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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

VOL. XIII NO. 49 DECEMBER 8, 1983

Supes Wop Poppers

No Sales to Minors, Warnings Must Be Posted

by George Mendenhall

San Francisco has adopted the strictest law in the country to inform the public about the possible health hazards of alkyl nitrite products, popularly known as "poppers." The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an ordinance this week, without discussion, that forbids sales to anyone under 18 years of age and requires the posting of bold "May Be Hazardous to Your Health" warnings.

The supervisors also passed a resolution which urges the federal government's Consumer Product Safety Commission to require label warnings on the bottles of so-called "room deodorizers" because they are often used as inhalants. The city resolution states that while the "long-term effects of inhaling alkyl nitrites are not known, several different recent studies have suggested that long-term use may possibly impair the body's immune system."

WARNINGS

Poppers are sold under various brand names such as *Rush*, *Head*, *Crypt Tonight* and *Bullet*. During an October 14 hearing before the supervisors' Health Committee, Supervisor Doris Ward called for passage of city legislation, at the least, to inform the public of the possible hazard of popper usage as an inhalant and alleged sexual stimulant.

The city health director, Mervyn Silverman, had cited cases where people had died while using poppers. He said possible harm could result in usage, as the products alter the blood and restrict its ability to carry

oxygen. Silverman said that the use of poppers has not been proven to cause AIDS but that its usage could be part of the overall condition that reduces the body's immune system.

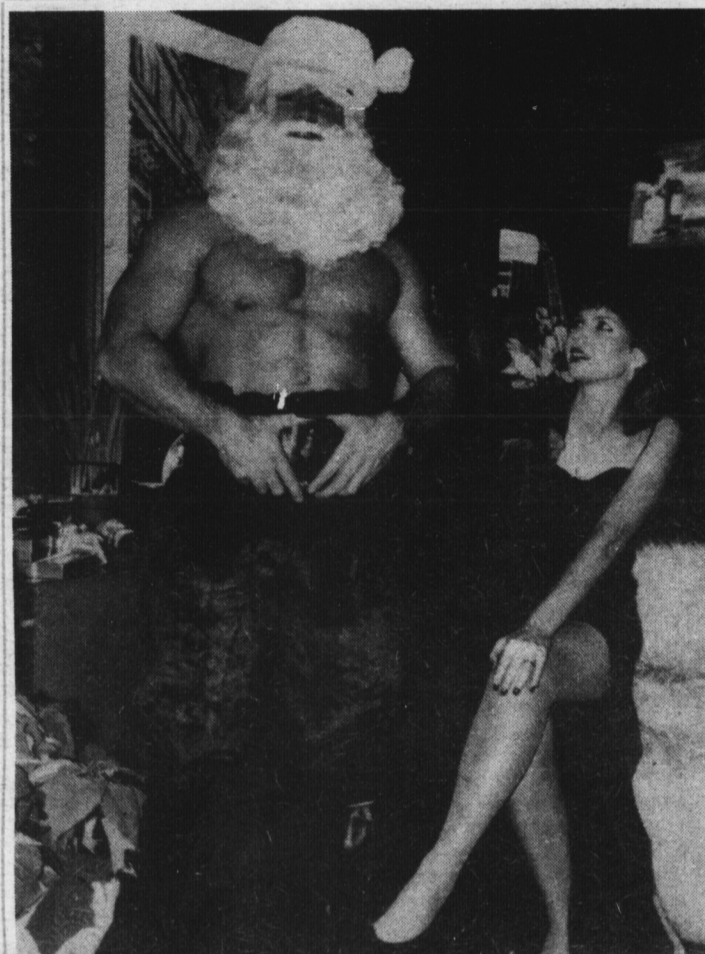
An earlier poppers hearing was held before a supervisors committee in 1982. The recent advent of AIDS stimulated renewed interest this year, and poppers were among some of the first suspects. Poppers are not advertised as inhalants so government agencies have had difficulties controlling use of the substance. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, enforced by the federal Food and Drug Administration, regulates

the sale of drugs and devices intended to affect the structure of any function of the human body. However, manufacturers have insisted that they are only producing incense and room deodorizers.

Poppers are often advertised in the sexual advertising sections of the alternate press and frequently sold in sexually oriented businesses. Their usage in the Gay community is often related to what some users claim is an enhancement of the sex act — particularly during ejaculation.

POSTED NOTICE

The new city ordinance is (Continued on page 2)



Santa's spending some time in Gayland. This week he's at the Fitzgerald Gallery on Polk. This issue begins with the Bay Area Reporter's annual Christmas in Gayland. Photographer Robert Fruzan told Santa to come down his chimney anytime.

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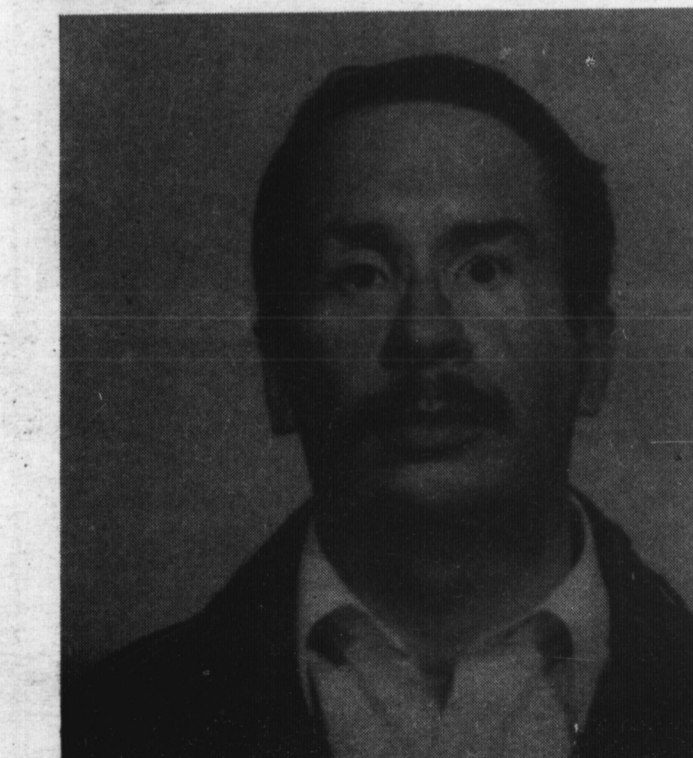
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Friends' Help Sought in Twin Peaks Slaying

Psychiatrist's Car Found Ditched in Reno

by George Mendenhall

Police have found the blue 1982 Honda of murdered psychiatrist Thomas Laskey, 42, in downtown Reno this week. Laskey was strangled to death in his Twin Peaks apartment late on the night of November 21 or early on the 22nd. Officers discovered Laskey on the floor at 9 a.m. on the 23rd after his employers at Napa State Hospital became concerned about his whereabouts.



A recent photograph of slain psychiatrist Thomas Laskey. Investigators are seeking help from his friends and acquaintances.

"Laskey was a low profile person," Police Inspector Jeff Borsch told this reporter, "who kept to himself. He would bring people to his apartment that he picked up off the streets, every once in awhile." The dwelling was a two-bedroom apartment, although Laskey lived alone.

The victim had been strangled with bare hands. His arms were tied to his legs by a cord. His shoes were off as he lay prone on his living room floor. He was otherwise fully clothed, including a tie and sweater. The apartment was neat in appearance, and the only apparent missing item was Laskey's wallet.

"There was no sexual activity," Officer Brosch concludes, "because the bed was not disturbed." The officer evidently did not allow for possible sexual activity that did not involve the bed. It is also possible that the murder occurred immediately after the two entered the apartment and closed the door.

(Continued on page 2)

Drugs, Assault, Malfeasance

Homophobic Castro Cop Fired from PD

Gays and Mission Cops on Better Terms in '83

by Allen White

San Francisco Police Officer Jeffrey Williams was fired last week by the San Francisco Police Commission. Williams, 27, had been stationed at Mission Station last year and was involved in the arrests of an aide to the mayor and a prominent staff member of Grace Cathedral at Collingwood Park.

The departure of Williams from the police department is another in a year-long series of events which have achieved a remarkable and harmonious relationship between the Gay community and the San Francisco police.

In August 1982 relationships in the Castro with the police and the Gays had deteriorated to the

deepest depths. At the center of the controversy were arrests made in the area of Collingwood Park. Tales of vicious police violence at the Mission Station were rampant.

The turning point was a community meeting at the Women's Building. It was attended by many members of the Board of

(Continued on page 20)

Friends' Help Sought in Twin Peaks Slaying

(Continued from page 1)

The murderer took the psychiatrist's wallet and used one of his credit cards to obtain lodging at the Midtown Lodge, 611 W. 2nd Street in downtown Reno. The hotel is not known as a gay establishment. Later, when the credit card charge was rejected, a check of the room revealed that the attacker had fled in Laskey's car. The car was abandoned eight blocks from the hotel.

DESCRIPTION

The Midtown Lodge management was able to give this description of the alleged killer: White; male; slight build; 5'10"; 25; 140 lbs.; short, light brown hair; light colored eyes, possibly blue. Reno police have checked the gay bars in the Reno/Sparks area but they have no leads at this time.

Police investigators have not yet talked to patrons or employees of two of Laskey's favorite gay bars here, the Alta Plaza and Pacific Exchange on upper Fillmore Street. The bars are considered relatively sedate establishments that do not have a reputation as hustler hangouts.

EARLIER ASSAULT

The psychiatrist had been the victim of an earlier assault one year ago when he took two young men home that he met at a donut shop at 18th and Castro. The two attackers beat Laskey badly, destroying almost every bone in his face. Borsch said that Laskey described his house guests as white males with brown hair and in their 20's.

One called himself "Tim" and was slender while the other was described as muscular and called himself "Chuck." Police have received no follow-up information on the December 5, 1982, assault. Borsch said that the male who killed Laskey was not one of those suspects.

Laskey was not widely known in the gay social or political circles in San Francisco. He lived quietly near the Castro area in a view apartment and commuted to his job at Napa Hospital, a state mental health facility. He had worked at Napa for six years. The physician had been a specialist in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in the 1970's but his eyes began to fail. He wore very thick eyeglasses and was forced to end his surgical career due to failing eyesight. He re-entered college and obtained the proper degree to practice psychiatry.

The victim was a Chicago native who graduated from Loyola University's School of Medicine in 1966. It is not known when he moved to San Francisco.

"We don't have much on this case," Officer Borsch reports. "We are holding back on some secrets about the murder that we cannot reveal. However, we need help from anyone who knew Dr. Laskey and who might be able to help us in our investigation." Police are interested in knowing more about Laskey's behavioral patterns, his activities on the night of his murder. Borsch may be contacted at 553-1145, or contact this newspaper.

G. Mendenhall

One More 'Homosexual Panic' Defense Rejected

Jury Convicts Slayer of San Diego Accountant

by Neal Putnam
For Update, Special to the Bay Area Reporter

San Diego, CA - A jury last week convicted a man of second degree murder in the death of a gay accountant in what the defendant's own psychiatrist dubbed a "homosexual panic" murder.

The San Diego Superior Court jury deliberated only one day before finding Robert Eady, 27, guilty November 16 of the murder of Vince Leon, 37. Leon was hit in the head July 8 with a shovel nine times in his Chula Vista home.

Eady admitted he struck Leon, but told the jury it was only after he was outraged that Leon made a pass at him. Eady was working for Leon as a gardener and the advance occurred when both were sitting on a couch in Leon's home, Eady said.

Eady's psychiatrist, Jose Fernando Bayardo, told jurors Eady struck Leon in "a homosexual panic" after Leon's ad-

vances aroused "suppressed homosexual urges."

Eady's attorney, Jose Taffola, said Eady was sexually assaulted by two 16-year-old males when he was 12 and Leon's pass reminded him of the experience. Taffola urged the jury to convict him of either voluntary or involuntary manslaughter.

But Deputy District Attorney Bob Hammes sought to portray Eady as a man who wanted to "punish" Leon because of his possible "latent homosexuality."

"This individual, who is so horrified at homosexuality... approaches a homosexual for work," Hammes argued.

"He allows this man to get close to him and put his arm around him," Hammes said, using Eady's own words to police after he was arrested.

After Eady refused to have sex with Leon, he went outside

for about a minute and returned with a shovel and struck him repeatedly, the prosecutor said.

"He left that man moaning and dying—this so sensitive individual," Hammes said. "It may have been done because of the homosexual feelings it may have aroused. He killed in revenge. He was very, very angry."

Taffola said Eady had been drinking heavily that day and the entire incident happened quickly. Eady is divorced and has two children.

Ironically, if Eady had not told police first about his role, the case might have went unsolved. After the slaying, Eady took Leon's truck and drove to Fresno. He took a bus to San Francisco, only to turn himself in at the police station there.

San Francisco officers testified Eady told them of the murder and his role. But Chula Vista police told San Francisco's officers they knew of no recent murder.

Eady gave the police Leon's address and later in the day they found the body, still in the living room. Eady remained voluntarily at the police station even though he had difficulty persuading them the slaying had occurred.

Sentencing is set for December 14 and Eady faces a 15-years-to-life term in state prison.

Supes Wop Poppers

(Continued from page 1)

specific in the posting of the warning. It must be at the point-of-sale and in large, bold print. The poster must be 8 x 11 inches with the word WARNING in 84-point type. This is the warning:

"These products contain alkyl nitrites ('poppers'). Inhaling or swallowing alkyl nitrites may be harmful to your health. These chemicals can cause skin rashes, nasal irritation, sinus or lung infections, and rarely, severe anemia. Inhaling concentrated alkyl nitrite vapors may cause you to faint and could be very dangerous if you have a hidden heart disease.

"Whether continued use of alkyl nitrites may affect the immune system is not known, but several different studies have suggested that some impairment of the immune system is possible."

Much of the research and lobbying that led to the new poppers measures was orchestrated by a longtime gay activist, Hank Wilson. The Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, a gay doctors group, and health care consultant Dr. Robert Bolan assisted by educating the supervisors.

Wilson praised Supervisor Ward and her aide, Brandy Moore, who took an early in-

terest in the poppers issue. He also recognized Supervisor Nancy Walker and the City Attorney's office for their cooperation.

The new ordinance exempts pharmacists, veterinarians, and medical doctors. A violation would be a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500 or/and six months in jail.

There must be a final vote on the Board measures this Monday. The unanimous vote this week indicates that there will not be reversal.

G. Mendenhall



Supervisor Doris Ward played a big role in popper ordinance.

Gay Suicide Study Now in Progress

A research project investigating suicide in the gay community is now being conducted in San Francisco. The study is seeking information from gay men who have recently attempted suicide.

According to Peter Goldblum, the study coordinator, "The findings of this study will assist health professionals to focus more clearly on the range and complexity of issues presented by their gay clients." Peter Goldblum is a psychotherapist with a special interest in gay health and medical concerns. He teaches a course in gay health issues at the Castro/Valencia branch of City College. Several Bay Area hospitals and mental health organizations, including Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco General Hospital, and Operation Concern are assisting in this project.

Gay men who have attempted

suicide within the past six months will be given a questionnaire which takes about an hour and ten minutes to complete. If you have attempted suicide within the past six months and wish to participate in this project, please contact Peter Goldblum by calling 391-0103. All inquiries will be held in strictest confidence.

Pride Christmas

On Christmas Day, the Pride Center will be serving its annual Christmas Dinner. An invitation is extended to the community at large. All are welcome. The dinner will be served from 12 noon to 2 PM at the Pride Center, 890 Hayes at Fillmore.

If you can help please contact George Voigt, Volunteer Coordinator of the Pride Center, 863-9000.

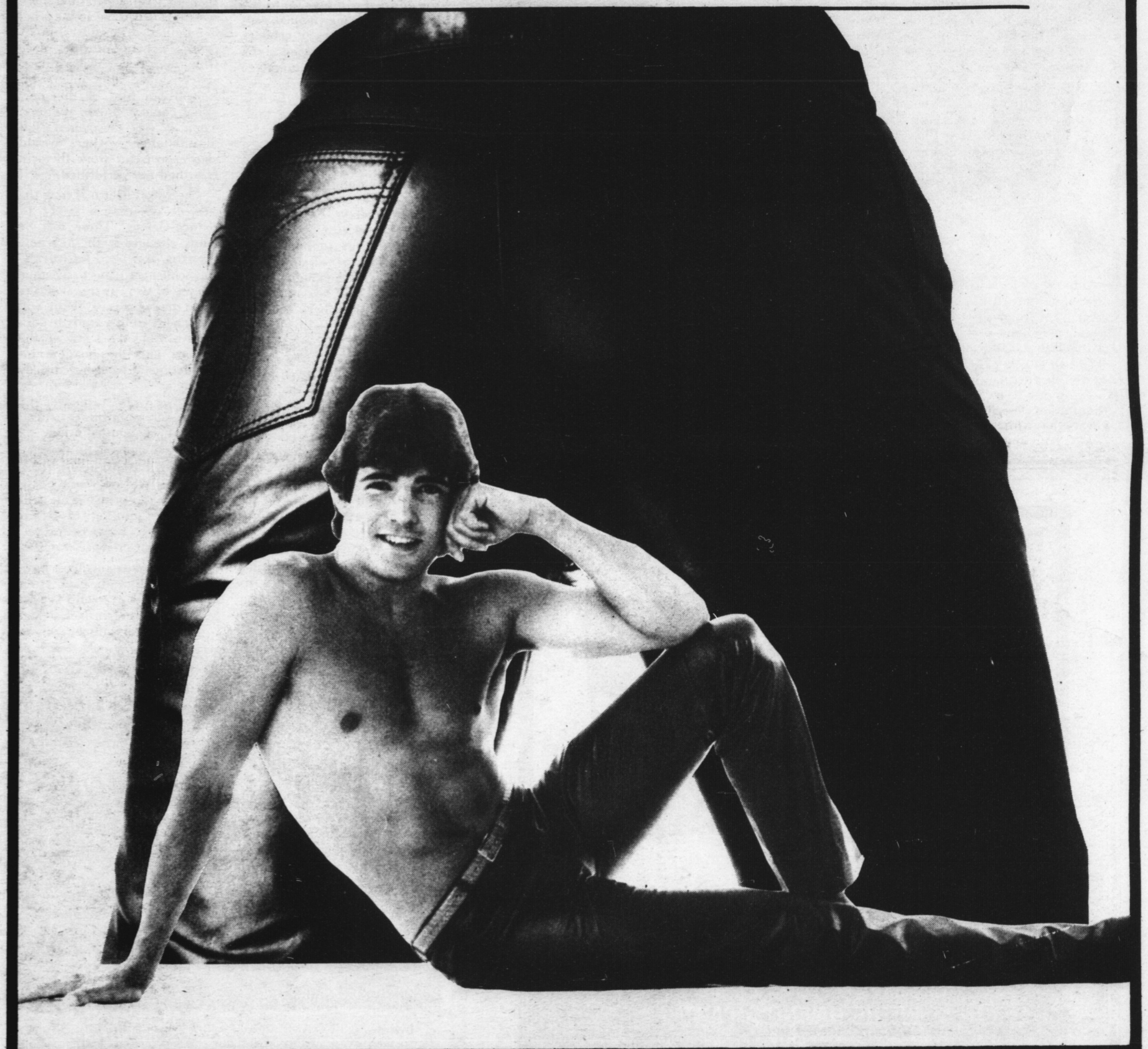
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SF's Muni: Getting Us Somewhere or Nowhere?

