will help raise funds for the collective's own facility. Doors open at 8 pm and a \$1 donation will be asked. Film and video night, the 3rd event of this series will be Monday, March 22 at the Blue Dolphin.

For further information, contact Ed Treuting, 824-4696.

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Doug De Young and Speaker Leo McCarthy.

Our new Commissioner Harvey Milk also spoke and all wished the new officers and trustees well, and hoped that the Society continue its good efforts on behalf of the Community.

One of the highlights of the evening was when the Speaker of the House, Leo McCarthy, presented Doug De Young "The Speakers Plaque." Speaker McCarthy cited Doug's many good works and pointed out that this was only the sixth time in 20 months as Speaker that he has presented this award. Doug accepted the award on behalf of the entire community.

Larry Eppinette, newly elected President, introduced his new Officers and Trustees, and the evening came to a mellow and pleasant close.

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S.I.R.'s Annual Dinner

At the Annual Installation Dinner and Awards for the Society for Individual Rights, it looked almost like a caucus for political candidates. While well over 100 members and friends attended the dinner/buffet, (which was prepared by the Black Beauty Catering Co., and was excellent) a large turnout of the political community also attended.

Outgoing President De Young set up many awards and certificates, and for the first time many "Little People" and hard working volunteers of the Society were recognized. Kudos Mr. De Young.

Speaking informally to the gathering were the Mayor, George Moscone, the Sheriff, Richard Hongisto and the Chief of Police, Charles Gain.

Greeting the guests also were Senator Milton Marks, Supervisors Dorothy Von Beroldingen and Bob Mendelsohn.



Doug De Young and Speaker Leo McCarthy.

Gay Health Board Elections

Elections for the Gay Health Board are being held Sunday, March 7 at the Lurie Room of the Main Branch of the S.F. Public Library. This Board will be more than an advisory group to the Department of Public Health; it will also serve to give a voice for the gay community to other local, state, multi-county and federal agencies. One of the Board's first tasks will be to formulate and get funding for a grant proposal to create a new and experienced Gay Health Project, responsive to the needs of many facets of the community.

The Gay Health Board will be made up by election of 13 people, who have among them wide acquaintance with different parts of San Francisco's gay population. In order to assure this, the following procedures have been established. Members will be selected from the top three vote getters in the first four categories and the one top vote getter in the fifth category of persons who declare themselves and have a full and deep understanding of the problems of:

- 1) Third World Gay Females,
- 2) Third World Gay Males,
- 3) White Gay Females,
- 4) White Gay Males,
- 5) Transsexuals.

Following is an almost complete list of nominees (those nominations post-marked March 2, but not received yet on that date are not included.)

[Categories 1 thru 5]

- 1) Barbara Cameron, Pat Norman,
- 2) Richard Bravo, Christopher H. Mancha, Sattiva, Claude Wynne,
- 3) Robert Baker, Karen Gagan, Sharon L. Hess, Meg Goldfether,
- 4) Jeffrey Cohen, Tom Fry, Richard J. Hammond, Paul D. Hardman, Philip J. de Jaurequi, Jay, Michal Lipp, John R. Marino, John Newmeyer PhD, Jack Patrice Quinn, Roland G. Schembari, Robert A. Sheidler, Emmett N. Shorter, James L. Stoll, George A. Yeoman, Robert Viazard, M.D.,
- 5) Gina Baillie, Louise Gail Richardson.

Carol Ruth Silver is serving as Election Officer and will have the help of the Human Rights Commission in establishing safeguards and assuring fairness in all aspects of the election.

In addition to the Main Library, where candidates will speak and answer question during the elections, and voters can stop in at any time during the afternoon from 1 to 5:30 pm, polling places will be established at numerous locations in neighborhoods with a large gay population. Watch for them on Sunday afternoon, March 7. Valid identification only will be required to vote.

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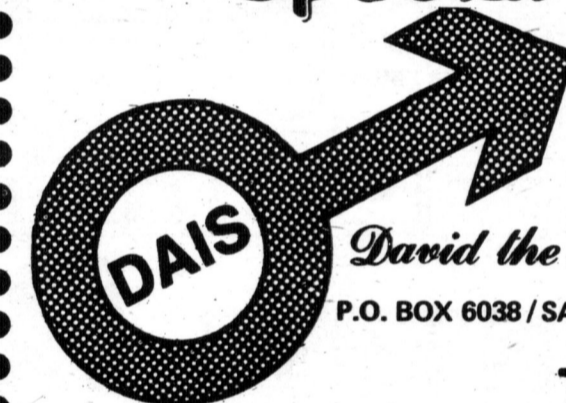
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FINDING THE ANSWERS

Tornado Down At The VD Clinic

The formation of a Gay Health Board to advise the city's Health Department of our needs has been unfortunately mixed into the attempt of four gay VD assistants to get their jobs back at the VD Clinic. Both sides of the VD conflict have been lax in resolving the problem. Public Health Director Dr. Francis Curry and Dr. Erwin Braff, Disease Control Director, agreed that the election of a Gay Health Board would be a good idea but they were too casual in setting it up. The four dismissed VD employees and their allies

were quick to fill a communications gap by announcing the election of the Board on March 7.

Fifty people attended an organizational meeting at SIR Center recently to establish a Steering Committee (which anyone can belong to merely by showing up) to advertise and bring off the Sunday, March 7 election at the Main Library (1 - 5:30). Any gay person can vote and there are several sex and ethnic classifications in the 13 person Board to keep it "representative." The literature advertising the SIR meeting was widely distributed — but it was highly inflammatory, calling for the public to protest the firing of the part-time gay employees at the VD Clinic. Thus some (many?) of those involved in

bringing off the election, are also involved in the Clinic conflict. This fact has made Health Dept. officials apprehensive about the coming election. They feel they should have been consulted about setting up the election. They were "informed" of the election, but did not participate.

Braff is well aware of the outcry that will come if the Health Dept. refuses to accept the elected Board, but this may happen. He says that Dr. Curry would not accept a Board that is "not representative of the gay community" — See letter from Dr. Curry, Ed.) in fairness to that community. Curry will also be watching to see how many people vote — if the turn out is small, the Board could possibly represent only a faction of the gay community. This could result in our health needs being set up with a limited concept in mind. The question becomes — will there be public hearings on gay health needs and what kind of proposals will be sent to the Health

Dept.?

Much of the conflict over the VD Clinic's administrator, is about Don Hawkins. He is a federally financed head of the clinic because Curry has been reluctant to appoint a director. Curry, out of this gay conflict, has now agreed to appoint such a person. Meanwhile, Hawkins is the "villain" in the conflict and maybe rightfully so. He pushed for the funding to set up the "trial" special Gay Health Project which hired 5 part-time gay males to test gay people in steam baths and bars. The project was to end recently, but was cut one month short by Curry, obviously on the recommendation of Hawkins and his "boss," Braff. With the remaining project funds, one of the upfront gay workers, Frank Meyers, was hired to work full-time through July.

It is obvious that Braff and Hawkins were unhappy with most of the workers in the project. Personality and procedural conflicts had developed at the clinic between Hawkins and the project workers. Without getting into these complicated conflicts, it must be stated that Hawkins — who pushed for and set up the gay project — is being openly called "anti-gay" by the dismissed workers. We have not determined if it is true, but he has given the impression to several workers that he is abrasive and intolerant. Evidently, because of Hawkins' great success in getting a half million dollars in federal funding for the Clinic, Braff and Curry are willing to accept Hawkins and not deal with his apparent lack of tact.

We repeatedly asked Hawkins if he called gay people "faggots," an accusation made by a former clinic employee (not gay), Peggy Leggett. He said he had seen Leggett's written statement accusing him of using the word "faggot" on two occasions. "I just threw it in the waste basket," was his quick reply. We said that other people didn't take the charge as casual as he did. He was asked, "Is the word 'faggot' part of your vocabulary?" and he replied, "What do you mean by that? Well, you know. Everyone has heard, right?" We explained that "faggot" was as offensive as "nigger" when it was said by a straight person in a negative manner. He agreed but did not answer our repeated question, "Is that word part of your vocabulary?" Instead, he said that if he was "so anti-gay, how come I work so hard to increase the services for gay people at the clinic? We are here to serve the people and these personal attacks on me and the formation of different factions is interfering with our work."

There is no question that the city's VD Clinic is one of the most outstanding in the nation. It is 40% financed by federal funds and an estimated 70% of its clients are gay. The VD checks and treatments are free and information obtained is kept confidential. There are many gay workers at the clinic, not part of any special project, and an atmosphere of caring and cooperation is evident. It is unfortunate that this conflict surfaced at the clinic but hopefully Braff and Curry will now be forced to do something about the clinic's administration if it does involve an explosive personality.

The new Gay Health Board, when and if it is recognized, will hopefully hold public hearings to determine gay health needs and pull away from the clinic conflict temporarily. If the clinic issue becomes an immediate concern of the new Board, it will bring it under attack as being unrepresentative. This

would result in gay and straight people questioning its future effectiveness. It is our hope that this does not happen. We need night hours for health needs, a services switchboard — 24 hours, unification of our health needs in a central location, etc. Let us hope that we can now move on and allow Braff and Curry to resolve the clinic problem as a separate issue.

Gay Health Project Misunderstanding

It has come to my attention that there has been considerable misunderstanding of my meeting with former employees of the Gay Health Project in Feb. 6, 1976 and of my letter to Mayor Moscone reporting that meeting.

My letter stated, "I have directed Dr. Erwin Braff to have the Venereal Disease Clinic staff contact representative leaders of the Gay Community, and ask them to form a committee, which represents the entire Gay Community and not a segment, to work with me and the Health Department to plan and develop a Gay Health Program, which will better serve the needs of the Gay Community, especially with relation to the detection, diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease. Also, the Program should include related health and emotional problems. Furthermore, the Committee should decide at their first meeting, how the Planning Committee will function with the Health Department, to develop as rapidly as possible, a thorough, complete and comprehensive program plan which shall be submitted to the Federal government (HEW) for requested funding."

In other words, I requested that a committee of representatives of the entire Gay Community be formed to work with me and the Health Department in developing a project to extend and expand health services for the Gay Community. The Gay Community Advisory Board, a component of that project and representative of the entire Gay Community, it to be formed only after the Planning Committee has written the proposal and set up procedures detailed within the proposal for a

truly democratic selection process with adequate advance publicity and supervision of that election process.

At this time, I will meet only with a Planning Committee of the Gay Community that is truly representative and well-balanced, as I had described in the letter. Recommendations for membership on this Committee should be sent to me or to Dr. Erwin Braff at 101 Grove Street.

For further information, contact Dr. Erwin Braff at 558-4046.

Francis J. Curry, M.D.
Director of Public Health

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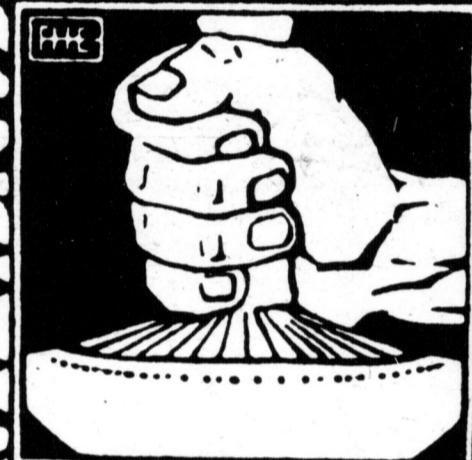
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Milk Forum

By Harvey Milk

Something has been happening in the nation over the past decade and the national media has not picked up on it. Not too long ago our elected leaders were leaders. Some were good, some were bad, but no matter which they were they did lead. The FDR's, the Truman's and so on, set the tone and the public followed. A lot of this was due to their insight, knowledge or whatever it was that told them what the people wanted/needed and they tried to lead the nation towards these wants/needs.

Then something happened. The elected officials lost touch with the

public and leadership gave way to personal power plays. Corruption of all types became the way of life of those in places of responsibility. Those elected to positions — on all levels — took their elevation as some sort of pontifical elevation.

Some people saw what was happening and reacted. Watts — to me — was saying "What about us? What is the government going to do about the poor? The schools? Opportunity?" Viet Nam was saying — to me — no longer will you lead us down paths without full disclosure. And on and on. Watergate said no more personal power trips and

corruption. And yet, out of the madness of it all, we still see too many elected officials at all levels not only not leading but still playing personal power trips and paying little attention to the needs-wants of the public.

We now see all over the nation, groups forming with rapid strength because our government ignores the problems of the nation and can not deal with their own corruption.

