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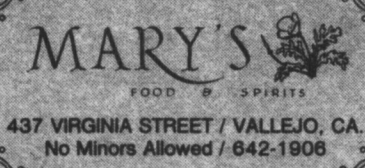
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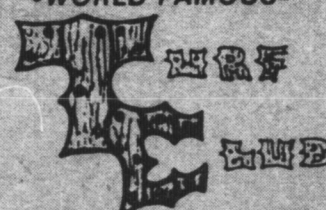
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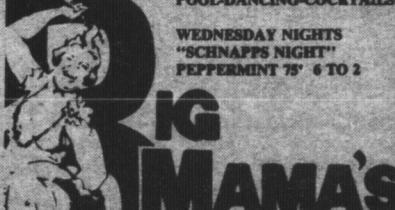
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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VOL. XII NO. 16 APRIL 22, 1982

Phil Burton to Hire Gay Aide

Congressman Phil Burton's office announced that Gay activist Bill Kraus would join his San Francisco staff in mid-June. Burton, who is facing his first serious challenge in 20 years in Washington, apparently views the Gay community as a crucial vote in his self-reappointed 5th District.

Kraus, currently Legislative Aide to Supervisor Harry Britt, said he was elated over his hiring. Kraus will concentrate on both local and national issues as concern the Gay community. He brings to his new post over six years' experience and high visibility in the Gay movement.

Last month Burton in seeking the endorsement of the Stonewall Democratic Club told club president Gerry Parker that the appointment of a Gay aide was a good idea. He then committed himself to bring it about.

Kraus, 34, has been Britt's aide since January 1981. Previous to that he was Britt's campaign chairman in the Supervisor's successful bid for re-election. Kraus was the president of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club for two terms, 1979 and 1980. Also in 1980 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He was chosen as a member of the platform committee and served as national co-chair of the Gay Caucus along with New York City's Ginny Apuzzo. He was also co-chair to the "No on 6" campaign in 1977.

Kraus will be headquartered in the Federal Building at 450 Golden Gate Avenue.

Atlas S&L

First Stockholders Meeting

San Francisco's only Gay financial institution, Atlas Savings and Loan Association will hold its first annual stockholders' meeting on Wednesday, May 5, at 9am in the Castro Theatre on Castro Street.

The 1,800 shareholders, or their proxies, will elect directors, approve an employee stock option plan, and conduct whatever other business comes up.

Atlas opened its doors in November, 1981 with \$1.4 million in deposits, \$3.3 million in total assets, and by the end of the year showed a start-up loss of over \$94,000. As of the end of March, deposits have climbed to \$3.9 million, assets to \$6.4 million, and the tiny savings and loan shows a year-to-date profit of almost \$3,000.

Castro Cooled

Mayor Reacts Swiftly to Stem Street Arrest Problem

by Allen White

A week ago in the early hours of Wednesday morning as the bars were closing seven people were detained in the Castro area by the San Francisco Police Department. Reports indicate these arrests were the result of several hours of actions by police officers who chose not to respect the standards of conduct which are typical for the area.

One person was arrested on Castro Street between Market and 18th near the donut shop. The person had an outstanding warrant when ar-

rested. Several persons have told the Bay Area Reporter that the police were shining spotlights in people's faces who were in the Castro and 18th Street area between 1am and 3am. At one point witnesses state that a patrol car and a paddy wagon positioned

the detention of the six individuals. One source who would be knowledgeable of the events implied that the arrests were made for "cruising" in the playground. No arrests were made for public sexual activity.

Castro Heats Up on Hot Day

At press time — Tuesday — reports come into the Bay Area Reporter that the situation had all but boiled over again.

Gay community activists turned out in force Tuesday evening to monitor the actions of Gays as well as the police in the Castro area. Action was determined necessary in the wake of several arrests in the Castro area for public drunkenness earlier that afternoon. At 5:30 a man was arrested at 18th & Castro for drunkenness and subsequently a possession of drugs charge was added.

Several hundred people were in the Castro area Tuesday afternoon enjoying the warm weather. With the arrest, tension began to build, and there were indications another confrontation with the police was in store.

As three police officers (two reportedly trainees) walked up Castro Street towards 17th Street, they stopped another person. The detained man told the B.A.R. that the police implied he was drunk, and he believed he was going to be arrested. The police were evidently not aware that they were being followed by almost twenty people. Many were watching to see the actions that would follow. At this point, Ron Huberman of the District Attorney's office and Randy Schell from CUAU confronted the police. The situation began to defuse and the person was not arrested.

Later that evening volunteer patrols were set up out of The Parsonage as well as the CUAU office. The primary purpose was to avoid any direct confrontation between police and members of the Gay community. Police reported that arrests were being made throughout San Francisco for drunkenness and the situation was not targeted at the Castro area.

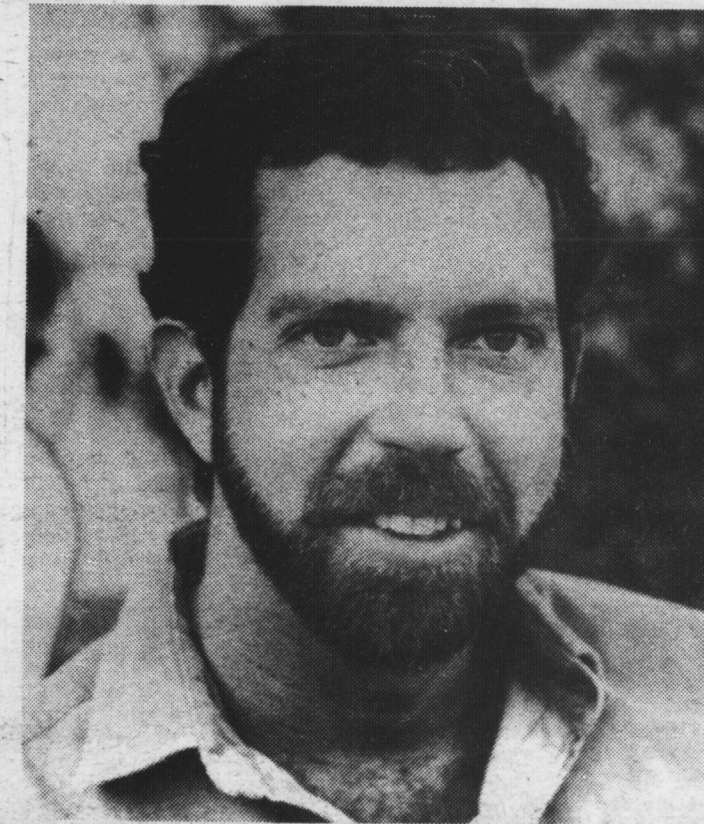
The patrols were deemed in the public interest because of a series of incidents on Castro Street involving the police which gave rise to concerns that some officers, especially rookies, might act in a manner which could set off a riot situation in the area. At the same time, the action signaled a desire by the community that police protection was needed and desirable. Once again the question raised regarded police sensitivity.

After 6pm there were no reports of any serious incidents in the Castro area.

rested. Additionally, six other persons, according to several city officials were held or detained. This is normal procedure for a person who is determined to be "publicly intoxicated" in the judgment of a police officer. He is held for a few hours until he sobers up, then released. It appears that the six who were detained were all in the area of the Eureka Valley Playground at 19th & Collingwood. The playground is closed between 10pm and 6am. One problem is that the police are not releasing much information, and the Bay Area Reporter has not located the people detained. Thus, speculation can only be made regarding

themselves in front of the donut shop. The police officers, according to B.A.R. sources, demanded the people clear the street. There are several versions of what took place in the time period. Without question, a serious action took place which resulted in immediate reaction by members of the Gay community to civic officials.

A flyer was printed and plastered throughout the area by Spinstar, a local activist. It read, "Stop police sweeps on Castro." The flyer announced a street meeting and encouraged people to "hang out" the following night (Thursday morning) between 2am and 4am.



Bill Kraus will sign on as new Burton staffer. (Photo by Rink)

He said that Congressman Burton promised that he (Kraus) would be involved in a substantive way in political issues.

Burton is being challenged by State Senator Milton Marks in the November 1982 election. Both are considered

(Continued on next page)



A start of spring photo from the Russian River gala. (Photo courtesy of Drummer Magazine)

IN THIS ISSUE

- This summer's spate of BIG parties p. 4
- Community leaders respond to Gaycare survey p. 9
- The Caldron, Part II — by Gary Pedler p. 14
- House an athlete during the Gay Olympic Games! . . . p. 25

'B.A.R.' Libel Suit

Round Two Victory

by Paul Lorch

The Police Officers Association five million dollar libel suit was thrown out of court for the second time last week. Once again, Superior Court Judge Ira Brown ruled that the police officers' complaint lacked a "cause of action." The plaintiffs also, for a second time, were granted 20 days to amend their brief.

As is the custom, the court did not specify exactly where the complaint lacked substance (enough grounds to proceed beyond the preliminary stages). That rests with the attorneys for the plaintiffs to figure out where their case lacked merit.

In May 1981, the Bay Area Reporter reported on a meeting called by the Political Action Committee of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. The meeting — to which the press was invited — was called by Chairman Sal Rosselli to discuss SFPD over-

reaction in the Haight Ashbury. Writer John Karr reported testimony of alleged violations by victims and witnesses. The names of SFPD officers Holly Pera and Corbett Dickey came up continuously throughout the testimony. At the time the city was embroiled in a debate about police brutality and the reform of the Internal Affairs Bureau. Supervisor Harry Britt was spearheading legislation to replace an in-house dealing with complaints with a Civilian Complaint Board. The Police Officers Association vigorously opposed the plan. In June, 1981, POA president called a press conference to denounce Britt and the Civilian Review movement (also supported by the ACLU and the SF Bar Association). At the same time he announced the POA attorney's suit in behalf of officers Pera and Dickey against the Bay Area Reporter.

Subsequently the Northern California chapter of the ACLU became interested in the case (public representatives suing the media for libel) and attorneys from Brown, McCutcheon, Doyle and Epton volunteered to defend the Gay newspaper.

Libel is the no man's land that exists between two kinds of rights. On the one hand is the primary Constitutional right (guaranteed by the 1st and 14th Amendments) "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press ... However, this right is qualified by responsibilities after the fact of publication. On the other hand, these rights too are well-established and safeguarded. Among these rights is that of any citizen to his own good name and reputation.

Libel occurs when one's good name and reputation are damaged. The citizen is entitled to re-establish his good name and recover monetary losses he may have suffered. The laws of libel (state laws) provide the means by which one can take these steps.

Several significant qualifications immediately come

Gay Aide

(Continued from Page 1) automatic victors in their respective June primaries. Burton will run on his record as a strong environmentalist and as one of the reputed most effective and prominent members of Congress.

Marks has found the reapportioned 5th District his kind of constituency. (Burton surrendered much of his liberal Democratic precincts to shore up his younger brother John's endangered seat ... only to learn his brother was resigning from Congress.) Marks will run on the strength of his closeness and familiarity with the voters.

Burton's serious liabilities are his repeated shielding of his brother John, his distance from his electors, and his architecting of the controversial re-apportionment.

Marks will bear the brunt of the growing disenchantment with the Reagan Republican administration in Washington, D.C. In addition he will not or never have Phil Burton's clout in Congress.

into play that say the public right and need to know takes precedence over an individual's right against loss of good name. They are three: the defenses of privilege, fair comment and criticism, and relevant truth minus malice.

"Privilege" means that a fair and accurate report of official or public records or meetings is immune to libel — even if the report is unfavorable to certain parties. In these situations the press is considered the public's agent.

A second qualification is "fair comment and criticism" (that some persons are fairer game than others). A public personality, a public official or appointee has yielded up some of their rights as private citizens. Public persons (which included public appointees as police) are subject to scrutiny and comment in their roles as representatives of the public.

In recent years the guidelines have been considerably broadened. In 1964 (the *New York Times v. Sullivan* case) the Supreme Court ruled that even if parts of a report were inaccurate — fair comment applied provided it was not printed with malicious intent or foreknowledge that the specific items were false.

The third qualification to shield a free press is that of "Truth." If what is published is true and in all respects published without malice but only as part of a news report, the

free press is again protected. If a defamatory statement is true the press is not responsible for the injury it causes. The wounded party has no recourse because the media is performing its role as contemplated in the First Amendment.

At this point two options remain open to the POA's attorneys. They can choose to drop the matter — not taking advantage of the 20-day option to amend their already amended complaint (which in itself might well have made their original charges less valid). Should they so decide, defense attorneys will subsequently move to have the matter dismissed. The issue will be seen as a victory for the defense.

Should the plaintiffs choose to amend their complaint another time, they run the risk of having the court reject it one more time. At some point the court will either accept it, or finding the new versions increasingly without merit will reject the suit without leave to amend. In this scenario the court will have found in favor of the defense. The plaintiffs at that point might find themselves accountable for abuse of process — now vulnerable to charges and complaints they might be forced to defend themselves against. The individual rights of writers, editors, and publishers are also well-established and safeguarded. As citizens they too share the rights to a "good name and reputation." ■



Congressman Phil Burton, the defender (Photo by Rink)



Senator Milton Marks, the challenger (Photo by Rink)

CASTRO

(Continued from Page 1) 3am. For the Gay community and for the police there was no question that the intent of Spinstar was for a direct confrontation.

Additionally, the Mayor was made aware that though the Eureka Valley Playground is closed to the public at night, the signs are virtually unreadable because of placement. This week she instructed the Park and Recreation Department to relocate the signs. By the end of this week, the signs should be in a position so that if persons are breaking the law by entering the park, they will be clearly warned in advance.

A debate continues between community leaders as to what constitutes a police "sweep" and to what degree the Gay community is being harassed by the police. A witness of the occurrences on Castro Street told the B.A.R. that "the arrest of only one person because of an overzealous police officer is cause for concern." At the same time, there is concern that laws be enforced by the police, whether for violent crime or public drunkenness, with fair and sensitive control. It is significant to note that for the first time the answer may be seen through a combined effort from the streets of the Castro, the offices of City Hall and the Hall of Justice to keep the lid on a potentially "hot summer." ■

The Mayor is reported to have stated that the conduct of the police officers as reported to her was in direct conflict to how she expects the San Francisco Police to operate. She further asked the Chief of Police for a complete report

of the activities that set off this confrontation.

Allen White

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Big Shows Set for Summer

Big Risks versus Big \$'s

by Allen White

In one week, a major entertainment event at the Galleria — "Spring Fever" — reportedly lost over \$10,000. John Vukas and Dick Collier, Jr. announced three events for a planned total attendance exceeding 50,000 people, and thirdly, Conceptual Entertainment, the leading "event" producers for Gay audiences in the country, revealed a change in ownership. At the same time, Joe's Shows, a new production company, has announced their first major event.

With the announcements comes the word that prices are going to drop, competition will increase, and the diversity of entertainment through the summer will give San Francisco the title of being the Gay Entertainment Capital of the World — that is if all the plans work out.

The stakes are high in these productions. Some events flop. "Spring Fever" last Saturday night was an event that lived up to its name in quality but not at the box office. Over \$10,000 was reportedly lost because of too few paying customers.

"Spring Fever" producers Dennis Greth and Mark Dobson put on a creative attraction. With laser beams, video screens, special lighting effects, buffet tables loaded with food, and spotlighted models performing on raised platforms, the ingredients were present to make the show an artistic, if not financial success.

What was missing for the "Spring Fever" producers was a vital marketing tool, that being an effective mailing list. The keepers of the best mailing list in town also are the most successful producers. In addition, advertising for "Spring Fever" was next to nil.

Conceptual Entertainment let loose a flurry of news this past week. For starters, the partnership of David Bandy and Gary Roverana has been dissolved, with Bandy taking total control of the company. The parting was amicable and represents a change for Conceptual Entertainment. Roverana and Bandy presented their first function, "The First Annual Salute to the Men of San Francisco," on August 19, 1978. This year the 5th Annual event will take place on Saturday, August 15. The next event for Conceptual Entertainment will be "Mother Returns," a cocktail and cabaret show starring Sharon McNight at the Galleria on Mother's Day. An indication of a trend is the ticket price. All tickets for the event will be \$8.

The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Tea Dance will be presented at the Galleria with a portion of the revenue going to Operation Concern and to the Parade Committee. The tickets will be \$12 for that event. Bandy is also putting the efforts of his company into the re-opening of the River Theatre on Memorial Day weekend with shows and

a new dance facility in the Russian River area.

John Vukas and Dick Collier, Jr., the two producers of the Moscone Center "First Encounter" event are going back to Moscone Center twice in the next six months. With a possible capacity of 10,000 people, they will present "Dance, Dance, Dance" on Saturday, May 29. The event will run from 9pm until 9 the next morning. John Vukas said they have worked the "bugs" out that were encountered on their first event. Coat checking will not be a problem, and they have made changes to assure that bar service is acceptable. They will be selling tickets in Houston, Denver, New York, and Los Angeles in addition to San Francisco. The disc jockey will be on a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge which is 80 feet long and 24 feet high. Staging is being done by FM Productions.

Saturday night of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day weekend Vukas and Collier have taken over the Civic Auditorium from 9pm until 9 the next morning. John Vukas boasted the party will be THE party of the weekend. They will be planning to sell in excess of 10,000 tickets for the event. Prices have not been set but the cost will be minimal.

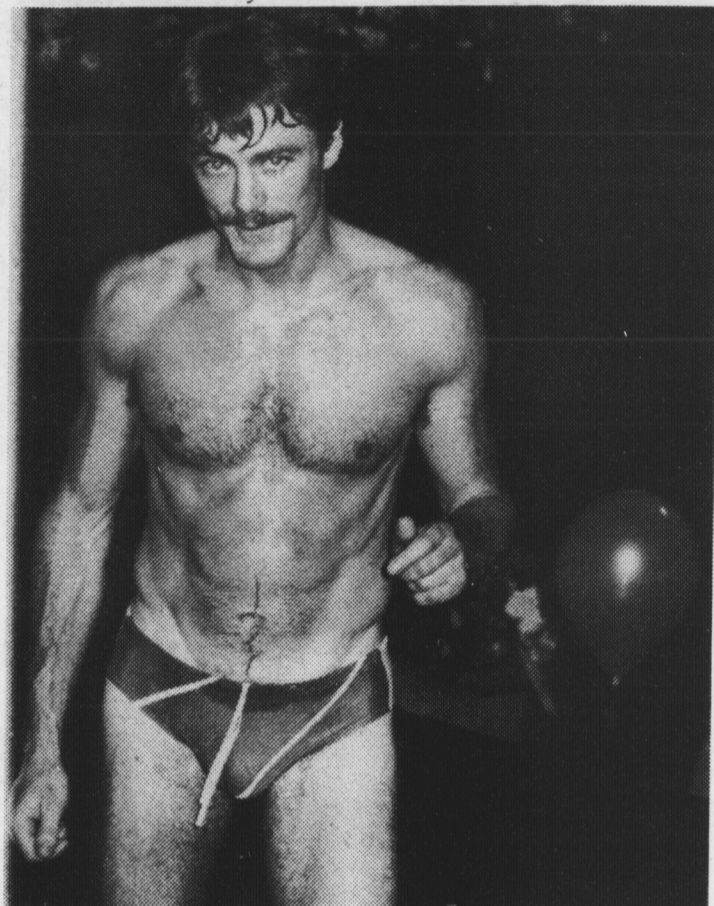
Labor Day weekend, John Vukas and Dick Collier will present a dance event, "East Meets West," at Moscone Center. They plan to use the entire Moscone Center complex, with the potential of reaching an attendance figure of over 25,000 people. "East Meets West" coincides with the Gay Olympics.

Enter a new company, Joe's Shows, Inc. In conjunction with Headlines they will

present the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Second Annual Dog Show and Parade on Saturday, June 12. This year's extended program will begin at 11am in the Castro. Categories for the Dog Show will include: Best Old Dog, Best Smile, Best Drag, Best Legs, Best Buns, Best Match to Owner, Best Trick, and Best of Show. The Sisters of PI will again be on hand to MC the event with entertainment provided by the S.F. Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps. Booths will be set up in conjunction with the dog show and proceeds will be donated to the "Gay cancer"

clinic at the UC Medical Center. That same evening, Joe's Shows will present the First Annual Man Show at the Japan Center Theatre. Men will be judged in categories similar to the daytime Dog Show.

In San Francisco, reputed as the only city of these spectacular productions, the risks and the benefits are big league. When these producers get a winner, the payoff is staggering. Should they produce a loser, they can be out of business the next day. Once again the megaproducers are getting ready to roll the dice.