New Muni Head Pledges the Best Yet Part I

by Allen White

"I can't take it anymore" is a routine thought as thousands of San Franciscans try to anticipate the next crisis in their transportation system, the Municipal Railway.

There is the question of headways, the lack of schedules, and countless delays. Then customers are faced with the erratic habits of drivers ranging from rudeness and jumping stops to crazy driving. Finally, there is the subject of the vehicles, whether it be Muni Metro's roasting temperatures, scratchy bus windows, or ripped seats.

Facing these problems head on is Harold Geissenheimer. He is the person chosen one year ago to be the General Manager of Muni. He firmly backs his employees and follows a pattern of identifying a problem and following through to a solution. Supervisor Richard Hongisto, head of the board's transportation committee, is extremely critical of Muni, yet gives Geissenheimer high marks for his work in the last year.

Hongisto, like many of the supervisors, is very much aware of the problems that plague Muni. He cites the example of how he tried unsuccessfully to get a bus stop relocated in front

of a hospital to help seniors who wanted to be closer to a medical facility. There was simply nothing he could do, he said, to get Muni to relocate the stop. Hongisto reasons that if he, a

supervisor, can't get the Muni to respond, how much harder will it be for people who are not elected officials.

Richard Hongisto breaks

down the Muni problems to an unresponsive bureaucracy, bad management, and many fundamentally bad decisions. He concludes that it will take at least five years to turn around the Muni operation.

ERRATIC SCHEDULES

The most horrendous scheduling problems exist on the underground Muni Metro system. Most regular users of the system can expect at least one delay a week getting to and from the downtown area. Explanations to bosses about Muni are commonplace in the Financial district. At the merging of the N-Judah line and the J-Church, the coupling process at Church and Market can take up to ten minutes. The mechanical problems on the light rail vehicles (LRV) are usually traced to the computer induced commands to the brakes, propulsion, and door systems. Simply stated the system is so complicated it malfunctions, again and again.

The electrified trolley lines are the victim of scheduling problems for a number of reasons. Heavy traffic and weather contribute to delays. Far more aggravating is a Muni driver trick utilizing a switchback procedure. A driver will slow down his driving to be enough behind schedule so that he can cut his route and switchback the bus. On the 22-Fillmore this is done heading north at Union, on the 24-Divisadero at Sutter. After switching back the driver is then ahead of schedule. He then takes a break while he waits for the schedule to catch up with his run. In the meantime, the passenger waits for a bus that simply will not be around. Not surprisingly, Muni management deny this practice.

Diesel bus riders also feel the effect of missed routes. It is not uncommon for drivers to take their lunch or dinner to the end of the line and simply miss a run and eat. Some of the primary routes where this is practiced are the 17-Lake Merced run, the 54-

As with many things in life, the secret in these violations is not in the doing but in *not* getting caught. It is no secret within Muni that many of the line coordinators simply could care less. In past years they were called inspectors, came up through the ranks and carried power and respect. This has changed. One area of heavy criticism in recent years has been the internal mid-level management reforms putting managers out in the street who knew less than the people they supervised. The result has been a "don't tell on me, I won't tell on you" philosophy running through the entire transportation system.

Under General Manager Harold Geissenheimer the system of driver discipline is being tightened considerably. A process is being put into place which can result in warnings, suspensions, and dismissal. Recently a hint of this new policy came to public attention when it was discovered that maintenance workers would sign reports for work they, in fact, had not performed.

The Muni Metro is now the subject of intense study to reduce delays. There will be many changes in the next few months on the J-Church. Geissenheimer plans to schedule the use of two car trains on the J and the N Lines. With this will come a feasibility study to consider routing the J line on the surface and the possible introduction of the historic trolley cars.

One goal is to minimize the coupling of the LRV cars. The more coupling, the more the chance of a delay with the sensitive cars. Additionally, there are 21 new LRV cars being added next Spring. This will bring the number of Muni Metro cars to 103 in operation, a substantial increase.

Muni Metro passengers have recently begun to hear train location announcements in rush hour. It is part of an overall plan to upgrade communications in



Muni men and Bay Area Reporter's Allen White (center) discuss Gays' frustrations with service. (Photo: Rink)

Miraloma and the 37-Corbett where drivers munch atop Twin Peaks. When questioned, Muni spokespersons also denied this activity took place.

They also denied another trick practiced on the diesel buses. It is not that uncommon for drivers on a split shift to return at the beginning of the afternoon rush hour to pick up their bus. The bus leaves the yard and then a few minutes later the driver simply drives back into the yard, parks the bus and goes home. Again, Muni denied that this was possible.

the subway stations. Until recently, riders might wait a half an hour to finally be told what they already knew, that there was a delay. Usually the station agent knew nothing of a delay and was of little help to the frenzied late passenger. Next year another modification will be introduced to provide the passenger with even more information. The theory is that if a passenger knows he has a twenty minute wait, he may choose to take alternate surface transportation.

To be continued...

Standing Up for Gay Rights in West Germany

Bundestag Has Its Harvey Milk in Herbert Rusche

by Paul Lorch

Herbert Rusche is West Germany's most visible and well-known Gay figure.

The 31-year-old political activist from Hesse is a member of the Green Party (*Die Grunen*) in the Bundestag, the national parliament. Rusche is one of four openly Gay politicians in all of West Germany; he is the Harvey Milk of German Gays.

Rusche was in San Francisco these past two weeks. He was the guest of the Harvey Milk Archives, and he spoke at City Hall November 27. He was proud of his speech. "It was my first speech in English," said the personable German. A member of the working class — with only technical training and no university background, Rusche never studied English. "All the English I know," he said, "I learned from American GI's." And not surprisingly, Rusche speaks and sounds American as opposed to British. He knows the "lingo" — in particular Gay American camp talk.

The Green Party is a new entry in the Federal Republic of Germany, and its controversial approaches have been disconcerting to the stolid German bourgeoisie. As a result, it has captured a lot of headlines. The party is based on four concerns: Ecological, Grass Roots Democracy, Social Equality, and Pacifism. It was founded in 1979.

Rusche was one of the founding members of the party. As a Gay activist, he brought those

concerns to the party's consciousness and platform. He then worked for the Green Party in his state of Hesse. He was employed as its general secretary. At a party convention, he stood for election for the national parliament. The Green Party took 28 seats (out of 520) in the last election, and though small they have been causing quite a stir ever since.

The Greens to avoid becoming stale (and complacent) in office put up two nominees for each four-year term of office. The first contingent is serving for the first two years; Rusche is part of the second two years, and while waiting to take his seat attends the parliamentary sessions, listening to the debates, engaging in party caucuses. He gets half the allotted salary of his sitting alternate.

Rusche's proudest platform is that his mission is "not to get Gays into Green issues, but to get the Greens into Gay issues." And he has found for all the progressiveness of his cohorts, Gay issues manage to get overlooked, if not forgotten. To emphasize his primary concern, Rusche

hands out a six-page position paper on Gay issues and reforms he wants accomplished.

He opens his manifesto with, "Since the Gay liberation move-

ment is one of the grass roots action groups which united to form our party, that *Die Grunen* identify with the demand that homosexuality should be totally exempt from prosecution."

If Rusche has his way, the Green Party will support "the autonomous Gay liberation movement in its work and encourage it to maintain its autonomy."

Rusche's Gay platform would lower the age of consent, reform of the penal code which still houses language under which homosexuals can be punished. Another change would be to destroy police departments' "Pink Lists" (registration of Gays by authorities) and a ban on police checks for the purpose of collecting data on homosexuals.

Moreover, Rusche's Gay platform demands that any

"surviving Gay victims of Nazi concentration camps, the so-called 'Pink Triangle Prisoners,' must be finally rehabilitated and compensated without delay."

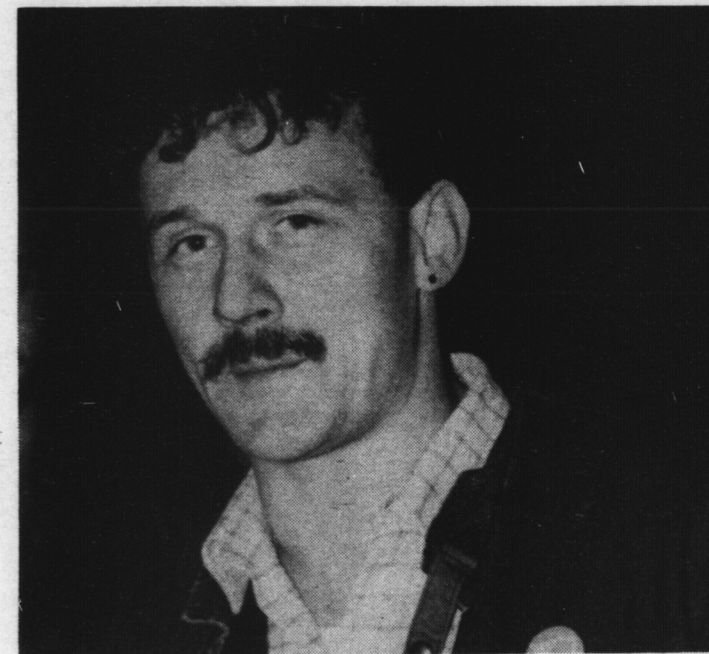
The German Gay activist also seeks no discrimination against Gays in renting or employment. He seeks "no disadvantages for unmarried people in family, inheritance, fiscal, and penal law." He deals with custody rights, adoption rights. His platform demands access to the media, the deletion of the term "homosexuality" as an illness from the German registers of the World Health Organization (WHO) which contain a complete list of all illnesses.

Herbert Rusche is a young Gay man with a mission — and he's in a hurry. He has the support of his fellow Green Party members — even if they turn down the audio, they are committed to listen. He is yet to be tested by the opposition, and he knows that's not going to be that easy.

Green Party members, he recounted, are often chided by their fellow Bundestagers for being unkempt, for being unruly, for lacking decorum.

Recently, Rusche said, one of the Green Party's women gave her maiden speech in parliament on a revolutionary feminist platform: wages for housework, a woman's rights to her body, child care, etc. Her remarks so incensed other house members that they were standing on their seats catcalling her, stamping their feet, shaking their fists, booing and hissing. "They threw their revered decorum out the window," Rusche noted.

All the same, if the feminist program causes such an outburst, Rusche senses that when his turn comes, he'll bring down the Bundestag in a Wagnerian tempest.



Herbert Rusche, West German Gay activist, political figure at Milk March. (Photo: Rink)



Getting downtown from the Castro becomes a daily decision. What way will get me to work on time? (Photo: Rink)

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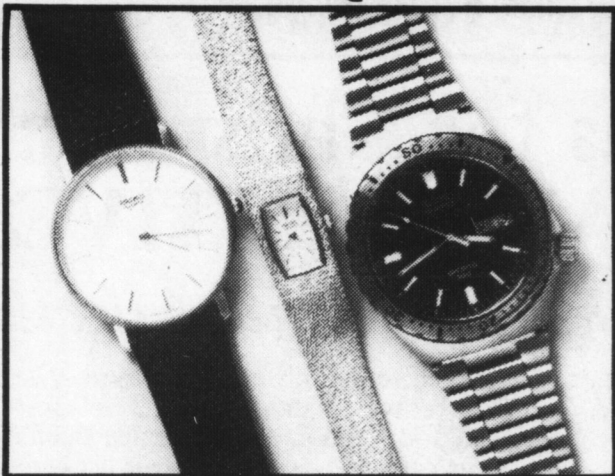
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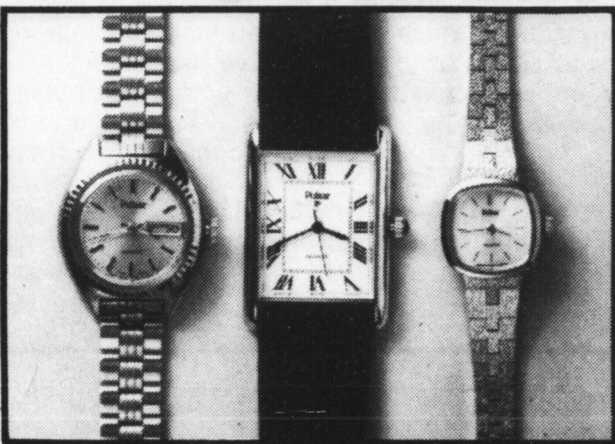
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Atlas S & L Winds Up A Stunning 1983

**Construction Proceeds, Stock Splits,
 New Offering on Tap**

by Paul Lorch

Atlas Savings & Loan issued its year-end progress reports this week. The purpose of the update, said new Public Relations Director Kim Cortright, was "to keep the community up to date on what's going on." Cortright came to Atlas from the Golden Gate Business Association, where he had been Executive Secretary.



West German Opens Account at Atlas — Herbert Rusche, the first openly Gay man to be elected to the West German parliament, recently was in San Francisco to sightsee, meet with leaders of the Gay community, and open an account at Atlas Savings, the world's first Gay savings and loan. Shown left to right: Herbert Rusche, Atlas board chairman John Schmidt, and Atlas branch manager Vance Holley. (Savage Photography)

Cortright stated that the new one million dollar branch office on Castro Street was under construction, and he had these details to pass on.

The spacious new building, which is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1984, will be comprised of two floors plus a mezzanine and a full basement, making it the largest new financial facility to be built in the Castro area in many years. Cortright stated, however, that with the bad weather, things are a bit behind schedule.

The new branch office will be directly across from the landmark Castro Theater. Real estate experts consider the loca-

tion to be the neighborhood's prime block because of the extensive foot traffic generated by the Castro Street MUNI Metro station.

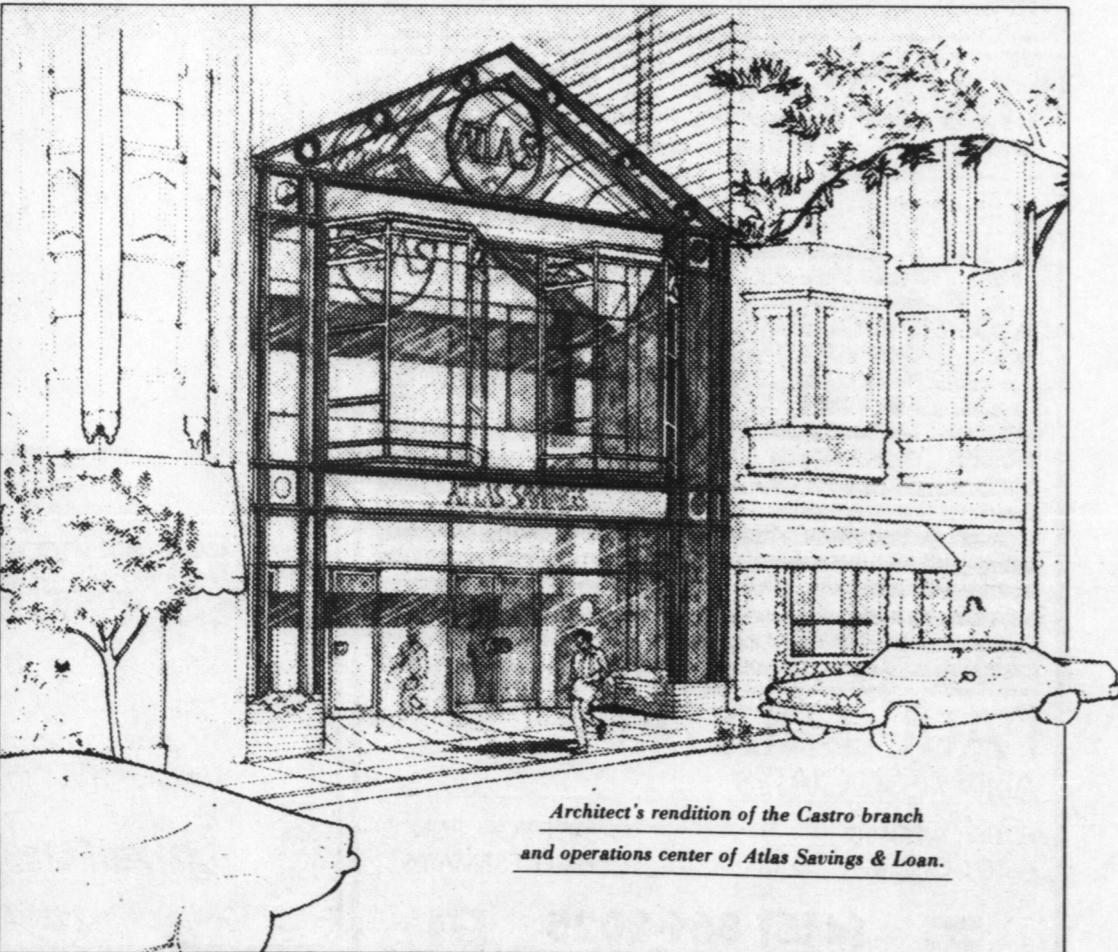
The main floor of the building will be set back five feet from the sidewalk to accommodate two automatic teller machines in secured glass booths, allowing privacy and safety. Also on the main floor will be a night depository for merchants, a spacious banking area with eight teller windows, two private merchant windows, a large vault, and extensive space for safety deposit boxes. The second floor will house executive offices, accounting functions, con-

ference rooms, and the data processing department.

The mezzanine level, said Cortright, features a glass-walled conference room, skylights, and an open-air patio for employee use. A full basement will be used for storage of financial records. The building will be equipped with an elevator and is wheelchair accessible. It is expected that the loan department will not be moved to the new Castro Street office, but will remain at Atlas' main office on Market at Duboce because of parking availability.

Atlas' Board of Directors believe the new Castro office will

(Continued on next page)



Architect's rendition of the Castro branch and operations center of Atlas Savings & Loan.

(Continued from previous page)

be a showplace for the upper Market Street neighborhood. The architectural firm of Neeley/Lofrano, which specializes in the design of financial institutions, was hired to create a contemporary building that would also be warm and inviting. The exterior of the structure will be a combination of reflective and non-reflective glass, with a free-standing steel facade reminiscent of the Victorian architecture of nearby buildings on Castro Street.

The interior will have the look of Atlas' main office on Market Street with curved walls and prevalent colors of gray, blue and tan. The most striking interior architectural feature will be a large circular skylight that extends from the first floor teller area to the executive offices on the second floor and to the rooftop skylight. The construction firm is Crystal Construction of Concord, and they have been told to hire Gay subcontractors where ever they can.

As the site was cleared, excitement began to build in the Castro area about the new building. Said Jay Johnson, president of the Eureka Valley Merchants Association, "I am very pleased about Atlas' new Castro Street branch and impressed with their progressive attitude toward the neighborhood. This new construction signifies Atlas' belief in the future growth of the area." Johnson continued, "I've seen the plans for the building and I feel it will improve and enhance the whole street. Atlas is a symbol of the financial strength of Gay people everywhere in the Bay Area and the new building will be a source of pride for all

currently. John A. Schmidt, board chairman of Atlas, indicated that future plans for the savings and loan call for a satellite branch in downtown San Francisco, where many Gay men and women work. "We want to be near our customers," said Schmidt, "and it's a myth to think that all of the Gay community lives and works in the upper Market Street area."