It is not only in the "liberal" confines of New York, Chicago and California that this is taking place. Recently, in Arkansas, a group of more than 5,000 dues paying members formed to initiate legislation to aid the elderly and fight urban decay. A "radical" mayor was elected in Austin, Texas! The list goes on. It is no longer isolated cases. It is a trend. As our government fails to take on the role of leadership the people are forming to become the new leaders. (Intervention in Angola was prevented not because our Congress felt it wise not to do so, but because the people — not Congress — halted Viet Nam.

It is happening on local levels too. Many elected officials still have not heard the message and they will continue to play the game as they have for years. But the tide is changing. Unless our government attacks the real problems that are effecting our economy and society, it will be the people — forming into organizatons —

that will provide the necessary leadership. Our current group of elected officials still believes that if they dole out small grants, they can then have the huge state and city budget all for themselves. They seem to forget just who pays the money into the treasury.

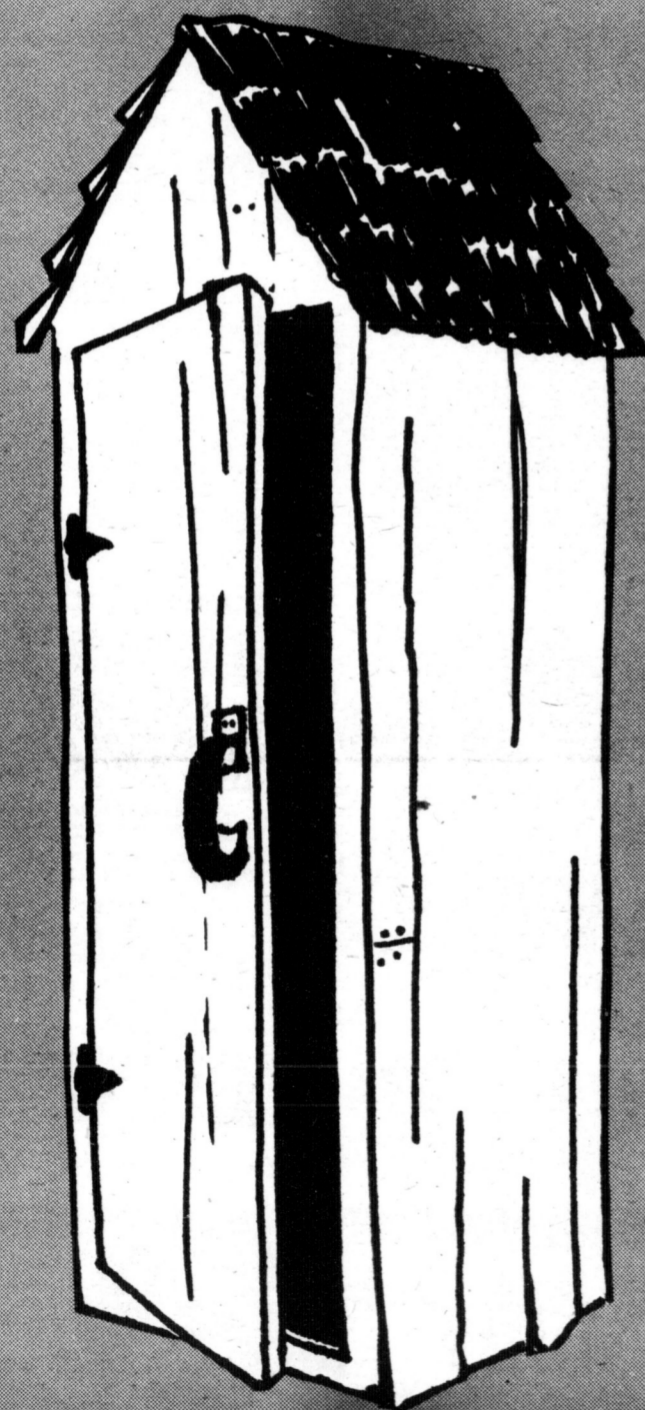
It is the average person buying a loaf of bread who sees greater and greater parts of that price going for taxes, all down the line, and finding out that the ones benefitting are a handful of privileged people.

Our government officials have to change. As long as they remain isolated in their political castle and surround themselves with political groupies, they will remain out of touch with people. Misuse of elected power, on any level, has too often been the root cause of our social and economic problems. The people are slowly waking up to the fact that they — the people — do have the power to effect real change. If our elected officials won't show real leadership, the people will. That's the beauty of our democratic system.

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EDITORIAL

Right-Wing Backlash

Last weekend several of us had the pleasure of listening to Elaine Noble address the Gay Student Union at UCLA. Ms. Noble is an out-front Lesbian and member of the Massachusetts State Assembly.

She spoke out on several issues and some of her remarks should be repeated. On the subject of apathy, she was most vocal. Too often too many Gay people are wont to sit back and let someone else carry the ball. One of the easiest things to do is to sit back and watch. We can all find fault in everything if we look for it. Let someone bust their back for years doing good things and no one pays any attention, make one mistake and hang on, all the good is forgotten as everyone zeroes in on the one mistake. Civil Rights, Black Rights and were not won overnight. They took years and the untold efforts of thousands of people.

We, as Gay people, must form alliances with other minority groups to fight for all of our civil rights, or we are not going to get anything.

Ms. Noble also warned to look out for the "Right Wing Backlash" which will come in full circle in from 3 to 5 years.

3 to 5 years indeed! Look around you, it's coming down right now. In the primaries thus far, Liberal candidates are going down, the ultra Right Wing conservatives like Jackson, Wallace, Ford and Reagan are showing strong support. Here in California, while we bask in the umbrella of AB 489 in the north, our Brethren in the south are being harassed, arrested subjected to all forms of ridicule. While here in the north, we have pliable and liberal legislators, the south is plagued with red necks. It is our duty as citizens to vote, to help support those candidates that help us, no matter what their political party affiliations might be. By support, we mean campaign for, finance them, and help walk districts to insure their election.

Right now there are heavy religious and conservative elements in this state gathering signatures and finances to repeal AB 489. We will find ourselves no longer getting new laws, but fighting tooth and nail to hang onto what little we have.

It is up to you my Brothers and Sisters, to wake up and get off your butts and get out and fight for your rights, because if you don't, you won't have any rights left.

Question the candidates running for all offices, get commitments and then vote. Don't waste the most precious right that you have, that of the vote. Register and vote!

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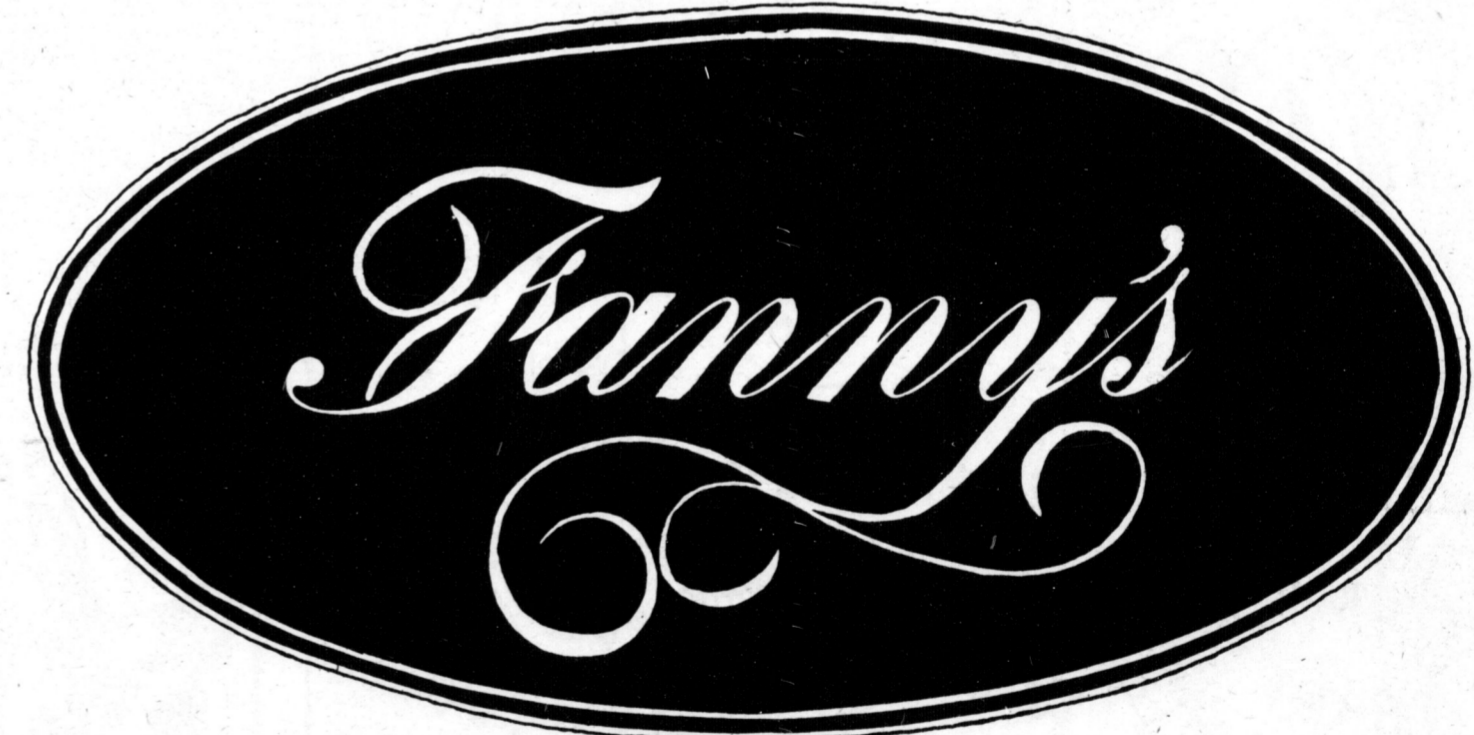
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EX CATHEDRA

By Rev. Raymond Broshears

AT LAST, A GAY CAUCUS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S CDC. The 24th Annual State-wide convention of the Calif. Democratic Council of Democratic Party Clubs, was held at the Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, February 27 thru 29.

It was a spectacular convention to say the least. For the first time in the history of CDC State Conventions, the Gay Caucus made itself a major voice, and most of this was due to the influx of new gay Democratic Clubs. And quite to the contrary to a statement by the gay caucus chairperson Jim Foster, it was NOT due to the work of George Raya. It was due to many things, but the SF Reform Democratic Club, founded by Bill Beardemphl and Elmer Wilhelm, and the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club, founded by myself, sure had no

help from Raya, just the opposite. And the same goes for the two new ones in Southern California, the Lambda Club and the spectacular and hardworking Stonewall Democratic Club, founded by Morris Kight.

Yes, the Stonewall Club leaders were the ones who worked so hard to put together a viable gay rights plank (printed elsewhere in in this issue) which was adopted without dissent. The Truman and SF Reform Clubs worked with Stonewall on the Plank, but it was the hard work of people like Morris Kight, Gerry Parker II, Howard Fox, Pat Rocco and others too numerous to mention, that made it a reality. Stonewall represents what the gay Democratic Clubs must be all about: coalition politics, hard work and dedication. The Stonewall Club hosted

a three room Gay Hospitality Suite on the fourth floor near my room, and the place was filled with heterosexual delegates, politicians, and wonderful, wonderful Stonewall volunteers working their butts off, to make it and the gay information table in the lobby the success it was. The Truman club gave some money towards the cost of the suites, and I did six hours work at the gay information table, which was a real experience. I nearly flipped out when Gray Davis, the special assistant to Governor Jerry Brown not only took a gay rights plank, and one of the buttons saying, "I Support The Gay Rights Plank," but he put the button on, and said he was in favor of it.

Ditto for U.S. Senatorial candidate Tom Hayden, who won the endorsement of the CDC for Senator.

Senator John Tunney showed up, but did not impress anyone, and finished with 224 votes out of a possible 1,100 which is not good.

The politicians were courting the gay caucus like mad. Fred Furth, State


Senate candidate was there every day, campaigning for votes in his bid to beat Bob Mendelsohn and unseat Milton Marks. A fine man, and a real hard worker, a Democrat too!

Harris got the presidential nomination, but Jimmy Carter and Mo Udall were in there, and their workers (including yours truly) were really pitching. Bob Ross, Mike Delaney and Paul Hardman were delegates to the convention, along with myself. It was wild and fun and lotta hard work. Elmer Wilhelm, F.E. Mitchell, and Jim Chicarella were the delegates from the S.F. Reform Democrats. Some of the delegates from the Toklas Club really made a big impression with fine lobbying and intensive quizzing of the candidates, particularly Congressman George Brown of southern California, who spoke for Fred Harris.

The person who wouldn't take no for an answer was David Goldman of BAGL infamy. He was good, damn good, and other delegates from the gay caucus could take a lesson from David Goldman in how to lobby... hard and effectively. Are you listening "volunteer lobbyist" George Raya?