All was not lost at "Spring Fever." Steve, a featured dancer, takes a break from his platform top stage. (Photo by Rink)

San Jose Entrapment Case Acquitted

by David Treadwell

Between 400 to 700 men have been arrested in the current wave of police entrapment arrests sweeping downtown San Jose. Most of those arrested are Gay males. Only one case has been pursued through a jury trial, which resulted in the man's acquittal by an 11 to 1 vote. The D.A.'s office has announced that it will seek a retrial.

The defendant maintained that he was innocent of all charges. He was charged with lewd conduct, indecent exposure and solicitation. He testified that he was neither masturbating nor exposed. The officer stood watching him for a moment and then made a verbal pass at him. When he rebuffed the officer he was placed under arrest.

The officer testified that the defendant was masturbating and when he entered the booth the defendant groped him. The officer had no explanation as to why he violated the defendant's privacy by entering an occupied booth.

On the defendant's first appearance in court the DA's office offered to reduce the charges to a 647B, which is a prostitution charge. The DA's office considers this a "gift" since a 647B is not a registerable sex offense. The prostitution charge would have carried a \$500 fine and 15 days

in jail. It seemed to make no difference to the DA's office that the original charges had nothing at all to do with prostitution. The defendant turned down the DA's offer.

When the defendant returned for his second court appearance, the DA's office then offered to reduce the charges to a 650 1/2 which is "outraging public decency" and is not considered constitutional by many judges and attorneys. This charge carries a \$500 fine with no jail time and is not a registerable sex offense. The defendant turned down this second offer and trial was set for April 7.

On the day of the trial the DA's office then offered the defendant a 415, which is "disorderly conduct". This charge carries a \$100 fine and no jail time. Frank O'Reilly, co-chair of the Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights, commented upon hearing of the DA's 415 offer: "It shows how desperate the DA's office is to get a conviction. They were willing to reduce the charges to disorderly conduct after nearly destroying hundreds of mens lives by charging them with sex offenses." The defendant turned down the DA's third offer and the trial began.

Lasting three days and costing several thousands of dollars in defense fees, the defendant came out as an apparent victor with 11 people voting "not guilty".

San Jose Policeman Jokes About Entrapment

Lt. Dennis Sorahan, head of San Jose's Street Crimes Unit spoke recently before the San Jose Small Business Association. The subject was the efforts of his unit to "clean up downtown," and the talk conveyed a homophobic slant. Since September, 1981, the Street Crimes Unit has made about 2000 arrests. Referring to attorney Bruce Nikerson's charge that police entrapment procedures amounted to "prancing in bookstores," Sorahan joked that his men are the best in the nation due to a "prancing and tap dancing" training course.

Meanwhile there is growing outrage in the San Jose Gay community. Spokespeople have pointed out that there is nothing amusing in the entrapment of hundreds of Gay and non-Gay men, or in the thousands of dollars spent by both the city and the defendants in prosecuting these cases. They were also quick to take issue with Sorahan's claim that violent crime has been reduced by 8% downtown, pointing out that there is absolutely no proof of any connection between bookstore arrests and violent crime. They claim that Sorahan was using the bookstore arrests to try to impress the SBA that his men were getting rid of the violent element downtown.

Dr. Sanford Alan Kellman and Karl Stewart present

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BAY AREA REPORTER APRIL 22, 1982 PAGE 8

Gay Community Undecided

Minorities, Labor Go To Renne



San Francisco's Black community turns out for Renne endorsement. (Photo by Jeff Loeb)

Over 20 Black leaders publicly endorsed Supervisor Louise Renne last week for Congress.

Led by Supervisors Willie Kennedy and Doris Ward, the prominent groups assembled in Renne's Mission Street campaign headquarters. Rev. Cecil Williams of the Tenderloin's Glide Memorial Church served as spokesman for the group which included prominent Blacks from government, business, labor, and church. Williams said that the San Francisco Black community considered Renne by far the "best candidate" in the 6th District race for Congress. Ward and Kennedy echoed the Rev. Williams' statements. Supervisor Ward itemized Renne's "good votes" on child care, senior citizens, women, and earmarking funds to minority people. Ward said that through her three years of working with Renne on the SF Board of Supervisors, "I have come to respect Louise Renne." Supervisor Kennedy added, "Renne has managed to help balance this city's budget while maintaining levels of human services and she's

done it in spite of federal cutbacks. We need that kind of leadership to fight these disastrous Reagan administration economic programs."

Also endorsing Renne were school board member Julie Anderson; Wilbur Hamilton, former director of the SF Redevelopment Agency; Burl Toler, Police Commissioner; Alex Pitchner, President of the NAACP; Carl Williams, Executive Director of the SF Housing Authority; Don Hightower of the California Federation of Labor; Rev. Howard Gloyd, Bethel AME Church; Dr. Arthur Coleman, Hunters Point physician; Rotea Gilford, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice; Rev. T.L. Thomas, Mt. Zion Baptist Church; George Davis, Bayview Hunters Point Senior Center; and Gene Suttle of the Redevelopment Agency.

The previous week Renne received the endorsement of the Chinese American Democratic Club and the San Francisco Council of Labor. This week she also was endorsed by MAPA, the powerful activist arm of the Mexican American community.

On the other hand, to date Renne has received no major Gay endorsements. Two weeks ago the Stonewall Democratic Club endorsed Marin County Supervisor and former John Burton aide Barbara Boxer. Last week the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club issued a "no endorsement" with neither candidate securing the 60% vote needed. The presidents of the three San Francisco Gay Democratic clubs, Gwenn Craig, Connie O'Connor, and Gerry Parker have also endorsed Marinite Boxer. The Milk Club endorses next week.

On the other hand, Renne has been picking up individual endorsements in the Gay community including long-time Lesbian activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. None of the Gay newspapers have yet selected a preference for the June primary between Boxer and Renne. The Bay Area Reporter announced this week it would publish its endorsements in late April or early May after it has interviewed and examined the voting records of the various candidates.

Gay Band Turns Corner

by Allen White

With the numbers continuing to increase at rehearsals and musical quality improving, San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Band Director Tom Smith believes they are "turning a corner." He is now in his fourth month as director of the band, and they are preparing for their first concert April 30 at California Hall.

He noted that there had been a misconception that the band would only march and would not perform in concert. Obviously, that is not the case. He noted that to be just a marching band, the group could not survive. "Musicians," Smith said, "need something they can get their teeth into." He also said that the concerts are musical fun and they prove the band is "versatile."

For the concert the main

floor will be set up in cabaret style with 60 tables and there will be waiters available on the floor serving drinks.

The event which is called "a la carte" is a combination of music with a heavy emphasis on the kind of music you expect from a band including marches, a salute to the Air Force, and a salute to Walt Disney. There is also an entire section of Broadway showtunes. The program concludes with much of the music the band plays in parades.

Tom Smith is extremely enthusiastic about the concert at California Hall. He is equally excited about the presentation the band will be making on May 9 at Stanford University. They will be appearing there at the 5,000-seat Frost Amphitheatre on a Sunday afternoon in-concert and the admission is free.

Tickets for the "a la carte" event are now available at Headlines.

Following her European tour, Sharon McNight will make her first public appearance at the Galleria on Mother's Day. Produced by Conceptual Entertainment, the event is to be a cabaret setting on the Sunday evening in May. McNight did not appear at the Fabulous Follies.

The Tap Troupe of the San Francisco Gay Band will be presenting a concert of their own in July. They will not be appearing with the band in their concert on April 30. Musical arrangements are being prepared to hopefully join the full band and the tap troupe together for their Fall concert.

Men on the Move

You will see Jazz Tap, Dance Theater, Folk Ensemble and Ballet Folklorico, to name only a few, when well-known Bay Area men dance in Centrespacedance Foundation's annual studio benefit on May 21-23. The benefit,

entitled Men Dancing, provides an opportunity for you to experience the multi-faceted talents of Bay Area male dancers as they perform pieces also choreographed by men.

Men Dancing plays May

21 through 23 at 8:30 and a matinee performance on Sunday at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$6 and may be reserved in advance or purchased at the door. Centrespacedance is located at Project Artaud, at 2840 Mariposa Street

Fundraisers Respond to Gaycare Survey

A Valuable Document Gets Support

Reactions to the Gaycare report from leaders of non-profit Gay organizations have been favorable. A survey revealed most organization leaders agree with Tom Waddell of the Gay Olympics:

"I think it's a good piece of necessary reporting," said Waddell, adding that he was "glad to see it. Everyone should read it."

Gaycare is a local group of concerned citizens which recently undertook a survey of 50 nonprofit groups serving the Bay Area Gay community. The report outlined various organizations' histories and accounting practices, and had stern warnings about the pitfalls in raising funds for worthy causes.

Carole Fitzgibbon of Coming Home, a Gay hospice, says, "As the leader of a group which hopes to raise money this year, it is the most important document I've seen since I've moved here. I'm very impressed." Fitzgibbon says the Gaycare report vindicates the Bay Area Reporter, which had been critical of the accounting practices of various organizations. Fitzgibbon says the report is probably "... just the tip of the iceberg." She says she spent \$30 having the Gaycare study copied for her board members.

Not everyone was in agreement with Gaycare's findings, however. Jay Davidson of the Gay Men's Chorus says, "The report said our concerts in November barely broke even, when in fact we netted \$6,500." Davidson saw no real problem scheduling the Chorus' concerts so soon after concerts by the Gay Freedom Day Band. "To some degree we don't share certain segments of our audience," Davidson says many people stayed away from the Chorus' concerts because of the repertoire selected. Asked if the choice of choral music has been too highbrow, Davidson replied, "Financially, yes. Artistically, no." He says the Chorus wanted to show what it was capable of doing. Davidson did indicate future concerts will take into better

account "... understanding who is our audience."

As for the large debt from last year's national concert tour, Jay Davidson says the Chorus will try to whittle it down through benefits and sweepstakes. But, Davidson says, "we don't see our concerts as fundraisers." Gaycare had been especially critical of the Gay Men's Chorus, pointing out the group is still \$140,000 in debt.

Carole Migden of Operation Concern finds the Gaycare report "bleak and disappointing." Migden says the concept of major philanthropy in the Gay community is new, spanning only ten years. "Expectations concerning charitable giving shouldn't be too high," says Migden. She quickly points out that OC is one of the older groups and is grounded in good philanthropy.

Migden says next year's budget is \$300,000, but that only ten percent of that amount is raised out in the community. The bulk of the funds comes from the City and County of San Francisco and from United Way. Operation Concern has been in existence for eight years. Migden says, "We as a community must prioritize our needs and pursue fundraising on a noncompetitive basis."

Mark Feldman is in charge of the building fund for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. He offered, "We would like to see a more positive emphasis put out there. The cup is half full, not half empty. Cooperation is the key point of the report. I think the money is out there. It's a matter of education of the community." As for Sha'ar Zahav, Feldman reports its fundraising is ahead of schedule. He says the group uses professional fundraisers when appropriate.

Tom Waddell was equally emphatic that the Gay Olympics will come off a financial success. "I am unwavering and unalterably positive we can meet our goals. We don't spend anything we don't have," he said. Waddell tried to put charity fundraising into perspective by saying that if 100,000 Gays set aside the

price of one beer per week for a year, \$5 million could be raised.

The new head of Community United Against Violence, Simone Fleming said, "In general I agree with what they (the Gaycare Committee) are saying. The Gay community will have to set its priorities." Fleming called for better communication between fundraising groups to avoid scheduling conflicts. Fleming says CUAV will be concentrating on small fundraisers this year. "It would be lovely if we could make \$120,000," she said, "but I don't see that." Fleming noted this year's budget will be about the same as last year.

An old hand at fundraising is Jim Bonko, administrator of the Tavern Guild. He has seen many new groups spring up since the days 20 years ago when the Guild was practically the only game in town. Bonko said he knows of no one currently acting as liaison between nonprofit groups. Should the Tavern Guild step in to help coordinate? "I think we should consider it," says Bonko. Bonko said the Tavern Guild was formed 21 years ago, "in someone's living room." Much of the growing pains now experienced by the newer groups are a thing of the past for the Guild. Still, Bonko added, the Guild has a committee studying the feasibility of combining the Emperor and Empress coronations as they do in other major cities. Bonko says the Tavern Guild is always looking for ways to cut fundraising expenses.

The principal coordinator of the Gaycare study, Sam Puckett wanted to make sure everyone realizes the report was written to support and assist these organizations, not to be at odds with them. Puckett said the report is "just the first step." He wants to gather more input from the groups and continue the service. Puckett reported few, if any, negative reactions from the organizations themselves. On the contrary, he says responses have been "generally positive. People thought it was necessary, and about time."

Debugging Devices

For The Man Who Has Everything

Just when you thought you had every design label item in the catalog, *Outfront L.A.* has come up with the ultimate household attachment: the "Home Orifice Protection System." Paid testimonials include this message from Owen Lattimore of Glens Falls, New York: "Before I had Rockwell Orifice Protection I was afraid of my own watchdog. Now I wouldn't trade him for a signed copy of Judy at Carnegie Hall."

The protection device offers the following reassuring safety features:

1. Protects mouth, anus, nasal passages or empty eye socket. Choose preferred combination or opt for complete protection.
2. Dependable Protection Alarm sounds the alert at the moment of insertion. You pick the warning tone of your choice: A bell costs \$7.50; a

buzzer goes for \$11.50; a foghorn for \$17, and a direct line to the FBI is \$127.

3. Electric hymen administrators 20,000 volts on contact. 12 years' intensive testing by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

4. Concealed camera records a Polaroid print of the offending member for purposes of police identification or your own amusement.

5. If the attacker persists past this point a special time-lapse device mimicking nature's own Glands of Bartholin will release a thin jet of Novocaine rendering the experience fruitless and greatly reducing the likelihood of second offenders.

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day in all major urban centers. Protection of ears, belly buttons and open wounds is available at an optional charge.

And here comes the pitch being used: "Are you losing valuable sleep due to constant fear of homosexual attack? Are you afraid that some deviate who feels the world owes him a blowjob will penetrate your premises while you snooze away with every yawning orifice open to unnatural assault? Have you often asked yourself where a clean-living heterosexual can obtain much-needed orifice protection and the peace of mind that comes with it?"

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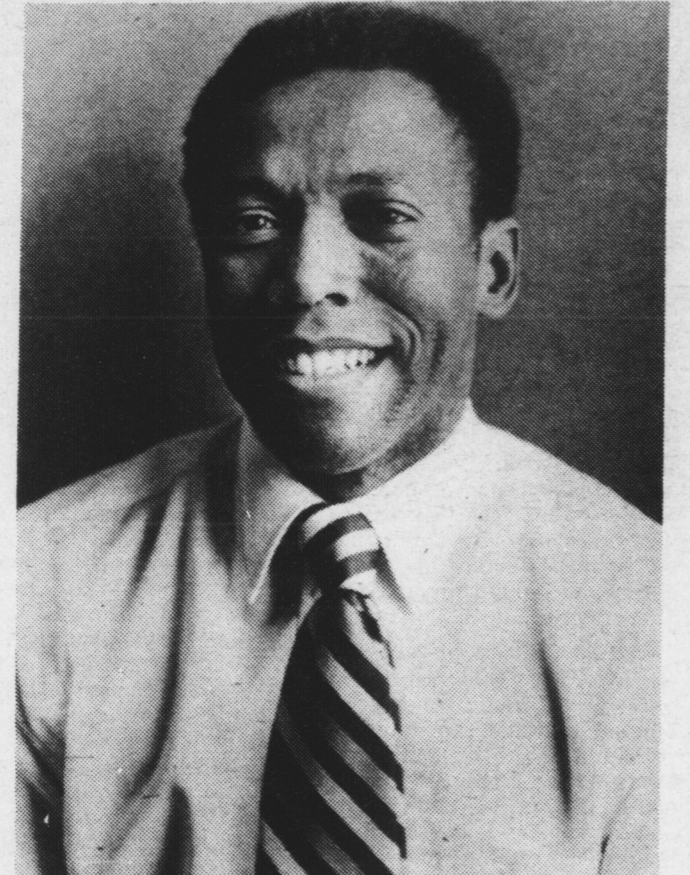
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Police Hiring Practices
NGTF Targets 50 Cities
 The National Gay Task Force announced this week that it is conducting a national inquiry into the hiring practices of police departments in major cities across the U.S. Letters sent to the police chiefs of the nation's 50 largest cities are aimed at gathering data about the hiring of openly Gay and Lesbian officers and recruitment efforts in Gay communities.



Mel Boozar, NGTF Director of Civil Rights Advocacy

"This project combines our longstanding concern that Gays have equal access to employment with our recent campaign to reduce the growing incidents of violence toward Gays and Lesbians," said Lucia Valeska, NGTF Executive Director. "We will work with local activists to encourage departments to remove hiring bans and take steps to improve police/Gay community relations," she added.

Vicious Palo Alto Mugging

Four young men jumped a solitary Gay man as he approached the B.Q. Baths in Palo Alto on Friday, April 16, at approximately 1am. The victim, Rob Mitchell, is an employee of the baths, which had earlier refused entry to the youths, as potential troublemakers.

The attackers were Black, and speculation has it that their attack was made in retaliation to their being denied access to the baths. Similar incidents have been reported recently, and the customers of the club are demanding an investigation by the San Mateo Sheriff's Department. The Department has been slow to aid Gay businesses and Gay-related crimes in the past.

'Mother Jones' Offers Solidarity

The Foundation for National Progress, *Mother Jones* magazine, Bay Area Solidarity Support Campaign, and American Workers & Artists for Solidarity present **Evening for SOLIDARNOSC**, April 29 from 7:30 to 11:00pm at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street in San Francisco.

Featured that evening will be: Deirdre English, Executive Editor, *Mother Jones* magazine; Dolores Huerta, First Vice President, United Farmworkers of America; Holly Near, feminist singer/songwriter; Paul Robeson, Jr., author, lecturer, human rights activist; Ed Sadlowski, U.S. Steelworkers Union; Ralph Schoenman, organizer of New York Evening for Solidarnosc; Daniel Singer, Polish Jew now living in Paris, author of *Road to Gdansk*; Kurt Vonnegut, author; and Howard Wallace, Gay union activist.

Tickets are \$5 and are available at Modern Times Bookstore (968 Valencia) or at the door.

Harvey to Endorse
 The Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club will be considering a wide array of candidates and issues in determining endorsements for the June primary at the upcoming General Meeting on Tuesday, April 27. These will include contests for state, local, and Federal offices.

Of interest are the large number of candidates seeking posts on the Democratic Central Committee from the 16th and 17th Assembly Districts who are open Lesbians and Gay men. There are nine of these candidates, including incumbents Gwenn Craig, Ron Huberman, and Jack Trujillo, vying for the 20 seats available.

Sha'ar Zahav Plans Ballpark Night

On Thursday, May 13, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will host its first annual "Night with the A's!"

Members of the Bay Area Jewish community and Gay religious organizations and all other interested parties are invited to attend an evening of major league baseball as the Oakland A's take on the New York Yankees at 7:35pm. Beginning at 6:30pm hors d'oeuvres will be served at a social hour in the Oakland Coliseum's Oakland Room.

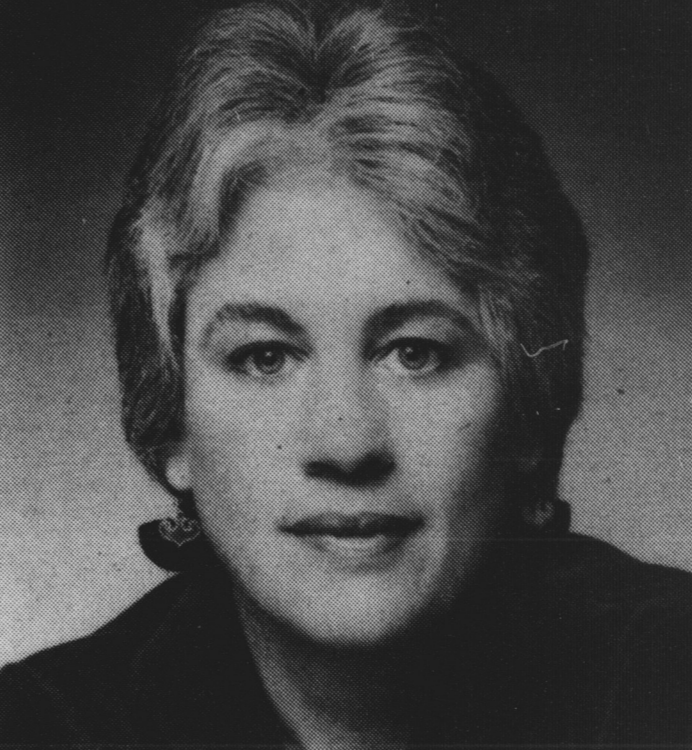
Ticket prices are \$7.50 for members of Sha'ar Zahav, \$8.50 for nonmembers, and \$5.50 for children 14 years or under. The ticket price includes a box seat plus hors d'oeuvres. Tickets may be obtained by sending a check to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, or by calling the synagogue at 621-2871.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has over 200 members and several thousand supporters. Founded in 1977, the congregation has a special outreach to Lesbian and Gay Jews. It recently was admitted to the nationwide Union of American Hebrew Congregations and has commenced a building campaign to have "a home of our own."