Atlas has been a struggle to realize, but a success from the first. The savings and loan has over 1600 shareholders who purchased the original issue of 160,000 shares. The offering price was \$12.50 per share. By October of 1983 the price had reached \$19 per share, and that month the board of directors declared a 3 for 2 stock split for stockholders as of November 15.

To date Atlas boasts of some 11,000 depositors from all of the 50 states and several foreign nations. Presently it has 36 employees.

One of the bank's weaknesses has been its staff problems. A constant turnover of personnel has not been lost on either stockholders or customers. Some attribute the lack of staying power or inability to hold on to workers as growing pains. Critics say it has been the result of poor management. Bank officials in turn suggest poor work habits or insufficient skills. Still a visit to an Atlas branch to do business is a different kind of experience. As an arena of Gay hopes, highjinks, and happiness a bank transaction becomes something else. Not everyone — customers, workers, management — have adapted well to that "something else."

The next Atlas move is the issuing of a new stock offering.



The hole that was Eureka Super Market and will be Atlas S&L's Castro Street quarters next summer. (Photo: Rink)

of us, not just the residents of the Castro."

Upon the completion of the new Castro Street office, Atlas will close its overcrowded branch on Eighteenth Street, which it purchased from United Federal Savings in September of 1982. In its first two years of operation, Atlas Savings has been a remarkable success with assets increasing from \$2.5 million to more than \$85 million

The board is awaiting state government and SEC approval. The proceeds will go to finance the new Castro branch office rather than draw on existing assets. The announcement should come within the next two weeks. Current stockholders traditionally have first chance to acquire more Atlas S&L stock.

P. Lorch

VD Testing

The San Francisco City Clinic volunteers will be at the following locations during the specified times and dates for community outreach VD testing.

Locations are Castro Street (at 18th Street), Polk Street (at Sutter Street), and Haight (at Ashbury Street).

Testing will be conducted in the City Clinic mobile van.

December 10	Sat.	12-3:00	Polk
December 17	Sat.	12-3:00	Castro
January 6	Fri.	11-1:30	Castro
January 7	Sat.	1-4:00	Haight
January 14	Sat.	12-3:00	Castro
January 28	Sat.	12-3:00	Castro
February 3	Fri.	11-1:30	Castro
February 4	Sat.	12-3:00	Castro
February 25	Sat.	12-3:00	Castro

For further information contact San Francisco City Clinic 864-8100.

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Gay Labor Alliance Raises \$1,000

AFL-CIO Given Honor for Help

by George Mendenhall

The newly formed Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance raised \$1,000 at a local fundraiser last Sunday at its first public function. The affair toasted the leadership of the AFL-CIO which unanimously endorsed national Gay rights legislation and called for more federal AIDS funding.

"We are a melting pot and Lesbians and Gay people are part of that," AFL-CIO vice president Tim Twomey told the assembled. Twomey was given a plaque recognizing his role in introducing the Gay rights resolution at a recent AFL-CIO convention.

Dolores Huerta, vice president of the Farm Workers, was

honored for her early support of Gay rights and public opposition to Senator John Briggs during the anti-Gay teachers effort in 1978. She said, "I could never understand how people could discriminate against other people because of what they do in their private lives." She concluded by leading the crowd in some "Viva's" and an enthusiastic clapping/cheering yell.



Labor allies from the Gay community fete AFL-CIO's Tim Twomey (center in light suit). (Photo: Rink)

Among those in attendance were State Senator Milton Marks, NAACP president Jule Anderson, California Democratic Council president Lia Belli, attorneys John Wahl and Paul Melbostad, Human Rights Commission chair Phyllis Lyon, Community College Board member Dr. Tim Wolfred, Toklas Democratic Club president Randy Stallings, Supervisor Harry Britt, and Linda Post, Chair of the Democratic Council Central Committee. Two Greyhound drivers spoke — to thank the Alliance for its support in its recent strike effort. Several officers from local Gay political clubs joined in enjoying the food, drink, and live music by The Leopard Set.

"Those who feed the flames of intolerance," Retail Clerks president Walter Johnson urged in quoting Harold Stassen, "set fire to their own house." He offered the Retail Clerks hall rent-free to the Alliance. Alliance Co-chair Howard Wallace added, "The labor movement is not just a bunch of Archie Bunkers. That thinking is a bunch of bullshit."

Supervisor Britt's comments brought applause as he related, "People who organize around their anger can make changes. As Lesbians and Gay men we are part of the movement for social change. We also owe a debt to those who went before us in the labor movement and taught us how to fight for our rights."

Mexico Rounds Up Suspected Gays

San Diego's Update Special to the Bay Area Reporter

Tijuana, Mexico - Homosexuals are no longer released from jails here by the simple procedure of paying their fine.

A new policy which applies only to persons believed to be homosexual requires that Gays stay in jail until they appear before a judge, who will then decide what is to be done.

Arrests of "obviously Gay" men on the street, a new policy of the recently appointed Tijuana police chief, have begun.

Police have begun circulating petitions to businesses near one of Tijuana's two Gay bars, the Noa-Noa, which have the business owners ask the police to shut down the Gay bar.

What is happening to arrested

Gays after they see the judge is unknown. Police in Guadalajara and Mexico City have already used the "petition" approach as a way to close businesses opposed by the government, including all but one of Guadalajara's numerous Gay bars.

Police have not made attempts to arrest anyone inside Tijuana's Gay bars, at this time.

The no-jail-release policy was discovered recently by Emilio Velasquez, founder of FIGHT (International Front for the Guarantee of Human Rights of Tijuana), who, while driving by Tijuana's jail, recognized four men being taken into the jail. He attempted to pay their fine or bail them out, but instead the

program and resource center.

Also help is needed to develop and implement a filing system for the program, publicizing the program and its events; outreach to groups and individuals to inform them about the program; outreach to faculty members and budget and grant writers; and building the course curriculum.

For more information about these tasks or to contact the program call 642-6942

Gay Men's Parenting Group

Bringing Children into Our Lives is the subject of discussion for a group of Gay men who have been meeting since September. Topics include co-parenting, adoption, foster

parenting, and artificial insemination.

The purpose of the group is to gather information, provide support, and facilitate discussion between men and women who are interested in any of these options.

Any individual interested in future meetings, contact Ron at (415) 841-4622.

no-release policy was explained to him.

According to a spokesperson for Grupo Liberalista de Tijuana, the new police actions are part of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's campaign for "moral renewal," a pledge to end corruption in law enforcement and politics.

Madrid's campaign did begin with a reform of the feared Mexican Secret Police, but since then has focused on arrests of transients, a growing group due to unemployment; Gays; and prostitutes. Emotional anti-Gay articles have fired up public hatred in virtually all of Mexico's newspapers. The government of Mexico does not permit a free press. Tijuana's last independent newspaper was shut down by the government several years ago.

Reportedly, a massive, large-scale round-up of Gays in Mexico City's Zona Rosa has been underway for weeks. In Guadalajara Gays were released after paying large fines for vague offenses. It is unknown now what is happening to those who are being arrested.

Elderly Outreach at Operation Concern

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) of Operation Concern invites Gay men and Lesbians 60 and over to join us for our second annual Holiday Open House to be held on Saturday, December 17, from 2 until 4 in the afternoon, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market Street at Guerrero.

Come and socialize, enjoy refreshments, visit with old friends, and meet some new ones, and also meet our new volunteers.

To make a reservation and for further information, call Sheryl or Stafford at 626-7000 v/tty. Wheelchair accessible.

GGBA and BACW Schedule Holiday



Golden Gate Business people at their recent "22 on the Red" fundraiser. This Saturday, December 10, GGBA throws its annual holiday bash. (Photo: May Small)

The Bay Area Career Women and Golden Gate Business Association invite the community to join in their Annual Holiday Party Extravaganza at The Apparel Mart, 22 Fourth Street, Saturday, December 10th, 8 PM - 1 AM.

"Start off your holiday season

right with the party of the year," say the organizers. Entertainment will include a romantic group of violinists and a full ten piece orchestra for dancing.

For dining, guests can choose from 12 buffet tables featuring oysters on the half shell, prawns, prime rib, pate, tortellini, tartlettes, crepe suzettes and

chocolate truffles. Also featured will be an international coffee bar in the lower level of the luxurious Apparel Mart especially decorated for GGBA and BACW.

For reservations call GGBA at 956-8660. Tickets are \$20 for GGBA and BACW members and \$24 for nonmembers.

Lutherans Welcome Gays

Two Bay Area Lutheran congregations have extended an official hand of welcome to Gays. Responding to a national "Reconciled in Christ" program promoted by Lutherans Concerned, the Lutheran Gay caucus, the parish councils of St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Oakland have approved an "affirmation of welcome" which states that

"because Gay and Lesbian persons are often scorned by society and alienated from the church, we wish to make known our caring and concern."

"Gay and Lesbian people share with all others the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God," the statement affirms, adding that "Gay and Lesbian people are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith that all other people make."

Lutheran Affirmation of Welcome

As a community of the people of God, we are called to minister to all people in our world, knowing that the world is often an unloving place. Our world is a place of alienation and brokenness. Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, and we are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing within our society.

We affirm with the apostle Paul that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female" (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one. We acknowledge that this reconciliation extends also to those whose affectional orientation is toward a person of the same gender.

Because gay and lesbian persons are often scorned by society and alienated from the Church, we wish to make known our caring and concern. It is for that purpose that we affirm the following:

- that gay and lesbian people share with all others the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God;
- that gay and lesbian people are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith that all other people make; and
- that as members of this congregation, gay and lesbian people are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of our congregation.

The above affirmation, or the equivalent attached statement, was approved by the Church Council of St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco on October 12, 1983. In doing so we acknowledge our participation in Lutherans Concerned/North America's Reconciled-in-Christ project.

Gay American History Course

New York, NY - An ambitious reading, study, and discussion group on "Lesbian and Gay American History" is being organized by Jonathan Ned Katz, author of *Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the USA* and the recent *Gay/Lesbian Almanac*, it was announced last week.

The course fulfills the social service requirement of a Writer-in-Residence grant recently awarded to Katz by the New York State Council on the Arts, and is being administered by the Fund for Human Dignity, the educational affiliate of the National Gay Task Force. The

wide-ranging survey will cover Lesbian and Gay American history from the colonial era to present, and will stress problems in understanding the character of same-sex erotic and affectional relations under different social conditions.

No prior knowledge of Lesbian and Gay history is required, but Katz hopes that participants in the group will "read their brains out," and take an active part in discussion based on the readings.

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AIDS — A Personal Exploration

Part V: Deaths in the Family

by Mike Hippler

In this fifth and next-to-last segment, Hippler looks back on a spate of deaths in his own family — too much too soon — and how he dealt with it all.

It is horrible that people have to go through this. I know, I know. It's horrible that people have to face half the things which befall them. That Mom had a stroke at 57 years of age was horrible. It was horrible, too, that she had to face finding herself largely confined to a wheelchair or to the couch when she came home from the hospital that February. There was little in her experience to help her prepare for that situation. She knew no way to deal with it. And yet she either had to learn or to face a life of misery and self-pity, repeating to herself over and over, "Why me? Why me?"

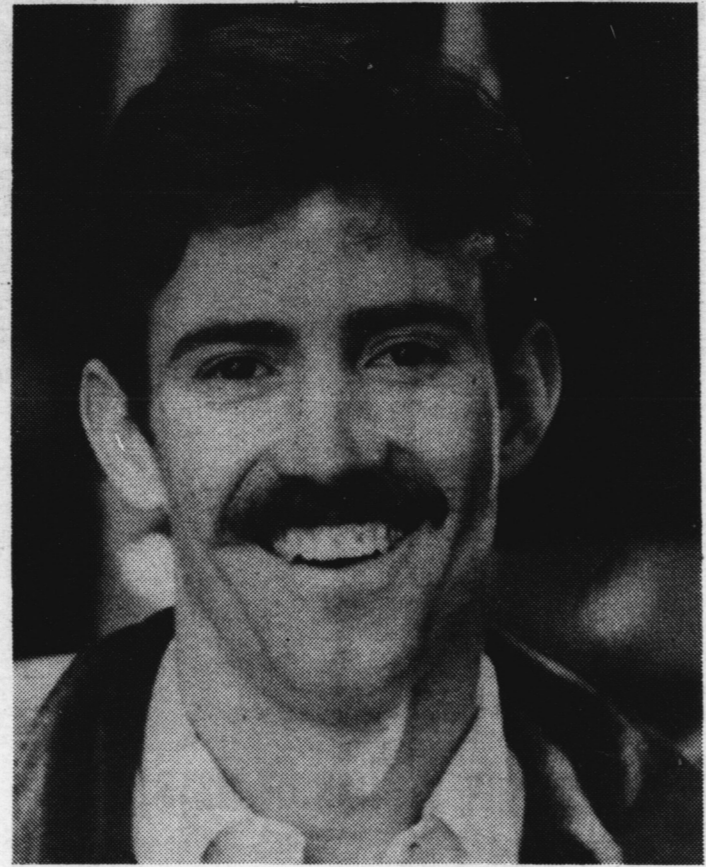
Mom's last day was one of the more difficult ones. She had been home about a month and was finding that life at home was in some ways more difficult than life in the hospital. She was learning to be a little more self-reliant, true, but still she had to endure our watching after her. She had to get up at six so that Dad could help her bathe and dress before leaving for work. She had to be ready to be placed on the couch at eight (within reach of the phone, the television, and her cigarettes and coffee, naturally) for at eight I left for work, and she would be alone until a day-nurse came an hour later. When I came home and the nurse left, she had to bear my pulling up her underwear for her every time she went to the bathroom (and she had to endure a cracked rib the one time she tried to do it herself and fell). She even had to pretend to enjoy my cooking.

Often she did all this willingly, but some days it was too much for her, and her last day was one of these. I had left my library job and was substitute teaching at the time, and as I had not gotten a call to teach that day, I was free to spend it with Mom. We spent the morning sitting in the sun together, she in her wheelchair and I in a lawnchair next to her, and at one point, when I looked up from the book I was reading, I noticed that she was crying silently. I tried to ignore it at first. It sounds harsh, I know, but Dad and I believed that if we pampered Mom too much, she would never learn to take care of herself. If we showed her how sorry we felt for her, she would only feel sorrier for herself. Of course we loved her, and we showed her that time and time again, but still, we wanted her to be tough. We wanted her to concentrate on beating this thing. So I let her cry — but not for long. I couldn't take it, so I reached out and said, "What's wrong, Mom?"

"Everything," she replied. "You and your father don't have time for me. Nobody cares about me. I'd be better off dead."

"You know that's not true," I replied, trying to appease her, but she would not be comforted. And so I wheeled her back inside, where she spent the rest of the day gloomily watching TV and complaining about a headache.

That evening, after we had finished a game of bridge — Dad, Mom, my grandmother,



Bay Area Reporter writer Mike Hippler (Photo: Rink)

and myself — I was getting ready for bed when I heard Dad scream from the bathroom. "Mike, get in here quick!" I ran to see what was the matter and found my mother leaning against the bathroom wall, rapidly losing consciousness. I helped Dad to get her to bed and then held her hand as Dad called the doctor. The doctor wanted to know exactly what was wrong. Then he asked to speak to Mom. I didn't hear what he asked her, but her reply — the last thing I heard her say — was, "Sure I can!"

Dad and I rushed Mom back down to Glendale Memorial in the back seat of the station wagon, and when we got to the hospital, the doctors told us what we already knew by then — Mom had suffered a second stroke. This one was severe, they explained, probably fatal. There was nothing to do but wait, so we waited. Twelve hours later, as Dad and I watched the activity on the graph monitoring her vital functions fade away to nothing, Mom died.

The dying. I try not to focus excessively on death. Like Patrick, who has the disease I write of, I try to concentrate on survival instead and to remember that AIDS and death are not synonymous. Ward 5B is not a terminal ward, after all. But the subject is hard to avoid — the mortality rate for people with AIDS is so high. Even the nurses who take care of the people with AIDS often refer to them as the dying, and every week, it seems, there is an article in the newspaper about someone else who has died. We are forced to think about it.

I've always been curious about death. When I was a child I used to burn stuffed animals at the stake and throw moths into spider webs to watch them

(Continued from previous page)

write hymns on the piano. Oh yes, and later, at a neighboring grave, I saw written in glitter under a blue plastic telephone in the middle of a floral wreath the words, "Jesus called, and he answered." I could only hope that that family had a sense of humor too.

When Mom died in March 1977, I took it matter-of-factly. Although the second stroke was unexpected, her lengthy illness had given us time to prepare for the possibility of her death. So I wrote withdrawn, sterile letters to everyone and flew with Dad to Florida for the funeral, carrying her ashes in a cardboard box at the bottom of a cheap straw shopping bag from Mexico. We buried her under the Spanish moss, palm trees, and sandspurs of her childhood, and Dad placed their wedding ring amidst the ashes. The engagement ring I kept for myself. "I'm so sorry," everyone said, "but it's probably better this way; don't you think? She led such an active life. She wouldn't have been happy as an invalid." Perhaps she wouldn't have been, but I couldn't agree that it was better for my mother to have died.

Shortly after Dad died and soon after my 30th birthday, I made my first will. I think the will was as much a result of one too many nights on acid as it was a consequence of anything else, but whatever the reason, I figured that the way luck was running in my family, I didn't have any time to waste. So I put Bic ballpoint pen to college-ruled notebook paper and wrote a few brief paragraphs leaving everything to my two sisters. Then I added a six-page coda detailing scores of items I wanted my sisters to be sure to save, including my journals, of course, a couple of unfinished novels, a signed copy of *The Mayor of Castro Street* (how could they live without it?), Mom's ring, Grandma's china, broken glass from Tintern Abbey, even a box of stuffed animals that I keep on the stairs (the ones I didn't burn at the stake twenty years ago). I'm not sure if the will will hold up in court, although I did get an ex-boyfriend to witness it (which was fairly brazen of me, since I didn't leave him anything). But whether or not it is legal, at least now I feel that I have done my part to bring some order to my eventual end. I have tidied up my house.

I don't always joke about death, you must understand. It's just that having lost both parents, three grandparents, and a few friends and acquaintances, I feel I am used to death now. It does not hold the horror for me that it does for so many of my friends these days. Occasionally I still rage, rage against the dying of the light, but more often than not, I shrug my shoulders and tell myself it's not that big a deal. What difference does it make to Mom and Dad now, after all? Sure, the survivors hurt, but that pain fades eventually, and it is inevitable in any case. So what difference will it make to me when my time comes? If my car sends me over a cliff someday, will I care that my apartment has no bay view or that I still haven't published in *Harper's*?

In some ways I even look forward to death as a rest, a release from care. It will be nice not to have to worry about the future anymore — about happiness and success, about ambition and fulfillment. It will be nice not to have to try so hard to find "meaning" in everything and to make every moment count. Toward the end of her life, I know my grandmother was ready to go, to lay down the "weary burden" of life. She couldn't wait to see Heaven, where she believed

she would be reunited with her husband. Unfortunately, I don't share her beliefs about Heaven — that delightful fairyland where all will be just as we would like it to be — but that doesn't seem to matter a lot. The void doesn't frighten me — in spite of it, there are times when I, too, am ready to go.