Chris Perry, Hank Wilson, Larry Eppinette, president Bob Cramer, all made themselves felt. Hats off to an old foe of mine, Duke Smith, the registered Democrat, who works for the Republicans. But he did do the WORK which he was supposed to do, a lot more, as an official of the CDC. He, Betsy Kraft (administrative aide to Adria Garabedian) both ran the delegate registration super smooth, especially when you compared it to the sloppy work done by the southern California side of the lobby.

The New Gay Democrats are making themselves known. And some of the Old Gay Democrats learned that "status quo" won't be the order of the day any longer. Jim Foster, who was the only gay active in the CDC for sometime, had his leadership challenged by some of the members, led by me of course. And while he imported Troy Perry just for a speech in his behalf, he may have won the "battle", but he lost the "war" to keep things the way he wants them. Changes were made, and he was challenged for the first time, face to face, on the floor of a Democratic Party (CDC) funtion. I hope that he has



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learned that he must work with ALL people, regardless of how he feels about them. Rememer Jim, and all who you support hi, if you hadn't brought Troy Perry in for that special speech (he didn't work or attend anything else at the convention, for after all, he is the gay god of soooo many), and he hadn't put it in such a way that it appeared that a vote against you would have been the same as voting against him, you would never have carried it as big as you did, and maybe not at all. Think about it, particularly the vote on the secret ballot which was lost, 37 to 32. Those 32 and the abstentions could have been AGAINST YOU, instead of 16 loyal souls who stood up to you and Troy Perry and you all's mentor, David B. Goodstein.

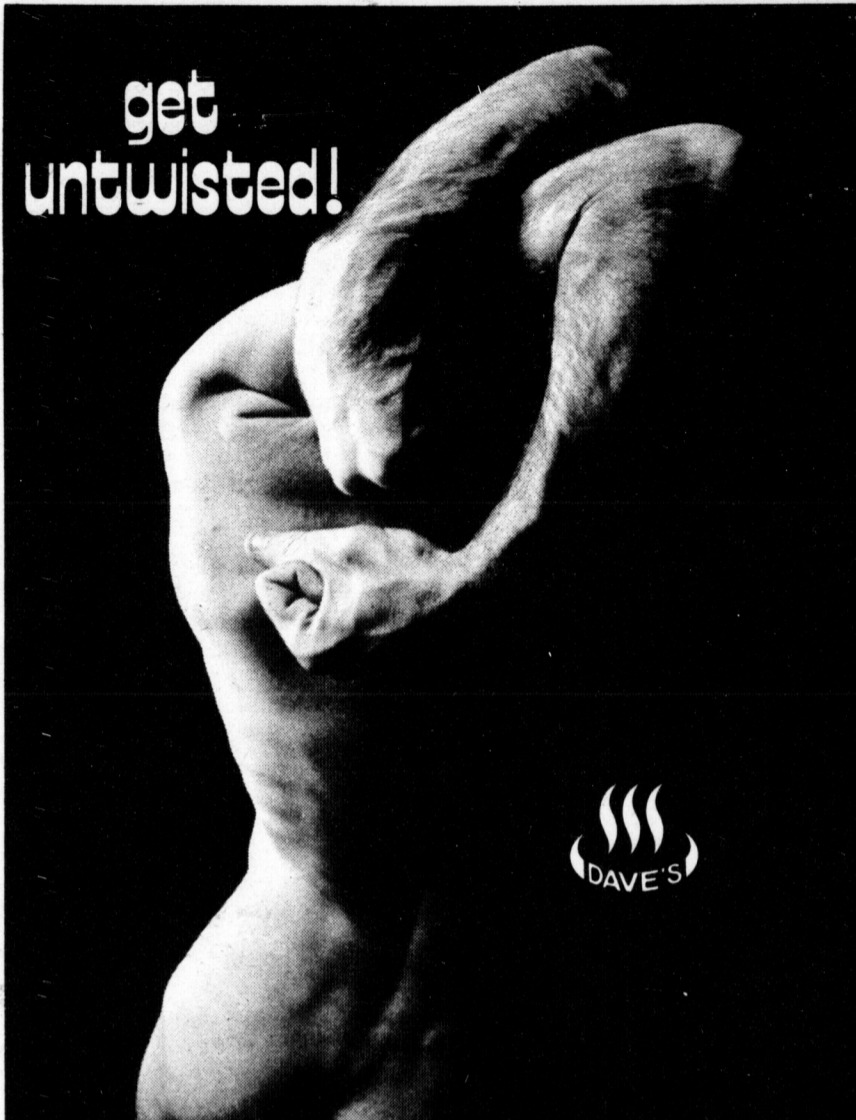
Yes, gays are becoming politically aware and the Jim Fosters, the Ray Broshears, the Bob Ross's and the others, who have working hard for years have now been joined by younger and eager working gay Democrats, such as Hank Wilson, Chris Perry, Gerry oarker, Bob Mann of San Diego, John Bennett of Sacramento, David Goldman and so many others, and the face of the gay caucus in the Democratic Party is changing too. And we can achieve what we want, if we work together in Coalition on items, and not try for the tired and worn "unity" trip, which simply means "do it my way, or you are not working for unity." Times change and it'd wonderful. Right Morris Kight? Another old warrior who likes the young blood in the ranks. Newt Dieter of the Hollywood Hills Democratic Club is another "oldie" but goodie who likes the changes too, which is to hs credit also.

And you, the reader, why don't you get involved Today, with the four

gay Democratic Clubs in San Francisco and the one in San Jose! If you arent helping to solve the problems then you are a big problem yourself. A hypocrite if you talk and don't do.

ODDS AND ENDS Steve Edwards who was the "Acme Man" wrote me a letter saying that he was unhappy over the closing of the Center. Right on! And the one statement he made that was so true...all those of you out there who bitched and moaned about the way I ran it, why didn't you take it over and run it yourself! Talk is cheap and that is why so many of the creeps who run others down, do it, because they can afford to complain, bitch and tear down, but they can't afford to work, for work makes you responsible for what goes wrong or right. Steve Edwards is a beautiful person in so many, many ways. Politix, Politix. Endorsements for State Senator, Assembly, and Congress will be made on March 20th at the Harry S. Truman Club luncheon at the Casa de Cristal. So, if you want your candidate to get the endorsement, join the Club today. It costs but \$12 per year. Call me for details at 771-3366 which is the Helping Hands Switchboard. I will also give you the names and addresses of the other clubs in case you would much rather be a member of them. By the by, Paul hardman has now joined the Truman Club, as has Arlene Kempf.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:
B.A.R.
The following is an open letter to Mr. Marcus.

Dear Marcus:
It is rare that I respond to a notice or review of something I have done onstage. This time, I feel I must comment on your last column.

The specific part I wish to discuss is your review of "Schawntz Lake", done at the B.C. Anniversary party.

First, may I say "Thank You" for the wonderful things you said about me personally. It is a nice feeling a performer gets inside when someone notices his or her efforts onstage. Again, thank you.

Unfortunately, I feel I cannot take all the bows you allowed me. You see, I actually had very little to do with the production of our ballet (?). It was

originally put together for the Denny Beller Benefit in Monterey, and actually WAS the combined efforts of every one in it!

The only person who really should be singled out, I feel, is none other than Jimmy Tritt, who, singlehanded, herded all of us cows into a group of swans (!) HE attempted to choreograph us into something graceful, and we are all happy you feel he succeeded!

This was not any Club sponsored thing, but a bunch of guys (from at least 5 different clubs, plus three Independents), who wanted to do something for Denny.

We are happy that the Barbary Coasters asked us to repeat it for their 10th Anniversary Party, we are delighted you and the rest of the guys liked it, and I am happy to spread the credit around between eleven other great guys

for a fun job, well done.
Thank you all.
Sincerely,
/s/ J.J. Van Dyck

Editor:

As usual, Lou Greene is completely out of touch with what is really happening in San Jose. In his last column he says "except for a handful of locals, San Jose couldn't be bothered to support their own functions." When will Lou realize that San Jose never has and never will be into the drag and "title" trip that San Francisco is into? We have our act together down here and its going to be even better but "royalty," "drag" and "titles" are not our scene nor will it be. The gay leaders of this city will not tolerate a bunch of sick queens to take over this city and project a bad image as they have in San Francisco.

For a long time Lou has been relying too much on Goldie Montana

for material for his column and as a result is getting a distorted picture of what is really happening here in San Jose. Why doesn't he drive down here and find out for himself what is going on?

Sincerely,
/s/ David Harris
San Jose

Editor:

After having read of the most distressing plight of the Empress of Colma in the latest issue of your newspaper, I wish to extend to the Empress of Colma, Melvina, the Holy Sanctuary of the Church, to protect her from the wrath of the Lord High Executioner of the Cardinal Court of His Imperious Majesty, Flame, Empress XI, De San Francisco.

And to the surrounding Imperial Empires of Santa Rosa, Stockton, Sacramento, San Jose, Monterey and Colma, I wish all the subject and rulers therein to know that the Church does indeed and in fact recognize their authority as equal with any and all Courts in the Gayland of America, including San Francisco's!

And the Church does take great exception to the sins committed by His Royal Majesty Flame XI, and call upon Him to repent and ask forgiveness of those offended by his Imperious holier-than-thou attitudes, which were prompted by the harlot dowager Empress De San Francisco, famed backroom entertainer at the Black Cat Saloon, Jose!

The Church calls upon this person to also ask forgiveness towards other peoples rights. And, confess to all that he was not the legal spouse of Emperor Norton, but only an outcast mistress.

Witness my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy six.

† Carlos II
Episcopus,
Ecclesiae Orthodoxi Dei *

(* H.E., R. Charles Broshears, II
Orthodox Episcopal Church
of God

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading three letters to the editor in the 2/19/76 issue of B.A.R. Although I'm sure it wasn't intended that way, Melvina's was the funniest, with Dick Gersbach's running a close second. To Cristal I can only say "AMEN."

Mr. Gersbach's principal complaints were having to buy "weak-over-priced drinks" in a place that could not be "remotely considered part of the gay business community." ("Will we never learn to avoid these straight businesses which still take advantage of us.") He appeared also to be upset that Flame had set boundaries of her realm and that she would be the only Empress recognized within that realm.

I would like to comment as follows:

Over two years ago, I wrote a column in a Los Angeles paper (because the papers in San Francisco didn't want to touch the subject — or so I was told) regarding the furor which erupted when the title of Emperor of San Francisco was registered in one individual's name. The Gay Community of San Francisco is aware of what happened as a result of that furor.

At that time the title of Empress was not registered to anyone. Nothing was done about it for approximately two years, until the title of Empress was

registered in the name of one individual. The TG threatened a lawsuit to get ownership of the title transferred to them. This was finally accomplished without the suit.

Now the President of the TG is beside himself because Flame has established the boundaries of her realm. I should think that if the TG had (or was supposed to have) control of the title, they should have set the boundaries a long time ago.

Rather than simply say: "You are Wrong — Do something.", I will say that I feel this is wrong, and this is what WE should do about it:

The TG (Tavern Guild) has outlived its usefulness. The bars of San Francisco are not the only businesses which need an organization behind them. San Francisco needs a GAY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (or some other title as long as "Guild" is not part of it) which would represent ALL businesses in San Francisco whether they be bars, hair styling salons, newspapers, graphics houses, florists, frame shops, etc.

I feel we should abolish the TG and establish a GBA. Once that has been accomplished, transfer title of the Empress to a Council of Emperesses with a Constitution similar to the Office of the Emperor (please don't forget the boundaries of the realm).

Once that has been accomplished, we should set about the process of Building our own community center with all public funds collected to date for that purpose. This center would house the offices of the GBA and other organizations like SIR, MCC, and shop or office spaces for Office of the Emperor, Council of Emperesses, and such gay services as B.A.R., and Kalendar, one of more graphics houses, a silk screening company, a quick-printing shop, etc., with a snack bar (operated by BGA) to serve customers and employees of these businesses.

On the second floor, I would suggest a theater of a size suitable for coronations, investitures, title contest finals and legitimate theater productions like "Oz" and "Rusty." Rental fees for the use of the theater would be established by the BGA to help defray costs of maintaining the building.

Also on the second floor there should be a large meeting room with moveable partitions which could be used to divide up the room to accommodate several meetings at the same time.

As long as the building will be used for various gay functions, there should be a sufficient number of bars strategically located throughout the second floor. GBA would own the liquor (or catering) license outright and be responsible for quality of drinks, prices, and service, in return for which they would receive all proceeds from the bar to help operate the building.

Two floors of parking in the basement (or lower floors) should be adequate to handle these facilities. If the building were located in an area where parking is a problem in general, the garage could be operated during peak parking periods as a regular business venture to bring in still more revenue for GBA.