MatchMater Expands to LA

C. David Kulman, also known as David the MatchMater. San Francisco's well-known matchmaker for Gay males since 1974, will be opening a branch office of his introduction service in May in Los Angeles. His service is for guys looking for an ongoing relationship, not one-night stands. With offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, Kulman's clients can meet state-wide. He's had as clients men of all professions — and persuasions. He's had married men signing up who found this a safe, discreet way to "come out," at least to themselves. He's also signed up divorced and widowed men who had sublimated their feelings for many years, and felt this was the time to express their true sexuality. David the MatchMater advertises in both San Francisco dailies, Gay publications and the phone book.

NGTF Forms National Network to Monitor Nominees to Courts



NGTF Executive Director Lucia Valeska, who will be in San Francisco the end of this month.

In a move calculated to formally represent the Gay community's position with regard to judicial appointments, the National Gay Task Force has formed a nationwide screening network to monitor Reagan administration nominees to the Federal Courts, NGTF Executive Director Lucia Valeska announced recently.

New College Offering

Gay Lit Course

Well-known San Francisco poet Aaron Shurin will be teaching a special summer class in Gay and Lesbian literature at New College, starting June 1 and continuing for six weeks. Shurin will be discussing issues of homosexuality dating from the seventh century B.C., when Sappho of Lesbos sang, up to the present, with an emphasis on contemporary writers. Some questions to be raised: How does Gay literature reflect social conditions, and how does it express personal voice? Is there an historical Gay or Lesbian sensibility, and if so what's changed and what remains the same? Is a Gay love poem different from a straight one?

The course has a fee of \$90 for auditors or \$270 for those wishing full college credit, and is offered as part of a broad range of Humanities-oriented classes being given this summer at New College of California, the only accredited four year college serving directly the Castro, Noe Valley, and Mission District neighborhoods. Address: 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco, 94110. For more information call 626-1694, ask for Mark Feldman.

Flag Corps Benefit

The Gay Olympic Games Flag Corps will benefit from a Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Saturday, April 24, from noon until 4pm at the Atherton Hotel, 685 Ellis Street. Three door prizes will be awarded, consisting of dinners at The Atherton, La Pinata, and the Roxie Road House, along with pairs of tickets to **Evita**, **Boy Meets Boy**, and Ruth Hastings. The Flag Corps Gourmet Committee will serve delicious confections. A \$5 donation is expected at the door.

ELECTRIC HAIKU

If love is only a matter of lighting Why has my fuse just blown?
 —Glenn

been the action of the Gay community in the past," Valeska said, "we now seek to respond to nominations as and when they are made."

Valeska further noted that Mel Boozar, NGTF's Director of Civil Rights Advocacy, will coordinate and direct the efforts of the project through NGTF's Washington, D.C., office. Boozar explained that the Task Force Washington office constantly monitors vacancies throughout the country through contact with the Justice Department.

"We also monitor the status of judicial nominations as they occur," Boozar added, "through contact with the White House and the Senate Judiciary Committee. There are some 40 vacancies on the Federal bench right now, and before this administration is over, there will be numerous other openings. The impact on our community of these nominations will be felt for years, perhaps decades, to come."

"For the first time," Boozar said, "our movement will be prepared to influence the process of selection."

According to Boozar, the project is organized to go into action immediately upon the announcement by the White House of a nominee for a Federal courts post. At that point, the Judicial Screening Network, composed of a group of cooperating attorneys throughout the United States who work in each of the Federal Districts, will investigate the background and public record of the nominee.

"If evidence of anti-Gay bias comes to light through the investigations made by the attorneys in the field," Boozar explained, "my office then alerts various support groups including, notably, the Gay Rights National Lobby, that have agreed to coordinate efforts to fight homophobic appointees to the courts."

"A strategy is then developed," continued Boozar, "depending upon the current status of the nomination. This may include any or all of such tactics as rallying constituent pressure against the nomination, developing effective coalitions to oppose the nomination in concert, alerting the press to the Gay community's negative response to the nominee and urging that the nomination be given adverse publicity, and protesting the nomination to the White House and the Senate."

"NGTF's Lucia Valeska said, "With the prevailing political atmosphere becoming increasingly perilous for Lesbians and Gays, we must be

sure to respond promptly to important administration nominations for such crucial posts as those in the Federal Judiciary system. Our Judicial Screening Project will stand vigilant to resist the attempts of the Radical Right to stack the courts against us."

Further information regarding the project may be obtained by contacting Mel Boozar, National Gay Task Force, 1304 4th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. (202) 484-6235.

Gay Parents Lunch

Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFOG) is planning a spectacular luncheon to be held at Bayview Federal Savings and Loan located at 2121 South El Camino Real in San Mateo at 12pm on May 15. The luncheon's festivities will feature many of the local Bay Area's top entertainers lending their support to what is felt will be a heartwarming fundraising effort to bring Gays, their families, and friends together.

The \$10 tax-deductible contribution will serve to further the efforts of PFOG in bringing more understanding and communication for the Gay community.

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POLITICS AND POKER

CRIR Goes for Marks



WAYNE FRIDAY

Mayor Feinstein and Assemblyman Art Agnos are honorary co-chairs of a fundraiser...

bucks to help these people (wonder what the hell Sabel's is giving you for \$82)... If you were among the hundreds that paid \$10...

Ryan, the daughter of the late Leo Ryan who was himself murdered by cult followers...

Governor Brown last week elevated Municipal Court Judge Isabella Horton Grant to the Superior Court...

Supervisors Doris Ward and Willie Kennedy have endorsed the Renne for Congress effort... Harry Britt is pushing legislation...

Friends of Demo County Chairperson Agar Jaicks are not amused with Alice Toklas' failure to endorse Jaicks for re-election...

The respected California Journal says the Marks-Burton congressional fight will be "one of the nation's best races in November..."

Attorney General candidate John Van de Kamp told the Bay Area Reporter last week that he "fully supports the concept of AB1..."

Hollywood Congressman Henry Waxman held hearings last week in L.A. on Kaposi's Sarcoma, the disease that affects Gay men...



College Board candidate Sal Rosselli party at George Mendenhall's. (Photo by Rink)

have set up a system to monitor the cops' activities... have you heard enough about Butyl Nitrate (poppers)? Well, Ronald Wood...

Harry Britt (April 24) in San Francisco, they will make an earlier appearance at a fundraiser for East Bay Assemblyman Tom Bates in Oakland...

At least 20 upfront Gay and Lesbian delegates expected at the mid-term Democratic conference in Philadelphia in June... under a bill (AB2872) sponsored by Glenn Moore...



Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff. This week the Mayor sought to get to the bottom of Gay problems on Castro. (Photo by Rink)

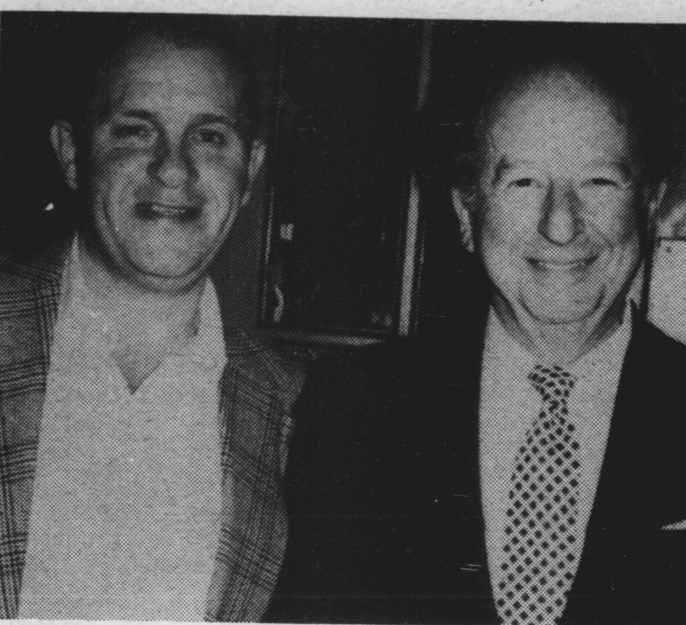
drivers and I am damned glad to see it; drunk drivers are as ugly as cold-blooded murderers as far as I'm concerned...

to be a friend of ours)... fundraisers — more of them, so let's get them out of the way all at once...



Wisconsin Representative David Clarenbach, who brought in that state's pro-Gay legislation, and Attorney General hopeful John Van de Kamp. (Photo by Rink)

POLITICS & POKER (Cont'd)



Sharing items in the Herb Caen sound-alike/look-alike contest. (Photo by Rink)

home (1952 15th St., 1-3pm) also on April 25 (\$10-\$25 for that one); and if you would like a FREE one for a change...



George Deukmejian, CRIR choice for Governor. To many other activists he is one of California's least sympathetic politicians to the Gay movement.

A Week for Violence Victims

Mayor Dianne Feinstein last week issued a proclamation naming April 19 to 25 as Victims Rights Week. This year's theme of domestic violence and its role in increasing crime is a unique approach...

The San Francisco Victim/Witness and Family Violence offices at the Hall of Justice as well as the Community United Against Violence headquarters at 480 Castro Street...

However, the staffs urge all victims of violent crime within the past year who have not reported those crimes or applied for aid in paying the costs of physical and mental recovery...

VD Screening

San Francisco City Clinic, in cooperation with the City Clinic volunteers, have once again initiated a free venereal disease street screening program.

- The locations for the testing sites will be Castro Street (near 18th Street) and Polk Street (near California Street). May 1 Saturday Castro Street 12:00pm - 3:00pm... June 5 Saturday Castro Street 12:00pm - 3:00pm... For further information about the street screening, call or visit San Francisco City Clinic at 250 Fourth Street...

FACE TO FACE



Spousal Benefits — A Turn Toward Equality

SUPERVISOR HARRY BRITT

As Gay people have begun to emerge from the time when ours was a "love that dare not speak its name," we have made many social and political gains...

One relic of homophobia is the refusal by society to recognize, support, or in any way encourage love among us. One way in which the larger society denies the validity of our love is by denying to Gay couples the benefits which it bestows on heterosexual married couples...

Our lovers cannot get the employee health benefits that marriage partners take for granted. We can't count on death benefits, no matter how long we've been together — and we have no right in many cases to visit our lover in the hospital or even to make funeral arrangements when she or he dies...

This kind of discrimination is rampant, and it affects every one of us who is involved in — or ever has been

or will be involved in — a significant relationship with another Gay.

It also affects all non-Gay couples who live together outside of marriage — a potentially major source of allies in the struggle to overturn this type of discrimination, especially in a city which increasingly is a city of non-married adults.

In terms of our community, it's time to challenge this form of discrimination and to expose it for what it is — a continuing relegation of Gay people to second-class citizenship which is totally inconsistent with full equality in this society.

I am trying to use my position on the Board of Supervisors to challenge this practice wherever the City of San Francisco has the authority to do so.

On April 12 I directed the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of inquiry to all major city departments asking what benefits or services they provide, either to their employees or to the public, which are available to spouses by marriage but not to those involved in nontraditional relationships.

While we are waiting for this information, we are pursuing the issue of spousal benefits in meetings with a

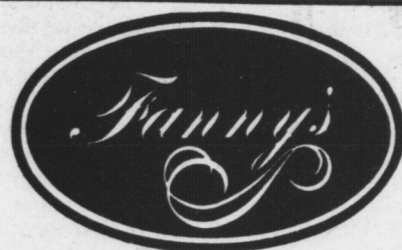
small group of Gay doctors, lawyers, and others familiar with the field.

Our goal is to introduce legislation which will both wipe out discrimination in spousal benefits as practiced by the City of San Francisco and which will provide the legal, political, and psychological foundation for an assault on such discrimination in the private sector and throughout the country.

The issue of spousal benefits for Gay couples is a new one, we are still seeking information on ways in which such benefits are denied. If you are aware of benefits available to married couples but not available to lovers — particularly benefits or public services controlled by the City — please call Jim Baker, a volunteer at my office who is working hard on this project. He can be reached on Wednesdays and Thursdays at my office at 558-2145. We welcome your ideas.

S&M Education

For a better understanding of S&M, Domination and Submission, the SM Institute is offering classes and symposiums on these subjects. Classes are limited to 35 people, cost \$10 per session, and are held at the Sutro Baths, 1015 Folsom, at 11am. The schedule and subject of the academic workshops is: April 24, Piercing (with Mr. Fakir); May 1, Understanding SM; June 5, SM Information Fair and Blood Drive; June 12, 19, Safety and First Aid; June 27, Booth at Gay Day. Tape recorders are accepted at workshops, but cameras are barred. For reservations and information: 864-5821.



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THE CALDRON

Part II
Interview with the Owners

by Gary Pedler

The Caldron is the brain-child and current ward of two men, Hal Slate and Jim Gilman. It was fairly easy for me to guess upon meeting them which one specialized in more mundane matters like keeping the books and which specialized in the less mundane matters such as overseeing the staff. Short, stocky, older, and with a level-headed air about him, Hal was clearly more likely to be the man responsible for the behind-the-scenes aspects of the club. Jim's combination of masculine good looks and boyish high spirits made him a more plausible candidate for a before-the-footlights role there. Hal sat quietly in his chair with both feet on the floor while Jim tossed about vivaciously in his, legs now tucked under him in a sketchy lotus position, now draped over an arm of the chair. Hal spoke calmly, rather slowly, whereas Jim spoke louder, faster, and more excitedly. I was not surprised when Hal excused himself fairly early on in the interview, explaining that he needed to attend to some matter at the club, and left Jim to do the bulk of the public relations work.

I asked Hal and Jim to tell me something about their backgrounds and to explain how they had come to open the Caldron, curious to know what course of events had led these two men to join forces.

Hal went first: "In 1971, I sold several movie theaters I owned in Washington, D.C., dropped out, and played hippie for a while. I traveled around the country on a motorcycle, doing that whole late-60's, early-70's number. All the while, I knew that San Francisco was my ultimate goal, the place where I'd finally come to roost. I first visited the city in 1964 and came here on vacation almost every year thereafter. I immediately felt at home in San Francisco as I'd never felt at home anywhere else. It's the only place I've ever been where I don't feel like an alien, an outsider... About nine months after I moved here, I got a job at the Surf Theater. When the owner of the Surf took over the Clay, I was put in charge of remodeling it, and I later did various work for the other two theaters he bought, the Castro and the Lumiere. Then after six years, I felt really finished with that job, quit, and didn't work for about ten months."

When it was Jim's turn to talk about his background, he began at the beginning and told me that he had grown up in Rolling Hills, a quasi-rural Southern California town, and had been raised in a home in which there had been no television set, a 4000 volume library, and where only classical music had gained admittance. His father was a "brilliant man, one of the best-educated people I've

ever met," and his mother was a psychic — which meant that she always knew when Jim was lying to her or had done something she had forbidden him to — and a healer. His career as a college student began at the University of Redlands, but he transferred to Santa Barbara in his junior year, mainly because his roommate was coming on to him and Jim could not handle the situation. "If he'd been hot and hunky, things might have turned out differently."

After dropping out of school in his senior year, he began to have "very profound mystical experiences. Visions, communications. And I began to meditate in earnest." At the Vedanta Society in Santa Barbara, he received instruction in an Eastern tradition for the first time. He later became involved with a group in San Diego called The Teaching of the Inner Christ and eventually became one of their healing practitioners. In 1973, he moved to Berkeley and opened a center there, then transferred it to San Francisco two years later. "Why?" I asked. "I had a strong sense of knowing that that was what I ought to do," said Jim. "Something inside me said, 'Go to San Francisco, so I did.'" In 1976, he met here "a very, very enlightened man" who became his guru and was influential in his decision to leave The Teaching of the Inner Christ and be-



Not your state of the art WC, but the Caldron offers rustic essentials. (Photo by Rink)

come a self-employed meditation teacher and healer.

Then the paths of Hal and Jim crossed, the two men being brought together by a rather unusual pair of shared interests: philosophy and watersports.

Hal took up the narrative thread at this point: "I'd become involved in spiritual studies, too, with a particular focus on Vedanta. At the same time, I was beginning to recognize that I was turned on by piss, and was going through all these guilt trips. My roommate told me about this outrageous piss queen he knew who was also a meditation teacher. Later, I saw a man at a party and picked up an extraordinary sense of openness and freedom from him. I realized afterwards that that had probably been the guy my roommate had been talking about. My roommate had said that he hung out at the Boot Camp, so I went there one night and found Jim talking to this guy about Vedanta, of all things." "Is it unusual for you to discuss philosophy at places like the Boot Camp?" I asked. "Not at all," Jim replied, laughing his infectious, gleeful "hee, hee, hee" laugh. "I do it everywhere!" "I wormed my way into the conversation," Hal continued, "and before it was over, Jim and I had agreed

that I'd start coming over to his place and finding out more about what he was teaching. Soon, we had an almost classic guru/disciple relationship."

Jim proceeded to explain how he had become an "outrageous piss queen." "I was at the Jaguar about six years ago, and this guy was sucking my dick, and he said, 'I want your piss,' so I pissed on his chest. This got me very excited, and at some level I knew what was going to happen next. The guy started to piss in my mouth, and my first reaction was total horror and immediately afterwards I thought, 'Oh my God, I love this!' So I started to get into it — at the Jaguar, because I didn't know of any other place I could go."

Jim went on to say, "One of my perspectives is that I consider myself a very average man. If I like something, there are probably lots of other people who like it too. So I figured that if I liked piss, there must be lots of other people out there who did. And if I felt oppressed by society because of my interest in piss — and I was shocked how uptight my friends were about my getting into watersports — then other people must be feeling oppressed as well. What was the answer to our problem? Piss Liberation!

Hal in the meantime hadn't worked for about a year and, growing a little bored, had decided to fulfill a long-cherished dream and go to India. Jim had discussed his scheme with Hal, and also the problems he was running into — and then, two days before Hal had planned to buy his plane ticket, it came to them that it would be a great idea for them to become business partners and open up a sex club.

Hal and Jim spent three months building-hunting. They wanted one located in the Folsom district because of the nature of their enterprise, but wished it to be at the other end of it from the Moscone Center, for they surmised that that part of town was on the verge of being transformed into an area of white-collar offices and expensive residences. "We didn't want to frighten the horses," Jim smiled. At last they settled on leasing 953 Natoma Street, a former household appliance store close to Market Street transportation and with ample parking space adjacent to it. "We spent weeks and weeks designing the place, remodeling it, outfitting it," said Hal. "Some of the furnishings came from wrecking yards. We bought the two claw-footed tubs from a guy we knew who was renovating a Victorian and had taken them out

"I was beginning to recognize I was turned on by piss, and was going through all these guilt trips."

— Hal Slate

As my contribution to the cause, I started throwing piss parties at the Boot Camp. 'Hot Piss Pig Parties' — that's what they were called. I rented the space five times on Saturday afternoons. There'd never been anything like these parties in the city before. They were enormously successful, and helped a lot of people to come out of the closet about being into piss. Then I began toying with the idea of renting a place where I could have these parties once or twice a month, or maybe even once a week. But after I began studying the economics of this idea, it became clear that it wouldn't be practical to pay rent all month long on a place and only use it occasionally."

of it. The two slings I built myself."

On November 1, 1980, a new sex club named The Caldron opened in San Francisco. "How did it come by that name?" I asked. Jim explained: "One day I was casting the I Ching on the club and the hexagram that came up was Hexagram 50, The Caldron. We use the spelling of the word that's in the Wilhelm translation of the I Ching, and there's a representation of the hexagram above the front door that you've probably never noticed. It looks like some sort of grill."

The Caldron is a post-Consenting Adults Act, post- (Continued on next page)

THE CALDRON

(Continued from previous page)

Freitas Guidelines sex club. "When we designed and built the place," said Jim "every-one we dealt with knew what we were creating. The D.A., the Police Department, the Fire Department. We talked with City Planning before we started work, and after we'd finished, a building inspector came out and gave us a building inspection. We're law-abiding, respectable businessmen, which is a privilege that those people running fuck bars five years ago didn't have. Government and society cast them in the roles of criminals."

The Caldron was not intended to be a mere parrot-cry of the other sex clubs in town. "Our business philosophy," said Jim, "was, 'There's enough for everybody.' Instead of imitating other sex clubs and competing with them for the same clientele, we tried to create a club that would be unique and appeal to a different market. That market is people who like public sex, exhibitionism, watersports, fisting. People who like group sex — quantity sucking and fucking rather than finding one hot man and spending the entire evening with him. People who also like to socialize in the place where they have sex."