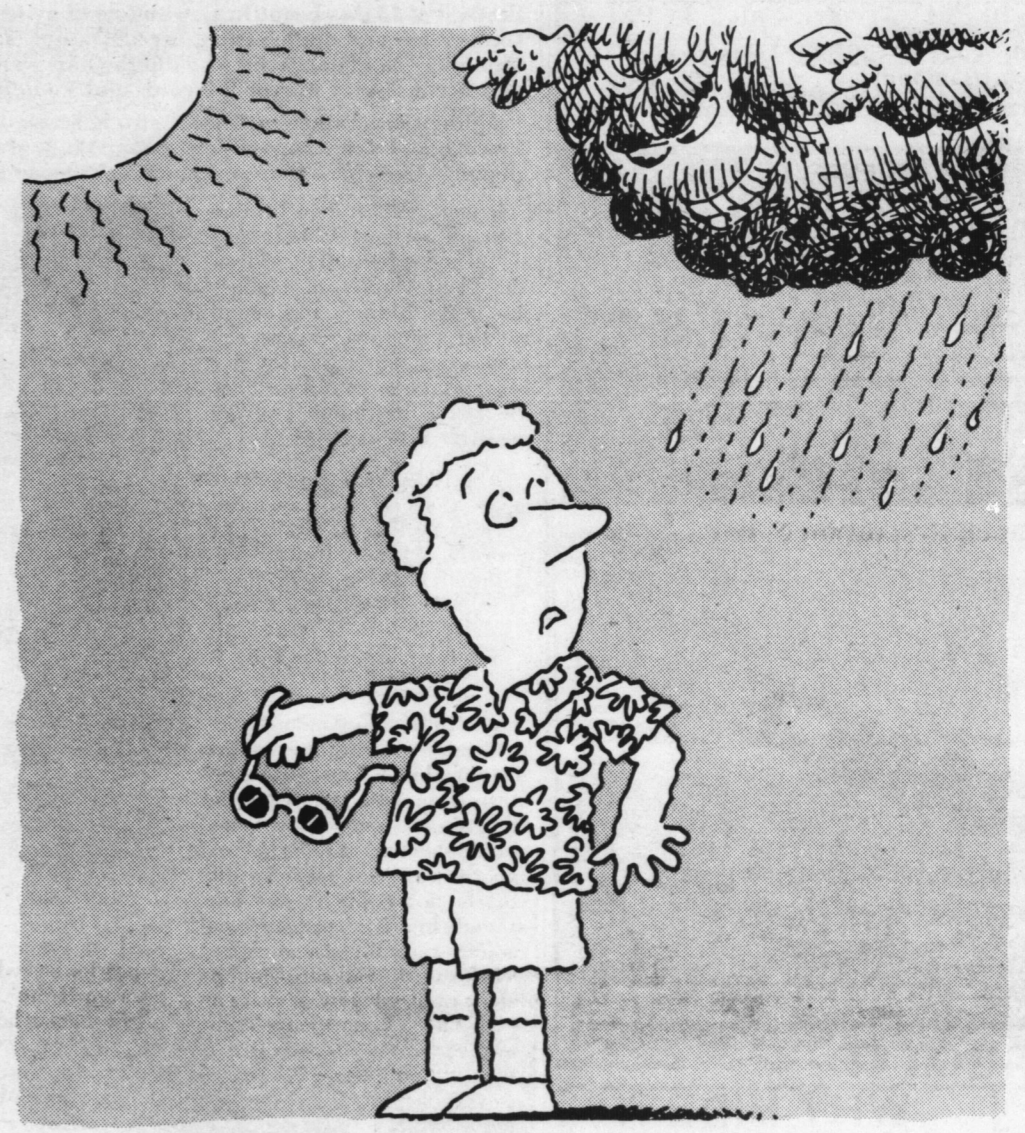
You will say, of course, that never having been in the position of someone who really is dying, I don't know what the hell I am

talking about, and that it is an insult to people with AIDS to compare my thoughts about death with their struggle to live. I can only reply that you are probably right, but that I did find myself in that position for a few days this past spring when the skin troubles that I was having got out of hand and my doctor diagnosed a lesion on my arm for KS. Although they assured me that the results would almost certainly be negative, still I

managed to convince myself that they would be otherwise. Yes, yes, it was dramatic, I know, but for a few short days, I fully expected to be told that I had AIDS, and I immediately assumed I would die, even though I recognized that all people with AIDS do not expire on the spot. The point is that rather than panic, I resigned myself and prayed. "Just please let me live until my picture appears in *Numbers*." At the same time, I

called my friends John and Alex and instructed them that if the tests were positive and I did die within the week, they were to come over and clear out my paltry porno collection. Call me a closet queen if you will, but I didn't want my sisters to inherit that.

Enough already. Enough about dying. ■



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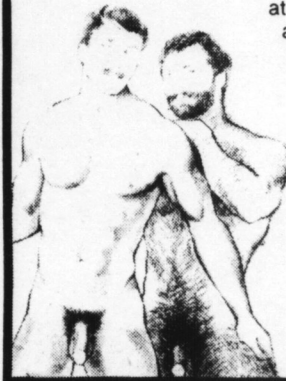
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Christmas in Gayland

The Upper Market — Ever More Splendid, Ever More Chic

by Bernard Spunberg

We screamed for a Christmas tree. "Mmhhh," Father grunted. "Jewish children do not celebrate Christmas," Mother translated, "and there is no such thing as a Chanukah Bush." Mother and Father never caved in to the positively Talmudic argument that a tree called a Chanukah Bush is a Chanukah Bush. After all, Chanukah Bush or no, we did celebrate the Festival of Lights beautifully with lots of good food, especially potato latkes (pancakes) with sour cream and apple sauce, presents, and eight days of lighting the menorah, the special Chanukah candelabra. So why did the kids want a tree? Because trees look and smell magical and because they mirror the color and excitement of the holiday season.

Mother and Father instilled a strong sense of culture and, though I can now have a tree if I want one, I don't. I'm too Jewish. But my Jewishness doesn't stop me from appreciating other people's Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, and participating in the holiday season to the hilt.

Upper Market is vibrating with all sorts of Christmassy sights and sounds. The Flower and Plant Market, on Duboce just below Market, has lots of candles, potpourri, azaleas, and poinsettias, but I like the live blue spruces and junipers. They are already decorated and are available in several sizes.

The 1808 Club is a sex club with a social consciousness. Owners Jerry and Ginger are throwing a benefit for the Tenderloin Youth Street Program on Sunday, December 18, from 2 to 9 p.m. With Jerry as host, a less than wonderful time is inconceivable.

The 100% Solution may have the naughtiest window in the district. The things people do with candy canes! Clever kitchen magnets and candy make perfect stocking stuffers, but my favorites are the anatomically correct boy teddy bears. The 100% Solution will transfer your favorite graphic design to a



Upper Market Street's new Castro Mall is decorated for the season. (Photo: Rink)

store staffed by two nice women, so don't stroll in au naturel. They're featuring honey egg nog and fruit juices along with their

The Academy is scheduling a party — their First Anniversary Blowout — for December 10. There will be a full bar, special prizes and favors, and a buffet at 8 p.m. The Academy is reasonably butch, but military drag is not required. You may leave your steel wool jockstrap at home.

Leticia's and her sister establishments, Line-Up, La Posada, and Albatross, will continue to serve their regular menus throughout the season, along with their margaritas deep and wide enough to float the USS Coral Sea.

Christmas on Castro, a temporary shop next to Cafe San Marcos, is selling some of the most beautiful Christmas decorations available anywhere to benefit the AIDS/KS Foundation as well as the Cafe's softball team, The Fighting Waitresses, and the Moments, a currently unsponsored team. Cafe San Marcos is serving egg nog and hot buttered rum and plans to serve turkey mole, ham, poached salmon, and traditional Mexican treats for New Year's Eve dinner.

The Walt Whitman Book
(Continued on page 20)

Norman at Duboce & Market's new Flower & Plant Market with a cascade of Christmas color. (Photo: Rink)

t-shirt by means of a color-reversing process — none of that awful rubbery stuff that melts in the dryer.

Au Naturel is a health food

usual diverse inventory, and gift certificates are available. Au Naturel is donating vitamins and other products to people with AIDS.



The healthy window of Au Naturel Health and Nutrition Center. (Photo: Rink)

Christmas in Gayland

Is There Really a Christmas So/M? If There Is, It's a Leathery Season...

by Tom Rogers

Rumor has it that Santa Claus isn't coming this year. Last year they caught him laying a doll under the Christmas tree and somebody shot his root off. Happily, some personal investigation has proved that rumor to be unsubstantiated. This writer went directly to Neiman-Marcus the day after Thanksgiving and looked carefully at both Santa and his root. In spite of Herb Caen's assessment, both Santa and root look fabulous.



Christmas leather for days at Folsom Street's Trading Post. (Photo: Rink)

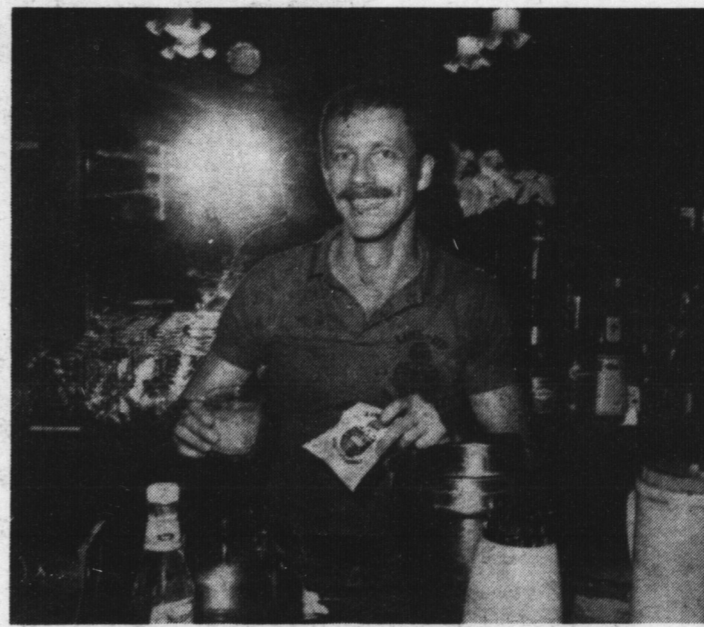
The day after Thanksgiving was marked by unseasonably clear skies and the bright sunlight almost trumpeted this city's annual promenade around Union Square, where thousands thronged to indulge themselves with myriad material fantasies.

They were given considerable help by the splendid window and floor displays at megaretailers' emporiums such as I. Magnin's, Saks, Neiman-Marcus, and Macy's, where the mannequins predictably out-dressed nine out of every ten patrons. If anyone in the promenade failed to succumb to the hypnosis induced by glitter and glamor, they had no defense against mechanical doll scenes reflecting the grace, charm, and wealth of this city's Victorian past a la Christmas.

The ebullience of the season spirit thus projected to the crowds was also reflected by them, infusing the square with festive excitement. Thousands filed out of the square thus excited, making room for the stream of people still arriving. Those who'd already done the promenade fanned out into the area surrounding the square to shops and boutiques of lesser scale which became targets for their gift-shopping quests.

All of this, however, was an entirely North of Market phenomenon, and not surprisingly, those throngs of people stayed

there. They had, after all, just been given proof that the world began and ended within three blocks of Union Square. Too



John, who fills any Christmas stocking with joy, at 7th & Harrison's Mexican restaurant, The Line-Up. (Photo: Rink)

bad they didn't travel South. So/M holds some pleasant surprises that are currently only found by the adventurous shopper with sturdy legs or a car and a flair for the erotic.

It's a well-established fact that So/M is an excellent place to find men — a kind of oasis to which hundreds flock to quench

their thirst and all manner of other appetites that have gone unfulfilled during their journey through the barren stretch of Monday through Friday. It's a lesser known fact (among Saturday night tourists) that there are several retail operations, all Gay owned, which cater to those men whose leather lifestyle demands regular and imaginative embellishment. Although scattered throughout So/M rather than being located in a two-block area devoted to shoppers, these shops offer everything from toys for that hard-to-please man on your list to fashion variety for the peacock in your family.

The Ambush, for example, offers a wide variety of gift opportunities in its new top floor shop. Ready to wear leathers, both Western and motorcycle style, are available, as well as a wide variety of other items. Open seven days a week, the Ambush shop's hours are by appointment Monday through Friday: 1 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Saturdays, and 1 p.m. to midnight on Sundays. The Ambush's bar, restaurant, and retail operation can be reached for further information at (415) 863-3617.

A Taste of Leather, following the tradition first established by owner Nicodemus at the night shop he used to operate at FeBe's, offers leather toys for all categories of play, mostly heavy. A long list of other leather and leather-associated items, including a wide selection of boots, ready to wear clothing (both fabric and leather), and custom items, make A Taste of Leather the great place to shop it's always been. Located at 336 Sixth Street, A Taste of Leather is open six days a week, from noon to six, Monday through Saturday. For further information, call A Taste of Leather at (415) 777-4643.

Black Eagle Leathers, the retail sales branch of the repair operation known as The Jacket Shop, is located on the South side of Market Street itself at 1795 Market. Although owner L. Robert ("Scott") Scott has a small inventory of some toys that are considered standard items, he concentrates his attention on custom work. Open five

(Continued on page 20)

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POLITICS AND POKER

Mondale Way Out in Front

WAYNE FRIDAY

Walter Mondale, now far out in front in the Demo presidential race, promised last week to support federal legislation to ban discrimination against Gays; unlike his chief rival, Ohio Senator John Glenn, who used the occasion of a San Francisco visit recently to announce that he would not support a national Gay rights bill. Mondale, who wouldn't comment directly on Glenn's Gay rights position, suggested that Glenn was wrong because "we're talking about elimination of discrimination, and I think that's a popular position in our country," adding that "I'm against discrimination on principle." Mondale's clear support of Gay rights not only hurt Glenn in California, but it probably inadvertently dilutes support for California's Alan Cranston, particularly from Gays and their supporters who had previously indicated support for Cranston because it is becoming increasingly obvious that Cranston's candidacy is really going nowhere and Mondale appears headed for the Democratic nomination in July.

Don't take any bets on Dan White staying in California for too long after his release next month. The state Department of Corrections has reportedly decided where White will live and work for the year of his parole following his release and will supposedly submit their location plans to the convicted murderer this week. If White rejects the department's plans, he can then submit another version before his release. Officials in the town

simply don't want him among them. Mayor Feinstein has stated publicly she doesn't ever want the murderer again in this town. As White's release date nears, a number of people have asked me what I would like to see done with Dan White. Frankly, I wish they would release the son-of-a-bitch at the corner of 18th and Castro, but that isn't going to happen, so short of giving him the same sentence he laid on Moscone and Milk, I guess the best thing for all of us is to get the filthy coward away — as far as possible — and give this city and those of us who knew George Moscone and Harvey Milk some peace.

The Harvey Milk Democratic Club holding its Christmas party next Tuesday (the 13th) at 3749 17th

Senator H. L. Richardson rides again. Richardson last week likened judges to "skid row bums" but nevertheless endorsed Governor Deukmejian's plan to create a commission of eight appeals court judges to draw new district lines for the legislature and Congress. Deukmejian, incidentally, was the subject of a major story in last Saturday's *New York Times* in which he was touted as one of the nation's finest guys ("California's last two governors, Reagan and Brown, were colorful, charismatic figures who preached with almost religious fervor about the need to reduce the size of government, but California finally has a governor



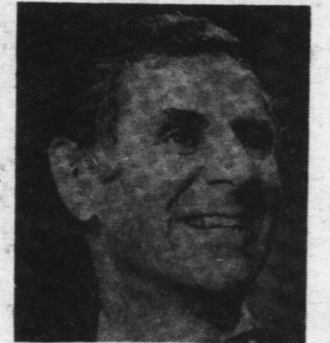
Walter Mondale, now leading the pack, tells SF reporters he would sign national Gay rights bill.

who has done what they set out to do. Neither colorful nor charismatic, Deukmejian will end his first year in office shortly, after routing the Democratic majority in the legislature in a series of fiscal battles"). After nearly a year in office, Deukmejian appears to be popular with California's voters; the respected California Poll reported last month that 76% of the people questioned rated his performance excellent, good, or fair. As icing on the cake, the Duke got a rave review in last week's *Wall Street Journal* comparing him favorably over Reagan's governorship.

In San Francisco last week, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Navy cannot discharge a sailor solely because he's an outspoken homosexual. The appellate panel, in a 2-1 decision, said that sailor James Lee Miller met the legal requirements for seeking judicial review of a military decision by contending his discharge violated his right to free speech under the Constitution. The court decision says that Miller can take the Navy to court over his contention that his discharge was retaliation for participating in a challenge to the Navy's policy against homosexuals. In reinstating the suit, the court said his accusations "clearly put the Navy on notice of a claim that Miller's constitutional right to petition the government for redress of grievances by means of litigation was infringed."

Yet another club to be heard from: the Stonewall Democrats will hold their holiday party at the home of Wayne Moore (473 Corbett; 8 p.m.) on December 21 and all are invited. Hollywood producers Joe Hamilton and Paul Barnes have abandoned attempts to sell their project on Harvey Milk based on Randy Shilts' *The Mayor of*

(Continued on next page)



Governor Deukmejian gets high marks in two national press stories.

(Continued from previous page)

Castro Street, for the time being at least. Barnes says they see the story of Milk as the "definitive study of the Gay culture," but the attention of the AIDS epidemic has put the project on the back burner. Shilts, meanwhile, is free to try to find a market elsewhere for the book being made into a film.

Jack Davis, who ran last month's highly successful Proposition O campaign, will reportedly be in charge of Quentin Kopp's 1984 re-election bid.

And you shouldn't invite Demo party boss Chuck Manatt and faltering presidential candidate Alan Cranston to the same smoke-filled room. The U.S. Air Force has underway a witch-hunt directed at Gays. Air Force officials say they are particularly interested in weeding Gays out of the Pentagon and Washington area bases with nearly a hundred enlisted men so far singled out for investigative interviews. Former city librarian and Examiner columnist Kevin

Starr planning a race for supervisor next year and reportedly asking for \$500 pledges to help finance his campaign (this guy apparently thinks big).

A well-done to Randy Johnson and the popular South of Market bar FeBe's for raising over \$2,000 for the S.F. Fund for the AIDS Lobby at last week's plant auction. In the spirit of the holidays, why not send a check to the S.F. Fund for an AIDS Lobby to my attention at the Bay Area Reporter and I will gladly pass it on.

The fight for control of the Toklas Club shaping up between Randy Stallings and Sal Roselli looks to be a good one. Congresswoman Sala Burton leaving no doubt that she will run for re-election next year, already lining up important support. And at press time, Pat Norman thrilled with the endorsement of feminist leader Gloria Steinem in Pat's supervisorial bid.

W. Friday

M. Marks Itemizes '83 Senate Work

State Senator Milton Marks this week released a list of his 1983 legislative efforts and accomplishments in behalf of the Gay community. With rumors continuing to circulate that Marks will be challenged by Lia Belli, wife of flamboyant attorney Melvin Belli, Marks has been moving to deflate the balloon before it overinflates.