I honestly feel we have the necessary brains and brawn to put this plan into effect ourselves without relying on any help from the straight community. Or at least keep that help limited to as small an amount as possible. I would venture a guess that there are enough architects, engineers, carpenters, laborers, masons, painters,

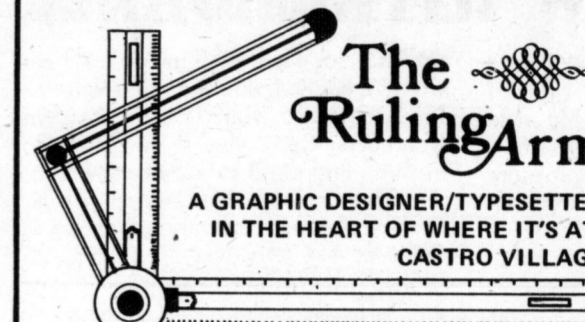
pipe-fitters, etc. to physically erect this structure by ourselves with our own hands at the least possible cost.

What better way could we show the general public that we are not just a bunch of screaming faggots than with a project of this magnitude.

This letter is not intended to damn or defend anyone. It is meant only to provide an alternate — an alternate that can work — to sitting around bitching because nothing is being done. It is also a plea for all of us to get off our asses and on the ball.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jim Becker

TOPS IN TYPESETTING/IDEAS

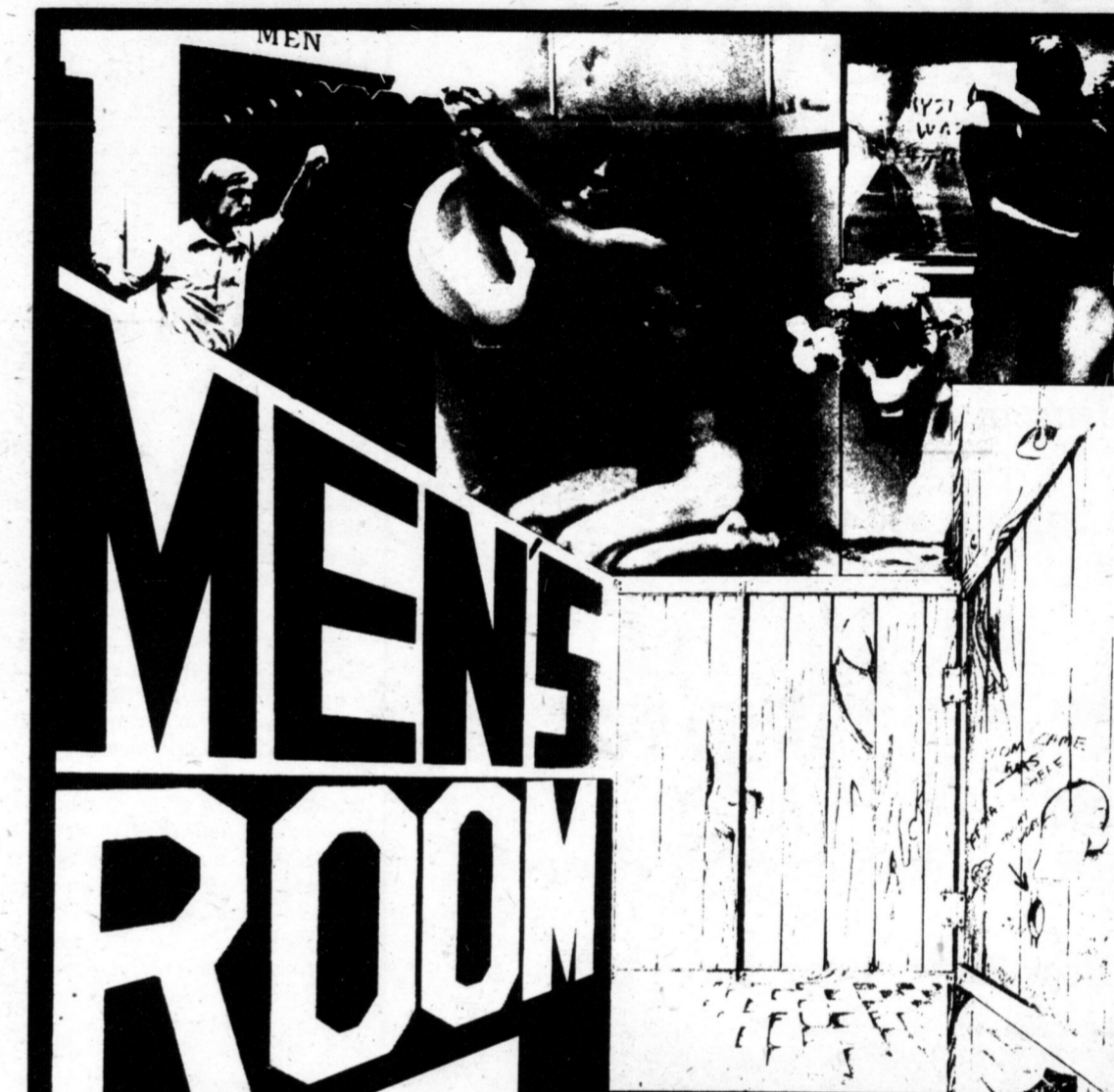


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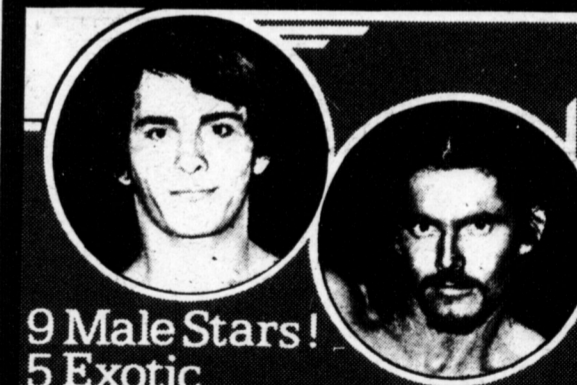


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INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL KEARNS, "HAPPY HUSTLER"

"It's so boring to be bisexual. I am. I was bisexual before it was chic. I think I am very latently heterosexual. My male relationships are not idyllic. I am a tremendously selfish person, and more than I need male or female relationships, I need an audience relationship. I wake up every morning and think 'What

can I do today to further my goals?' I am CONVINCED I am the only one — Linda Lovelace, Harry Reams, Marilyn Chambers, Cal Culver — who will go from underground to aboveground!"

Thus spaketh *The Happy Hustler* Michael Kearns, currently appearing in *Rusty* at 444 Broadway. The 6'3", 25

year old author/actor is brutally frank, let the chips fall where they may, and the stereotype interview goes (thank God!!!) right out the window. Kearns could care less about "playing the game" correctly. When we meet for lunch, he flashes the dazzling eager smile and blithely proceeds to set the record straight on several controversies that have arisen in the past year since the release of his autobiographical (supposedly) novel, *The Happy Hustler* revealing the sordid graphic details of a bisexual hustler. And Michael Kearns is definitely a hustler in the true sense of the word. For instance, after appearing last season as John-Boy's best friend on *The Waltons*, studio execs were shocked when word leaked out that wholesome Michael was also Grant Tracy Saxon, porno author. And who do you think was on the phone the morning after the show leaking the details to *People Magazine*? Right! Kearns himself.

So, let's get the true story first on *The Happy Hustler* book — "Look, it was a gimmick . . . period! The book is based on the fact that I have had sex numerous times with men and women and got paid for it. Then we get into distortion. I'm not interested in only a gay audience or only a straight audience, so I have devised a plot to succeed. The book was written to sell me, to sell books, to sell a nightclub act and to pay my bills. And for \$1.75, if some guy in Omaha wants to believe it's all really true, who am I hurting? I actually wrote it, but I was helped. My second book, *Making Love*, is due next month. The third book will be called *Beneath the Happy Hustler* and we're going to get down to the nitty gritty. I'm writing that one completely by myself. I mean, Jaqueline Susann is dead and I'm alive. We're going to talk about the famous and near famous." And from a few names that he casually reveals intimate details of in conversation, Michael Kearns knows the dirt.

Michael is so disarmingly frank about his conning of the general public, you have to admire his energy and chutzpah if nothing else. Actually, I find Kearns quite likeable; he's sharp

By Donald McLean

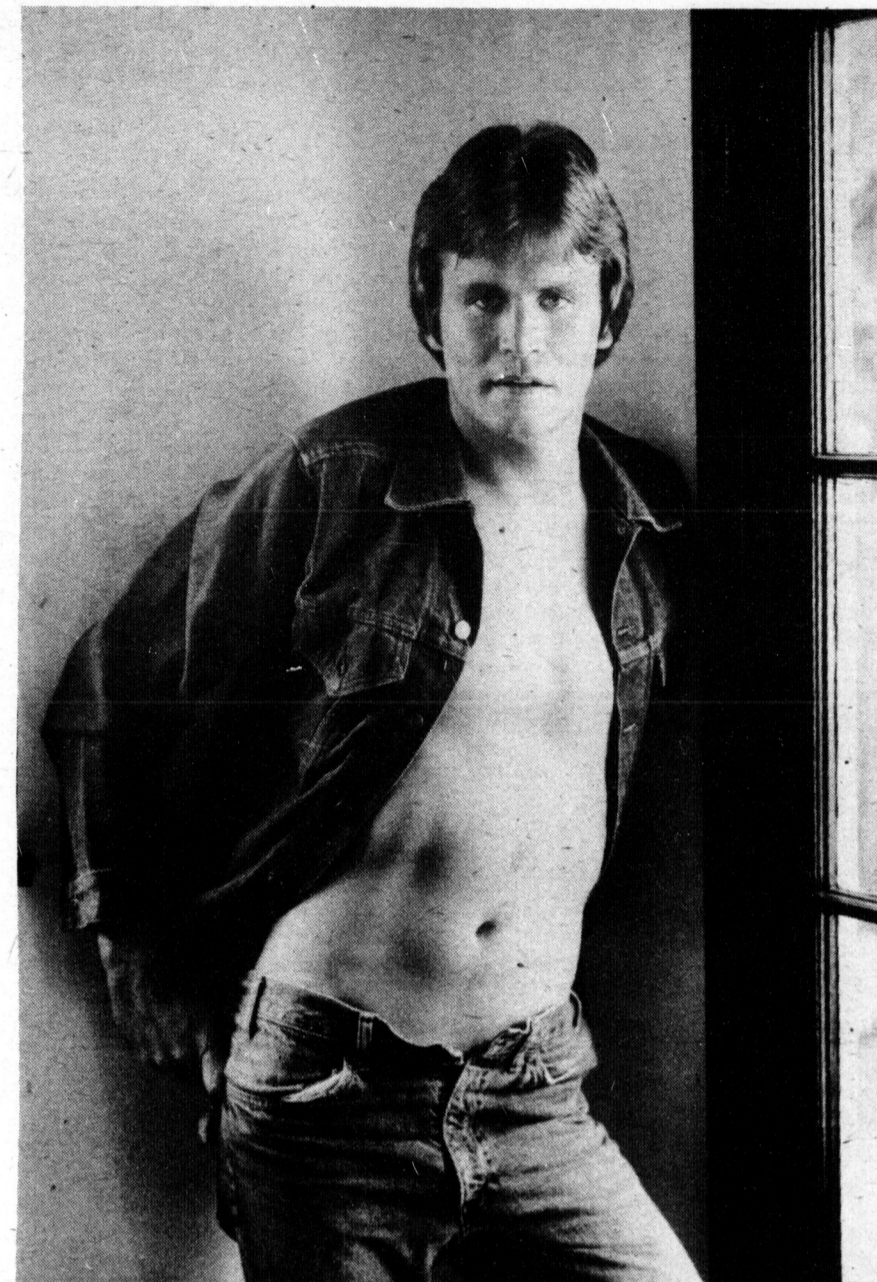


"The Happy Hustler" Michael Kearns goes legit on Broadway.

beyond his years and if he plays the game just a little better than the rest, more power to him. He has just sold the movie rights to his book, although he wisely smiles "I haven't signed my contract yet." There is a condition that there will be a part for Kearns in the film, probably as the best friend of the *Happy Hustler*. Why not his own role? I couldn't play my own part because, get this, 'I am too old to play the young love scenes.' Do you love it?"

We discuss the recent violent death of Sal Mineo, a tragedy that had Kearns hysterical. "We were just good friends, really that's all, but I loved Sal . . . But also, Sal was close to using me for McCaffery (a planned film Mineo wanted to make), although I'm way too old for the part. You see? It was selfish on my part, because, while I loved Sal, I also saw I would never get the chance to play that role. It's very neurotic. I am the antithesis of self-destructive, because I know I could be."