"The Caldron is a reflection of my tastes and Hal's. We created a club that was the kind of club we would enjoy coming to. I've never been much of a bathhouse person or much of a bar person, other than fuck bars. I get bored very quickly in those places, and I'm not very good at cruising. I prefer places where I can have sex in the back-room, then go out front, have a drink, talk with my friends, then return to the back-room and have a ball. I want to go to a place that is accepting and caring, that is void of pretense, that is crazy. But one of my philosophies in life has come to be that I don't go looking for parties, I create them, and that's what I helped to do at the Caldron."

"The club is also meant to be a habitat for exhibitionists," Jim continued. "Exhibitionism is another one of my loves. I used to satisfy my desire for it by entering Jockey Shorts Contests at the Endup and working as a stripper at the old Spartan Cinema. Again, I thought, 'If I like this, so must lots of other men. If I feel stigmatized because of it, there must be lots of other men out there who feel the same way.' What do I need to do? I need to create a safe, supportive environment in which exhibitionists can do their exhibiting."

When I asked Jim to explain the ideas behind the Caldron's design, he began taking me on a mental tour of the building while we sat in the living room of his apartment. "The building's entrance was originally on Howard Street. We shifted it to the back of the building in order to make the club inconspicuous and so reduce the chances of upsetting anyone who lives or works in the neighborhood. Also, we did not care to pull guys in off the street who just happened to be walking by and were feeling a little horny. We didn't want people coming there who weren't in tune with the place and who might either be offended or stand around and watch and titter. We wanted people coming who knew what the Caldron was about and knew that they were interested in what it had to offer."

"We've structured the place so that there are essentially two areas," Jim explained. "There's the bar area and the 'back-room' area. Let me talk about the bar first. The bar in it isn't one of those long, flat ones that has you looking at a mirror and the bartender. It's got a thrust shape, which means that people sitting there can look at one another across it. The walls of the area are painted a very, very deep red, which fosters a sense of warmth and sensuality. The lighting isn't overpowering. The lighting is soft, but not dim. Every aspect of the area is meant to encourage people to communicate, to connect. There's no video-screen or pinball machines or porno movies; nothing that will distract people's attention from each other."

The Caldron is not licensed to sell alcohol, but it is legal for customers to bring their own. "The customer is merely checking something that belongs to him, as he would check a coat." It is here at the bar that men "check" their beer. "We give a customer one plastic token for each can of beer he brings, and when he wants a beer, he hands the bartender one of his tokens. There are different colored tokens for different brands of beer."

In the middle of the bar area is a low table. "A pool table was often the centerpiece of the old Folsom Street back-rooms. We built something that would serve the same purposes as those pool tables. Guys can stand around it jacking off, get up on it and perform, or drape someone over it if they want to screw him."

West of the bar area is a large bathroom where men can clean up after sex. "There is a douching hose, and an old doctor's sink placed at waist level so you can wash your dick off and with curved spigots that you can easily get your arm under in order to wash it off after you've fisted someone. This is an area we try to reserve for legitimate toilet use. There's no door on the stall because if there were, two men would lock themselves inside it."

Jim mentioned at this point that during the initial planning stages of the Caldron, the partners had talked to many people in the sex club and bathhouse business about what worked and what didn't in facilities of this kind. They took most of the advice they were given, but in two respects, they went against it. "Most parts of the Caldron are better lit than people said we should be because the place is for men who enjoy watching other men have sex. And because it's also a place for men who like group sex and lots of interaction, we have large areas, whereas a basic rule in this business is, 'Don't have large areas. People want dark little corners where they can hide.' The idea behind that rule is that people have a lot of fear, and you need to put them in places where they are close to each other and it's as easy as possible for them to reach out and touch someone."

"We have large areas, but after about a year we decided that the area on the south side of the building was just too large, so we divided it in two. There was wasted space where that room is now. And we weren't getting the ambience we knew would work in the rear because it had no

fourth wall. It was too open; there was no sense of containment... A lot of the sex that used to happen in the bar area has been transferred to the new room: people standing around the table beating off, etcetera."

"The new room is a success, but if it stops being a success, we'll eliminate it. We're always making changes in the Caldron; fine-tuning it. For example, we used to just have an on-and-off switch for the lights, but now we have dimmers and can vary the intensities."

"We've changed the club's opening hour. It used to open at 9:00 Wednesday through Sunday, but hardly anyone would show up during the first hour or two. Gay men in this city don't tend to go out, even during the week, until about ten o'clock. And things don't really start to pick up until midnight. That's simply what's so about night life in San Francisco. You may want people to come to your place early in the evening, but that doesn't mean they will. We

(Continued on next page)



The Caldron's stirrers and starters, Jim Gilman and Hal Slate. (Photo by Rink)

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CALDRON

(Continued from previous page)

do open at eight on Tuesday nights, and people show up early — they have to, because the doors close at 9:30. Tuesdays are a special event, however." Being an early-to-bed person, I plea for an earlier opening hour on the other nights of the week. "We've considered carrying the Tuesday night motif over to another night," Jim said, "but we're afraid that might diffuse the energy. We might get half the crowd each night."

I asked Jim to tell me about the genesis of the famous Tuesday night J/O parties. "A friend told me, 'There's this place in New York called J's where they have jack-off parties.' I said, 'Great idea,' and we threw our first J/O party. It was a success, and a month later we had a second one, then two weeks after that we had a third one. These were successes too, so we made J/O parties a weekly feature. One thing I like about the parties is that a lot of men who wouldn't normally come to a South of Market sex club do come to the Caldron for them, and through the parties, they've discovered that they enjoy group sex, circle jerks, and so on."

Until this February, another theme night was Monday, when nothing but classical music was played. How did this idea come about? "Again, what happened was that I thought, 'I love classical music and I love having sex to classical music. If I enjoy these things, other people must too.' Why was this theme dropped from Monday nights? Weren't enough peo-

ple coming? "We weren't doing the level of business we do on Tuesdays, but it was successful in terms of attendance. The main problem was getting enough tapes with a suitable programming of classical music on them. We just ran out of material."

In our discussion of ways in which the Caldron undergoes frequent changes, a type of change that occurs there from hour to hour was not neglected. "The Caldron is a mutable space," Jim explained. "We play with it, shape it, mainly by using lighting and music. The basic rule of thumb is, 'The larger the crowd, the brighter the lights and the louder the music.' On Tuesdays, we start with everything cranked up because people arrive all at once and the party starts immediately."

"John Wilson does about 80% of our tapes, and I attribute a major portion of our success to their quality. He not only provides us with tapes, he's also studied the topography of different evenings and recommended a time when each tape should be used: which should be played on the weekends, which should be played late at night. He's not a DJ per se; he's an 'ambiance technician.' He's concerned with the fact that the sound is one of the most important elements in an environment like the Caldron."

Gary Pedler

Gays and the Military

Part II: Coming Out to Get Out: The Dilemma Facing Lesbians and Gays in the Military

by Chuck Johnson

The military seems to be playing both ends of the field these days when it comes to the question of whether Lesbians and Gay men will be separated from the armed services. Over the years tens of thousands of Gay men and Lesbians have been booted out of the military, more often than not with less than honorable discharges. The latest twist, however, is that many Gays and Lesbians are being kept in the military even though the military knows they are Gay, and knows they want out.

Jan LaCourt was an attractive, personalbe twenty-four year old member of the Air Force when she first came to see me. She had served three years in the Air Force, then re-enlisted for another four years. Jan had known all along that she was a Lesbian, but only recently was it getting difficult for her to continue to be a closet Lesbian to keep her job. She wanted to get out of the military and come out of the closet. We carefully prepared and presented her case, and within a couple of months she was a civilian with an honorable discharge. Simple, right? Not exactly.

Consider the case of Ron Brown. Ron had joined the Navy at age seventeen, and over the next two years he slowly came to terms with the fact that he is Gay. He had it all going for him: young, handsome, muscular, and popular. The only problem was that Gay sex in the military, whether on or off

maintained gone for several months. During that period he retained me, and ultimately returned to the ship where he faced court-martial charges for sodomy and Unauthorized Absence (AWOL). I eventually got the sodomy charge dropped, and Ron was given forty-five days' restriction for his Unauthorized Absence. After much fighting with the Navy, Ron was finally discharged for being Gay... but with an Other Than Honorable discharge.

At the same time I was working with Jan and Ron, another Gay military member, Kurt Adams, came to see me. Kurt, like Ron, had joined the Navy at age seventeen and then discovered his Gayness. Like Ron, he thought being discharged would be a simple matter, so he went to the base doctor and admitted being Gay. The doctor "diagnosed" Kurt as being Gay, and sent him on to a Navy psychiatrist who also "diagnosed" him as Gay. It was recommended that he be separated as soon as possible.

No further action was taken for several weeks, and Kurt's inquiries were either ignored or met with the response that the Navy was "working on it." Kurt finally became frustrated with the run-around and went on Unauthorized Absence for a few days. When he returned to base he was punished by being sent to "correctional custody" for thirty days, and was told that his discharge would be completed as soon as he finished his sentence.

Immediately upon release from custody Kurt went back to the Navy psychiatrist, who spoke with him and then telephoned the commanding officer. The psychiatrist told Kurt that the commanding officer would discharge him if he really wanted out. Kurt could not get to the commanding officer's office fast enough, but when he got there, he was told that he would not be discharged. He again walked off the job, this time for many months, and this time retained me before going back.

When he returned to the Navy, Kurt was sent to a Naval base in Texas. Like Ron, he was then facing a charge for the Unauthorized Absence. I filed a federal court petition asking that the court-martial be prohibited, since the Navy had violated its own regulations by refusing to discharge an admittedly Gay sailor. The Texas judge wanted no part of a Gay issue and denied the application. Kurt was sent to a court-martial trial where he was found guilty of the Unauthorized Absence and sentenced to three months' confinement and fines in excess of \$1,000. He was then processed for an Other Than Honorable discharge.

For Gay and Lesbian servicemembers the military has created a sometimes impassable maze of insanity. Those who want to stay in are "mandatorily" booted out against their wishes, most often with an honorable discharge. Those who want out are often retained against their wishes until the military can justify giving them a less than honorable discharge, sometimes coupled with a period of confinement. No matter which way you slice it, the real military policy seems to be one of homophobic oppression of Lesbians and Gays.

This is not to say that Gays (Continued on next page)

GUEST COLUMN

Gay fiction, which I don't think has yet reached any sustained laudable heights since Stonewall, is nevertheless, well and living. One example of achievement is a collection of short stories called *The Other Persuasion* (Vintage paperback, 1977, \$3.95). Readers unacquainted with it have genuine pleasures in store. *Persuasion*, which contains 26 stories, has not a bad one in the lot, although one or two — I am thinking of Radclyffe Hall's "Miss Ogilvy Finds Herself" — may have more historical than esthetic interest.

The collection, published in chronological order, begins with Proust's "Before Dark" (1893) and ends with Jane Rule's "Middle Children" (1975). In both Rule's story and in Doris Betts' "Burning the Bed" (1973), Gay women are central characters but being Gay is not the central issue. Contrasted with Hall's story they are startling examples of what can be achieved when we don't feel guilty. Betts' story is a gem, about which too much shouldn't be said except, perhaps, that it is a page-turner, and worth, as many page-turners are not, reading again, and again. She has created a compelling, significant world. The story is unforgettable.

Too much shouldn't be said either of Paul Bowles' classic, "Pages From Coldpoint" (1950). Told in a first person narrative, it unfolds a drama while simultaneously revealing the character of its narrator. It hasn't a superfluous word, a wrong note. In its cool, intelligent control, the story is a shocker. (Gore Vidal, who much admires the story, has written a pallid imitation of it in "Pages From an Abandoned Journal" (1956).) Another classic is John Horne Burns' "Momma" (1947). The milieu is a Gay bar in Naples; the time is WWII. The authenticity is stunning, and the humor — he is not being satirical — derives from an affectionate respect for his characters. A fourth story which deserves special notice is Ingeborg Bachmann's "A Step Towards Gomorrah" (1961). We are required to think about the logic of a married

Gays/Military

(Continued from previous page) in the military should give up. Regulations say one should be discharged with a discharge under honorable conditions unless your overall service record is bad. It is important to force the military to follow its own regulations, and to challenge such harassment when it occurs. The presence and advice of an experienced military counselor or attorney can play a critical role in preventing the kind of mistreatment described in this article. Remember Jan LaCourt — she got help before coming out to the military and all went well for her.

There are other reasons for being discharged from the military, and servicemembers who want out might want to check those out first. Lesbians and Gays who decide to use their Gayness as a way out of the military walk a very fine line: saying too little will not result in separation, but saying too much could mean a court-martial, a bad discharge, or both. Outside assistance from someone who knows the ropes can be extremely important. ■

Chuck Johnson

woman who feels oppressed, limited and defined by her heterosexuality, and is fed up. In rooting for her — will she or won't she engage in a Lesbian relationship? — the reader is not handed a sentimental victory, is handed no victory at all, in fact. By what not happens (although much does) we are given a definition of "love." This story, the most intellectual of all these stories, is a wonderful example of how to dramatize an interior conflict. (Isherwood's story is also "intellectual" but to my mind it is an obvious story, albeit a charming one, made especially so by its ending, but is thin soup compared to Bachmann's.)

No one, not even Ernest Hemingway (in "Sea Change" (1933), a shortie if there ever was one, told mostly through his lean dialogue) grinds an axe, and that, of course, distinguishes literature from propaganda: the authors are interested in delineation of individual behavior. And what a variety! Major authors (including Tennessee Williams as well as William Carlos, Stein, Forster and Graham Greene) may not always come through with

finer examples of what they can do, but they are never dull.

William Faulkner, who won't, I think, slip, as macho Hemingway will, into the category of a minor author, writes in his usual resonant style of convoluted sentence structure (by which he weeds physical descriptions with psychological insights), and surprised me by his lack of prejudice. He makes no value judgement on the love affair between two seamen. Women may be dismayed by his treatment of the female prostitutes (they are stereotyped)

but they seem to me to be an integral part of his tone: he is cynical, but not lacking in compassion.

There are other interests, also, in this kind of collection. We may be curious, for instance, how John O'Hara (prolific novelist of social studies) and James T. Farrell (whose "naturalism" in *Studs Lonigan* gave Europeans a powerful view of America) treat "homosexuality." And we may, liking, for instance, Maude Hutchins' "The Wreck" (1962) go on to read other works.

Texas Know How

Why Be Nice to the Vice?

"Eliminate victimless crimes and you double your police force at no extra cost," claims Gore Vidal. Houston's Gays are up in arms at Houston Police Department's vice activities in the Montrose district of town. *Montrose Voice* writer Ray Hill claims that each arrest costs the victim some where between \$400 to \$800 in bond money to get out of jail (although in some cases bond ran as high as \$1600). With over 1,000 arrests in 1981 at an average cost of \$600 per arrest, Hill claims

that Houston's vice squad is bilking the local Gay community out of \$600,000 a year due to enticement and entrapment activities. Many victims, according to Hill, have lost their jobs and/or been alienated from their families. Some were beaten by arresting officers, at least two have committed suicide. Hill further charged that while vice officers are busy seducing people on lower Westheimer Boulevard they do not respond to police calls about muggings and queer-bashings because it would blow their cover. Thus, Gay men may be beaten and killed in close proximity to a vice officer's entrapment operation, but the vice squad gets preferen-

The Other Persuasion is edited by Seymour Kleinberg. I salute his collection, a book worth owning. His introduction is astute and informative, although for readers who like to discover it, it should be read after reading the stories, not before. He also includes brief notes on the 26 contributors.

Imagination is a wonderful, human attribute. These talented writers use theirs and in so doing compel us to use ours. In so doing we earn the kinds of pleasure only reading can offer. ■

John D. Dolan

tial treatment over preventing violence and saving lives.

Although Houston's new Mayor Kathy Whitmire met with police officials and expressed her concern over the situation, she accepted their stance that the police are arresting prostitutes. Local non-Gays in the Montrose district apparently feel it is open season on the Gays in the area. One woman was overheard saying, "The vice officer said last night that they now had City Hall's approval to pick up anyone they wanted and charge them with prostitution. We can work with the vice to organize and complain about the Gay bars and drive them out of the neighborhood."

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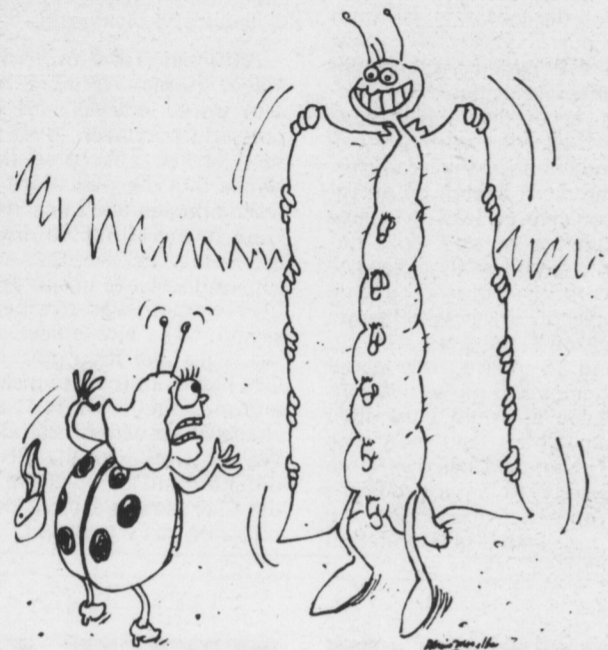
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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

AN JOSE SANTA CLARA CUPERTINO SUNNYVALE REDWOOD CITY PALO ALTO MONTEREY PLEASANT HILL VALLEJO BERKELEY WALNUT CREEK CAMPBELL FREMONT



Singing Sale

The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus will hold a garage sale on Saturday, May 1, 10:30-3:30, at 5667 Miles Avenue, Oakland, right across from the Rockridge BART Station. Proceeds will be used to support the chorus' production of *Gilgamesh*, the first gay oratorio.

Parade Youth

The Youth Liaison of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will hold a subcommittee meeting Saturday, April 24, from 1 to 4 pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. 552-6025.

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OAKLAND

Nez Visits Fred Corella

NEZ PAS

Fred Corella, owner of the popular Lake Lounge, is a third generation Berkeley-ite, who was raised by his Italian grandmother. This might account for his interest in and association with so many restaurants around the East Bay. His 45 years have been filled with the food service business; he owned his first restaurant at the age of 20 — the Brick Hut in Berkeley.

He has worked in, bartended for, cooked at, managed, and was involved in many establishments, including: The Sea Wolf, Clairmont Hotel, Volume I, Elegant Farmer and, most recent, the Beef-eaters.

Nez: Not that you have any spare time, but do you have any hobbies or outside interests?

Fred: Well, I still dabble in real estate, and I'm available if someone wants to sell their house!

Nez: In all the time you were in the food business, does any one incident stand out in your mind?

Fred: Oh boy... one time when I was working in a restaurant on the Square, around 1970. There was a rumor that a Syndicate hit-man was going to show up that night. There must have been 50 plainclothesmen, each carrying a machine gun or something like that! It never came off, but it was one

of the most exciting and horrendous nights that I have ever spent!

Nez: Mercy! Well, to change that subject... what are your observations about the Gay scene over the past years?

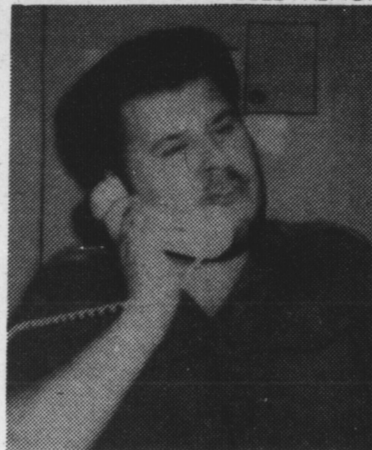
Fred: It has more openness now, especially with the younger generation. And that's good. They aren't shunned or put into mental anguish about their sexuality. It seems that there is more opportunity in the Gay world just because they are Gay... especially in San Francisco.

Nez: Why did you buy a bar, and more specifically, a Gay bar?

Fred: The Lake Lounge was a Gay bar the minute I bought it. I made no bones about it with the realtors or the previous customers. I wanted to offer the Gay public a place to call their own, and to operate in a manner in which I like to be treated myself... a "let your hair down" atmosphere. Hell, I remember the time that Gays couldn't even hold hands in a Gay bar!