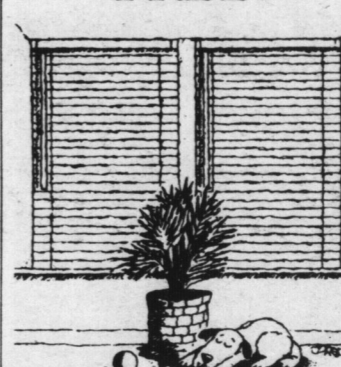
Marks' opening claim was that "the 1983 legislative session has been a very encouraging one." In a bid to tie down Gay backing, Marks wrote, "Key bills supported by the Gay and Lesbian communities have either been enacted or are awaiting further legislative action when the Senate reconvenes." Marks has always enjoyed strong support among Gay voters and can be expected to conscientiously maintain that base. In 1980 he enjoyed the backing of both the Republican and Democratic parties in his State Senate race.



Senator Milton Marks at the Harvey Milk Archives show at the Valencia Rose (l. to r.) Chuck Frutchoy, Danny Nicoletta, Senator Marks, Alice Demos, Randy Stallings. This week Marks listed '83 Gay gains. (Photo: Rink)

- The senator wrote:
- AIDS Funding:** This year's budget as signed by the governor contains \$500,000 to fund education and programs to inform the public, government, health providers, and people at risk about AIDS. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I introduced this appropriation into the Budget. I am also working with the federal government to redirect additional money for AIDS research.
 - SB 910:** Creates a committee to assist and advise the State Department of Health Services in addressing AIDS issues. This bill, which I co-authored, has been signed by the governor.
 - SB 184:** Gives the San Francisco Board of Supervisors the authority to require the Redevelopment Agency to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the sale or lease of property. This bill, which I authored, has been signed by the governor.
 - SB 2102:** Enables crime victims or their families to sue the convicted felon for profits earned from the sale of a re-telling of the crime. This bill, which I co-authored, has been signed by the governor.
 - AB 1:** Would prohibit discrimination in employment because of sexual orientation. AB 1, which I have co-authored, and for which I voted in the Senate Judiciary Committee, has a greater chance of passing this year than at any time in the past. It is pending action on the Senate floor.
 - AB 848:** Would provide that Californians have a right to be free from violence committed against them because of their sexual orientation. It is pending action in the Senate.
- Marks concluded, "I am very encouraged with the progress we have made and I will work to win passage of the bills still pending."

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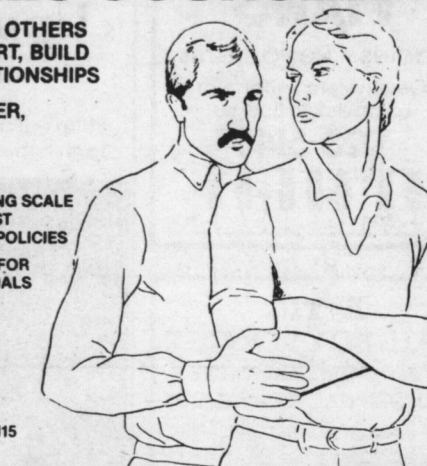
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GREATER BAY NEWS

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

Christmas in Gayland

Upper Market

(Continued from page 16)
Shop is jammed with everything from Sappho to Robert Gluck to

Gay Comix, Volumes One through Three. One of our most valuable cultural resources.

houses shops carrying just about everything. Greeting cards, books, croissants, cheese, pets, bathroom and bedroom necessities, jewelry, clothing — and they're all full to bursting with interesting inventory for the Christmas season.

Mumm's has pastry so good, the local merchants are giving it to their employees as gifts. There's Christmas cookies of all shapes and sizes, but have you tried the shortbread?

For the butcher than butch, we have the City Athletic Club, Muscle System, and the Women's Training Center, the only women's gym on the West Coast — still going strong after two years. With friendly, informative Terry at the door, the secret of success is easy to figure out. And then there's Shape Up, a co-ed gym, with the personable Marsha Cohen in charge.

The Store has a huge selection of windup toys. Have you ever distributed little airplanes, trucks, and drumming monkeys

among your guests, wound them up, and then released them on the dining room table? One of the world's silliest sights — especially after tee martonis.

If you can trust your friends with other than plastic and paper, check out Set Your Table. Now's the time to fill out your collection of Santa dishes. And for kitchen utensils essential and nonessential, take a look at Chez Nous.

Tired of the same old holiday drag? Within three blocks of Market Street you can find fashion new and old. Buck's, California!, Mikage, and East Coast Girls are tres.haute and avant, while Matinee specializes in the styles of yesteryear.

And now, let's get Jewish! It's off to say a blessing over the menorah before chowing down on a nice pork roast topped off by pumpkin pie and whipped cream. I never promised consistency. Just don't tell Mother and Father.

B. Spunberg



Christmas '83 on Upper Market Street. The flyer reads, "A wonderland of exciting and different holiday notions" next door to the Cafe San Marcos. (Photo: Rink)

So/Market

(Continued from page 17)

days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday.

Image Leathers, located at 2199 Market Street (on the South side of the street), features everything in leather toys and rack and custom leather wear. Image is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. Call (415) 621-7551 for more information.

Mr. S Products, located at 227 7th Street, offers a full range of leather toys, rack and custom leather clothing, boots and hats, a full selection of tee-shirts and western shirts, rubber items, and a wide variety of other gift ideas. Open six days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays. Mr. S also has a night shop at the S.F. Eagle with a surprisingly complete inventory. That outlet is open 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Mr. Red, whose Teddy Bears in motorcycle and cowboy leathers reflect truly elfin effort, maintains no retail outlet of his own. His product is available where he works, at Mr. S Products, or by mail order at 545 Haight Street, Suite 13, San Francisco 94117, or by telephone at (415) 861-3724.

The Stagecoach, located at 2191 Market, features the most complete selection of Western

wear in town, including several lines of boots and hats (which they'll custom shape on the spot). Open seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays, the Stagecoach can be reached at (415) 626-7999 for more information.

Worn Out West, located at 1158 Howard Street, is a regular goldmine for bargain hunters. They offer used clothing, from

leather jackets and uniforms to levis and shirts in this unique operation (which includes a second store in the Castro). Open five days a week, Worn Out West operates from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call (415) 431-6020 for more information.

The Studstore, located at 960 Folsom Street, offers a wide selection of new and back-issue magazines, tee-shirts, poster art, and leather toys. Studstore is

open six days a week, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Call (415) 543-5430.

There are a variety of other businesses located So/M which cater to a variety of other tastes (like the General Bead, a store selling beads, on Mission Street), as well as restaurants and pastry shops that stand ready to meet your holiday catering needs.

T. Rogers



Happy and hopeful clerks at South of Market's popular Video Mart. (Photo: Rink)

Castro Cop Fired

(Continued from page 1)

Supervisors, the Chief of Police, and the District Attorney, as well as leaders in the Gay community.

Following the meeting the arrests at Collingwood Park stopped. In January Captain Don Taylor was replaced by the current Mission Station Captain, Vic Macia. Paul Seidler, the police liaison to the Gay community, pulled together a successful network of contacts to ease tension and build harmony within the community.

Captain Macia began a series of appearances at Gay community meetings. The first was a meeting last spring at the Alice

B. Toklas Club. He worked internally at Mission Station to change the direction of attitudes. Lesbian and Gay officers were given walking beats in the Castro.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein focused attention on police relations at her monthly meetings with the Gay community. Police Commissioner Jo Daly said it is "amazing how many people broke their back" to make this work. "I'm proud of the Gay community and the police community for the work that has been done," she said. She credits much of the change to the efforts of the Community United Against Violence. Through

many meetings they have totally changed the perspective of how police deal with Gays.

Last Halloween the big test came in the effectiveness of the new relationship. As praise flowed in, Jo Daly said the results were "overwhelmingly obvious."

Last night Officer Williams and another former Mission Station officer, Darryl Solomon, appeared before the Police Commission on the charges resulting from violence last year at Mission Station. Both had been indicted by the grand jury for assault and malfeasance in office. The charges were leveled by District Attorney Arlo Smith. Smith had said last year that he was going to go after criminal violence in the police department. The complaints of the District Attorney against Williams and Solomon were sus-

tained by the court.

In addition to the charges resulting from violence at Mission Station, Williams was also criminally charged in San Mateo County for selling drugs out of his home.

A. White

Benefit Cooking Class

Le Trou Restaurant Francais will offer a \$5 cooking demonstration to benefit the Shanti Foundation. The demonstration will be on a Christmas theme and will be held on Saturdays, December 10 and 17. The class will begin at noon and last about an hour. Eighty percent of the proceeds will be given to Shanti. For information and reservations, phone Robert or Richard at 550-8169.

OAKLAND

No Shirt Sass

PETULANT INCHOATION
(A Saucy Note?)

If the three-day grand opening celebration — plus the one-evening trial run (in no sense of the word could it have been called a "dry run," as the only thing dry was a martini or two!) — of Sassy's at Revol last weekend is any indication, a new tradition has been established here in Oakland!

Sassy's is bright and cheerful,

studded with live plants and art deco prints and mirrors — and a "sassy" little teddy bear sits snugly in a wicker chair suspended from the lightened, beamed ceiling.

The waiters — Steve, Skip, and Tom — are all clad in black pants and vests, bow ties, and get this, NO SHIRTS! Quite a pleasing addition to whetting one's appetite, to say the least.

Guitarist Rob is certainly a

NEZ PAS



Guess Who Came to Dinner? Stella, reigning Empress of Sonoma County, and Paul, Emperor XI of Santa Rosa honored Empress Connie at the Imperial State Dinner. (Photo: Rink)

Crisis in Concord

The Diablo Valley Community Center has established a Gay Crisis Line. It will function Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7 to 10 PM. So schedule your crises appropriately, and dial (415) 674-0171. Volunteers manning the line have undergone extensive training, and will listen, provide support, give information and make referrals. Confidentiality will be strictly enforced.

Russian River Cabaret

The Casa Del Rio, 17500 Orchard Avenue in Guerneville has launched a weekend series of cabaret performances.

Shannon Orrock and Rick Mayes opened the series, which continues December 10 and 11 with vocalist/comedienne Karen Drucker and jazz/pop pianist Joshua Rich. Saturday shows are at 10 PM; Sunday shows at 3 PM. Info: (707) 869-2017.



That's the third one that's broken! The next ones better be heavy duty, steel belted, or super maxi strength!



Marin Rap

The Marin Lesbian and Gay Men's Rap will have a winter solstice party on December 15. This is a pagan celebration of the Sun's turning point. Bring a candle, liquid refreshment and a dish for four people. No charge. 8 PM, Community Room, Santa Barbara Savings, 305 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo.

Diablo Rap

Secret loves don't blossom; without the risk of rejection there can be no gain. Dare Speak Its Name! will be the subject at the December 16 Friday Night Rap Support Group at the Diablo Valley Community Center, 1818 Colfax in Concord. The Rap meets each Friday at 8 PM; \$1 donation requested. Info: 674-0171

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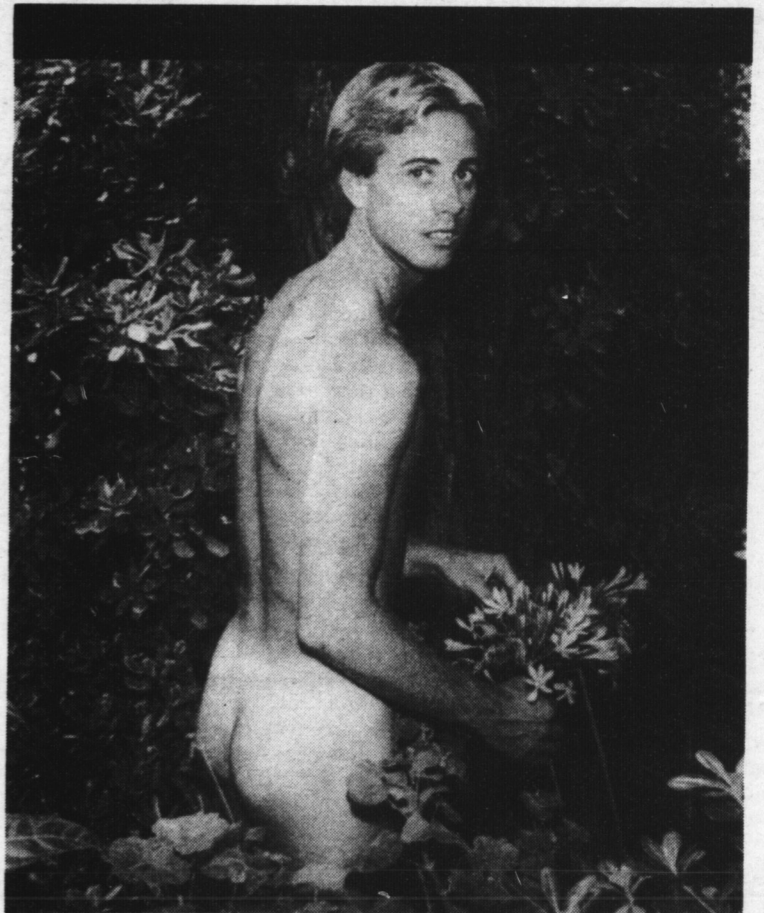
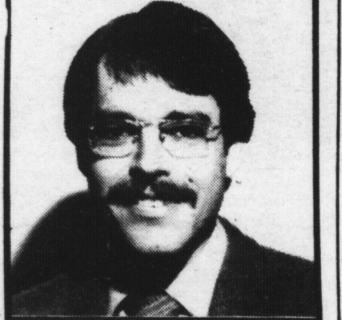
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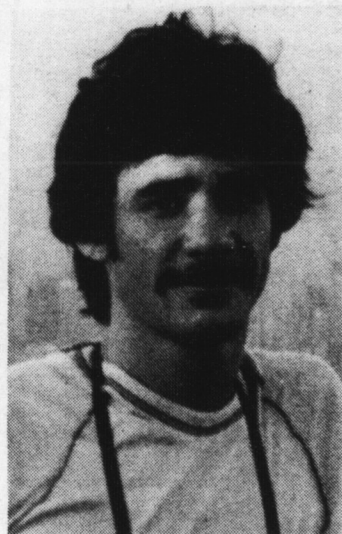
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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay

Rip Up

James Lambo is a free lance graphic artist for mainstream corporations. Maybe it was a fit of pique one day, or a reaction against the none too creative requests of his clients, but he started ripping everything up — and found a new way to create art works.



James Lambo

Lambo has been devising portraits of film stars in paper collage, with the novel twist of tearing the paper by hand instead of cutting it. For shading and colored highlight he'll draw over the shredded patches with pencil. The results are handsomely intriguing. Fifteen of Lambo's ripped paper collage portraits are currently on display at The Bear, 440 Castro Street, through December — Bette Davis, magnetic with hot pink eyes and purple and orange hair; Joan Crawford; an elusive Garbo in shades of grey and flesh, startlingly highlighted by streaks of a watermelon brightness; Harlow; and a splashy Carmen Miranda.

While Lambo claims, "I can knock out some of the portraits in half a day, while others take a week," he faces more of a challenge with the abstract landscapes he's begun to create, in the same ripped paper method. The rugged California terrain depicted finds an air of reality in the torn edges of the paper that painting can't duplicate.

A silkscreen of Lambo's Garbo portrait will be available at the exhibition, and the originals are for sale as well.



Absorbing Evil

What will happen when Dan White is released from jail? Most people are curious, feeling suspense as the drama reaches the end of an act. Yet such calm feelings as these are exacerbated by both a grand calendar in public view, ticking off the days until White's release like a bomb in countdown, and by the frequent and sensational promptings of columnist Herb Caen, who urges foolish action in the guise of repeating "cute" jokes. Yes, what will happen when Dan White is released from jail? Or better yet, what should happen?

Art Bierman has written a play which explores this question. Oh, Danny Boy, which opens at the Julian Theatre on December 9, tells the story of a man obsessed with seeking retribution for White's minor sentence. The man decides to kill Dan White, and his attempt at fulfilling his plan allows the play to explore the thin boundary between justice and revenge.

"I've written eleven versions of the play," author Bierman told the Bay Area Reporter, "and we've had five readings so that I could absorb the ideas of the play into action and confrontation. I didn't want to go over the same story we all know, but to air what's on our minds. Do

we want to see Dan White killed, and are we right to want to see him murdered?"

"My protagonist feels that the law has failed to punish White. My protagonist is sane and morally principled, yet he decides he must carry out the sentence the courts did not. He feels it would be an act of justice, not revenge.

"When he goes to Soledad, his lover is torn between telling the police and saving him, or allowing him to carry through. The climax of the play, of course, is the confrontation at Soledad and the protagonist's decision.

"I was a friend of George Moscone's and was so angered by his death. White's legacy now is thoughts that corrupt us. My play helps us carry through on assimilating and discharging our feelings. Although I articulate many points of view, I feel that only in perfect innocence is evil absorbed and not passed on.

"I was a co-founder of the Neighborhood Arts Program in 1967. We created an intra-city circuit so neighborhoods could develop their own art to take to other neighborhoods, unifying the city. Oh, Danny Boy is a continuation of that idea. I was not writing a tract — I was trying to get people to think, to complete a cycle of ideas.

"I discovered, also, that Dan

(Continued on next page)

On the Charts with A Bullet

Historic: The New York City Gay Men's Chorus, recording on the Pro-Arte label, has released A Festival of Song, the first Gay choral album produced by a major commercial firm. A Festival of Song is not being marketed as a Gay record, but as a Christmas record. With the right sort of promotion, it could be a significant Gay/straight crossover record.

"God rest ye merry gentlemen" and "O Tannenbaum" are the only familiar tunes; the rest are relatively unfamiliar, but don't be put off: The NYCGMC has a sweet, boyish tone of great flexibility. They negotiate the flowing counterpoint of Sweelinck's "Hodie Christus natus est," Bruckner's "Ave Maria," and Randal Thompson's "Alleluja" with sensitivity to the shape of phrases that makes the music live.

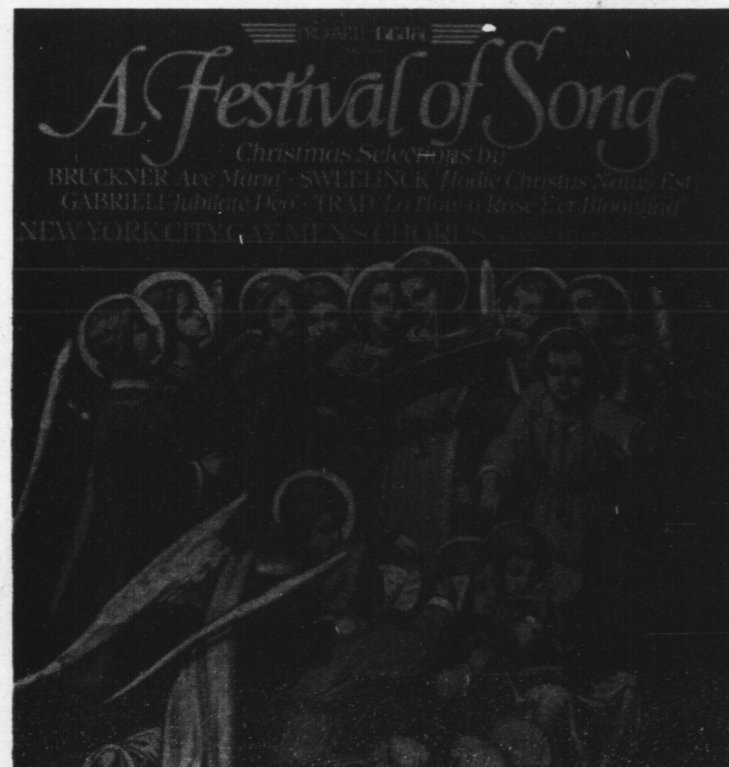
San Franciscan Conrad Susa is represented by "The Chanticleer's Carol." Performed with instrumental accompaniment, the Carol is piquant — but not too piquant for ears unaccustomed to contemporary music — contrast to the rest of the record.