We briefly discuss *Rusty*, his current project, but Michael Kearns shies away from promoting it too heavily; I gather there are internal problems that prevent him from being overly enthusiastic at this point. One



Michael Kearns shows his wares in "Rusty".

good thing that has resulted thus far is he reveals he is having an affair with fellow player Mark McIntire, who "says that I'm the First Lady of Gay Theater!" The brown eyes relish the description, but grow serious again when I question why he is doing the play — "Because I wanted to get more of a following here in San Francisco . . . I don't think anyone realizes what nudity is all about. I don't feel the nudity in *Rusty* is necessary at all. It's much sexier for my money to wear undershorts, but I wouldn't be able to work if I don't do nudity. It's expected of me."

And after his run with *Rusty* is finished and the new book is out, what then? "I have three fantasies. I did *The Last Pad* in L.A. by William Inge and with Nick Nolte, one of the most exciting experiences of my life. He's going to be the biggest star. And William Inge killed himself the night before we opened. The character I played was Inge, he always wrote himself into his plays, and while I don't believe in the supernatural, Inge's ghost was in that theater. I am determined to bring *The Last Pad* here to San Francisco with myself in the Nolte role and dedicate it all to Inge and Sal Mineo. I'm perfectly happy with my body as it is, but it's not terrific. So I'm going to hit the gym, cut my hair and change my image to do the Nolte role. That's a fantasy I'm sure will happen. My 2nd fantasy — I really want to play the part of Jeff in *Consenting Adults*, and third is the nightclub act."

From the way the young career of Michael Kearns is progressing, his fantasies don't seem unlikely at all for complete realization. He's bright, he's

funny, he's able to laugh at himself while putting on others. It's a unique combination, but shadows of his former profession still linger. When I mention to the *Rusty* press agent, "I'll let you know when I want to come," Kearns laughs and says, "No, let me know when you want to come!"

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Tony Sullivan, who recently received attention in the National News Media when an immigration visa was denied Tony on the basis that "A married state could not exist between two faggots." For more information, contact Chuck Bayles, 563-5366.

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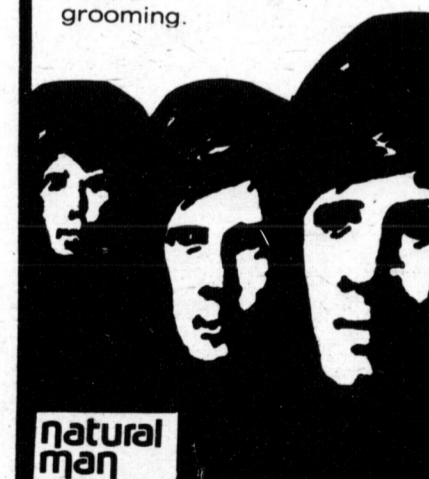
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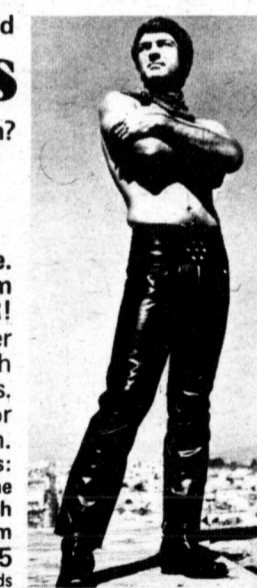


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Show Biz In Review

By Donald McLean

Stage: Raisin

In 1956 Lorraine Hansberry wrote *A Raisin In The Sun*, which quite possibly may be the most memorable piece of Black Theatre written in the 20th Century. The play was a beautiful, moving story about a black ghetto family striving to better themselves via a \$10,000 bonanza the mother inherits. The mother wants to buy a house in a decent neighborhood for her family, the son wants to open his own business and the youngest daughter wants to go on to Medical School. It was a simple, honest look at black dignity in a turbulent time that made more inroads for under-

into a white neighborhood or a black girl striving for a career no longer sounds radical; there's been great progress since Miss Hansberry's play. *Raisin* maintains the 50's philosophy, negating much of its potential relevance to today. The score by Judd Woldin and Robert Brittan is dimly forgettable, almost to the point of non-existence, except when star Virginia Capers wraps her magnificent belting voice around a lyric, and Miss Capers could probably sing the Long Island phone book with conviction. Virginia Capers is incandescent as the mother, deserving of every accolade that can be heaped upon her.

That is also true of her supporting



Virginia Capers casts a watchful eye on her family — Arnetia Walker, Mary Seymour & Autris Paige — In "Raisin."

standing than all the clenched fists and picket lines in the world.

The musical version of Hansberry's play retains the beauty and humor of the original, thanks to a script by Robert Nemiroff and Charlotte Zaltzberg, but ultimately, the musical adaptation is only an intrusion upon the original. In 1976, the 50's bigotry seems obsolete, the thought of a black family moving

cast — Autris Paige as the son, Mary Seymour as his wife Ruth, Darren Green as their wily son, and especially Arnetia Walker as Beneatha, the sister. They all sing and act with superlative ease, leading one of the finest casts to grace a Broadway musical. Donald McKayle has staged some exciting choreography, Robert U. Taylor designed an excellent atmospheric set, and Margaret Harris conducts the pit orchestra with a knowing hand. Unfortunately, the newly-opened Orpheum Theatre needed a better balanced sound system on opening night; many lyrics were lost midway back.

But for all its many plusses, *Raisin* is a small show about a black family; production numbers, chorus dancers and inane songs look exactly like what they are, intrusions to try and justify a musical rehash of a play that stands superbly on its own. *Raisin* is not bad, it's just that *Raisin in the Sun* was so much better.

Film: Seven Beauties

Lina Wertmuller's new film, opening March 10th at the Clay Theatre, re-establishes her as the "director of the 70's." Wertmuller's jaundiced view of life enables her to slash politically left, right and center while unraveling a frequently hilarious, ultimately repulsive and always cynical tale of an Italian soldier in World War II who ends up as a deserter in a German concentration camp destined for the

ovens and who fights to save his meaningless life at the expense of everything we are taught to hold dear.

Pasquali *Seven Beauties* (Italian slang for "hot stuff") flashes back to his macho Italian male upbringing, saddled with seven wart-cheeked sows for sisters that he must protect as the male of the family. He kills the oldest sister's pimp, chops up the body and ships it off in sections to three different cities, is caught and pleads insanity and finally, volunteers for the war to escape the asylum (fully sane and proud of upholding his filial obligation). In the camp, he saves himself by making love to an obese S.S. bullydye, and ultimately ends up ordering his Italian buddies slaughtered by joining the Germans.

It sounds incredibly grim, and it often is, but there are flashes of brilliant comedy, such as the scene chopping up the body done in pure Chaplinesque tradition by the magnificent Giancarlo Giannini as Pasquali. All along the way, Wertmuller softens the horror by touches of comedic genius, but her cynical indictment of the "Man in order" — i.e., the non-thinking, blindly conventional people who follow any strong leadership that offers them the path of least resistance — makes *Seven Beauties* a bitter pill to swallow. The writer/director opts for a cynical look at the power of the individual to survive, the barbarian that lurks beneath the surface in us all, while bitterly condemning the power structure of leaders who believe "Christ was Santa Claus as a child!" It's powerful, it's ugly it's disturbing, it's Wertmuller attacking at all levels simultaneously, conjuring every emotion possible in her cerebral attack upon her audience. There is a frightening performance by Shirley Stoler as the S.S. bullydye, but it is Giannini's portrayal that ranks among one of the great ones ever to be remembered. *Seven Beauties* may ultimately repel you, but you'll be fascinated steadily along the way.

Concert: Anna Russell

After a 12 years absence, Anna Russell returned to San Francisco on Feb. 21st at the Masonic Auditorium to display once again the consummate comedic timing that has made her without peer in her field. From her opening takeoffs upon national anthems of various countries to her razor sharp satire of German lieder singers



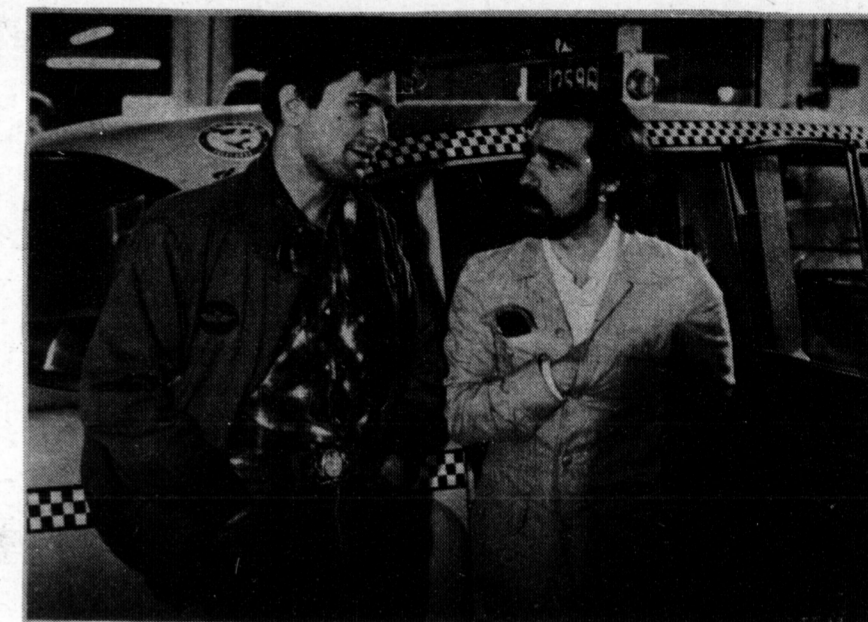
The inimitable Anna Russell.

and women's club presidents, Miss Russell kept a packed house in stitches. When she returned in flowing pink chiffon for her second half, it was to

offer a layman's explanation of Verdi's *Nabucco* with its intricate plots, subplots and counterplots, present accompanist Frank Bartholomew in a hilarious virtuoso turn at the piano, and close with her lengthy and side-splitting analysis of Wagner's Ring Cycle. While *Nabucco* is still in the formative stage and not tight enough yet, her rendition of the Ring Cycle is classic and could not be improved upon. Anna Russell is a truly funny lady; she knows by the merest nuance how to evoke laughter and her knowledge of classical music enables her to be its severest critic. I wouldn't have missed her for the world!

Film: Taxi Driver

Taxi Driver could well become the most controversial film of the year. Brilliantly directed by Martin Scorsese and with an excellent score by the late Bernard Herrman, this powerful film



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explores the mind of a psychotic cab driver in New York City, an ill-educated idealist revolted by the human filth he comes in contact with daily. Scorsese examines only the most sordid side of humanity, a world of hookers, pimps, junkies and gangsters. Travis Bickle, stunningly portrayed by Robert De Niro, eventually finds a symbol of purity in Cybill Shepherd, and when he becomes ultimately disillusioned by her human frailty, he seeks to save a 12½ year old hooker, beautifully played by Jodie Foster. He sees himself as an avenging angel, trying to rescue this child prostitute (who is quite satisfied at her trade) from herself.

The film is exquisitely made, every performance is topnotch (even Miss Shepherd manages to generate a little interest), and I find the script and premise by Paul Schrader vomitous. The final ten minutes, when De Niro becomes a one-man army against the hoods, is stomach-turning in its unrelenting gore; a man's brains are blown out onto the wall behind him in vivid color, etc. There is no sympathy for this demented cab driver, the other characters less so (except Foster), and *Taxi Driver* ultimately becomes another wallow in the muck and mire of human depravity. It's harsh, it's ugly, but worse, it's a portrait of a psychotic vigilante elevated to hero status. It holds much the same appeal as last year's *Death Wish* but without justification, the final scene absolutely morally repellent on every level.

New Yorkers are lined up for blocks daily to see this film; they're obviously even more masochistic than I thought.

Stage: Rusty

Rusty, now playing at the new 444 Broadway Theatre, is a modern day gay play by Douglas Dean that parallels that classic melodrama by Dumas Fils, *Camille*. It takes more than a little getting used to accept the premise that bronzed, bursting-with-health Jack Wrangler is slowly wasting away with Leukemia (consumption being passe in this day and age). But as the play unfolds, you begin to realize that this is probably the easiest premise in the play to adjust to.