Nez: Would you believe that I don't remember that far back? ... No, I didn't think so. Anyway, just how did you make the changeover from a straight neighborhood bar to the place it is now?

Fred: Well, I put an ad in the B.A.R., hired Gay bar-



Fred Corella

tenders, put up posters and flyers in all the other Gay bars in the area. The previous customers were told that the clientele would be Gay, and that they were welcome as always, but they had to realize the different lifestyle. Quite a few became a real part of the place. They loved the Gays and the Gays loved them, too. We have had several functions for a particular one of them, Rosey Fleishman, to help her with her finances. We even had an award named for her at the Queen and King of Hearts Ball. She's gone now, and we will all miss her! There has never been a problem with any of the straights who were regular customers.

Nez: What would you consider to be your greatest personal rewards from owning the Lake Lounge?

Fred: Well, for one thing, I've done more in the Gay community by being in the business. More so than if I hadn't had the bar, that's for sure! If I recall correctly, the idea and concept of A.C.I.E. started right here in this bar.

(Continued on Page 28)

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Gays in War

The Gay Men's Caucus of the Gay and Lesbian Union host Allan Berube, who will present his program "Marching to a Different Drummer" — the story of Lesbians and Gay men in WWII. On April 28 at 7:45pm in the Tilden Room, 5th floor Student Union, UC Berkeley. Call 642-6942.

Mary de Mayo

Chef Frank Manriquez presides over a fabulous Mexican dinner for only \$3.75 at Mary's Cinco de Mayo Party, May 5 from 7 to 10pm. With music and pinatas, plus all tequila drinks served as doubles. Mary's is at 437 Virginia Street in Vallejo; call 642-1906 for reservations.

Police Warrant

The Hayward Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of Rick Mitchell, a 24-year old Black male who has gained a reputation for ripping off people after posing as their "lover." Mitchell is 5'7", with thick black hair. The outgoing man drives a 1974 Cougar, brown with a brown vinyl top. He frequents B Street Disco in San Mateo, aspires to becoming a model, and likes to be paid for his sexual services. The arrest warrant was issued by his last employer; those who have seen Mitchell should call the Hayward Police Department.

BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

TAGE SCREEN SHOWS ROCK OPERA INTERVIEWS BOOKS MUSIC THE ARTS STAGE SCREEN SHOWS ROCK OPERA INTERVIEWS BOOKS MUSIC THE ARTS STAGE SCREEN

Theatre Bonanza

Shakespeare and Gay Bars in Oregon, Broadway Musicals in Legit Houses and Local Premieres
Playing in Oregon

by Steve Warren

"... I do fawn on men and hug them hard..." — Cassius

"... my noble friend, chew upon this..." — Brutus

"Let me have men about me..." — Caesar

Julius Caesar, Act I

Ashland, Oregon, just north of California on I-5, is the destination of many a Great Outdoor Adventurer who also loves good theatre.

Close to Mount Ashland (skiing) and Rogue River (rafting), Ashland is less than two hours from scenic Crater Lake and Klamath Falls. There's fishing, boating, hiking... I get exhausted just thinking about it.

I went for the theatre.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is that state's fourth ranked tourist attraction, by however they measure such things. Their 47th season opened Feb. 26 with five polished productions, one a holdover from last year, in repertory.

Of the five plays I saw opening weekend the only one I can't recommend wholeheartedly is a gimmicky production of *Julius Caesar* set in a contemporary Third World country (The costumes suggest both the Middle East and America).

Festival Artistic Director Jerry Turner says he staged the play this way to get "closer to the text..." There's

edy of undying love as a sex change version of *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*.

Inherit the Wind is Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's docudrama based on the 1925 Scopes "monkey trial" in which a schoolteacher accused of teaching evolution was defended by Clarence Darrow against the prosecution led by William Jennings Bryan.

The play does more simplifying than fictionalizing of the issues, but it's long been a favorite of mine. Who can resist laughing at the Old Christian Right as they make fools of themselves trying to legislate ignorance as well as morality?

Who can resist laughing at the Old Christian Right as they make fools of themselves trying to legislate ignorance as well as morality?

a remoteness about togas... I was more aware of contemporary parallels in last summer's traditionally togad production by the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, where I didn't have to deal with such questions as, If everyone's carrying guns why do they only kill each other with knives?

Barry Kraft's delivery of Mark Antony's eulogy catches the audience up in its rabble-rousing fury and takes our minds off the general foolishness for a few minutes. The dialogue is unchanged, so he says the conspirators are "all honorable men," even though Casca is played by Joan Stuart-Morris as a pistol packin' mama!

The show's worst moment comes just after the assassination when uniformed guards with machine guns block the exits from the theatre, setting off giggles in the audience that break the dramatic mood.

The other Shakespearean play, *Othello* is deservedly being revived from last season. James Avery is physically and dramatically towering in the title role, and Denis Arndt finds an extraordinary amount of humor in the villainous Iago.

Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* doesn't have all the zip it once had, but still packs a fair share of laughs. Modern audiences may see this com-

Wayne Ballantyne and Philip Davidson head a fine cast of 44 people and a monkey.

A message relevant to all of us who have ever wondered why we are or should be in the movement is delivered by the Darrow character to the young defendant after the trial: "Tomorrow... another fella will have to stand up. And you've helped give him the guts to do it!"

These four shows and two more to come this season are performed in the modern, 600-seat Angus Bowmer Theatre, named for the festival's founder; but there are two other spaces as well. The outdoor Elizabethan Stage, in an amphitheatre that seats 1200, houses three large scale Shakespearean productions (*Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Henry V*) from June 8 to Oct. 3.

The small but well equipped Black Swan Theatre (cap. 140) is used for three plays that are commercially risky and/or require an intimate setting. That's where I saw the best performance of the festival, by Karen Norris in Arthur Kopit's *Wings*.

Designed as a *tour de force* for an actress, *Wings* is a fantastic voyage into the mind of a stroke victim during her gradual return to reality. The first half of the 90-minute drama is a virtual monologue



Caesar (Cal Winn) confers with his young friend Mark Antony (Barry Kraft) in an inconsistent modern dress production of JULIUS CAESAR at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival.

of disconnected memory fragments, often descending into gibberish as the woman wonders why she can't communicate with those around her (requesting a pillow she receives a sweater).

The latter half details her recovery with the help of a kindly therapist (Jeanne Paulsen) and a group of supportive patients who cheer each other's progress.

A performance such as Norris' doesn't happen without a wise, sensitive director, in this case James Moll.

If you're spending a week-end or longer in Ashland you'll want to know about the night life. It's a one bar town as far as the Gay scene is concerned and that one's only Gay part of the time. The pool table moves out around 10pm to make room for dancing to poorly programmed top 40 music.

Listed in the *Damron Guide* as Village Commons, it's now *Cook's Tavern* at 66 E. Main Street. Once you learn your way around you can reach the back door through a "secret" gate just outside the theatre. The back door is also famous as the place locals go to smoke their dope (good quality home-grown). One bar towns have their traditions in this respect. In Eureka, CA, they smoke in the women's rest room; in Boise, ID, they go out and sit in their cars to get high.

Despite relatively small crowds (attributed to the final exam period at Southern Oregon State College) it was not a dull weekend at Cook's when I was there. The police came in Friday night to check for underage drinkers. They found several but reportedly released all the non-Gays and charged only the two Gays. Not a common occurrence, locals said, but they didn't seem surprised either.

The one bar is Gay only part of the time.

On Saturday night a bartender had quite a struggle ejecting an unruly drunk. I was told later that the bartender and the drunk are the co-owners of Cook's.

The bar gets points for friendliness, low prices, and lack of attitude; for quality stick to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. You can evaluate the outdoor activities for yourself.

Write the festival at Ashland, OR 97520 for details and reservations, or call (503) 482-4331. Information about other attractions is available from the Southern Oregon Reservation Center, P.O. Box 1048, Ashland. The college has a Gay Support Group with a Hotline at (503) 482-6206.

PERSEPHONE: Dragged Under

by Bartlett Naylor

The legend of Persephone is the classical tale of a young goddess abducted from Demeter, her domineering mother, by Hades and taken into his underworld. A cruel act indeed, for it has motivated Batya Podos to construct a painfully boring hour of theatre on the basement stage of Theatre Rhinoceros.

In her one-person show Podos uses the myth as background for a labored analysis of a woman named Corrine who attempts to establish independence. As a writer Podos has grappled with the compelling themes of mother-daughter dependence, female sensuality and fertility, and mortality. But her manifesto is overwhelmed by bad construction and bad execution.

Instead of enacting the scenes, she chooses to describe them in uninspired, repetitive, Whitmanesque prose: "She clung to her mother's breast, she clung to the warmth, the harbor, the cove of security, that source of solace." There is virtually no action, which leaves opportunities each minute of the excruciatingly long hour to check the time.

As an actress, Podos exacerbated the problem by stagnating on the stage. Her oratories are delivered from one position. The only action oc-



Batya Podos drags the myth of Persephone down to the underworld in performances at Studio Rhino.

curs when she wheels an upright ladder to various points on stage. The ladder has props hung on it, such as a cloth she drapes over her head.

And she maintains essentially one demeanor — serious, sometimes modulated into sadness. Hardly the stuff of which human character is made. She sings three or four songs, but her voice is weak.

Missing in this production is nearly every element of stage art. Action - minimal; plot - nil; acting - weak; theme - thin and undeveloped. One-person shows, to be sure, are inherently difficult. To those aspiring to the genre and in need of a lesson on what not to do, *Persephone* is a tour de force.

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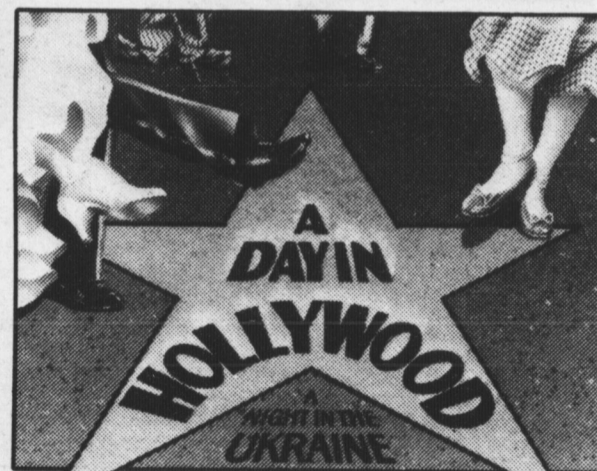
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STAGE

7 Brides for 7 Brothers

John F. Karr Interviews Its Creators and Reviews the Show

The Interview

Lawrence Kasha, trim and personable, and David Landay, exceedingly handsome and quiet spoken, are co-producers and co-authors of *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*, which is now playing a brief engagement at the Orpheum Theatre. Kasha, who was a producer of Broadway's *She Loves Me* and *Funny Girl* and director of *Funny Girl*'s London edition as well as New York's famed *Anything Goes* revival, is also directing this MGM film turned stage show. If he can wear several hats on this one show, I figure I can too—midway through an interview with the team I realized I was also reviewing the show. This can be a sticky situation. I quickly decided to let the interview function as research.

The Kasha and Landay team seems to know exactly what it wants. They are explicitly well-dressed, and, finicky eaters, order their lunch at Trader Vic's explicitly, too. No cocktails, no ice in their fruit juice and surprise that Vic serves canned juice, not fresh. No fried potatoes, plain rice will do. And no over-eating. Kasha sees his well apportioned platter and says, "There's too much food here." He leaves one-third of it untouched. They drink water without ice, then tea.

Similarly, they know explicitly what they wanted in their show, and in speaking of it laid the groundwork by which I would later review the show.

In 1978 they mounted a summerstock tour of *7 Brides* with its original stars, Jane Powell and Howard Keel. They emphatically pointed out that the current edition is a totally separate show.

"That was something we did for summerstock," explained Kasha. "It was fun, although we saw it was not the best we could do with *7 Brides*. So we closed it down and went to work on it."

"When you go to a musical you want to be entertained and have a good time. This is not a serious show, like *Evita*. Our show is a lot more fun than *Evita*."

"I mean, you can make a musical out of anything," said Kasha, "but why? Why would you ask an audience in 1982 to sit through something? What would interest them? Where are the fun, the entertaining, the dramatic elements? What is the main ingredient? In *Brides* it is the dance. That's what it's designed to do, to be on its feet. That's the thrust of it."

Kash assured me that it was unnecessary to recreate Michael Kidd's original choreography.

"The essence of that work, a kind of Agnes deMille flavor is maintained," he stated.

"This goes back to Eugene Loring and Hanna Holm. We started with the incredible work Kidd had done; the scenario he created is intrinsic to the Challenge Dance, for instance. As much as you enjoyed it on film, wait 'til you see seven minutes of it on stage, live!"

"We were worried that we'd be compared to the movie, and we're surprised



David-James Carroll is a fine leading man and Debby Boone is a recording star. They star in the colorful, energetic, but not very creative *7 BRIDES FOR 7 BROTHERS*.

that we haven't been. But what we've done with the show is gone back to the essence of the movie, its story, and done that in contemporary form."

I had some interest, of course, in the seven brothers. "They had to be big, handsome; singers and dancers," I'm told. They were cast all over the country and have worked tirelessly on the show. "It's a very physical show, very athletic." Despite the fact that the brothers end up married to women, their physical closeness, athletic prowess and rugged western image has fixed their story in a Gay mythology that added to its classic status.

We concluded with a mention of Debby Boone's contribution to the show. She has her name above the title, and has taken some ribbing from the press for her nice-girl image.

"It's worked for us in the strangest way," said Kasha. "People with no expectation or a negative one get surprised. She thinks her image is corny. That's why she's doing the show, to show that she's not limited by that image."

So with brand new choreography, a youthful cast and a committed star, *7 Brides* has arrived in town, before playing Los Angeles and opening in New York.

The Review

As a touring production, a glorified version of summer stock, *7 Brides* is miles ahead of any production the late Civic Light Opera mounted. It's forgettable even as it occurs. To involve myself more with the show, I fantasized meeting the brothers on Folsom Street after the show.

They certainly are a handsome bunch, and the show is off to a good start with their opening number. Shirtless, wet with sweat, they parade about the farm yard, hirsute dancing fools, engendering quite a few day dreams.

And this is a show based on dreaming. As the lead female says, "I always dreamed a man would come and take me away." We certainly can identify with that, and it's the premise for the entire evening. I had great difficulty deciding which brother would carry me off, vacillating between three. Hell, the material was a little thin—I should have fantasized all three taking me away!

I trace my vague disatisfac-

tion—after all, I liked it!—to the quick tempos. The conductor pushed, telegraphing the bright happiness of it all. This robbed the show of any spontaneous feel as it strove for excitement. If you can't believe in the spontaneity of the musical theatre the jig is up.

The choreography, which should be the outstanding element, is unfortunately pedestrian. It's flashy, festive and pleasing to the eye, in its swirling colors. But it rarely reveals character or emotion, and quickly becomes formula. Lift, swing, turn a cartwheel, end up sitting on a shoulder. What ought to be the core of this self-confessed dance show are interchangeable routines that could serve as openers for any Broadway show ever written.

Brides just isn't creative enough to be fun.

And no matter whether Ms. Boone offstage is a nice girl or the bitch of all time. Onstage she's bland. I longed for the sass and spunk the other characters ascribed to her; I longed to see a musical comedy star in a musical comedy.

David-James Carroll, in the Howard Keel role, is enjoyable, a masculine presence who sings, dances and acts as if that was normal behavior for a Pacific Northwest rancher.

The show's best sequence is a serious trio for the husband, wife and youngest brother called "Love Never Goes Away." Although out of sync with the storybook superficiality surrounding it, it provides the first expansive moment as the characters sing of genuinely heartfelt emotions. It's effective musical theatre and a rewarding song.

Sure, I had a great time. But I had a better time at *Evita*, despite the producers' assurances that *Brides* was the more fun. *Evita* is more creative, goes farther and houses full-scale performances. That's fun. But on the passive side of entertainment, *Brides* is colorful, tuneful, energetic... exactly what the tired businessman is supposed to drag his tired wife to. I became quickly tired of the formula in the script and choreography that left me unconcerned with these characters.

STAGE

A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine

Frothy Fun

by Mark Topkin

The actual star of *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*, now playing at the Curran, never appears on stage. He's Tommy Tune, director/choreographer, and his inventiveness, creativity and stylishness are the dominant presences of these two one-act musicals, an entertainment package geared toward nothing more than good feelings and laughter. Tune has created a true recession musical, getting an audience to forget reality and lose itself in the pleasures of nostalgia, romanticism, and comedy.

Both musicals, though very different, have a comic book quality to them. *Hollywood* looks like *Modern Romance*. The fantasy is a return to the 30's, Hollywood's Golden Age. Set in the lobby of Grauman's Chinese Theatre, the show parodies and pays homage to the stars, the songs, and the sentiment of that era. Using an ingenious horizontally split stage effect, Tune conjures images of famous Hollywood feet, film clichés, Jeannette and Nelson operettas, film songs, and the 1930 Hollywood Production

Code. Tune's starry visuals in *Hollywood* have a touch of the surreal, enough to coat the whole show with a veneer of romanticism that is captivating.

Ukraine is a brisk change of pace. The plot (*Ukraine* has one; *Hollywood* doesn't) is loosely based on a Chekhov play called *The Bear*; the stars are Harpo, Chico, and Groucho Marx; and the style is broad, manic, and Marx, farcical as their *Day at the Races* or *Night at the Opera* but within an aristocratic Russian context. The jokes are incessant and often painfully, hilariously bad. Puns, put-downs, and salacious double entendres prevail, all cleverly and flamboyantly executed.

The book and lyrics for both musicals are by Dick Vogsburg. Music is by Frank Lazarus, who also narrates *Hollywood* and appears as Chico in *Ukraine*. The cast of eight does both shows and



What did the ushers at Grauman's Chinese Theatre do during the moule? In A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD they sing and dance in the lobby. La! Huf Gay!

are a solid ensemble, each getting several solo moments. Brad Moranz's Groucho stands out largely because of his material, but undeniably as well due to his uncanny re-

creation of the great comic. But the star of *Hollywood/Ukraine* is undeniably Tommy Tune, who milks the musical/comedy medium for maximum entertainment.

Under The Gun

Que Sera New Wave Theatre

by Steve Warren

Under The Gun is the kind of show I subject myself to periodically to gauge how far behind the *avant garde* I've fallen. Years from now when the mainstream still hasn't caught up with this new play, I'll feel justified in suggesting that Gay playwright Barry Adkins isn't really ahead of his time, just an unnecessary tangent to it.

The structure of the work is borrowed from *The Wizard of Oz* film, with the central character surrounded in the introduction by people who turn up in the guise of fantasy figures in his dream.

John (Carmen Vore) is in the hospital with spinal meningitis. The disease may cause brain damage, the doctors (Beaver Bauer, Judith Red) tell John's concerned father (James F. Wittenbrook), hysterical mother (Linda D. Powell) and cynical uncle (Tim Lockfield). The damage may take the form of multiple personalities.

That's the set-up. The dream is in about a dozen scenes, taking place in Hell and vicinity, a bleak landscape dominated by a looming, cylindrical tower. On arrival John wrestles with the Devil and is raped by him. (I presume they have sex because they smoke cigarettes afterward.)

It's downhill from there, with inane dialogue punctuated by songs (most of them mercifully brief although the title song wouldn't sound out of place on KUSF) and klutzy dances. John, who is the kind of obnoxious, whiny queen I try to avoid in real life, keeps asking what's in the tower and getting vague answers.

In the end the tower collapses. This does not come as such a surprise that you should be afraid to bring heart patients to the show.

Where Are Lesbian Playwrights?

The Playwrights Unit of the Gay/Lesbian Writers Network is looking for Lesbian playwrights to participate in our Wednesday night workshop in San Francisco. We are interested in Lesbians of all ages and all colors. Beginning playwrights are welcome from all over the Bay Area.

The Playwrights Unit hopes to find a performance space in the near future with the objective of presenting plays by Lesbians and Gay playwrights. For information call Terri at 861-7087 or George at 431-6254.

According to the synopsis in a press release, an eleventh hour cut has spared us an epilogue.

A synthesized score by Mark Ellinger runs through the play, often drowning out the actors. Most of it sounds like wind effects and an amplified leaky faucet, but it's not unpleasant.

Less effective is the attempt to add a video dimension to the proceedings. A camera follows the action, some of which is then projected on a screen at the back of the stage. Half the time the lights wash out the image, the other half the results aren't worth the effort.

The most positive aspect of the production is Lia Hillman's costume design, which makes the characters look as if they'd stepped out of comic books—a colorful relief from the ugly white set.

I like a lot of new wave music, but the charm of most new wave theatre—if that's what this is—eludes me. The *City Arts* crowd should love it—it involves several media and makes no sense.