There's something a little distant and cool about the sound of A Festival of Song. Passages that should surge with warmth don't, even though gradations of weight and color of tone are easily discernible. But even if warmth of tone isn't obvious, blend, ensemble, and the au-

thority of conductor Gary Miller's leadership are.

A Festival of Song deserves your attention not just because it documents a Gay ensemble, but because it documents a sensitive, respondent ensemble — that just happens to be Gay. ■

B. Spunberg



Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY



Immaculately Conceived. Monica Palacios (l.) and Marga Gomez bring their Comedy Jamboree to the Intersection.

Carol Burnett Goes to Amelia's

Monica Palacios, a native of San Jose, describes herself as a young, attractive, money-sucking welfare recipient on her way to stardom through comedy and screenwriting. New Yorker Marga Gomez loves to laugh, serves on the board of directors of her own charity, and reads bilingual ballots in her spare time. Together they are The Gomez and Palacios Comedy Jamboree. Their satire and stand-up comedy has been developing a following within the Gay community, where their Woman's touch and Latin flavor add to a potent brew. This week they leave their accustomed haunts to perform in an unusual location — the Intersection, where they will present a show in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

"I've worked at the Intersection before," Marga Gomez revealed, "acting with the Nickettes and Lilith. So I'm fond of it. Most of our audience, though, lives in the Mission, the Castro, or the Haight, and that's where they go out. So it's a challenge to appear across town. But of all the places in North Beach, it's the most promising. The Intersection is a community arts organization, and they have no attitude about booking Gay people."

Quite unlike some of San

(Continued from previous page)

Francisco's comedy clubs, who seem panic-stricken at Gay comedy.

Francisco's comedy clubs, who seem panic-stricken at Gay comedy.

"I like a mix in the audience," Marga said, "and I've done my Gay stuff for straights. It takes them a minute to figure it out, but then they're with me and it's great. For a straight audience, though, like when I played The Other Cafe, I only do a bit of Gay stuff. It's a cold war with that club. When they hear a comic has played the Valencia Rose, they don't want them. It's deeply, emotionally troubling to me.

"Our current show will be in the fashion of 'Carol Burnett Goes to Amelia's.' It's our tribute to the Immaculate Conception, which we did once before, on Ash Wednesday. You might think we're religious, but we're not!

"We're encouraging virgins to come to the show, we're going to give out cherries, and we have a virgin birth at the end.

"In between we do stand-up comedy and skits. The skits have a Gay undertone which grows towards the end.

"I think our show is romantic, too. We have a pick-up scene between two straight businesswomen, plus a bed scene — but no nudity!"

The Gomez and Palacios Comedy Jamboree runs one week only, December 8, 9, and 10, at 8:30 PM at the Intersection (Union and Powell); \$5; 982-2356.

to the anger and powerlessness that White's legacy continues to foster.

Oh, Danny Boy plays at the Julian Theatre, December 9 - January 7; 648-8098.

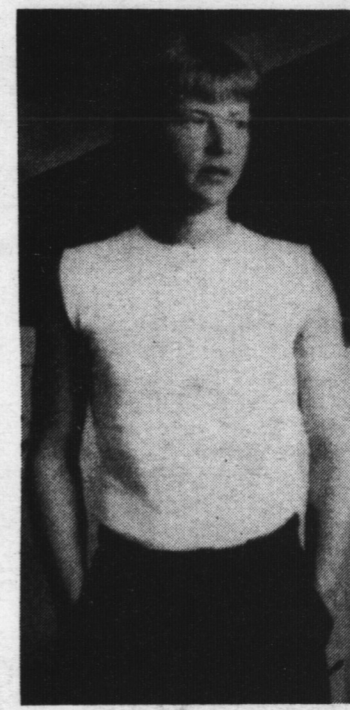


A Question of Murder. Playwright Art Bierman displays the Leon Uris book about Ireland that Dan White respected. Did its contents help him plan his assassinations?

Toler Able

"I have rejected the rapidity of decorative art," Andrew Toler said, "in favor of creative expression. This has resulted in paintings which render the most ignored and hideous objects of our world equal to its most revered and beautiful. Consequently, you cannot see them without seriously reconsidering what constitutes beauty itself with technology."

High tension wires, broadcasting towers, the facade of The Stud or its cornice, divorced from the building, isolated in viewpoint, are among Toler's "ignored and hideous objects." He offers his views of landscapes in an exhibit at 1531 Folsom (near 12th). Titled 1984 - The



Andrew Toler (Photo: Rink)

New Age Is Art, the paintings are on view Wednesday through Sunday, 2 to 10 PM, with an Opening Reception on Sunday, December 11, from 6 to 9 PM.

Toler has exhibited at the CNA Gallery three times, as well as at The Stud, Echo Beach, and the Ambush. His Easter windows for I. Magnin in 1982 were a conspicuous paradox, facing Union Square. In two corporate shows, for Phillip Morris International and the local Pacific Gas and Electric, Toler presented his art to those most responsible for the technology which inspired the work.

"It seems to me," said the 29-year-old painter, "that there is only one reason why anyone would wish to look at my pictures, rather than others, and that has to do with perspective. So much of painting views the world as a cone, a mere funnel, leading to a specific, ever vanishing point. The direction of this view of the world, of course, is always the same, from greatest to smallest. This seems simple to me, if not false. I paint in terms of an ever-widening field of vision, from smallest to greatest, from plane to plane of endlessness. And so if this is interesting, it is perhaps the reason one should see my pictures." ■

132 BUSH

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Inside Entertainment

"Avec Ronnette" drops camp for culture page 26

"Scenes From the Planet Mary" presents Empress Connie and contenders for her title page 29

Expanded Book Rack reviews pages 28, 30, 31

"Karrnal Knowledge" bites the big one page 35

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CABARET

Checkin' In

by John F. Karr

Gail Wilson opened her new show at the Plush Room last Monday and sweet pleasure it was to hear that copper and silk voice again. Starting pleasure to see her, too, her crimson hair matching a crimson/leopard gown. The Forbidden Broadway backdrop of shredded garbage bags wasn't glamorous, but the slit up the side of Gail's dress proved distracting and revealed enough of Gail to win her the Thighs Queen crown. Distracting, too, is her new songbag. It's heavy on fun and novelty tunes, and I wouldn't mind more meat and potatoes. High point was a lovely "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" — what a magnificent song — closely followed by Duke Ellington's "In My Solitude" and the contemporary ballad "Lie To Me." "The Ballad of Lucy Jordan" has a rather simplistic tune to sustain a slow tempo throughout, but revealed more of its strange story than Marianne Faithful's up-tempo version.

Novelty? Of course — and a little trash, too. Gail premiered her original Rap number, "Queen of the Fire Station," which pleads, "Fireman, let me slide down your pole." She dodged through "Baby You Can Drive My Car" and dug into "16 Tons" ("do you know what it's like working on your knees in a mine all day? It's hell on



Novelty Knockout. Gail Wilson's got some zany novelty tunes and comedy material in her new show, as well as lush ballads. (Photo: Rink)

your stockings!")

She's accompanied by composer David Chester, and performed his snazzy "Swingtown" plus a new Chester tune, the Bob Dorough-like "I'm Checking Out."

I'd check Gail out. Short

day 15; \$4. Info: 863-3863.

Cabaret Dates

Valencia Rose. Charles Busch concludes his one man show. December 8, 9 and 10; 8 PM; \$6. Crysanthemum Ragtime Band. Sunday 11, 2 PM; \$3. Francesca Dubie and Deena Clemons present their vocals, electric guitar, percussion and conga at 9 PM. Thurs-

day 15; \$4. Info: 863-3863.

Artemis Cafe. Francesca Dubie with cabaret vocals. December 9, 8 and 9:15 PM; \$4.

Baybrick Inn. Debbie Saunders, soulful R&B vocals and piano, every Wednesday in December from 6 to 8 PM; no cover no minimum.

Fanny's. Thursday 8 has Aldo Bell

rehearsal time curtailed some plans, and she's promised five more new tunes for next week.

Gail Wilson at Fanny's Sunday December 11, 3 PM; the Plush Room, Monday 12, 9:30 PM; and 132 Bush, Tuesday 13 through Thursday 15, 6 PM.

at 5:30 and 7 PM, no cover, and Pamela Brooks at 8:30 and 10 PM; \$5. Linda Bergen at 9:30 and 11 PM on Friday 9. Gail Wilson and snazzy composer/pianist David Chester on Sunday 11 at 3:30 and 5 PM; \$4.

132 Bush. Gail Wilson with composer/pianist David Chester; December 13, 14 and 15 at 6 PM; \$3. ■

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzy

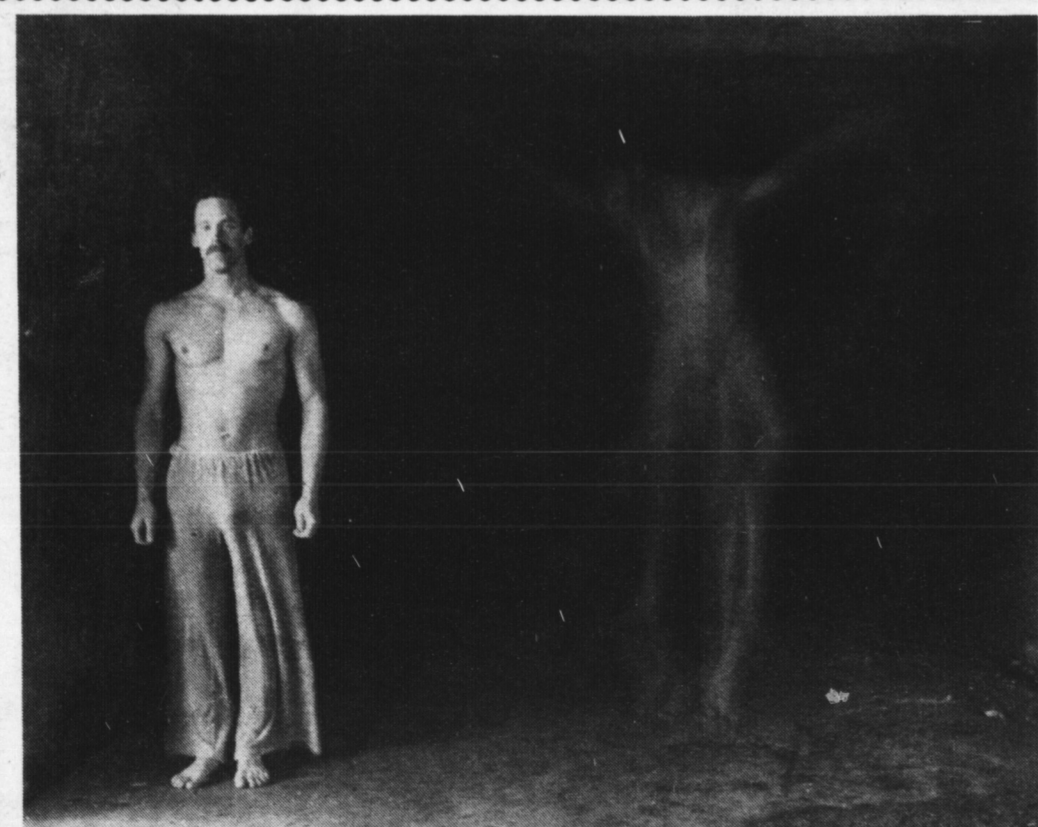
Friday-Saturday, December 9-10: (Strand) Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence is Oshima's failed attempt to show the love between men under conditions of hate, violence, and war. With Midnight Express (Fri.). Direc-

tor Parker refused to show the loving Gay relationship of this true story of an American in a Turkish prison and substituted rape instead. With Das Boot (Sat.).

Wednesday, December 14: (Strand) **Madchen in Uniform** is an acclaimed 1932 film about a militaristic girls' school. A motherless student becomes attached to a sympathetic Lesbian teacher. Directed and written by women. In **The Consequence**, a warden's son is sent to reform school

when he falls in love with a sex-funder. Un **Chant d'Amour** is from Genet's story of love/hate between boys in prison.

Tuesday-Thursday, December 13-15: (Cedar) **Querelle** is Fassbinder's dreamlike adaptation of Genet's novel about a beautiful sailor desired by everyone. The Wizard of Babylon is a documentary made during the filming of Querelle and features an interview with Fassbinder made hours before his death.



Atlas Savings and Loan Association is pleased to present an exhibition of black-and-white photography by Stephen Savage, continuing to December 30, in the Main Office Lobby, 1967 Market Street. Savage's work is well-known in the Gay community. His pictures have appeared frequently in the Bay Area Reporter, After Dark, Christopher Street, and The New York Native, as well as in every major Bay Area newspaper and magazine. It has been said of his work, "Steve Savage's shots of blurred dancing figures are now a part of the dance imagery of the Bay Area. The blurred figures appear mythlike, beautiful, aspiring, vital, and very personal." The Atlas exhibit includes work from the last five years, as well as new images from Savage's upcoming one-man show, "Body Dynamics."

TALES OF TESSITURA

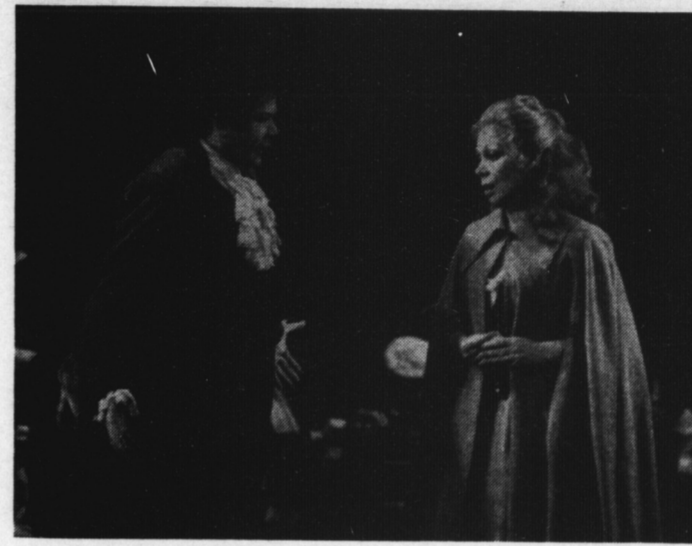
Pump That Puccini

GEORGE HEYMONT

A new face recently made a brief, but stunning debut at the City Athletic Club. Leanly built, his well-chiseled torso gleaming with sweat, I first laid eyes on him as he was doing curls with a fierce determination that bordered on the obsessive. His arms boasted magnificent biceps. A red handkerchief tied around his head highlighted his dark, seductively masculine features. His thighs could have been the breakfast of champions.

At first glance he seemed to be a Madison Avenue fantasy come to life, looking as if he had perfected every pose in Charles Hix's *Working Out*. For all I knew he could have sprung from its pages like Aphrodite in butch gym drag. Then, one by one, his friends started to arrive at the gym and the most remarkable metamorphosis took place before my astonished eyes.

How so? With the arrival of each gym buddy this vision of sculpted masculinity shattered, the mirror cracked and the hero in front of me was transformed into a Gay Valley Girl. It's an old and familiar story and yet the fantasy, expectations, and power of this man's pump paralleled my emotions while attending two Puccini operas this season. One performance left me with the equivalent of a workout high as blood rushed wildly through my veins, pushing me to a musical climax. The other performance left me wondering whether the quest for muscle pudding was in vain.



First Blush of Love. Des Grieux (Ermanno Mauro) and Manon (Mirella Freni) in a tender moment from Act I of Puccini's Manon Lescaut.

DENSE PACK DIVA

While many stayed at home to cream over Eva Marton's rendition of "In Questa Reggia" (which opened the Met's televised Gala Centennial celebration) even the mighty Marton would have been humbled by the sounds across the plaza that afternoon. At the New York City Opera soprano Linda Kelm and tenor Jon Frederic West were having a good, old-fashioned Nilsson and Corelli-style shouting match in Puccini's *Turandot* which, had the theatre not been soundproofed, could probably have been heard in the rambles of Central Park.

If possible, Miss Kelm (who appeared as the icy princess in 1982) seems to have grown in both size and voice. She colors her singing far more effectively than Marton and, standing two steps above a tenor half her size, looks infinitely more threatening. With a voice that can easily peel the plaster off the State Theatre's new proscenium, Kelm knows when to stoke her engines and, as the saying goes, let 'er rip! She did so that afternoon with rather awesome results.

With his powerful top range, Mr. West matched her note for note, turning the performance into a well-balanced game of one-upmanship which excited the audience no end. The smooth artistry of Pamela Myers (who sang a most seductive Liu) was almost lost in the deafening roar. Christopher Keene's conducting began tightly, but tended to meander here and there, missing the maximum orchestral power to be found in Puccini's score.

This production, directed and choreographed by Jack Eddleman and designed by Ben Montresor, sported two novelties. The first was the extensive acrobatics (modeled after tech-

niques used at the Peking Opera) which added some major thrills to Act I's mighty choral scenes. The second was the use of the original Alfano ending to Puccini's opera, which added another six minutes of music to the score. The latter change broadens the scope of the *Turandot*/*Calaf* Act III duet and magnifies the effect of the final chorus by adding in sustained high notes for the two leads. If you're one of those opera queens who likes to jerk off over Puccini's big, throbbing guns, this version is definitely for you!

STRETCH AND YAWN EXERCISES

With all that exotic muscle and beef in *Turandot*, Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* seems quite anemic in comparison. Indeed, this opera doesn't really get its ass in gear until the final act. Perhaps, if Manon knew she were heading for Louisiana, she might have sailed across the Atlantic with a banjo on her knee. It could have livened things up. Alas, our heroine received little help from Grischka Asagaroff, who directed the San Francisco Opera's production this fall with alternate doses of heavy-handedness and ennui.

Because *Manon Lescaut* takes so long to get moving, it needs every bit of help it can get. In some moments, particularly the first encounter between Manon and Des Grieux, Asagaroff lent several distinctive touches to the action. In others (particularly his lackluster staging of Act II) the dramatic momentum died in its tracks. Act III's March of the Whores was pathetically comical: overcooked ham at its worst.

Allen Charles Klein's sets (borrowed from the Miami Opera) were serviceable. The

(Continued on page 27)

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PRICED at \$8, Balcony general admission — \$8, Orchestra general admission — \$10, Patron logs reserved seats (\$10 seats SOLD OUT for Dec. 18)

avec RONNETTTE

Soup, Soup, Beautiful Soup

RON BLUESTEIN

Soup (translation in process)
edited by Steve Abbott
72 pp; \$4

A magazine with the infelicitous title *Soup (translation in process)* is one of the most felicitous publishing events of the year. I had a dream the night before I began writing this review in which I was in a Safeway check-out line. There were magazines everywhere, none of them *The National Enquirer* or *Cosmopolitan*. The people around me were reading flawlessly bound books from small presses and little reviews published privately. In this dream two women in back of me were loudly discussing the virtues of *Soup*. One woman looked like a pound of potatoes, the other looked like two pounds of potatoes. I tumbled in mid-sentence:

One Pound: ... Bruce Boone's and Robert Gluck's translation of La Fontaine. I never thought I'd see a better translation than the one Marianne Moore did, but, love, this

is better. It is startling. It is translation, biography, criticism, and poetry simultaneously. Gluck's unique sense of narrative, Boone's feeling for the personal voice in prose — oh, it's a happy marriage.