It becomes a lot harder to accept that Peter (or Armand), a young college student, has worshipped Rusty (Wrangler) from afar in class, while being exclusively heterosexual, and after two five minute encounters with Rusty (both times of which Rusty is quite rude), Peter decides to sweep all before him and turn gay so he can have Rusty with nary a backward glance. Okay, he's an impetuous kid, Rusty is quite a charmer physically, and while there's no hint Peter has been fighting with his closet, it seems probable. So, off they go for two sex-filled weeks in lyrical Lake Tahoe (as Rusty deserts his older college teacher/lover plus steady trick on the side). Then, well meaning-meddling Mother shows up (you'd guessed that already). When mother's big excuse to Rusty to give up Peter is that someday Peter might possibly become a lawyer and decide to run for Governor of the State, and the public isn't ready to accept an acknowledged homosexual for Governor yet, my credulity is strained to the limits. That Rusty goes for this excuse makes it collapse completely. Peter is all of 22 and it's highly doubtful that he'll make Governor (which he has no intention of trying for it turns out) before Rusty

kicks off. And absolutely everybody in town seems to know Rusty's got leukemia; it must be the talk of the campus.

What Dean may have intended to be a sincere, sentimental love story succeeds only in being embarrassingly mawkish, with Rusty and Peter engaging in sudden bursts of lyrical poetic fancy while standing naked at opposite sides of the stage, sort of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning with balls. The play is pretentiously overwritten, with virtually no humor for letup, so it becomes increasingly fraught, fraught, the fraughtest. And since there are no surprises plot-wise (right up to and including Peter throwing the money in Rusty's face), you begin to wish for those white cells to chew a little faster so we can all go home.

The cast of six try valiantly to make this giant cliché sound plausible. Jack Wrangler as Rusty is so lowkey noble and sincere so monotonously you just know he'll leave his body to science when he goes, while Michael Kearns in the more demanding role of Peter has to run a gamut of 6'3" Andy hardy Goes Gay to Barbara Stanwyck-in-a-snit and repentant. He does have one quite nice moment when Rusty leaves him and Kearns breaks down completely and his final confrontation with Mother strikes sparks, thanks to his solid underplaying and Kenna Hunt's excellent portrayal of the mother. Mark McIntire, as Rusty's bitchy ex-trick, makes his every brief scene an eagerly awaited gem, Robert Cowell offers sturdy support as the well-meaning friend and Dean Goodman, who directed atrociously, is adequate as the castoff older lover.

In the hands of six lesser actors, this play would be unbearable. As it is, it's just an interminable bore.

Film: Nureyev's 'Don Quixote'

As a dancer, Rudolf Nureyev possesses such charismatic brilliance that we tend to forget his other achievements; he is one of the finest danseur noble performing today, and he seems more and more destined to be remembered as the choreographer who updated and preserved the great ballets. I have always thought *Don Quixote* was a crashing bore as a ballet... until now.

Amidst the Spanish pagentry of bullfighters, flamenco dancers, gypsies and moon-drenched pas de deux, Nureyev has created the most gorgeous and satisfying ballet on film. Utilizing the talents of the Australian Ballet Company, one of the most exciting new companies to emerge in recent years, *Don Quixote* etches the legend of the lost dreamer against a passionate background filled with romance and humor. There are some wonderful comedic moments throughout, a stately mime performance of Quixote by Robert Helpmann, new sets and costumes designed for the film particularly, and excellent photography by Geoffrey Unsworth. But it is the saucy performance of Lucette Aldous as Kitri/Dulcinea and the superb partnering of Nureyev that give the film its most shining moment. The entire company rise to the occasion with admirable virtuosity. *Quixote*, with Nureyev harking back to the original of Marius Petipa, has been given an opulent look that belies the usual stage production on film.

For dance enthusiasts, *Don Quixote* is a rare visual treat that satisfies on all levels. It will be shown at the Palace of Fine Arts for three nights only — March 5th at 8 pm, March 6th at 7 & 8, and March 7th at 3 & 7 pm. Go, by all means!



Rudolf Nureyev has created the best ballet film yet, "Don Quixote."

1974-1975 Golden Awards



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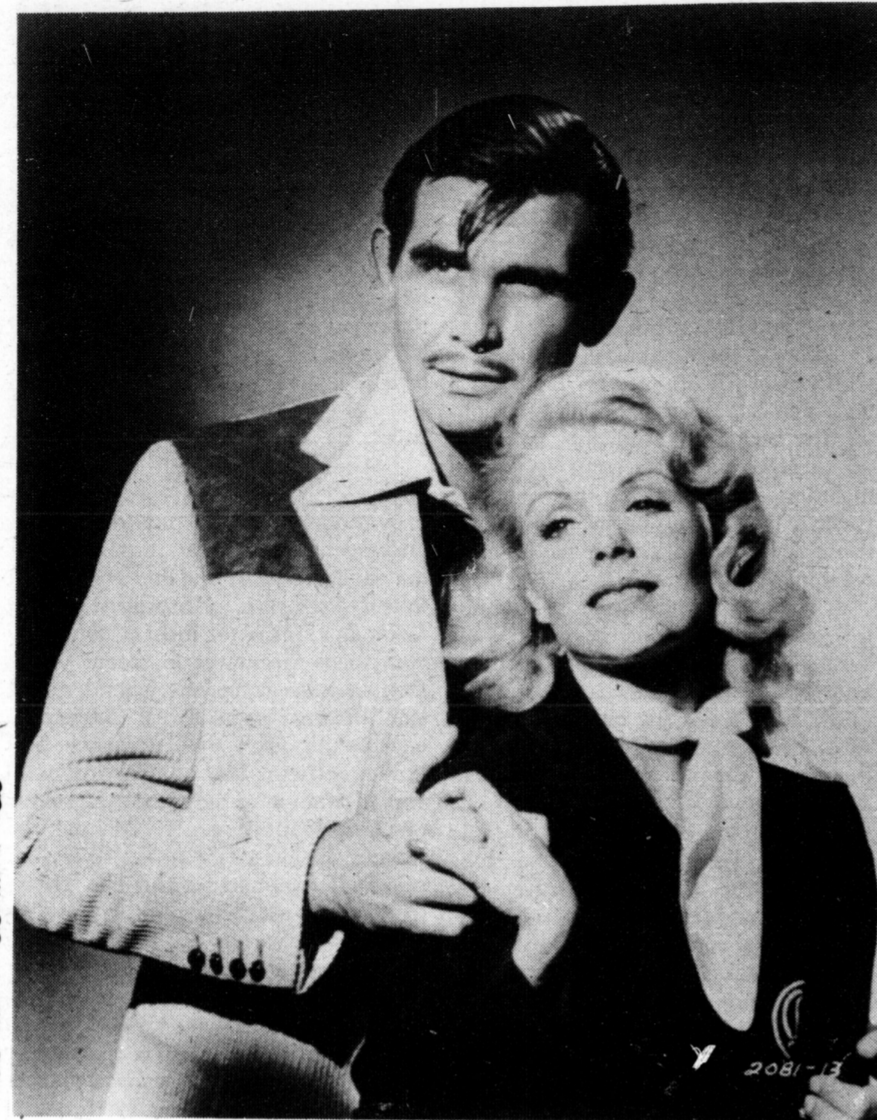
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**Film:
Gable & Lombard**

At the risk of being thought terribly unsophisticated by my fellow critics, I loved *Gable and Lombard*. It seems to be the chic film to pan these days, perhaps because they all laughed when James Brolin of *Marcus Welby* fame

and an unknown named Jill Clayburgh were cast to recreate two of films immortals.

Against the glamorous panorama of gaudy Hollywood in the late 30's, director Sidney J. Furie has captured the essence of two lovers fighting for survival against the pseudo-puritanical morality of Hollywood's *Golden Era*. Clark Gable was a Hollywood misfit who shunned the spotlight whenever



James Brolin and Jill Clayburgh as "Gable and Lombard."

possible, was married to a woman who refused to grant him a divorce, and who felt he had to live up to a macho image of himself that reduced all the women in his life to playthings to be used . . . until he met Carole Lombard. Lombard was an uninhibited non-conformist who loved to shock people with her raunchy language and outlandish behavior, a woman who competed with men on their own level. Lombard was fun and froth, Gable was strength and solid masculinity. But they both were insecure, hiding behind their facades, and when they dared to fall in love, both risked total annihilation of their booming careers with the scandal that

married man Gable was living in sin with comedienne Lombard. It was the Hollywood press (Heda and Louella) who eventually took up the cudgels to win them respect of the public when Lombard revealed all to save "her man" from a trumped-up paternity suit.

The film opens up with Gable arriving upon the fatal sight of the plane crash that took Carole Lombard's life, and in flashback, their strange love affair unravels. The hilarious fights, their mutual loathing at first sight, the sneaky checking up on each other (Lombard disguised as a Civil War soldier during filming of *Gone with the Wind* because she didn't trust Clark with Vivien Leigh), their earthy sexual relationship, Lombard's outrageous antics, Louis B. Mayer's "fatheryly" concern and manipulation of Gable's life, and above all, their love that almost wrecked their careers. Barry Sandler's script paints a vivid portrait of both characters; the guttersnipe Lombard who gave much more than she got, and Gable as a somewhat unfeeling Bastard who took the easiest way out until the final showdown, a man very protective of his "image", real or unreal.

Jill Clayburgh, in the flashier role of Lombard, is sensational. She's funny, vulnerable, sexy, coarse and deeply feeling, creating a woman anyone would have loved to have known. James Brolin has the tougher role of Clark Gable, a man who never let his emotion show and who maintained a stronger stamp upon today's public. Almost any actor who got the part would be vulnerable to criticism by Gable fans. Nonetheless, Brolin gives an amazing resemblance, right down to the speech pattern and mannerisms, and he exudes the same masculine sex appeal. Brolin gives a performance of great solidity, offsetting the flighty charms of Clayburgh, and together,

they strike a chemistry that makes *Gable and Lombard* a romantic look at two of Hollywood's most charismatic lovers. It may be Hollywood pap, but it's good pap all the way!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

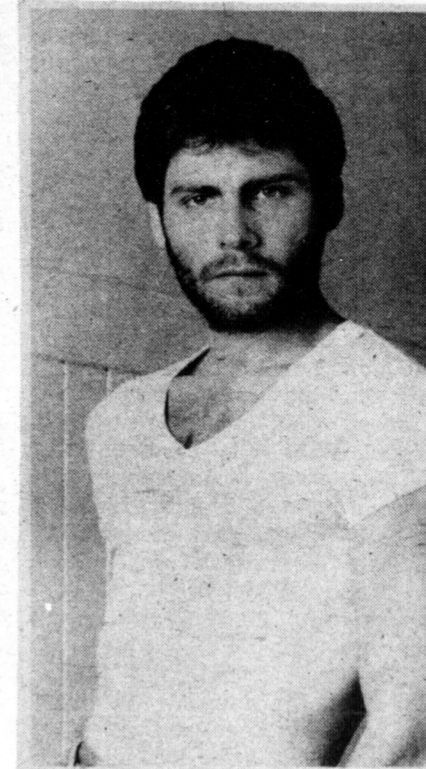
Aftermath — young Jeff Druce, who opened here as Vito in *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*, was signed at the last minute to replace the late Sal Mineo in *L.A. Opening* night, Druce scored a tremendous personal triumph, complete to a celebrity-studded ovation and rapturous reviews, giving the actor the big break he's been working for so long.

Now appearing at The City is Frank Laverde, a new singer making his local debut. If he sounds as good as he looks, he should be a huge star. Following him in for 2 weeks on March 17th will be Jillian & Shulman, the two dynamic ladies who scored here previously with Ann Dee at Jackson's. And on March 31st, Joey de Nova, formerly of The Giants, has created a new musical comedy revue entitled *Mama's Boys*, 6 men and 1 stunning girl, which will premiere here in San Francisco.

Along with the mysterious death of Florence Ballard (don't believe everything you read in the papers), Mary Wilson fired Cindy Birdsong from the Supremes, leaving Mary the sole original survivor with the Motown group.

Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis, formerly lead singers with the 5th Dimension, premier their new double at the Venetian Room of the Fairmont now thru March 14th, then Ginger Rogers brings her new act (reportedly very good) in on the 16th.

Moonchildren, a frank comedy about today's rebellious youth, opens March 10th at the Open Theater, 441



Laverde, a new singing discovery, now appearing at The City.

Clement St., Thurs. thru Sun. nights, directed by Lee (*Cuckoo's Nest*) D. Sankowich. 751-3089 for tickets.

The Intersection Coffeehouse presents a showcase for young comics every Fri. night at 10 pm, \$2 donation, 756 Union St.; Olivia Newton-John sings in concert at the Oakland Arena March 21st; the Lamplighters kick off their season with *Yeoman of the Guard* by Gilbert and Sullivan every weekend at the Presentation Theater, Turk and Masonic, 752-7755; A Gershwin Cele-

bration will be presented by Sarah Vaughn under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas by the S.F. Symphony on March 13th at 8:30.

On March 13th, Yonkers Prod. will open Lanford Wilson's *The Madness of Lady Bright*, a starkly realistic look at a drag queen facing age and loneliness. Mike Lewis will essay the title role at the S.I.R. Center for three weekends; the

play is first-rate gay theatre and should be well worth a visit.