Under the Gun only lasts 45 minutes. That's not ordinarily my idea of an "evening of theatre," but in this case I was glad to see the show end.

The play runs through May 1 at the Victoria Theater, 16th and Mission. Reservations: 863-7576.

Writers

Fruit Punch (KPFA-FM 94) on April 28 at 10pm presents "Writers' Networking." This feature on the Gay and Lesbian Writer's Network includes interviews and readings from members of this newly organized support and resource group.

Perry at MCC

Rev. Troy Perry will speak during the worship service at the Metropolitan Community Church on Sunday, April 25. The service begins at 10:30am in California Hall, 625 Polk Street (at Turk). A coffee hour will follow Perry's talk.

Mime Masters

by Mark Topkin

From the moment classical mimes Bert Houle and Sophie Wibaux began their first piece, I sensed magic. By the end of the piece, I was aware I was in the presence of true artists. For roughly two hours — minus intermission — these two performers kept me transfixed with their mime and pantomime.

Houle and Wibaux have transformed a warehouse loft at 3rd and 20th Streets into an intimate, elegant performance studio complete with plushly carpeted bleachers.

The mimes, abstract and poetic in nature — as opposed to pantomimes that tell more acceptable stories — turned emotion and philosophy into movement. Concepts like Unity, Aftermath, Symphony, and Fear were given form and substance with clarity, elegance, and drama. Pantomimes with such titles as "Noah's Ark," "The Snack," and "The Beggar" offered nonverbal portraits of more concrete sub-

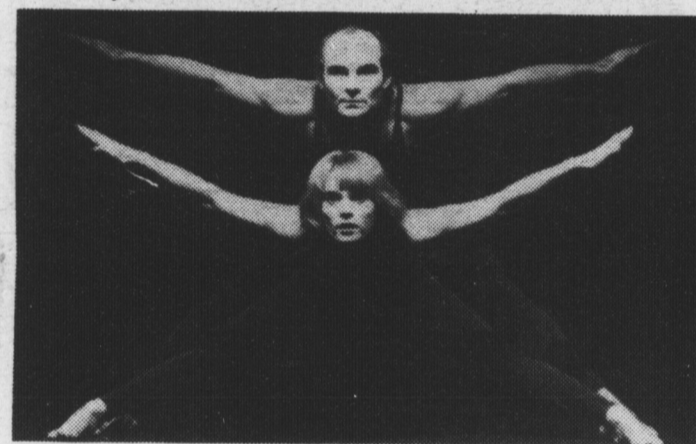
jects with great humor and precision.

Classically trained in Paris, Bert Houle and Sophie Wibaux have toured extensively in the U.S. and abroad.

Their work is magnificently fluid and coordinated. Their nonverbal scripting is virtually flawless; each piece has been conceived as an entity and contains a con-

tinuity that carries the viewer from a beginning to a middle to a satisfying end. Words are superfluous; Houle and Wibaux are meaning in motion.

Bert Houle and Sophie Wibaux will perform their Mime Theatre every Saturday evening through May 29. Seating is limited and reservations are advised at 626-4413. To experience entertainment elevated to art is a rare treat: that is what this duo offers. It is a profoundly enjoyable experience.



The mime and pantomime of Bert Houle and Sophie Wibaux was a rich experience.

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STAGE

The Folly of 'Follies'
or, Quo Vadis Gay Entertainment?



The lavish Ziegfeld style finale of FABULOUS FOLLIES. Everyone on stage is biologically male. (Photo by Tony Plewik)

The Fabulous Follies of 1982, a benefit for the Gay Men's Chorus, was a festive and entertaining event, even more so on its second night when the length was trimmed and technical problems smoothed out.

Samantha Samuels stopped the show in its tracks with a grandly conceived and dramatically performed medley of "The Rose" and "L'importance de la Rose." Terry Hutchison was exciting, and was the only person to rib the \$41,900 crystal piano — "It looks like Wonder Woman's airplane," he quipped.



The vibrant Terry Hutchison-Paul Ferris team upstaging the crystal piano at FABULOUS FOLLIES. (Photo by Rink)

Rosie Radiator tapped en pointe in ballet slippers, and Automatic Pilot delivered some satire in punk rock guise. The Barbary Coast Cloggers combined Western two-step dancing with tap for an impressive routine and Carol Roberts delivered her droll comments, including ideas for new Gay Olympics games — the Insult Throw and Dishing. The Hal and David Show offered an irresistible Irving Berlin medley and their zany impersonation of Auntie Mame's Gloria Upson.

Over half a dozen performers from within the Chorus performed in solo and duo, and were acceptable, though frequently trying, as home-grown talent.

But these contributions were actually interruptions in an elaborately conceived drag

show. I don't think Finocchio's presents this much drag, and frankly, I was bewildered, bothered, and bored by it.

When the Men's Chorus performs at Davies Hall, or on tour, they are as clean-cut and masculine — as presentable — as possible. When they cross the street to Nourse Auditorium they undergo a change of Jekyll and Hyde magnitude. The drag they presented was not tongue in cheek, genderfuck or incidental. It was minutely thought-out, meticulously prepared; it was the focal point of the evening, around which entire skits revolved and numerous punchlines depended. Crossing Hayes Street didn't turn me into a woman. What happened to the Men's Chorus?

The program credits no script supervisor. Yet I was told many of these "women" were appearing in drag for the first time. Whose idea was this? Is it a platform of the GGPA, or did one person's dreams for a variety show take over?

It's obvious that I'm not into drag. Sure, a little would have been fun. But faced with such preponderance, I have questions.

Are the majority of younger, contemporary Gays into drag? Where did it come from and where will it take us?

I'm not asking anyone to sacrifice their traditions, their roots. But fellas — whose traditions are these? At last year's Follies the drag provided a surprising finale. This year, though, someone had better take a cold and sober look at what is being perpetuated.

The Cunningham move-ment style seems to embrace every magnificent step and position from classical vocabulary as well as the body contractions and isolations associated with modern dance and channel them through a calm, controlled energy source. The dancers are terrifically strong and articulate, and even the most strenuous work — legs

FILM CLIPS

Death Watch
MICHAEL LASKY

Seduced and Abandoned

Credit magician-like filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier with keeping us from realizing that his first English feature, *Death Watch* is full of unanswered questions.

This intellectual science-fiction film is set in an unspecified year of the future in an unidentified city (Glasgow). Everyone has become completely hooked on drugs — unsleeping pills, beauty pills, even pills to make death just a peaceful drifting away.

The ambiguous plot concerns Romy Schneider, for whom drugs prove futile. She is dying of an unnamed disease in this world where all illness has ostensibly been eliminated.

She is going to die "the old way", although we don't even know what the "new way" is. The ever creepy Harry Dean Stanton is an oily TV

producer who wants to film the last days of her life and her "unusual, natural death". Wishing to die in dignity, preserving whatever individuality she has left, she runs to the country. The producer sends Harvey Keitel after her. An unexplained operation has made him a human camera, able to photograph through his eyes.

Tavernier is a wizard more than a fine director. He's able to keep us spellbound with his cinematic prestidigitation, tricking us into forgetting that just about everything goes unexplained. Like why is "Death the new pornography," and what does "Everything is of interest, but nothing really matters," really mean.

We assume, like a typical audience willing to be taken in, that an explanation will be forthcoming. But we are deceived; seduced and abandoned. New questions are

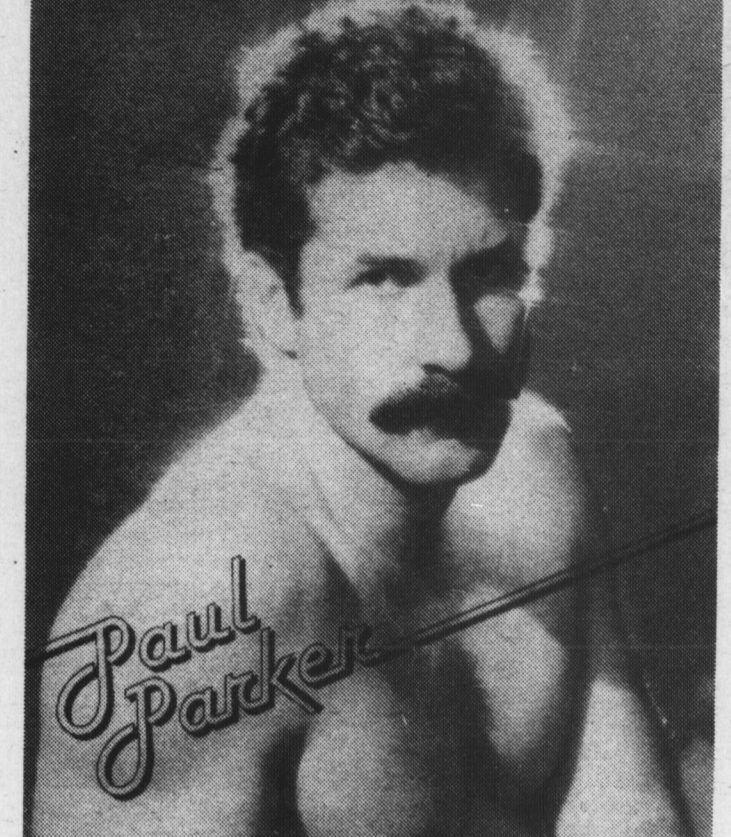
posed to cleverly make us forget the previous ones.

It's all very enigmatic and somewhat fascinating. We wind up with only one question in our minds at the end: What was that all about? And one answer (in the form of a question, natch): Who cares? (Cannery Theatre)

TO NE DEAF TONE DEAF TONE

Paul Parker: Mr. Nice Guy and the Dream of Success

JERRY DE GRACIA



I'm sitting at Paul Parker's kitchen table in his comfortable third floor apartment on Guerrero Street discussing his singing career. Suddenly I flash on the old Tubes hit "What Do You Want From Life," at which point I was

tempted to grab him by the throat and demand an answer.

But his pleasant demeanor and masculine good looks undermined any thoughts of violence or verbal abuse. We continued discussing his new single, "Right On Target," which was written and produced by Patrick Cowley for Megatron Records.

It is obvious that Paul Parker the singer is Paul Parker the person and, therefore, you're not likely to hear a lot of show biz hype when you talk to him.

It is not surprising that Parker, like many other pop/rock singers, has had only one year of voice training and that was after he had been singing in local coffee shops about seven years. Nonetheless, Parker's strong voice shines through the music, whether it be the dance-oriented sounds of Patrick Cowley or the haunting, classical sounds of "Welcome To Freedom" by composer Jon Randall, who was the first composer/producer to utilize Parker's vocalizing. "Welcome To Freedom" earned Parker a Cable Car Awards nomination.

Working with Cowley, who produced the smash dance albums *Menergy* and *Megatron Man*, will most likely give Parker the chance at commercial success he says he would like. He is not, how-

ever, quite sure of what success means, except to be known as a singer.

Parker, who grew up in San Francisco and went to high school in Daly City, describes himself as trying to maintain a middle of the road outlook in terms of dealing with people, a character trait he still seems to possess.

After high school he spent three years at San Francisco State, a couple of weeks in the California Ecology Corps for being a Conscientious Objector and since then has worked at a variety of jobs.

He admitted that he has had a couple of long-term relationships in the past but added that he is presently single.

Parker, who is 29, is now devoting all of his time to his singing career and will be appearing at the Underground in New York May 9 at their Pure Trash Party, May 15 at the Bivouac party at the Russian River, and at Alcatraz in Dallas, Texas, in June.

Parker says he likes songs that are really emotional, whether they are dance-oriented or hard rock, and that "Right On Target" is a

love song which brings out an emotional feeling in him.

The flip-side of "Right On Target" is a clever re-make of the old Seeds song "Pushin' Too Hard" which is ripe with the studio mastery of Cowley.

If first impressions are the most intuitive ones, then it is difficult not to think of Parker as the epitome of Mr. Nice Guy and one of the rare people to whom you truly wish the best of luck.

The Gay Life

Highlights of the Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights' fifth anniversary banquet, featuring Assembly-member Robert Naylor, Republican Minority Leader, will be broadcast on "The Gay Life," KSAN, 95 FM, on Sunday, April 25, at 11 p.m.

Frankie Madrid

"Positive Sounds in Hard Times" is the by-line of the popular Frankie Madrid Band. Featuring the multi-talented Frankie Madrid, the 6-piece high energy group is appearing at the Q.T. on Polk. Performances are Tuesdays at 9 p.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. through April.

BOOK RACK

Lesbian Play Quiet Reading

Book Reviews by Frank J. Howell

My Blue Heaven
By Jane Chambers
JH Press - Box 294
Village Station
New York, New York 10014
\$4.95

Take two Lesbians, place them in a farmhouse on the East Coast, and encourage them to carry on a protracted lovers' quarrel. There you have *My Blue Heaven* in a nutshell.

There is a certain amount of diverting action. A representative from a conservative religious publishing house arrives. He is under the impression the two women, Josie and Molly, are actually a straight couple featured in a weekly news column written by one of the gals. Later on, a liberal minister, who is a former boyfriend of Molly, ap-

FROM FIFTH POSITION

The Merce Cunningham Dance Company

KEITH WHITE

Some years ago I had the idea that I didn't like Merce Cunningham's work, though I had never seen it. Merce Cunningham's renown is perhaps second only to Martha Graham's, but in my mind Cunningham spelled modern dance with a capital M: effete; mysterious; rarefied; unmusical; inaccessible. Then my ballet teacher — trained at the Royal Ballet School in London — saw a Cunningham performance and described it to me in surprising terms: "Keith, the dancing is SO beautiful; everyone is strong and turned-out and has beautiful feet and gorgeous extension. It looks a lot like ballet without shoes." Now that I've seen Cunningham, that seems a pretty good description, albeit incomplete.

The Cunningham movement style seems to embrace every magnificent step and position from classical vocabulary as well as the body contractions and isolations associated with modern dance and channel them through a calm, controlled energy source. The dancers are terrifically strong and articulate, and even the most strenuous work — legs

held in high extension for excruciating lengths of time, or multiple series of big jumping turns like the double *saut de basques* that male ballet dancers flash (and fear) — are performed with quiet self-confidence in the Cunningham company. So what's so unusual about the dances?

Cunningham commissions modern scores, most often by John Cage, allowing the composer total freedom of expression within a time frame. Then the dance is choreographed independently of the score, the juxtaposition of the two happening at the last moment, or only when the dance is premiered. The amazing phenomenon is the final blend of the dance and the score, which seems to me as successful and interesting as dances which take their structure directly from their scores, surprising because the dances are rather formally structured, and the scores consist of amplified sounds (noises) — vocal, mechanical, and instrumental. For the dancers, the difficulty of performing works created this way must be the necessity of their counting steps much of

the time — after all, the music will not guide them perhaps until they have performed the dance many times, if then, and the dances involve intricate partnering and frequent dancing in unison, much more difficult to time than when a dance is created in time to music in the first place.

The Cunningham company performs in only a few cities, and it makes me proud that it comes to the Bay Area, my new home, and that Zellerbach Hall was more crowded last Saturday night with a more comprehensive cross-section of enthusiastic people than I've seen before. The dancing was truly superhuman, the characteristic I most enjoy in dance, and I feel grateful to U.C. Berkeley for bringing it here, and to Nancy Bielski for first sending me to see it.

pears on the scene and wants the two of them to affirm their love in a Gay wedding ceremony.

The plot sounds promising but it really isn't. Much of the dialogue is thin and trite. The action doesn't go anywhere.

To make matters worse, Chambers has tacked on a hokey M.C. to introduce the play to the audience. This device, first employed with stunning effect by Thornton Wilder in *Our Town* over forty years ago, is merely ludicrous when repeated here.

Jane Chambers has been involved as an actress and playwright in the off-Broadway area of New York since the 1950's. She has written a number of plays that have been produced. Unfortunately, my gut reaction is that if Jane Chambers is a writer of promise, the rest of us should also jump on the bandwagon. One play might well be as good as another. Lillian Hellman will sleep soundly tonight.

FATTIES' FIESTA

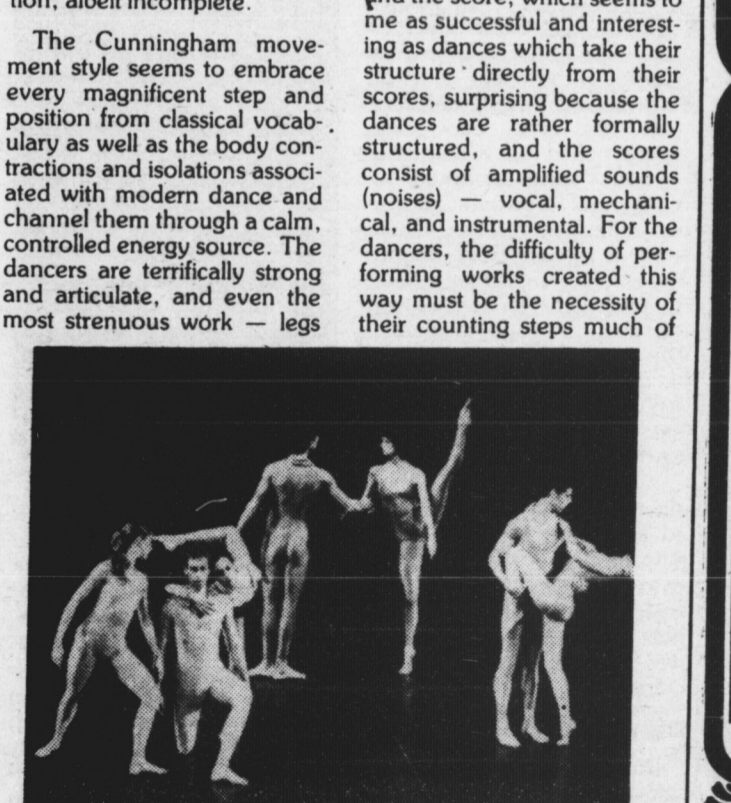
Chubbies cheer and rounds rejoice! Friday, April 23 is the "Fatties' Fiesta" at TRAX, 1437 Haight Street.

Heavyweights will certainly have the edge at Friday's festivities. Drink discounts will be offered to patrons in proportion to their total tonnage. A weigh-in scale will be handy for documentation.

High-cal cocktails (Brandy Alexander, et al) will be half-price for everyone.

Manager Joe Marino predicts a heavy turnout, and for all who overindulge, on the next evening (Saturday, April 24) TRAX will feature Bud Lite, a new beer for calorie counters.

The Cunningham Dance Company — strong, articulate, calm and controlled.



The Cunningham Dance Company — strong, articulate, calm and controlled.

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CABARET CORNUCOPIA

Bitton Sings Piaf Diamond in Concert

JOHN F. KARR

The amazing number of Elvis Presley impersonators may be rivaled only by the growing Piaf recreation industry. Not a month goes by without *Variety* reporting on revues and solo performances based on Piaf's life and songs. This is understandable, since the life was such a melodrama and the music an incredible collection of tunes. Locally,

we've seen two entries in the let's-capitalize-on-Piaf sweepstakes. Ruth Hastings successfully performed the Piaf songs in her own style and Pattie Butler flopped by trying to do an impersonation. I attended the most recent production **Piaf... her story, her songs** with a mixture of curiosity, dread, disdain and no small amount of skepticism.



Lynn Brown (left) and Raquel Bitton are the entire cast of *PIAF at 1177 California*. Ms. Bitton, singing 15 of Piaf's songs, is an exciting performer.

fortable cabaret/bar of Gramercy Towers, 1177 California. Sundays at 8pm, Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:30pm. 928-1869.

One more point — I doubt Piaf was trying to kill herself, as the script suggests. Piaf was trying to live. It is that excessive amount of life that provided the foundation, along with an excessive talent, for a legend that would engender tributary shows like this, twenty years after the woman's death.

Val Diamond appears at the Boarding House next Tuesday, April 27, in her first major concert since being awarded the "Entertainer of the Year" title. I'd expect the girl to work it that night, and the Boarding House is a perfect size, big enough to compliment Val's reach, small enough for intimacy.

At soft volumes Val is a sincere and beautiful singer. At top volume she's an elemental force that removes all sensibility. She trades on that force, and on her improvisational creativity to dazzle with numbers that have no emotional credibility. She's actually two singers. One is an emotionally uninvolved jazz singer, the other an emotionally involved pop singer. Of course, if you sing pop without personal involvement you usually have only poop, which proves that Val knows what she's doing. But I should like to hear her infuse her jazz outings, creative as they are, with the urgency she imparts to the showtunes she sings in **Beach Blanket**.

She doesn't sing showtunes in concert, only pop and jazz, which leaves half of her evenings not connecting subjectively. Greedy guy that I am, I want it all. Does a high jumper who can jump 6 feet stop at 5'8"?