Two Pounds: Well, of course, it's lovely, but we knew about Boone and Gluck and Fontaine. Who ever heard of Rene Crevel before? And, my dear, we are dealing here with a major satirist. Listen to this: "Mme. Dumont-Dufour loves pomp and ceremony; she never permits herself to be imposed upon save by the most exalted things . . . Mme. Dumont-Dufour prefers the majesty of ostrich plumes to the hue of birds of paradise." Isn't that marvelous?

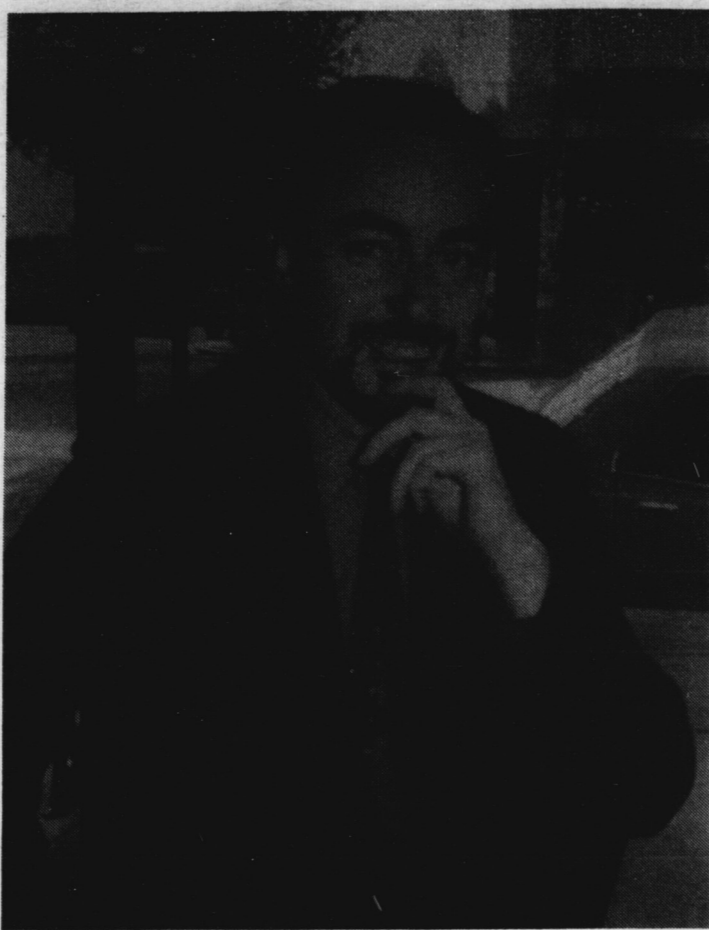
One: What's marvelous is that there are two remarkable satires in *Soup*. The piece by Fernando Alegria called "The Goose Step" is a hysterically seditious laugh at the military. Listen: "The Parade must begin with an aerial march of messenger pigeons, of all colors . . . and of every species . . . Some sixty thousand, he said. It was argued that, even though they were picturesque and lifted the national spirit, sixty thousand pigeons was a lot of pigeons."

Two: Oh darling, look at what I turned to by chance. It's from an essay called "The Artist in the Future State" by Erich Muhsam. "I consider the community of consumption to be just as desirable as the community of production."

One: More desirable, my dear. Two: I'll tell you the truth. I never really believed that Rimbaud was a poet until I saw Felice Picano's adaptation of "Parade." Take this description of a Gay bar: "Walls of men facing men like walls." Or: "Pupils dilated from something they're on, hallucinating, playing with their crotches to show it hard, sweat and tears from their laughter ruining their Aramis." Oh darling, it's your turn at the cashier. Do you want to stop at the Pilsner after this? This translation of Laure by Kathy Acker is quite disturbing in its . . .

So realistic was this dream that the next day in line at Safeway I asked the woman behind me what she thought of La Fontaine. She replied that she'd seen her perform with Alfred Lunt and Noel Coward. *The National Enquirer* screamed its banner headline: "Carson's Wife Rejects Settlement — \$17 Million Not Enough." I agree.

Soup (translation in process) is the third of a projected quartet of *Soup* magazines, and though the first was acceptable (the best work in it was the exquisite photographs of a woman and pollarded sycamore trees by Ginny Lloyd), and the second distinguished by writings of Boone, Gluck, and Acker, *Soup 3* is the best. The translators are mostly young and from the Bay Area; the translates are from all over Europe and Latin America, ranging from Homer and Sappho (called by the Greeks "The Poet" and "The Poetess") to Rilke and Brecht. The famous are on both sides of the translations — Picano adapts Rimbaud, McClure redoes Aeschylus — but it is the new names that are really exciting, as discoveries always are. Crevel, Muhsam, and Laure are major artists previously unknown to Americans. The name of Rene Crevel was once linked with Gide and Malraux, yet *La Mort Difficile*, his 1926 satirical masterpiece, had remained inaccessible to English-speaking readers until David Rattray's version in *Soup 3*. Rattray's work is exceptional. It is a



Reverend Brew: Steve Abbott, the creator and editor of *Soup (translation in process)*. (Photo: S. Garzotta)

translation that does not read like a translation. This barely believable statement also applies to Christopher Wink's Muhsam, Stephen Kessler's Alegria, and a surprising number of the others.

Translations at their worst make a hodgepodge of the original, and at their best often only make sense of what was music. The sense of literature is in the words, but the feeling of literature is in the words and the sound. The best publishers and translators provide the original text on a facing page so that the reader can see exactly what the translator cannot do. *Soup 3*'s back cover offers an example of the problems inherent in translation in a short poem by Ernest Cardenal called "In Managua at Midnight," printed in Spanish and English. Juan Herrera's translation of one line, "and suddenly I asked myself," has rhythm and alliteration, but it is not the same music as "y de pronto me preguntó."

Given the difficulty of the art, how did so many remarkable translations end up in one 72-page magazine? Obviously, you first have to have good writers. "I followed the advice that Ezra Pound gave Robert Cree-

ley when he started a magazine and that was start with a core group of writers whom you really like and are willing to do anything they want to do," Abbott told me. "Let them be 50 to 75% of your magazine so that people will know why they're going back to this magazine. It has an identity."

Gluck, Boone, and Acker have given identity to *Soup 2* and *Soup 3*, but they are not 50% of the latter. It is fidelity to a concept, not to any individual writer, that sets *Soup 3* apart. "One consistent recommendation," Abbott wrote in the introduction to *Soup 2*, "Soup should clarify its focus." The concept that gives *Soup 3* such sharp focus is called *detournement*, which sees not translocation but alternation as the job of the translator. "The point," Abbott writes, "isn't whether translation alters a work, but to what purpose." Kathy Acker is outspoken: "I wish merely to put on record my utter disgust with the belief in literalism." *Soup 3* offers the reader a perfect example of *detournement* at work in a short poem by Catullus, "Amabo, mea dulcis Ipsithilla." The Latin poem is given, then a

(Continued on next page)

Amabo, mea dulcis Ipsithilla by Catullus

Translated by Ron Padgett

Please, my sweet Ipsithilla,
my darling, my sweetheart,
make me come to you at noon today.
And if you do, please too
don't let anyone bolt the front door,
and don't think about going out anywhere else,
but stay at home and give way to
our nine continuous fucks.
Really, if this is for you,
make me come over now, for, after brunch,
I am lying here full, on my back,
boring a hole up through tunic and mantle.

Detourned by Geoffrey Cook

give me a call
my delight
my lovely

We'll make love
at siesta
When you invite me
promise:
NO ONE ELSE
& be there yourself
& be ready to come 9 times in a row
BAM BAM BAM

But if you're horny
I'LL COME AT ONCE
(Lying here stuffed with food
my cock ready to burst my pants.)

VIDEO

From Flair to Flash

Girl Groups: The Story of a Sound
MGM/UA Home Video
65 minutes, \$59.95

Created specifically for the home video market, this original docu-music production brings back with reverent nostalgia the heyday of the Girl Groups. Using rare TV kinescopes and film clips from the late 50's and early 60's, the producers (who assembled the popular Compleat Beatles videotape previously) offer an entertaining, if too uncohesive and short, overview of a sound that captured our imaginations for a decade. It was only the force of the Beatles-led British invasion that successfully ended the girl-group era.

Groups like the Ronettes, The Crystals, The Shirelles, The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas, and The Shangri-Las were mostly black (or at least

sounded black), came from lower class backgrounds with gospel roots, and succeeded usually because of a charismatic lead singer (i.e. Ronnie Spector, Diana Ross).

Some of the TV clips from old hit parade shows like "Shindig" and "Hullabaloo" seem embarrassingly funny today, but reveal how formalized the girl groups really were. They had the same goofy choreography, the same sets (always pedestals — one for each girl), the same plastic hairdos, and outrageously flashy gowns.

It was the music that gave each group its distinction. And with interviews with the composers and producers of the time, made especially for this tape, we get a backstage insight into how the songs were created and the groups formed.

Yet somehow, by concentrating the tape to just 65 minutes, much of the material is too superficial for us to learn much more than the music itself reveals. Fortunately, many of the performance clips have not been cut, and we get total songs from "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" and "Be My Baby" to "Baby Love" and "Chapel of Love."

The final portion of the film deals sketchily with Phil Spector's Wall of Sound and, disproportionately, in more detail with The Supremes. Still, it's a thoroughly engaging hour that brings back those memories when bubblegum, puppy love, and teen anguish were the themes of songs with catchy hooks and great harmonies. Stay tuned at the end: there's a 20-minute coming attractions bonus featuring The Beatles, Carol King, and other musicals.



The Ronettes

TESSI TURA

(Continued from page 25)

final scene, in the wastelands of Louisiana, was particularly effective. What pleased me most, however, was Maurizio Arena's conducting which I found sensitive, loving, and true.

Thankfully, the two leads were well cast, particularly Ermanno Mauro as the Cavaliere des Grioux. An artist whose talent has yet to receive sufficient recognition, Mauro possesses a ringing high tenor along with the capacity to shade his phrases with rare beauty. As Manon, soprano Mirella Freni

looked incandescent, sang with musicianly grace, and was as appealing and attractive as ever. Despite her many charms, she remains a strangely bland artist.

What baffled me was the ardor with which local audiences went about praising this decidedly humdrum affair. I'm not sure if San Franciscans are now so starved for old-fashioned stars that they will go overboard in their desire to show affection or if, perhaps, they don't know the difference between a commonplace Valley Girl and genuine stud material.

Either the pump needs priming or nobody's been getting any prime pumping lately.

G. Heymont

(Continued from previous page)
fairly literal translation by Ron Padgett and a *detourned* one by Geoffrey Cook. (See box.) The Latin referent and the Padgett literalism enhance the Cook translation — they give us the words, Cook gives us the feeling. "After brunch . . . boring a hole up through tunic and mantle" are the right words and the wrong tone. "Lying here stuffed with food/my cock ready to burst my pants" sacrifices a tunic and mantle (not to mention "brunch"), but it gives the poem immediacy, modernity — it makes us realize why Catullus was considered scandalous by some of his contemporaries.

Immediacy and modernity are the most cogent qualities of *Soup 3*. Because it succeeds so well as literature, I have not stressed its Gay, feminist, and ethnic slants, but they are there. Seventeen pages of *Soup 3* are devoted to new Latin American

poetry and prose, including three Latin American women. Acker and Laure are both radical feminists, and Crevel and Muhsam were Gay. Bruce Boone, who will guest-edit *Soup 4*'s highlighting of new directions in criticism, has written: "I need a literature that helps bring on social change." All the *Soups* have been dedicated to that philosophy. "All writing, all translating, and all editing," Abbott writes, "are ultimately political acts even, and perhaps especially when on the surface they pretend or appear not to be so."

R. Bluestein

Soup (translation in process) is available in select San Francisco book stores or by sending \$4 plus \$1 postage to 545 Ashbury #1, San Francisco, CA 94117. The first three Soups cost \$10 plus \$2 postage. *Soup 1* contains a long interview by Abbott and Aaron Shurin with Robert Duncan which is a must for Duncan admirers and scholars.

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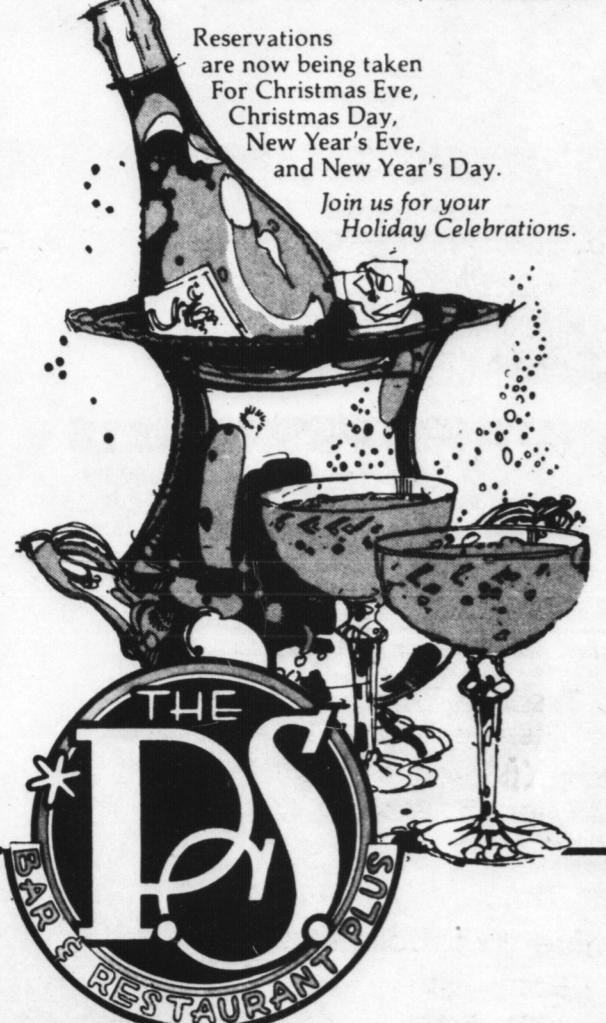
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BOOK RACK

Cruise to Lose

Cruise to Win
by Lenny Giteck
Pantera Press; \$10.95, paper
by Paul Reed

Sometimes on Saturday night I go out to the bars — usually South of Market — and meet friends and acquaintances, always keeping an eye out for a new face that might interest me. I go home satisfied, content in an evening spent in simple enjoyment.

Sometimes on Saturday night I go out to the same places and see no one I know. I try to cruise, try to meet new people, but for some reason, it seems nobody notices me, no one will even glance in my direction; I seem invisible. And so I return home, sad, lonely, perhaps a little teary-eyed about it all.

What's going on here? It's a very big question, in fact. It is difficult to find and keep good friends (let alone lovers) in a city — so much tension, so much pretension. But it has to be done, and one of the traditional methods of finding friends is by going out to the bars and cruising.

And so I picked up a copy of Lenny Giteck's *Cruise to Win*, hoping to shed light on my perennial problem: how not to spend my time in bars feeling like the creature from the black lagoon. I wanted this book to help me, I really did. I had high expectations that here I would find some answers to the puzzle of cruising, of meeting people in the big, bad city.

I found some answers in the

book; in some ways it was quite helpful — if only to let me know that I am not the only man with such troubles. But I also found something quite disturbing in the book, a couple of underlying assumptions that make the whole book completely unsatisfying.

To get right to the point: *Cruise to Win* failed me in that it did not answer my questions as I had hoped. But it succeeded in answering my questions by awakening me to the defunct set of premises within which I was asking my questions.

If the AIDS crisis hadn't rendered the activity of "cruising" itself completely obsolete, time surely would have done so, for "cruising" was already out of date long ago. "Cruising" belongs to another era, a time when homosexually-inclined men were forced — by lack of positive alternatives — to generate a system of behavioral cues which has as its central feature a deep and fearful caution.

A brief meeting of the eyes; a turning away; a second meeting of the eyes; advance and retreat. Caution, discretion, uncertainty, hope: these are the ingredients of the act of cruising, and they belong to a time when men could not be honest and open about their feelings.

This is not the book we need anymore. We need a book called "Dropping Attitude," or, more precisely: "How You Can Take Advantage of the Liberation We Enjoy to Free Yourself of Attitude and Be Nice to One An-

other in Daily Life." All the "Gay liberation" work of the last twenty years did not have as its end goal the tenets of *Cruise to Win*. Gay men have been trying to free themselves of the bondage of dark, unfriendly bars as the only route by which to meet other Gay men. Yet *Cruise to Win* does not address this problem. It perpetuates it.

What the men in the Gay community need now (more than ever) is a lesson in calming down, in learning to treat each other in a gentler, more friendly way — not guidance in how to succeed within a system that is based on premises of advance and retreat, acceptance and rejection, success and failure, winning and losing, dominance and submission, power and weakness, possession and destruction.

And so, the book fails. It is a lesson in the wrong direction. But beyond this is another troubling failure of the book. Assuming for the purpose of argument that one accepts and utilizes the book, what happens when it works? I go to a bar, prepared and confident, and I use the book's advice to successfully cruise someone. What now? What, pray tell, do I do with this stranger at midnight in the era of AIDS?

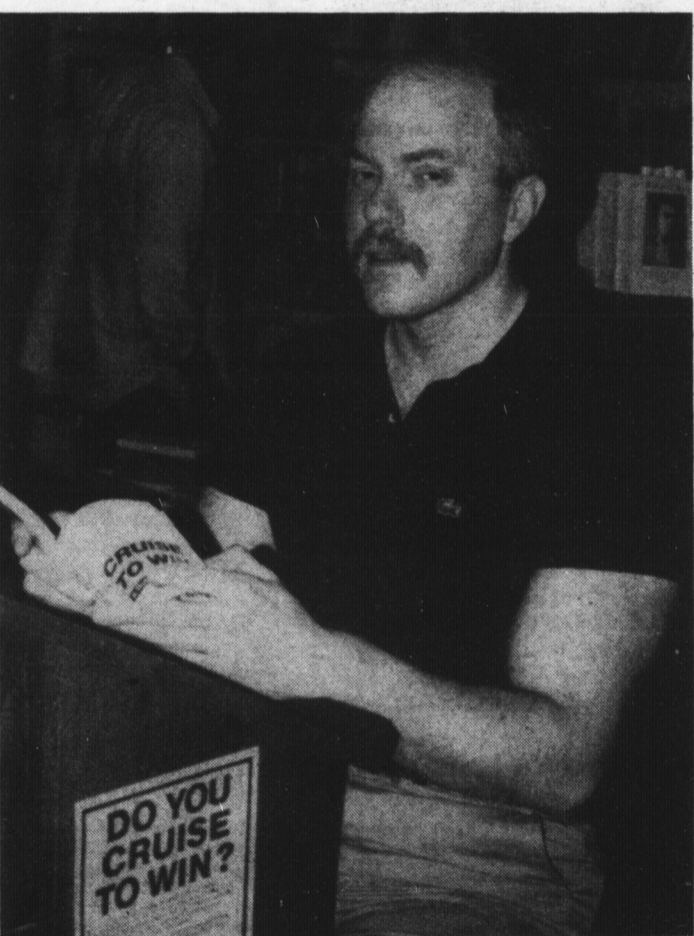
The health crisis has made cruising into something of a dinosaur, because the end goal of cruising is now completely out of the question. One can no longer afford the luxury of trial and error sex.