A.C.T. has been granted official approval from the State Dept. of Education to grant the degree of M.F.A. in acting, thus allowing the company to apply for accreditation to the Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges.

"So long for a while, that's all the songs . . ."

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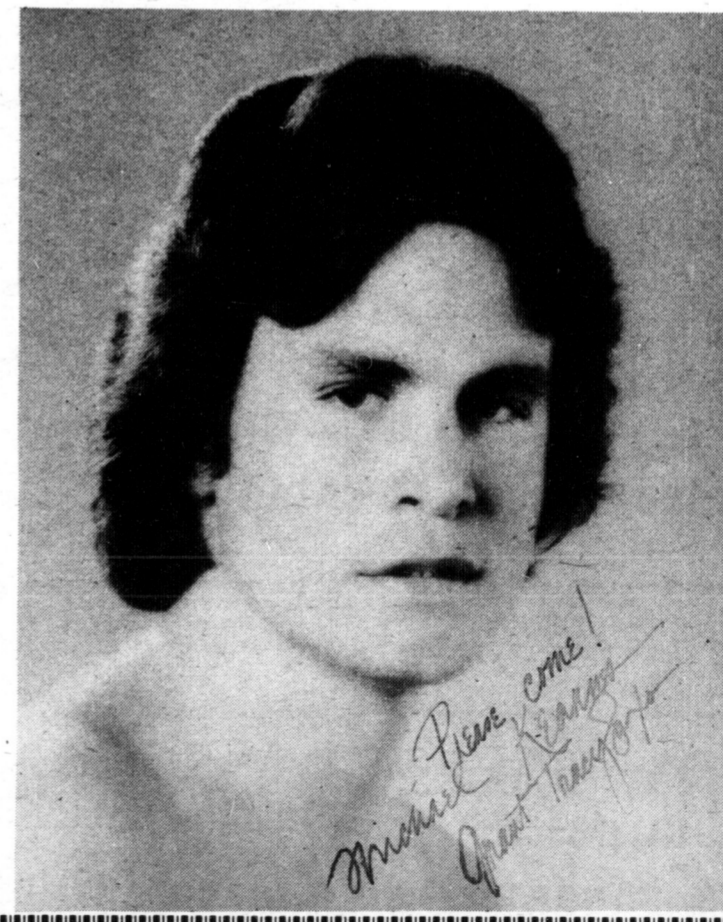
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Southern Scandals

By Mr. Marcus

To quote Kerry Bowman, one of the Ambush owners, "When Bill 'Rod' Roderick throws a party, he throws a party," and that was the general consensus of the 1st Annual SOMBA Mardi Gras Ball last Sunday held in the cavernous bowels of Project Artaud on 17th & Florida. Some 2,000 revelers braved the rain to cavort, camp, dance and play all the funny games one plays at these functions, while thousands of soap bubbles foated down through one of the most fantastic light shows imaginable and music that blasted away for the entire six hours. Dan Gasser, that TLB (Tough Little Blond) owner of the Folsom Barracks was all decked out in his Eagle outfit while his hunky crew solicited donations for the blind via a jail cell which many willing and unwilling victims were dragged into — your bail money sprung the prisoners; Pit and Gordy erected a small Leather Forever

shop right on the runway and Emperor III Bob Cramer held forth at the Blackjack tables of the Round Up. Everyone seemed to be living it up and having a good time, and congratulations to SOMBA (South of Market Business Association) for what everyone hopes will be an annual event. It was a great way to spend a rainy afternoon.

Congratulations are in order to the Serpents MC, celebrating their 8th Anniversary this weekend with a big party at the Folsom Prison on Sunday. While on the subject of bike clubs, don't forget the San Franciscans MC, are holding their 9th Butch Brunch on Sunday, March 14th. Watch for details and don't miss this event which is always a lot of fun.

Quite a few enthusiastic people are getting together to raise money in an effort to throw a rousing welcome to

some 150 men coming here for a visit in June from Australia. The Aussies will visit Our Town first, enroute to various destinations around the entire U.S., and this is our chance to prove that we're "the City That Knows How." Watch for announcements of parties and functions for this hunky group, and I assure you, if any of the 150 coming here are anything like the five who visited us in September of 1971, none of you will be disappointed.

A new newspaper will be appearing in the South of Market area in about a couple of months, to be called The Bridge, and published by a corporation about to be formed. The Bridge will be mostly about South of Market, and the name denotes that San Francisco is the bridge to many other cities on the West Coast and other areas of the country. Watch for it, to be available in every South of Market bar and business.

YOU MADE ME LOVE YOU, BECAUSE... Once again, the old queens' tale about a beer and wine bar not making it has been shattered to

smithereen; the weekend after the Barbary Coaster Bike Academy Awards, the management and staff of the Hungry Hole were NOT ready for the tide of humanity that suddenly, and without warning, swarmed into the place. First, the Ambush, serving beer and wine, now the Hungry Hole has caught the fancy of everyone, with nightly crowds of hunky dudes. I have just been given the exclusive scoop that the Covered Wagon will reopen in a couple of weeks with beer and wine too, so watch for their opening. Likewise, after hours places are starting to spring up everywhere, the newest being the Lumber Mill as Larking and Sutter, and there's also the Glory Hole at 205 6th St., and the Me across the street from the Jaguar Book Store, 18th & Castro. In another couple of weeks, the former Red Star Saloon will be converted to an after hours place, and what more could you ask for — you've got everything you could want on Miracle Mile. Got a complaint from some people (3 of them) who went to one of our newer baths and weren't admitted because they were chewing bubble gum. Are you reading this Ray Andrews? The Ambush will stage their monthly equinox party, watch for the announcements. Have you noticed all the small art galleries around our part of town? Good to see Empress Falme instilling camp into his reign. There was Melvina, the new Dauphin of Colma, running around town heavily veiled and dressed in black, fearing Clarence, the Royal Executioner might be on a beheading binge. Straight people wandering around Lafayette Park the other night were startled to see Melvina and entourage dressed in black monk robes, standing vigil with lighted candles in front of Flame's royal palace; to prove that chivalry hasn't died, Mr. Cowboy Rick Hammond ran right out and offered the Dauphine cookies and coffee! Melvina, you are a scamp! While other people in the community belittle Flame, it's safe to say the Empress is riding high! More knowledgeable persons in the community are somewhat appalled that some few people are devoting so much time to tearing down Flame, when in reality, they should be directing their vast amounts of energy into constructive projects designed to benefit the whole community. There are always those who take great delight in besmirching others, but it is a Tired subject, so on with the show. Who wants to read about vicious queens on hate trips anyway? Bob Reed of the Castro Cafe is on a pie throwing binge and had singled out quite a few targets to get until some anonymous tipster sent out a little news squib about a woman who got hit by a pie, sued and collected \$5000 out of court. Hear tell around Castro that La Reed has decided to quit throwing pies after reading That. If you remember Tony Perry, formerly of Tony & Tony duo, he and his new man, Jamie, have opened up this falwless clothing design business called Hand Jobs - fine stitchery, so why not try it out? Bill McWilliams of the Billy Club dropped into the piano bar area of the "P.S. the other night and encountered a sleek dude decked out in a Yves St. Laurent outfit and when they arrived at their trysting place, Bill discovered he was with a virtual pauper - cold water, no toilet and a very drafty room. And does that mean that clothes do not a man make? Haven't figured out who is moving where, but the phone lines between Tom Avila's new pad, Tequila Towers, and Portland are sizzling these

days. Care packages, voluminous letters and much, much dialogue going on between those two. The (old) (new) (old) (take your pick) Jackson's opened last Monday night too, on Powell near the Wharf and a nice showing of old friends dropped in to check out the new decor, menu and staff under the direction of Bouncing Baby Bette Bonko, so check it out. And if you have any clever ideas for their ads, you might be able to see them. El Grande de Bike Clubs, Rick Hansen, is throwing an Easter Weekend Bike Run, so if you aren't making it to the Saddlebacks run in the L.A. area, you might check it out. Good to see Dick Dickerson of the Folsom Prison up and about after a bout with flur and pneumonia. If you didn't make it to the GDI Run to Juanita's two weekends ago, you missed being with some 250 merry makers. Never having met Juanita myself, I was shaken just a little bit when her opening remarks were: "You assholes better eat everything you take from that buffet or I'll kick your asses" — which according to veteran observers, was really mild for that old gal. After a sumptuous buffet brunch, the busses, cars and bikes converged upon the Monkey Pod in Santa Rosa, and I doubt if that place has recovered yet. Tammy Lynn and Ronnie Lynn won the dance contest and the tired, but happy band, returned to San Francisco after a fun, fun day with the GDI's.

Editor:

I'm wondering if you can devote some space in your publication to the loving memory of Virginia Gerhart who died in San Francisco on November 10, 1975 at the age of 78. She was well known in the gay community, but I am afraid that her many friends are not yet aware of her passing. She contributed her services to the Senior Citizens Luncheons at SIR and continued to support the luncheons during their three year existence. She marched proudly in the gay parade. She also marched on Sacramento with her senior citizens groups to protest the uncompassionate policies of "Rat Reagan". She volunteered her time once a week to serve the veterans at Fort Miley. She was also



comfortable on a bar stool at the Kokpit. She saved her pennies to buy a ticket to a Michelle performance. Stood outside and cheered the arrivals at the Beaux Arts. (If anybody in the straight crowd

made an unkind or anti-gay remark she She was flamboyant and outspoken. She stood up at Board of Supervisors meetings and demanded "equal rights for gay people." And she wrote frequent letters to Joseph Alioto and Dianne Feinstein on our behalf. She sold chestnuts on the street corners of San Francisco to raise money for the old and the poor during the holidays. She struggled to live with dignity on a

miserable social security check and bought her clothes from Good Will. She always paid her own way and didn't want to be an "old freeloader." She had nothing to give but her time, her energy and her love, and she gave these in abundance to her special favorites — the gay people.

1/1 John Callahan

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Jean Cardin's HURTS SO GOOD
Travel: Ancient Ephesians Were
Sex Libertarians

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Marc Lopez as TIJUANA STUD
Brentwood's EDDIE
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COUNTRY BOY
Crisko Kids / At the DORM
Travel Special: CARNIVAL IN RIO

MARCH 18-24
Falcon Feature: TAKE TEN
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million fingerprint cards, nineteen million of those relating to criminal activity.

But Joe's record kept getting in the way of his career! He got the record when arrested on suspicion of burglary. There never were any charges. All he did was doze off on a park bench while waiting for a friend, and walk over to a nearby rest home looking for a clock. Someone reported a prowler and he was arrested, held for two days in jail and released without charges.

Joe sued the attorney general and the FBI to have his record expunged. The court ruled that the FBI could keep records of detentions, but must update its records. Joe was entitled to have the record removed from the "criminal files," to the "information files." This was not very satisfactory for Joe. Few people distinguish the difference even though he is not in the files of criminals who have been "arrested and convicted." His record was not completely expunged.

It is the policy of the FBI to disseminate records to authorized agencies, which includes all state and local law enforcement agencies. The Departments of Motor Vehicles, Consumer Affairs, Forestry, Fire Marshall, Food and Drug, even certain hospital administrators, cemetery authorities, and wild life protection personnel may receive FBI information, even some private employers.

Recently a federal judge said that the dissemination of arrest records was "out of effective control."



There are State and Federal laws which protect consumers from erroneous or misleading credit information. State laws require some criminal records to be expunged. The Supreme Court has held that there is a constitutional "right to privacy." But this right has not yet extended to the great amount of government information kept of arrests and investigations arising from criminal proceedings.

A Washington State court ruled that the government had no right to keep the fingerprints and photographs of a woman arrested for assault when the charges were later dismissed. The Washington State court ruled that there was no compelling state interest in keeping the records any more, and that the woman had a right to return of the arrest record.

Their great potential for abuse of these arrest records is a growing concern. It may indeed be "out of control."

EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT

New environmental laws have been added to more than half of California's codes. As a result there have been many new courses in law schools. Special law journals and papers in this field have been written.

There are also many national laws. There are more federal laws and agencies. This is in addition to many other agencies which affect property rights. Here are a few of the new environmental laws:

1. The California Environmental Quality Act sets standards aimed at providing a high quality environment, now and in the future. All state agencies dealing with public projects must write impact reports on any project that may

affect the environment. A private building that is supported by grants, loans or public assistance is also affected. Just getting a license or certificate from a public agency may bring one within the environmental rules.

2. You can't dump waste in any river, lake or waterway. New laws deal with certain kinds of water pollution. Laws control oil spills, waste discharge, and discharge of heat.