My request reveals my regard for Val's talent. She can do it, that seems clear. Hear it at her Boarding House concert next Tuesday.

Any Piaf evening depends entirely on the woman who will sing Piaf, and the current production is blessed with Raquel Bitton. Ms. Bitton shares enough of Piaf's trademark qualities to make the show a must-see. Born in Morocco, French is Bitton's native tongue. She understands the songs, has the genuine sound, far back in her throat, and can tear consonants and syllables apart with Piaf's demonic glee. She has the emotional throb, the vulnerability and the extreme absorption in the life within the song. Indeed, not much more could be expected of a singer who was not Piaf herself. She misses a touch of Piaf's manic joy in singing and never lets loose totally. Still, she's incredible, and anyone who enjoys full-throttle singing should not miss this impressive performance.

There is a price to be paid for hearing Bitton, however. The songs have been interspersed with a script in which

Piaf's mother, sister, and secretary narrate her life with tedious platitude and half-baked philosophizing. This reaches a comical nadir when Thanatos — that's Death — announces, "There are those mortals who are chosen for self-destruction" before enfolded Piaf in her black-cloaked arms. I'm sure a script is a good idea, but the result is tedious in the extreme. In the multiple non-singing roles Lynne Brown exposes her total incapability. Her impersonation of Marlene Dietrich as a Hollywood starlet complete with Monroe facial twitches desecrates the sophisticated style of Dietrich and should not have been allowed on stage.

I suggest you see the show. Be charitable to Ms. Brown and the atrocious script with which she's saddled. Disregard them altogether. Savor the impressive talent of Raquel Bitton. I enjoyed her immensely.

The show plays in the com-

TALES OF TESSITURA

The Passions of Our Youth

GEORGE HEYMONT

Several weeks ago I sat down with a local photographer to look over some slides he had taken during the hippie era. There in front of us were a host of phantasmagorical characters in high fantasy drag. I was deeply moved by one man whose wistful face emerged under tons of glitter drag. "Oh, him," sighed my friend. "He's dead. So's this one over here. They each overdosed a couple of years ago."

I stopped for a moment to think about Chuck and my friend Bill (both of whom had taken their lives before they turned 30). Each had an unsatiable zest for life when we first met. Each had a cutting humor and shy moments of sensitivity. Each one is dead, having failed to make the world stand still despite the ardent belief that he could make it happen. Dead and gone despite the promise of what might have been. And I often wonder if (in those moments we shared as friends) we could have altered the course of history had we known the tragedy which lay before us.

BACK TO BOHEMIA

If any opera captures the burning enthusiasm of our youth it is Puccini's **La Boheme**. Having seen many performances of **Boheme** over the years, the blush of

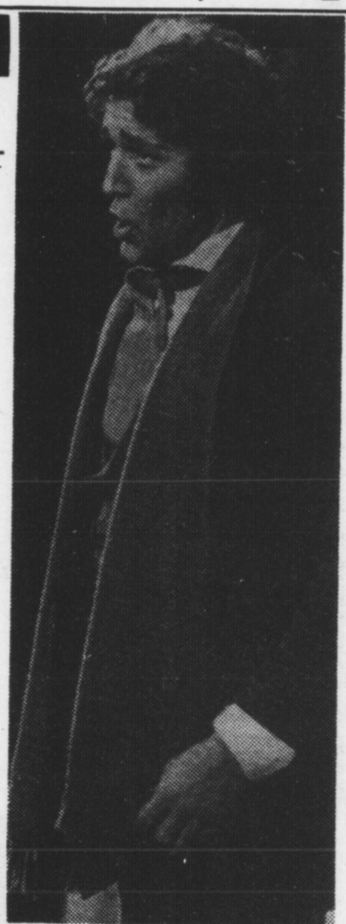
youthful passion tends to dim in the wake of a hundred curtain calls. Occasionally, however, I attend a performance which suddenly makes Puccini's opera so fresh and compelling that I find myself sitting in the audience with tears streaming down my face surrounded by other opera fans who are weeping unabashedly with emotion.

That happened several months ago in Los Angeles when the New York City Opera pulled off a stunning — and I mean stunning — matinee of **Boheme**. Barry McCauley and Alan Titus sang the roles of Rodolfo and Marcello with a zeal and boyish playfulness which I have not seen onstage in years. The lighthearted camaraderie between them in the first two acts led to searing heartbreak and compassion in the second half of the opera.

Mimi was no slouch, either. Pamela Myers sculpted her seamstress with cunning strokes. Aglow with love, wracked with disease, she matched McCauley note for note in a performance which was outstanding in its musicianship and theatricality.

DEAD AS A DOORNAIL

If only the same could be said about Western Opera Theatre's performances of **La Boheme** which inaugurated the San Francisco Opera



Tenor Barry McCauley, a special talent in NYCO's LA BOHEME.

Center's Showcase season at the Herbst Theatre. As seen during the second performance, the show suffered severely from production problems.

This is the production which tours to schools. Much of the direction was obviously created with an adolescent audience in mind. But kids aren't that dumb. Neither are adults. I fear a great deal of

(Continued on Page 28)

SPORTS SECTION

UPDATE '82 OLYMPICS

Grab An Olympic Roommate!

TOM WADDELL, M.D.

Here it is! An opportunity to put up an athlete from another part of the world, during the Gay Olympic Games.

When it comes to Gay life, it is generally considered good fortune to know someone who lives in San Francisco. We are acknowledged as a very hospitable city. This is particularly true of the Gay community. We are forever entertaining "folks from out of town," and now they'll be coming from all over the world for a historic first.

We need to show what kind of life we have carved out for ourselves and we need to set an example that others will want to follow when they return to their own cities. Let's have them say, "I have tasted freedom and I want more."

So, friends, let's have at it. Send in the following form and house an athlete; think of the joy you'll have seeing the city through a new pair of eyes. Throw open that spare room, double-up in your own, get out the air mattresses, spread out that futon, open the CASTRO convertible. We need thousands and we're counting on you.

Mail the form to Gay Olympic Games, P.O. Box 14874, San Francisco, CA 94114.

New sponsors are **All American Boy**, **The Pendulum** and **Trinity Place**. And special thanks is extended to the **Cable Car Awards** for their \$500 contribution.

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TELEPHONE: DAY _____ NIGHT _____
I CAN ACCOMMODATE _____ NUMBER OF GUESTS _____
MALE _____ FEMALE _____ BOTH _____
FOR _____ NIGHTS; FROM (date) _____ TO _____
ATHLETES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HERE FROM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1982.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

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2. PRIVATE ROOM FOR A DOUBLE WITH 1 BED _____
3. PRIVATE ROOM FOR A DOUBLE WITH 2 BEDS _____
4. PRIVATE ROOM FOR A _____ WITH _____ BEDS _____
5. LIVING ROOM COUCH _____
6. LIVING ROOM SLEEPER COUCH _____
7. OTHER, DESCRIBE: _____

TRANSPORTATION

YES _____ NO _____ LOCATE NEAREST PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

1. CAN MEET AND RETURN GUESTS TO THE AIRPORT. _____
2. CAN TAKE GUESTS TO AND FROM SPORTING EVENTS. _____
3. OTHER: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. AS HOST, I CAN PROVIDE A LIGHT BREAKFAST FOR GUESTS ON MORNINGS OF THE COMPETITION. _____
2. DO YOU OBJECT TO SMOKING? _____
3. DO YOU PREFER REPRESENTATIVES FROM A PARTICULAR SPORT? WHICH? _____
4. DO YOU PREFER REPRESENTATIVES FROM A PARTICULAR COUNTRY? WHICH? _____
5. DO YOU SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE? _____
6. WILL YOU PROVIDE LINENS AND TOWELS? _____
7. ARE YOU WILLING TO ACT AS A GUIDE FOR YOUR GUEST? _____

I/We _____ understand and agree that the services of the San Francisco Arts and Athletics are only those of a booking agent and shall not be held responsible for liability or damages incurred on either the host's person, personal property or real property during the visit of any one designated guest; nor shall San Francisco Arts and Athletics be held responsible for personal injury or fire or theft. The host further agrees to hold the San Francisco Arts and Athletics harmless and indemnify the booking agent against any claim.

I/We have read and understand all the provisions of this agreement.

Signature of the Host _____

Date of Signature _____

P. O. BOX 14874 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114 U.S.A.

SPORTS CALENDAR

April 22-29

Date	Time	Event	Location
23 Sat	9:00 am	Gay Tennis Team Challenge San Francisco vs. Los Angeles The Racquet Center, Studio City, CA	LES BALMAIN
	10:00 am	FrontRunners - Fun Run Stow Lake Boat House Golden Gate Park	
24 Sun	10:00 am	FrontRunners - Fun Run Presidio Rollercoaster, 2-3.1 mi. Meet at Pacific Ave. & Presidio	
	10:00 am	Gay Softball League Play Phone Booth vs. Fickle Fox Jackson #1 Vagabond vs. The Stallion Jackson #2	
	11:45 am	Tara Travel vs. The Parking Lot Jackson #1 Pilsner Inn vs. The Pendulum Jackson #2	
	1:30 pm	On The Mark vs. Wreck Room Jackson #1	
	6:15 pm	S.F. Women's Business Bowling League, Park Bowl	

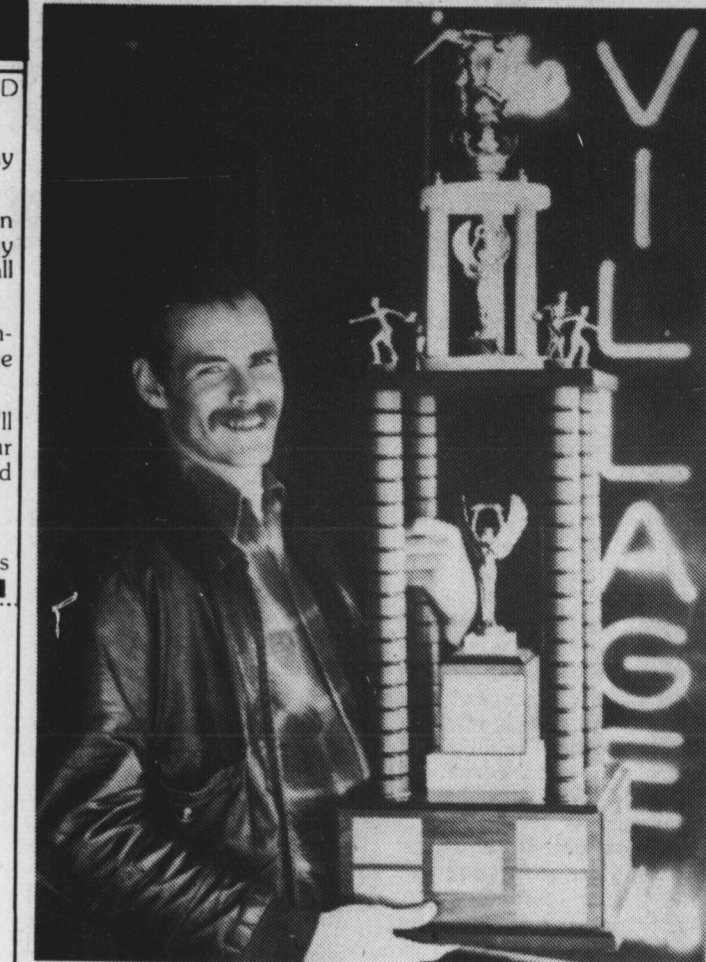
Olympic Bowling Tryouts

Now that the hurdle of individual bowling competition for Olympic participation has been surmounted by 10 male and 10 female finalists, there still remains another weekend of qualifying trials facing these dauntless souls.

The 10 female finalists will bowl at 4 p.m. on the 24th and 25th at Park Bowl, 5 games each day. With the male finalists bowling the same number of games on the same dates at 7 p.m. All games will be scratch.

Total pins, plus bonus pins for each game won, will determine each player's position from 1 to 10 in this head-to-head competition.

The final top five scorers will qualify to represent San Francisco in the Olympic Individual Bowling Competition, with the 6th top scorer being the alternate.



Glen Mercer proudly displays the magnificent trophy his Village team won in the Monday Night Bowling League. (Photo by Rink)

TGMONDAYNBL

Transcending

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

The TGMNBL recently completed its 1981-82 Winter bowling season in superb fashion. The foremost spot went to The Village, with a venerable record of W46½-L25½. The #2 post was captured by the Jun Jun Restaurant, with its thrilling tally of W46-L26. Finally, the Fixers closed the door to placing with their respectable W39-L33. Compliments to each of you for winning your up-hill struggle. (Fun, wasn't it?)

There was a total of 93 games bowled in the 200-or-better category, with Tim Hagerman, of the wicked curve, bowling a remarkable 14 of them.

The following bowlers also ended the Winter season with personal distinction. They finished with the highest averages of the entire Monday Night League. The first three bowled one, three, and two 600 series, respectively: Ret Mallin, 188; Tim Hagerman, 178; John Brown, 173; Mal Garcia, 169; Mike Gold, 167 (entered with 158); Bill Shan-

dra, 166; and David Guam, 161.

SUMMER SEASON

On the 12th the Summer season was initiated with a convocation in the "nursery" on the second floor of Park Bowl. A very fine trio of officers was chosen. John Brown was elected President; Tom Vanek, Vice-President; and Mal Garcia as Secretary/Treasurer. They will serve wisely.

Between 14 and 16 teams will participate in the Monday Night League's Summer Season, with an 80% handicap. Team positions and names will be listed in my next article, since they are not all known at this time.

Nevertheless, here are the results of several striking games bowled on opening night: Bobby Colon, 206 and 223; Ken Sexton, 212; Eddie Carmick, 210; and Jay Merri-man, 200.

With bowling of this caliber on the first evening, just imagining what lies ahead!

Gay Tennis Federation

by Bill Reynolds

2... Community Rentals df. Bear Hollow, 4-2.

The storming skies turned to blue, the howling wind hushed, and the grey wet overcast retreated to a bright warming sun... Spring was finally in San Francisco last weekend. The Gay Tennis Federation netters jumped into their jocks, grabbed their racquets, and with balls held high raced to the courts to begin the Second Season of Team Tennis.

In Round 1 the previous week, only one match match was completed: Bluestone Video df. Gilmore's, 5-1.

Round 2 was played this last weekend with the following scores: Leticia's df. Bluestone Video, 4-2... Twin Peaks df. Sutter's Mill, 4-2... Gilmore's df. Line-Up, 4-

The standings as of April 18, 1982, are:

Team	W	L	%
Comm. Rentals	4	2	.667
Leticia's	4	2	.667
Twin Peaks	4	2	.667
Bluestone Vid.	7	5	.583
Gilmore's	5	7	.416
Bear Hollow	2	4	.333
Line-Up	2	4	.333
Sutter's Mill	2	4	.333

There is no team tennis scheduled the next weekend. The Gay Tennis Federation is taking their top 18 players to Los Angeles to play in the Third Annual Team Challenge. The G.T.F. of San Francisco has won the first two and hopes to retain the Silver Revere Bowl Cup for the third year in a row.

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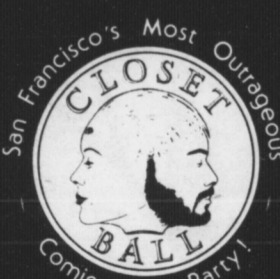
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MR. MARCUS



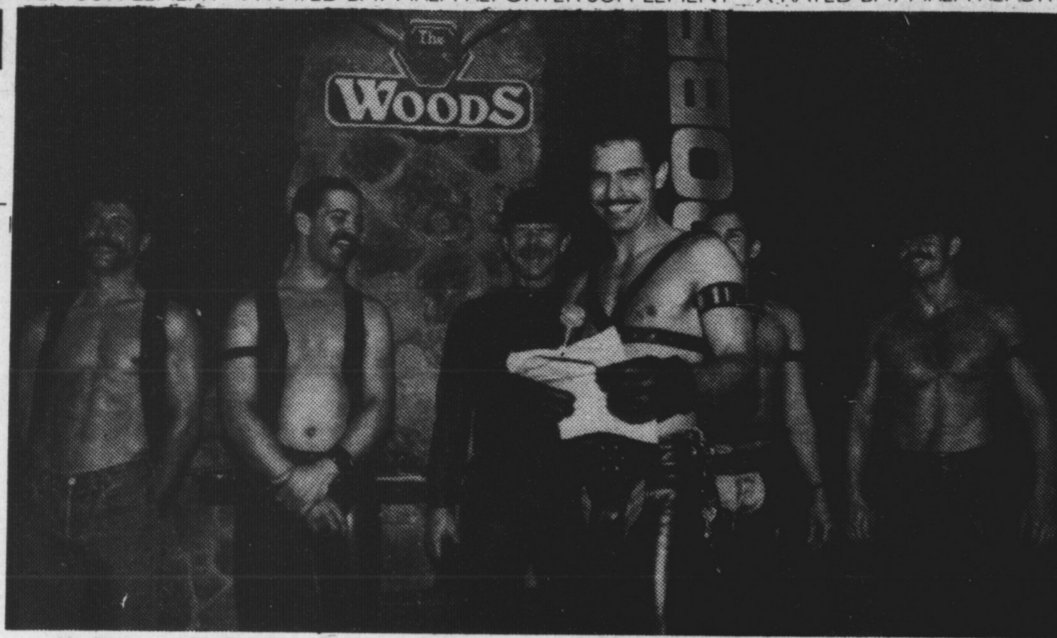
Chicago or Bust!

SOUTHERN SCANDALS

One more week of competition remains in our town to select the men who will represent our leather community in Chicago for the International Mr. Leather Contest the weekend of May 7-9. The SF Eagle and the Brig are attracting a myriad of men who are paraded before the judges at both places, each seeking the chance to strut that runway at the luxurious Park West in Chicago at leatherdom's most spectacular extravaganza. The leather community of San Francisco is swinging for the fences this year in an effort to prove that this city is THE leather capital of the

world and a yearning to bring the title home for yet another year.

Last Tuesday, Air Force Rick, tall, sinewy and most assuredly projecting the leather image, emerged the 2nd winner in a four-week marathon at the SF Eagle. The slight drizzle that blanketed the city didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm on the newly-enlarged patio and my Co-MC Gary Kenyon luxuriated in ecstasy at the task before him. Rick, a member of the Golden Gate Troopers Uniform Club, trotted against 10 other hopefuls who more often than not epit-



Mr. Drummer '81, Ray Perea, announces the finalists at the DRUMMER GOES TO THE COUNTRY weekend at The Woods Resort on the Russian River. Center figure is second runner-up Guy Healey, and far right is Harold Gates, first runner-up. (Photo by Jim Patton, courtesy DRUMMER)

omized the leather image at its finest. At the BRIG, their first night of the hunt produced a plethora of guys who would turn heads anywhere. The race is on and the natives are loving it. Good luck to all the hopefuls in what looks like another hot crop of men who will invade the Windy City for the \$5,000 in prizes to be awarded to the winner there. It is, indeed, a gas!

The entire bulk of leathermen in San Jose came out in full regalia last Sunday to witness that city's first attempt to establish itself as a city with a leather community. The Stockton Street Strip bars were jammed to capacity all afternoon getting in gear for the competition at Hattie Porter Hall. It was standing room only for an enthusiastic crowd that cheered the eight contestants. The emotions were running so high, everyone was hugging the clouds. MC's Rachel and Smoky kept everything under control in spite of the rambunctious audience, spurred on by the contestants' appearance in levis, swim suits, and leather. As always, there was a favorite, and Eric, sponsored by the BOOT RACK, emerged as the winner and will represent San Jose in Chicago in May. For a first effort, the citizens of San Jose and especially the leather community can be justly proud of the production, the contestants who

participated, and, most of all, the winner. Great show! Great time! An unforgettable and an extremely high event.

Drummer Magazine hits the trail in search of their candidate to send to Chicago at the I-Beam next Thursday, April 29. Contestants are expected from many quarters, including Luke Daniels (who is Mr. Southern California Drummer, selected at Greg's Blue Dot the same weekend as the northern edition was unfolding at THE WOODS at the RushRiv). An additional perk is included in the prizes for the winner of the Mr. Drummer title. A renowned jeweler will furnish a 14-karat gold neck charm indicating cut or uncult to the winner and another contestant; this portion of the judging will not be seen on-stage (aw, shucks!) and is confined to the judges only, and they're all happy about that. Karl Stewart of Drummer is quite busy these days setting up the contest. Get your tickets now!