Well, how about friendship? Does cruising have to infer sex and only sex? I think it does. I don't think people make only "friends" in a dark, noisy bar. One may go to the bar with friends, but the obsolete impulse (of meeting a new sexual partner) is still there. Why else is the bar so dark, the air so heavy, the sound so loud, the entire atmosphere given over to seduction?

Lastly, the book even looks like it belongs to another era. It is shamefully cheap — a pulp paperback similar in material and design to those silly porn novels still found in dirty bookstores. The cover is a travesty of book design, and the price (\$10.95 for 250 pages in paperback!) is disgraceful, breaking all acceptable pricing formulae in the publishing industry.

Now, to be fair: my anger about the basic assumptions of *Cruise to Win* has obscured the fact that it is well written. Lenny Giteck (an *Advocate* columnist) is concise and easy to read. In fact, this review bears no ill will to Mr. Giteck, who has artfully crafted the book; it is the underlying assumption that is wrong-spirited.

Many of the comments by psychologists and others quoted in the book are insightful and human. But, at \$10.95, they are best read in the bookstore. Even given these good points, however, I still can't see the utility of — as I wrote earlier — a lesson in the wrong direction.



Caught in a Crossroad. Author Lenny Giteck signed copies of his book at the Walt Whitman Book Store. (Photo: Rink)

Lesbian Doctor Fights the "Male Effect"

Woman/Doctor: The Education of Jane Patterson, M.D.
by Jane Patterson and Lynda Madaras
Avon Books; \$3.95, paper

by Dianne Gregory

This second nonfiction work by Jane Patterson, a lesbian gynecologist practicing in California, is a loosely chronological autobiography of her

"education" that begins in the second year of her residency in 1967 and ends some years after the completion of her formal education as outlined by the American Medical Association.

Patterson and her co-author,

Lynda Madaras, attempt to describe a series of "clicks," a *la Ms.* magazine, that change Patterson from an up-tight AMA-model physician into a caring human who happens to possess the skills to help females deal with the various physical repercussions of their reproductive abilities. What results is a sort of *All Creatures Great and Small* effect, and although it works after a fashion, Patterson has a prioritization problem.

For example, Patterson waits until page 160 to tell us about her

(Continued on page 30)

Scenes from the Planet Mary



Champagne Soiree. Empress Connie prepared to toast candidates for next year's Royal titles at the Imperial State Dinner. (Photo: Rink)

Empress candidate Sissy Spaceout with her duenna, former Empress Ginger. (Photo: Rink)

This One's For Real. The shakin' Queen of Broadway, Carol Doda.

Meanwhile, at Febe's AIDS Lobby auction, Empress candidate Margo Moore (who is the only Empress candidate to wear her own hair while campaigning) greets her friends. (Photo: Rink)

Grand Duchess Sable Clown and Emperor candidate Rich Carle. (Photo: Rink)



Empress candidate Remy (r.) with supporter Matthew. (Photo: Rink)



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BOOK RACK

Mirrors for Straight and Gay
 Three Plays for A Gay Theater and Three Essays
 by Richard Hall
 Grey Fox Press; \$6.95, paper

by Frank J. Howell

Richard Hall, who was until recently known chiefly for his book reviews and articles for *The Advocate*, has collected three plays and some of his essays into one provocative volume.

Gay Theater has emerged only in recent years and has struggled like a bawling infant for some sort of respectability. As Hall points out, Gays are usually forced to see themselves portrayed through the eyes of those who do not approve of our unique lifestyles.

Homosexual drama was born in crude backroom areas and church basements. Gradually it has forced its lusty head up through the cracks in the social fabric until the Gay play *Torch Song Trilogy* can land on Broadway and the musical *La Cage aux Folles* can be mass marketed. Straight society must now accept us on our own peculiar terms. Boys in the Band is ancient history.

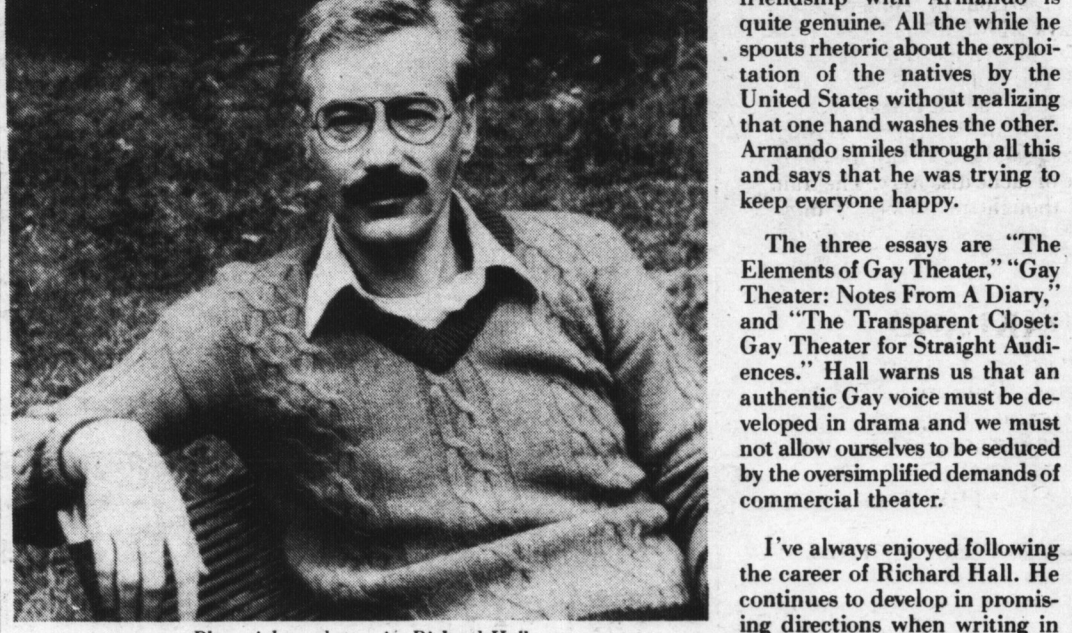
Of the three plays presented here, I found only one a disappointment. *Happy Birthday, Daddy*. Daddy attempts to explore the problems of the Gay parent. Nick has a lover, Deke, and a fifteen year old son, Joey, who lives with his former wife, Jean. Nick has attempted to reach out to Joey, but the boy rejects his Gay ways and wants

ingredients for an insightful sparring match between Gays and straights who are hacking out a peace treaty with each other, but Hall fails to deal with the problem. At the conclusion, nothing has changed. No tensions are resolved, the people are still set against each other and the audience is left hanging.

Love Match presents a view of Hollywood attempting to jump out of its own closet. At last Tinseltown confronts a positive Gay film. Alex Cameron, macho superstar, attempts to produce *Love Match*, a sports story

story. The setting is Puerto Rico. Jackson has invited Martin, a friend from New York, to visit him at his home during vacation. Martin is intensely idealistic and rather unrealistic about relationships between Third World people and Americans.

Jackson introduces him to a young, handsome Puerto Rican, Armando, who is an opportunistic hustler. Jackson pays Armando to befriend and bed Martin. He wants Martin to really enjoy his vacation. But his friend from New York is not aware of this arrangement and assumes that his friendship with Armando is quite genuine. All the while he spouts rhetoric about the exploitation of the natives by the United States without realizing that one hand washes the other. Armando smiles through all this and says that he was trying to keep everyone happy.



Playwright and essayist Richard Hall.

LESBIAN DOCTOR
 (Continued from page 28)

sexual preference. Not only that, she leads us to believe she is a heterosexual early-on by talking about her ex-fiance. An argument could be made that her sexual preference is not vital to the telling of how she came to be a humane doctor, but an argument could also be made that her book would sell better if she did not upset the sensibilities of her heterosexual readers.

Other than that, the book is well written, presumably because of the efforts of Lynda Madaras, and Patterson is honest about the medical profession and her role in it. She also has insights about it that are new, at least to me. For example, she talks about how surgery is the ultimate intimacy between two human beings, and how this causes the doctors performing it to be as impersonal as possible in order to have the courage to plunge their hands into someone else's vitals. An interesting concept.

Her combat with the "lady of the lake," as she calls that part of herself that wants to wail and beat her breast after witnessing human suffering, is the crux of

Foggy Monopoly

The Fraternal Order of Gays (THE FOG) is featuring **Monopoly Night**. Members and guests will relax in the comfort of a warm, cozy home and enjoy an evening playing one of America's most popular games.

Monopoly Night is Friday, December 9, 8:00 PM, at 429 Buchanan St., San Francisco. The cost to members is \$3.50 and for guests \$4.50. Info: 566-6227.

Can Santa Take It?

Is this a new twist on Santa, or a twisted Santa? The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee invites you to come see who's Santa on Castro Street. He'll be at the Castro Christmas Tree (the corner of 18th and Castro) on Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Come sit on Santa's lap and take away a souvenir. Proceeds from souvenir sales will benefit the Parade Committee.

Dance Duo

James Tyler and John LeFan will give concerts in dance at The Mariposa Studio, 2880 Mariposa Street on Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10 at 8:30 PM. Admission is \$5. Seating is limited; reservations can be made at 861-6355. The evenings will include new work from their unique choreographic repertoire plus the structured improvisations they have been working with since their early days with Mangrove.

BOOK RACK

Sodomy at Sea
 Sodomy and the Perceptions of Evil: English Sea Rovers in the Seventeenth Century Caribbean
 by B. R. Burg
 Columbia University Press; \$20

by Frank J. Howell

"Among pirates, either aboard their ships or while living on isolated West Indian Islands, homosexual acts were not integrated with or subordinated to alternate styles of sexual contact. They were the only form of sexual expression engaged in by members of the buccaneer community..."

It is often tempting to gaze at the romantic past through lavender colored glasses. We want to believe that all sorts of personages or groups yearned for the same sex. We often end up stretching the truth to fit our preconceptions.

stance. If they weren't, they should have been." So the evidence, if you can find any, is pulled this way and that.

Burg reasons that privateers, like present day convicts, were deprived of female company, and therefore the odds regarding

Horny pirates probably had Gay sex, but equally probably did not consider themselves Gay.

During the era that extended from 1650-1720 pirates prowled the Caribbean Seas plundering whatever lay in their path, be it human or material wealth. They possessed few, if any, family ties. Naturally they were mostly Gay, weren't they? Or were they? Will we ever know?

B. R. Burg thinks he knows, but certainly not for sure. Burg, who is director of the Honors Program at Arizona State University, has structured his study of buccaneer ways around a comparison of contemporary Gays with our brothers of the 17th and 18th century. This is a slippery play with facts and events. The Gay historian can easily fall into a conceptual quicksand gilded with the promise of facile discovery. The train of thought might be, "I think most pirates were Gay, given their background and circum-

OAKLAND
 (Continued from page 21)

Steve, Ruth Ann, Skip, Steve, Tom, and Kona — best of luck. You're a great addition to an already great city.

Yes, "THE" Ruth Ann!

MAGNANIMOUS GENETRIX
 (A Haycard Nose?)

Two big events at Big Mama's this month:

1. Ed Paulson's Christmas for the Needy, benefit and auction, Thursday, December 15, 8 PM. "Please let any Big Mama's employee know if you know of anyone who honestly needs our help. Names will be kept in confidence. Starting now at Big Mama's, barrels will be provided for nonperishable foods and toys. If toys are wrapped, please indicate age group. Auction items are needed!"

2. Big Mama's Christmas Party, Friday, December 23. Hors d'oeuvres served at 7 PM; buffet at 8 PM; John Gallagher Band at 9 PM; with a midnight gift exchange.

Other Christmas parties are in the works, so check your favorite pub for full details.

PARADIGM II!
 (A Waiting Nose?)

Don and Cha Cha, your flyers announcing the logo contest? Well, a lot of them are still waiting for the addendum to be attached. How can anyone enter if they don't know where to send the entries?

Some changes are so slow, you don't notice them; others are so fast, they don't notice you! I can smile on that one! Love, Nez

Too Wilde for His Time

The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde
 by Peter Ackroyd
 Harper & Row; \$12.95

by Frank J. Howell

The tragedy of Oscar Wilde continues to haunt us through the years. Much of recent Gay chronology utilizes his downfall as a touchstone of progress. We hear about how the sexual revolution has advanced or declined since Oscar's day. Books and plays about him continue to pour forth. As the author has him say, "I have become a problem in modern ethics."

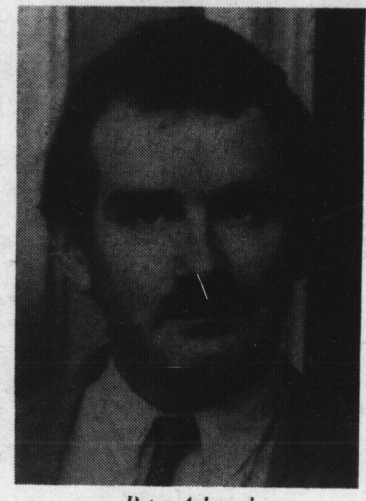
Peter Ackroyd writes brilliantly, as though he were Wilde in the final months of life. He has a compelling and eloquent wit that closely follows the style of the mad Irishman. We believe we are reading Wilde.

Little-known facts about his early life are explored. According to Ackroyd, Wilde was not widely admired in his school days. He functioned as a loner. It is also suggested that he may have been an illegitimate child.

Ackroyd's imitations of Wildeisms are fairly successful: "Society frightens me, but titude disturbs me more."

Ackroyd glides uncomfortably close to the hellish truth when he has his Oscar explain, "I was playing with fire, but it is the prettiest thing in the world to play with."

Ackroyd's impersonation inspires us, informs us. Now let us hope Oscar Wilde can be left to rest in eternal peace.



Peter Ackroyd

to serve in the British Navy. Later they were taken from captured ships by the buccaneers.

Married life among pirates was rare and its quality uniformly poor. Alcoholism was rampant and crews were sometimes too drunk to adequately guard prisoners.

Taboo against homosexuality were lax during this time in Western history. The British

were neither for nor against it. Gayness was a simple fact of life.

Burg presents some intriguing speculations and sidelights about the sea rovers of this swashbuckling era, but they can only remain just that. The evidence is long gone. But the fantasy about Captain Kidd and his lusty men will linger forever in many a night dream.

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VOL. XIII NO. 50 DECEMBER 15, 1983

PD Names Suspect in Twin Peaks Slaying

by George Mendenhall

Suspect: Timothy Reeder.
White - Male - 23 - 130 pounds - brown hair and eyes. Home base: Nashville, Tennessee. Possible "Southern" accent. Using credit cards of Thomas Laskey, 42, who he allegedly murdered in San Francisco on November 23. Last known whereabouts: Reno, Nevada on November 24. Photo enclosed. Hair has since been cut to a shorter length. A warrant has been issued by the SFPD for murder, robbery, and auto theft. Suspect is sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

This description is similar to information being circulated in Northern California and across the country. Local homicide Inspectors Jeff Brosch and Ed Erdelatz have reason to believe that Timothy Reeder hog-tied and murdered Thomas Laskey in the victim's Twin Peaks apartment on November 23. Police entered the premises on Thanksgiving Day to discover the Napa Mental Hospital psychiatrist fully clothed on the floor. He had been strangled to death by bare hands. Foul play had been suspected by Laskey's employers when he had not reported to work.

Police investigators now have unraveled a possible sequence of events: Laskey met Reeder and brought him home. Reeder tied the victim's hands and feet to-

gether and strangled him. He took his wallet and his blue 1982 Honda. Driving in a storm, the killer went off the highway into a snowbank near the inland town of Sutter Springs. When he was assisted by Highway Patrol officers, Reeder told them he was "headed for Nevada City" and was sent on his way.

Instead of Nevada City, the driver went to Reno, where he spent a night at the Midtown Lodge — using one of Laskey's credit cards. Reeder was fearful of detection because the Sutter Springs patrolmen had taken his driver's license information and the auto's license plate number. He ditched the car eight blocks from the lodge, where it was later found by police. The stolen auto report led to Reeder's detection. A national police tracer revealed that the suspect was from Nashville, where he had a minor police record. A police photo was obtained.



Timothy Reeder, suspect sought by SFPD in Twin Peaks slaying of Napa Hospital psychiatrist.



A Gay Christmas is visible all around San Francisco. It all depends on the window one looks through. (Photo: Rink)

DA Charges Gay Employment Service with Irregularities

No License, Soliciting Funds, Accepting Donations

by Allen White

Ken Kline has been indicted by the District Attorney's office for three misdemeanor counts relating to the operation of his Gay Employment Service.

The operation was charged with operating without the proper license, accepting donations without a police permit, and making claims that they had a permit to accept donations.

The Gay Employment Service has been a controversial business since its opening last spring. Staff have claimed that they were a "service" and not an "employment agency."

They collected a donation and then gave information and assistance to people seeking employment. The "business" claimed that a third of the people using their service were finding employment. One of their biggest problems stemmed from the other two thirds who had paid their money and did not find work.

The Bay Area Reporter reported on the activity of the Gay Employment Service earlier this year after receiving a significant number of letters complaining of the business. Readers complained of how the agency performed in working with them to find a job.

District Attorney Arlo Smith has been highly critical of employment businesses who collect a fee in advance of a job. In the past three years he has closed down three employment organizations for violations of state employment agency laws.

For Ken Kline to qualify for the pre-trial diversion program the District Attorney is going to demand that he conform to the laws governing employment agencies in California.

Ken Kline and his attorney Susan Abbott chose not to comment to the Bay Area Reporter regarding the charges.

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The Tenderloin — Ronnetttte p. 19

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Oakland Goes for Gay Rights

First Round Sails Through 8 to 0

Oakland Gay/Lesbian activists were just a bit surprised Tuesday night when their Gay rights ordinance sailed through the Oakland City Council 8 to 0.

The ordinance, authored by attorney Matt Coles, passed its first of three necessary votes. Tuesday's meant that the issue was to be put up for consideration. The preliminary stage is one that tests the waters and where strategists often decide whether it is worth pushing an issue and losing it in a resounding defeat.

Mary Ann Brownstein, speaking for the East Bay Gay Demo Club, said that much of the credit goes to Councilwoman Marge Gibson. The Oakland group has spent considerable energy pre-educating the community on the issues. And Gibson felt the time was right.

Brownstein said that the second vote is next week Tuesday, December 20, and they expect opposition. How heavy they are not sure but feel the large Mormon presence in Oakland will come out against the Gay rights ordinance.

They have asked for Gay men and Lesbians to turn out next week in force. Tuesday, some 60 to 70 East Bay Gays were in the council chamber. The bill covers discrimination in employment, housing, and all services in the city of Oakland. The Oakland bill closes the loopholes that have surfaced in the Berkeley and San Francisco ordinances.

The City Council meets in the City Center (14th Street & City Council Way), on BART the Broadway/14th Street station.

For more information contact Joe Acanfora (654-8605) or Tom Brougham (843-2459).

(Continued on page 22)