3. There is control of air quality. Auto emission is only one part of this. Many agencies control pesticide sprays, nuclear radiation, and aircraft noise and other noise pollution.

4. There are also policies that deal with space preservation through "open space" plans. There are special tax benefits to the property owner who creates parks and maintains other open areas.

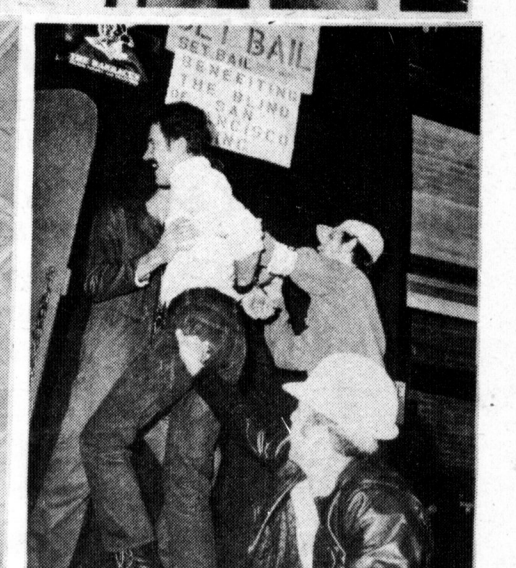
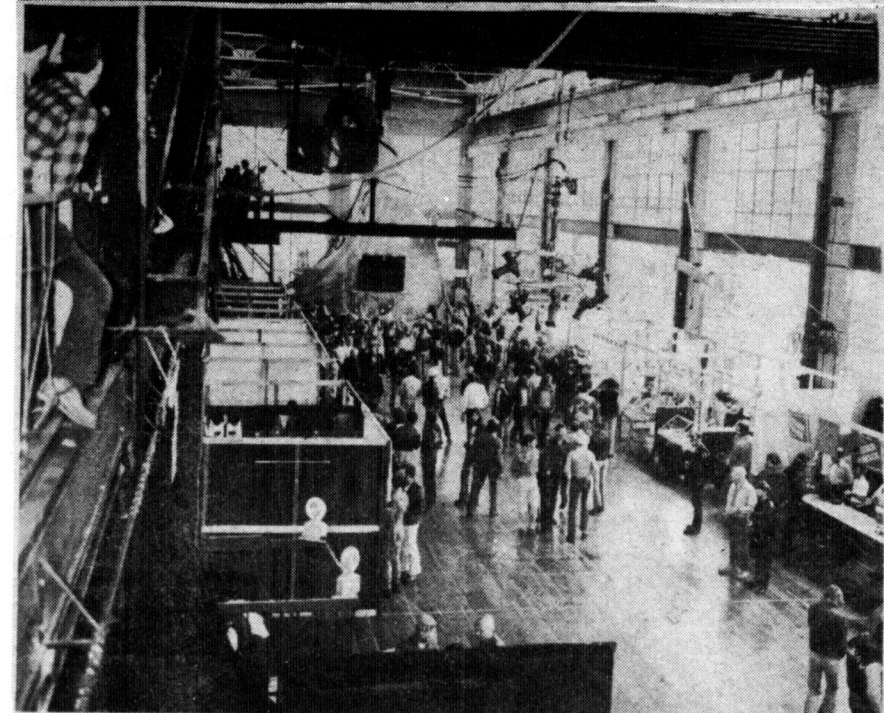
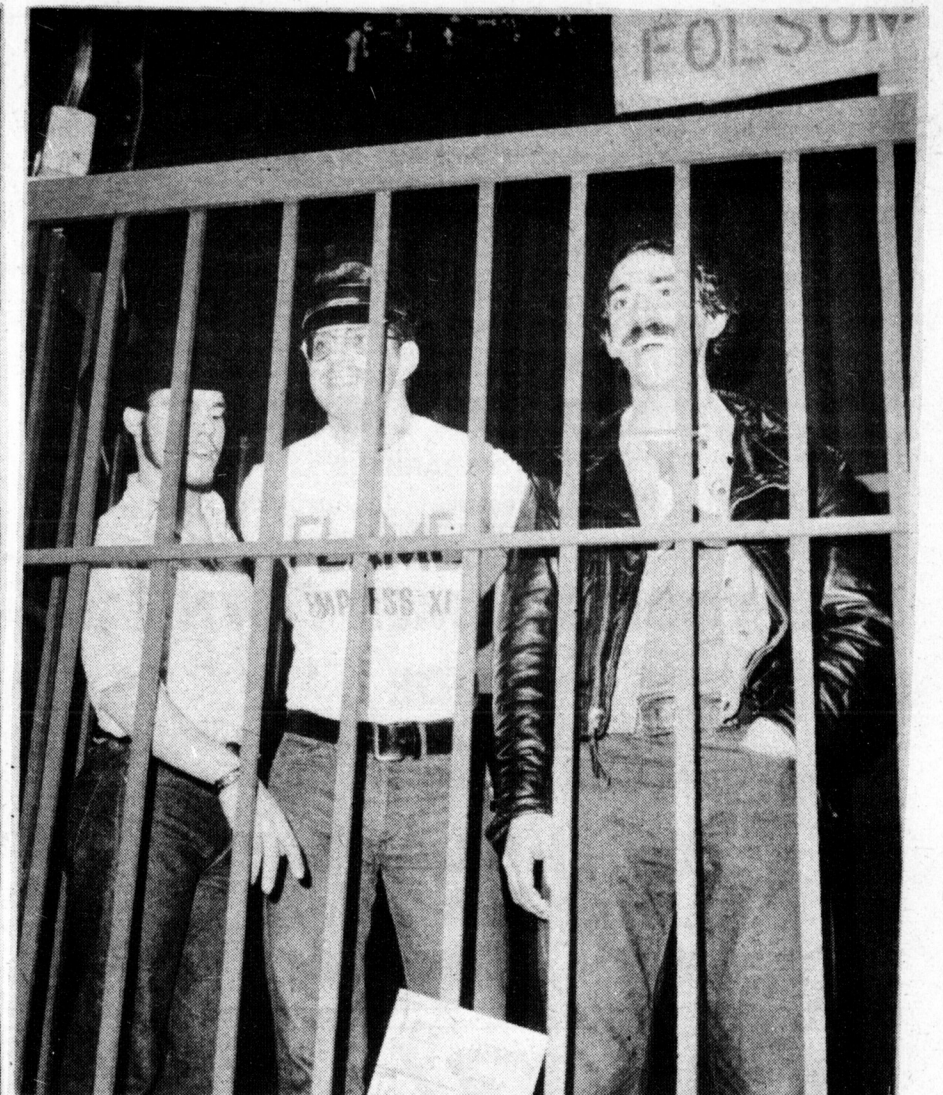
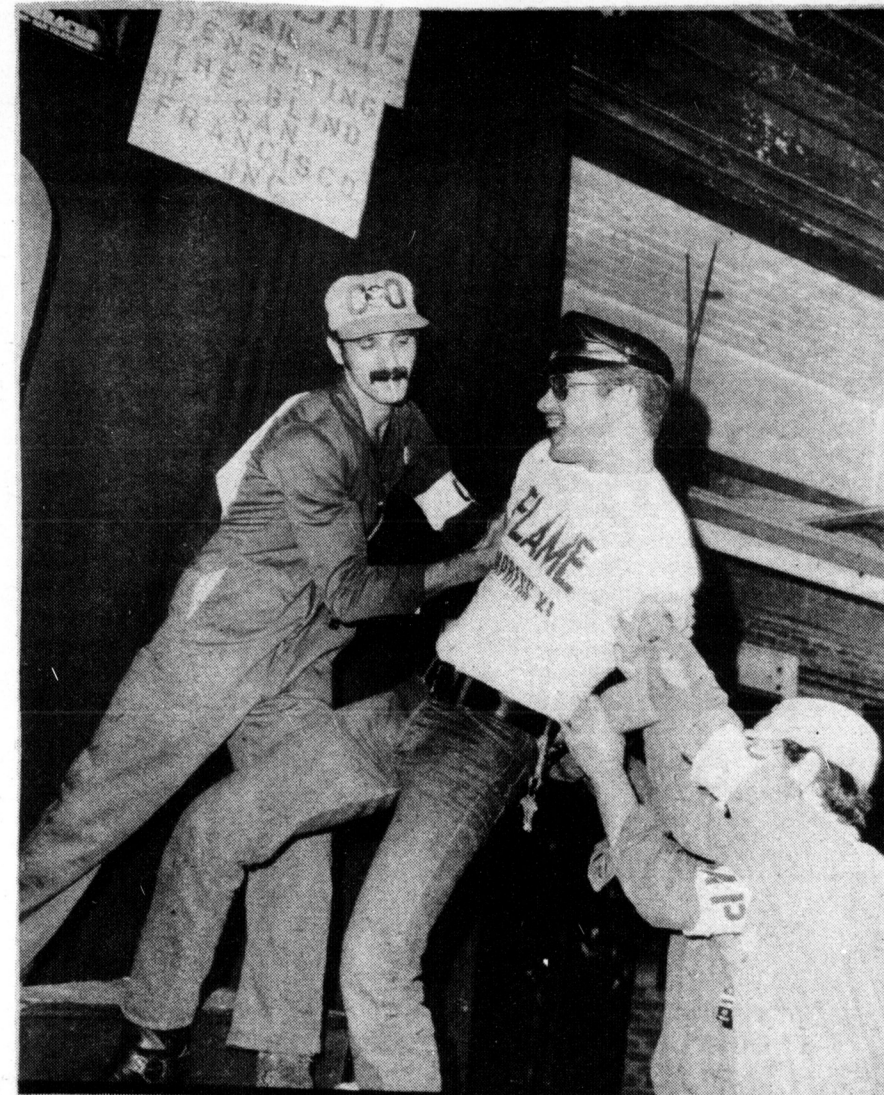


5. Special laws create park and recreation areas. Public access to rivers and beaches and preservation of historic sites is encouraged by the government. It also provides wildlife and wilderness areas for the protection of certain animals.

6. Special laws protect the coast. There are six regional commissions, also Lake Tahoe Planning Agency, San Francisco Bay and other regional land use agencies.

7. There are also agencies that deal with forests, power plants and power lines. They also handle subdivided lands, public housing, redevelopment, zoning, health and other environment regulations.

[Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.]



performed by an Aerialist, who in less than twenty seconds, climbed 150 feet up a rope dangling from the steel-raftered ceiling.

Besides leather goods, jewelry, exquisite photographic art and paintings were for sale. Bolt offered a Bolt Wrestling booth while others offered hot and cold-foods and "specialties."

Three bars were strategically placed about the huge room, while a disco jock kept up the Mardi Gras tempo from his nest high up over the frolicking crowd.

mained until bailed out by friends.

The ever-popular and fun loving Empress XI Flame was "arrested" eighteen times and seemed to enjoy every booking as well as the fellow prisoners. The "cell replica" looked over the jam-packed revellers as they danced to disco music emanating from a traveling crane high over the heads of the throng of people gathered for the event.

South of Market Business make up the membership of SOMBA and are dedicated to introducing and bringing more people to the South of Market area.

Costumes in the tradition of Mardi Gras were in evidence and created an atmosphere for the occasion.

The Mardi Gras attracted one of the widest variety of mixed groups ever seen in the area. Oedipus members from as far away as Los Angeles enjoyed the many games of fun and skill provided for the day.

Breath-taking entertainment was



Empress Flame Busted

Despite the deluge of rain which busted the long drought in Northern California last Sunday, SOMBA (South Of Market Business Association) held its first Mardi Gras which brought more than 1500 revellers to Project Artaud for an afternoon of fun and games.

The outstanding fun-maker of the day was the replica of a prison cell into which hunky "MP's" incarcerated "fingered" revellers where they re-

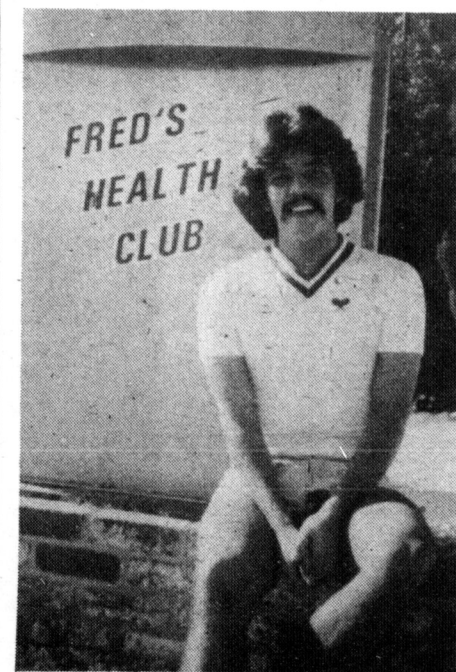


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