MARCUS THE MERCILESS

Chuck Durham, Prez of The 15 Ass'n, made the rounds of various leather holes around the country last week and admits he met a slave in Dallas named David Lewis; in case you didn't know it, the original founder of THE 15 was named the same . . . If you forgot the phone number of BY-GEORGE, the doggie clipper, it's 648-4846. I'll bet George himself doesn't realize that his phone number is the same backwards as it is forward! . . . At the risk of getting a hunk fired from his job, I will not name the uncompleted building on lower Market Street where this hunky security guard is on duty; but Gary Noss was walking by the other night and after a few casual feelers (make that feels?), ended up on the 37th floor blowin' in the wind, er, getting blown in the wind? Whatever, Gary says it was an exhilarating "view from the top" . . . Don't look now, but the SF Giants' new rookie pitcher Alan Fowlkes is HOT!, if you're into BALL games . . . Another new bar in Los Angeles for you to savor on your next trip to Santa Mon-

ica Blvd. & Western Ave., it's BLUTO'S, and they exclusively feature BULL DOG Beer (not manufactured on Turk Street) . . . Nasty Nan, Suzy Parker, and a host of the L.A. paparazzi will be covering the Int'l Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago for COM-PASS Mag, and you can rest assured all the dirt that's not fit to print will find its way into their galleys, so en garde (especially you, Jim Corbett) if you're attending the event. Nasty Nan has been nominated for a MAGGIE Award in the "She Bought It" category which is an award of dubious merit if I ever heard one (Hi, Cal Coburn!) . . . From their rural enclave at the RushRiv, the current Mr. Drummer Ray Perea and his lovable, likeable SKI, came down from the mountain and were highballing it around town last weekend. What a neat pair of dudes! . . . My favorite woman, Glenna McElhinney, co-chair of this year's Greatest Parade Ever, flashes that a woman's motorcycle club from Sacramento will probably be in this year's lineup — they're called LEATHER & LACE and they sound tres elegante . . . From what I can gather, that new shop MICHAEL BRUNO in the Castro Village Mall on Market is a leather shop that falls somewhere between MR. S PRODUCTS and Mark Cross with specialization in leather business cases, fine luggage, and distinctive personal accessories (any cock sheaths?), so check out this new-y leather store . . . Speaking of leather stores, the community minded TAYLOR of SF scored a coup in merchandising with his new TTY Service (641-1876), that recent innovative device that allows for deaf people to make telephone calls to fill their needs — a truly necessary accompaniment for every smart business man. In addition, Joe (Mr. Taylor, sir!) is now producing customized license plates in a 3-D effect in raised letters that usually go for about \$10 in four type styles. If Sacramento only knew how their Puritanical attitude is hurting the coffers of the State!

GAMUT FROM HUM TO DRUM

Phil Slatin, dubbed the Prince de Topaz, was any- (Continued on next page)

SWEETLIPS SEZ

Drag Relives

DICK WALTERS

A fantastic opening game for the G.S.L. The beautiful San Marcos team won. Sorry, Chuck.

This Thursday and Friday are the last two nights of Alvin's 4th Anniversary . . . lots of prizes and surprises, so drop down.

A nice birthday party was held at the Railway Express for Empress Bella . . . but her age was not divulged . . . Thank you, Pussy Paulsen and Joe Urban, for the invite, and for the fun with Bella and Francesca.

Last night, Wednesday, was the Grand Opening Party of the New Yacht Club on Polk Street. What a great crowd was there . . . a fantas-

special appearance by Paul Ruelhl (drag relives). Cover charge is \$4. Remember, they all plan to go into retirement now (Paul is OVER the age) and the NEW owners should be taking over the Pines in the very near future.

The First Anniversary Party at the S.F. Eagle last Thursday was a howling success with just tons of people (literally) there for the fun evening . . . JC, you and your staff should be complimented for a job well, well done. And thank you for the pin and the lighter . . . you do things up just right, don't you?

Overheard at Google's: Wonder how it feels to spend the night in jail in Santa Rosa.



Madame Aida Sotto-Voce (center) and her tap troupe tapped their troubles away at the GGPA FABULOUS FOLLIES. (Photo by Tony Flewlik)

tick array of canapes were served and even Lee looked good. You did a nice job for the opening, Randy.

April 23, 24, and 25 bring the FINAL (Thank God!) production of the Nob Hill Players at the Pines (Pine and Jones Sts.) Shows at 9 and 11 star Jimmy Quinn, Roy Bel 3rd, Richard Connelly, Lucy Bumpus, Pat Clifford, Tom Morgan and, of course,

Ask Hattie WhoWho (Chuck Head). Poor Aunt Mert (Bill Olsen) had to sleep on a hard bench outside of the jail. Chuck is aka Lady of Queer Lake and has a show of paintings at the very popular Traveler's Inn in San Rafael.

Thank you, Bill Wright, for the fun-filled Friday last that I completely lost, including a day lost at work. But then we

MR. MARCUS

(Continued from previous page)

thing but a prince last Sunday morning when after a night of dining, boozing and cruising ended up at the PILSNER INN where he succumbed to the advances of a dude who was equally zonked and the Prince got his new leather chaps (by Gary of MR. S) all smokey with the fumes of burning bacon and eggs. If it hadn't been for Zonked Out #1's roommate coming home, the Prince and his Pauper might have been victims of smoke inhalation; now I ask you, is that any way to break in your new chaps? . . . Get your pooches ready for the 2nd Annual Dog Show & Parade on Castro, set for April 12. New twist this year,

that same night MEN will compete in the same categories which includes Best Old Dog, Best Drag, Best Buns, Best Match to Owner, and Best Legs. Flamingo legs will not be permitted to compete . . . If you're planning to go to Chicago for the Int'l Mr. Leather Contest, be advised that the hotels closest to the action are sold out. Best Bets: The Abbot and/or the Belmont Hotels . . . The latest funny to hit the circuit, surprisingly, deals with bestiality, a fetish which is standing in the wings but give 'em time. It appears that this dude woke up one morning to find a baby elephant in his bed and upon awakening the beast, the elephant asked: "It must have been tight, hey?" to which our hero answered: "It was — the first time!"

did hit twenty or thirty bars that day, didn't we? But it was nice to see Casey at the Queen Mary's Pub so early in the morning again.

Sutter's Mill had a fantastic Earthquake Party and you couldn't believe the beautiful people that were there, and such fantastic canapes, for days. All of the men were in red cowboy shirts with the Sutter's Mill logo — very smart. You never looked lovelier, Metz . . . but how come I didn't get a shirt. Harry? After all, red is my color.

Yes, it is true that Chuck Enginger of Sutter's Mill is going to run in the Closet Ball, and this should be a real camp . . . How are you going to do the "butch" entrance part, Chuck? Would you like me to give you some lessons?

Chez Mollet is a great place to eat, especially Saturday and Sunday brunch. Thank you, Lenny, for your jacket. It does cause some comment. Hope that you got the new floor down around the bar okay . . . Hi, Cora!

May 1st is David Kelsey and Pure Trash and May 2nd is Nicholas, Glover & Wray . . . WHERE??? At Fife's in Guerneville . . . \$5 cover. Plan early for this fun-filled weekend in Russian River . . . 869-0656. Lots of gorgeous numbers in that area: right, Bob Tanquay?

Next Tuesday the Tavern Guild meeting is in Russian River at the Rainbow Cattle Co. There is a bus leaving from the Rainbow Cattle Co. here on Valencia, so contact them for more information. This should be a great meeting, as the weather in Russian River is great just now.

Yes, Griff is still at the Starlight Room on Market Street. They are getting a really nice crowd of people lately . . . and Char, I almost didn't recognize you with that great mustache you've grown. It looks great!

Don't forget Inter-Club's progressive dinner is Friday, May 7, and if you can't afford the tariff for this one, they'd much more appreciate a blood donation, which permits you free participation with your receipt.

No column is complete without a KJK (Knock Knock Joke), so here's one from that cute Gary Linders at the Pilsner Inn: Knock Knock/Who's there?/Eskimo/Eskimo who?/Eskimo questions, I tell you no lies.

See you at the Brig, the SF Eagle and the I-Beam for the finals all next week.

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OAKLAND

(Continued from Page 18)
Tony Valentine's Sweetheart Ball originated from this bar. We've had numerous auctions for Gay and straight benefits, Toys for Tots, Children's Hospital — there were many and will be many more. When I first started, you might say it was a cold potato but I did get started and I did get involved. People now realize that Oakland IS HERE.

Nez: Did you have to look at MY stomach when you said pot? Nevertheless, do you have any personal regrets

Fred: I don't regret going into business... I'm still here. Would you believe that right now the Lake Lounge is one of Oakland's longest running Gay bars? The bar has a very loyal following. I really worked hard to get it, and MAINTAIN IT. My buffets are known all over, and I really regret that I can't spend more time working at what I want. I'd like to see more cooperation between all the bars... owners and employees... in Oakland, primarily. If that would or could happen, I think we would be considered another San Francisco in a decade or two.

Nez: What do you consider the Gay community to be?

Fred: Well, I guess I would have to say that it is Gay people trying to get along, not putting personalities before the truth. I firmly believe that people, not only Gays, should learn to face the truth about things and understand themselves. But you know there are those who hate the truth about themselves... hey, it's true!

Nez: Well, if there were anything truthful about me, I might hate it... but getting back to you — who is Fred?

Fred: Basically, a very quiet person. I don't care for the limelight. I think that I'm too generous at times. I can't buy just one or two people a drink. I would feel guilty by not buying for everyone. You might call me a general sport. If I'm asked a question, I'll tell the truth. I don't feel as if I'm judgmental... but you know you can count your TRUE friends on the fingers of one hand, don't you?

Nez: Dear one, I wouldn't need even more than one finger, but that's beside the point... What's in the future for Fred and the Lake Lounge?

Fred: You know, there just might be an expansion of the Lake Lounge, and the mysterious "choo-choo" just might have something to do with it. For me, I would like to find someone to settle down with, who is compatible to my lifestyle, the way I live. It would have to be an honest relationship. Contrary to popular belief and rumors, I have really never had a lover, per se! Tricks and affairs, yes... a lover, NO! Eventually I want to retire somewhere not around a city. I can live my life very quietly with someone. I enjoy solitude... away from the everyday problems. Oh, as a P.S. if I may, do you know what I would really like to see?

Nez: No. Tell me.

Fred: I think it would be very nice if we all sold our bars... don't look that way... and relocated in one general vicinity — perhaps the London Village, or something like that... we would all be together, and I think it would be fantastic!

Until the next issue, wear your smiles... it's catching!
Love, Nez

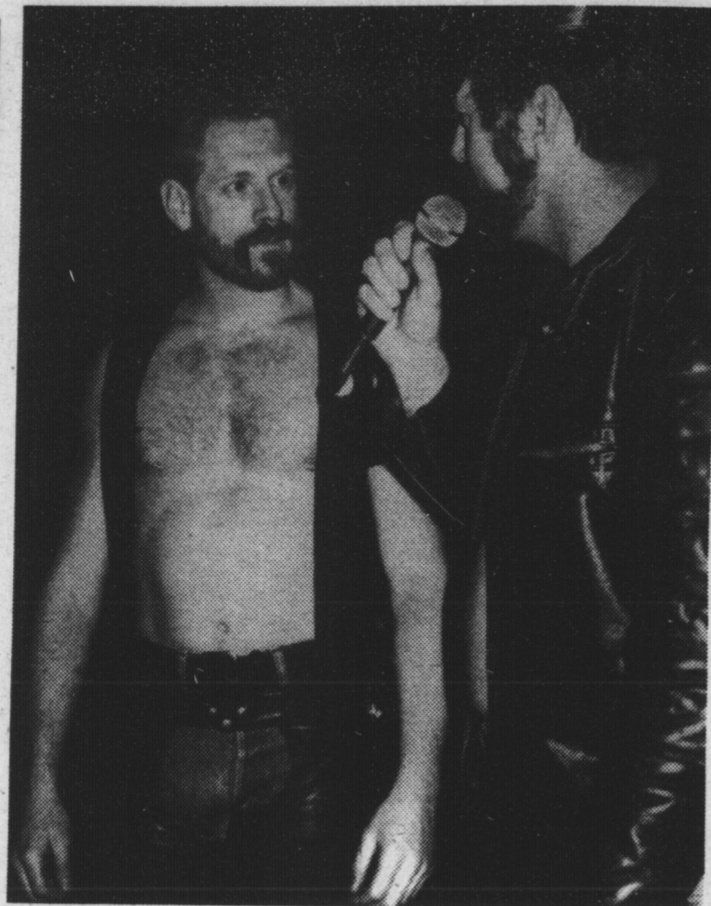
Film Benefit

Two documentary films on Christopher Isherwood and Gertrude Stein will be presented on Friday, April 30, at Everett Jr. High School Auditorium, 17th & Church Sts. in San Francisco. The films will both be screened at 7:00 and 9:30pm as a benefit for the upcoming Sixth Annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Admission will be \$3.

In *Over There on a Visit* Christopher Isherwood is interviewed in and around his Los Angeles home. The film profile captures him in his everyday life, as he chats about his literature vis a vis his homosexuality, his memories of W.H. Auden, his involvement with Eastern mysticism, and his predilection for L.A. and his reasons for settling there. He describes his part in developing the Cabaret scenario, as well as offering observations of Berlin in the 1920's.

Gertrude Stein: When This You See Remember Me is a colorful account of the life, writing, and world of the woman destined to "create the twentieth century." Beginning with her early years in California, the film traces Stein's move to Paris in 1903, her life during two world wars, and her glorious return to America in 1934. Included in the film are scenes from Stein's musical, *4 Saints in 3 Acts*, and home movies of Gertrude and Alice at their home in Bilignin.

GAY DECEIVERS
Beware those curves you Think of having — For what unnerves you May be padding.
— Glenn



One of the contestants in the first night of semi-finals at the Mr. Eagle contest. (Photo by Rink)

TESSI TURA (from p. 24)
the blame rests on the shoulders of Mark D. Flint who conducted, directed, and did the English translation. Mr. Flint, alas, suffers more from ego than a lack of directions in which to spread his artistic talent. His conducting was lax; his direction often embarrassing.

The cast worked hard despite several severe handicaps. Gregory Kunde's Rodolfo was plagued by a frog in the tenor's throat and a lack of direction. Nikki Li Hartlieb's Mimi showed evidence

of a robust voice and disarming personality. Kathrynne Jennings' Musetta looked remarkably like Carol Neblett on a bad night.

The performance I caught was apparently only half as bad as the opening night. It's hard to butcher *La Bohème*. But when it happens, one becomes acutely aware of the love which must be lavished on this fragile work and the reasons why a performance like the one I saw in Los Angeles is indeed such a great achievement in opera theatre.

George Heymont

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The foreskin that covers the head of the penis may trap germs which can cause infections. Therefore, special attention should be given to washing the uncircumcised penis.

FROM PAGE 3: **SOME ASPECTS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE & DISEASE PREVENTION FOR MALE AND FEMALE**

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VOL. XII NO. 17 - APRIL 29, 1982

Elephant Walk Riot Case Put to Rest

In the second stage of the White Night Riot — after the rampage around City Hall, police presence in the Castro grew by the hour. The street was quiet, and yet careful after careful of riot-gear police went up and down Castro Street. The trolly cars were unnecessary but they soon became provocative, and the challenge was met. Soon the streets were filled with angry Gays, and phalanxes of helmeted, baton-wielding police.

He wrote,

"This office has completed its review of the Elephant Walk incident and the investigation into the complaints of police misconduct related thereto. Responsibility for this review was assigned to Assistant District Attorney Paul Cummins — a head attorney in the Criminal Division's Career Criminal Section. Mr. Cummins is an experienced (12 years) criminal attorney who has successfully investi-

Elephant Walk Saga — 500 pages of reports and documentation. Findings — nil.

The crossing at 18th and Castro was occupied by police. Suddenly they broke ranks and rushed the Elephant Walk bar. Swinging batons, the police broke plate glass, cracked heads, beat people to the ground. Panicked patrons fled up 18th and others up Castro. Many were pursued. The incident was labeled at the time a "Police Riot." Since that night four years ago, the Gay community has exerted constant pressure to get a thorough investigation and bring charges against lawbreakers. District Attorney Arlo Smith when he took office promised he would get to the bottom of the matter and either prosecute or put it to rest.

This week he put it to rest.

gated and prosecuted every kind of criminal case. His report is attached.

"Mr. Cummins conducted a detailed review of the voluminous files and records compiled by the United States Department of Justice during the latter agency's in-depth investigation into the incident. The latter investigation also included the full cooperation of local authorities including the San Francisco Police Department. This office also sought out and Mr. Cummins reviewed whatever written information was available from private citizens and other nonofficial sources, including any interested persons or witnesses who wished to come forward. He also sought out

(Continued on Page 9)

Parade Volunteer's Skull Fractured

by Allen White

Two weeks ago, Raymond Lanhart left his Community College class in Gay Journalism and headed home from the Castro area to Nob Hill. Ray was excited because he

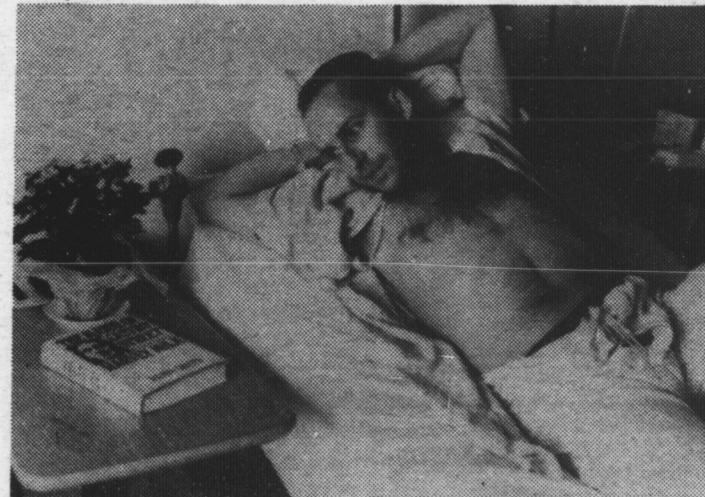
had just accepted his instructor's offer to take a voluntary press position for the 1982 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee.

He was so excited that he went home, turned around

and went out for a drink at his neighborhood bar, The Pines. He left the bar at about 1:30 am for the walk home, about a block and a half.

Before he made it home, Raymond Lanhart was brutally beaten and knocked un-

(Continued on Page 4)



Assault victim Raymond Lanhart recovering in his hospital room after brutal assault. (Photo by Rink)

Carl Hill Decision

INS Can't Bar Gays

Oakland/San Francisco Only Free Entry Ports



Gay visitor from Great Britain, Carl Hill (l) shares his U.S. Federal Court victory with GRA's attorney Don Knutson and Executive Director Jean O'Leary. (Photo by Rink)

by Konstantin Berland

"What's this case cost me?" Carl Hill asked himself before the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee Sunday, after thanking members for their contribution to his now successful fight against exclusion from visiting the United States. He was detained in

1979 because he was Gay.

"In the last three years I've had to travel 45,000 miles, spent a solid nine months

working on this case, spent \$12,000 out of my own pocket." Hill began his list of costs to himself for fighting his

(Continued on Page 4)

Burton, Marks, Renne

Hill Victory Prompts Acclaim

Three of the five major congressional hopefuls issued quick responses to the Carl Hill/Gay Rights Advocates victory in federal court this week.

Candidates Phil Burton (5th District) and Louise Renne (6th District) all congratulated Federal Judge Robert Aguilar's ruling that stripped the Immigration and Naturalization Service of some of its discriminatory power.

Burton said, "In issuing this decision Judge Aguilar has demonstrated an astute reading of the Constitution and its protection of the 'rights of association and speech.'" His challenger, Marks said, "Judge Aguilar is to be praised for deciding in favor of Carl Hill's entry into the United States." Marks had praised for those who worked on the case. "Don Knutson and Gay Rights Advocates are to be specially commended for their tireless efforts."

Supervisor Louise Renne, a leading contender in the vacated John Burton seat, said, "Judge Aguilar's ruling is of crucial importance in removing one of the most unjust barriers to freedom of association and freedom of choice." She too proffered her congratulations to Aguilar "as well as Carl Hill for pressing his case and the many supporters of Mr. Hill who assisted him during his appeal."

Both Renne and Burton made reference to their own contributions on the issue. Said Burton, "As one who has been working to repeal Section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act . . . I support Judge Aguilar's courageous decision."

Renne recalled that on August 6, 1979, she voted in favor of a San Francisco Board of Supervisors resolution urging the INS to cease to detain aliens on the basis of sexual preference.

IN THIS ISSUE

Jane and Kate for fast and final relief p. 2

St. Francis Wood Gay Murder Mystery p. 9

Sharon McNight and Ruth Hastings p. 19

Porn "Boots and Saddles" — by Karr p. 28