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VOL. XIV NO. 8 FEBRUARY 23, 1984

Coors Case Against Solidarity Thrown Out of U.S. Court

by George Mendenhall

The Adolph Coors Company has lost its \$145,000 anti-trust suit against local Gay activist Howard Wallace, Northern California coordinator of the Coors Beer Boycott. U.S. District Court Judge Spencer Williams dismissed Coors' claim this week against Wallace, the local Gay group called Solidarity, and others that they violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act when they allegedly conspired to restrain trade and reduce competition in the brewing industry. In June of last year, Williams had denied Coors access to Solidarity's membership list. The group is currently inactive.

"Goliath took on little David and Goliath has fallen," the volatile Wallace claimed. "This is a tremendous victory for free speech. It was a landmark decision, affecting every movement that wants to exercise the right to boycott as a legitimate political weapon. I believe the judge recognized the purpose of their case was to harass and intimidate those who challenge Coors."

Attorney Robert Zolatel who represented Coors responded, "We have not had a chance to read the decision. It appears that what the judge said was that we have a claim but that it should be in state court. We will consider that after reviewing the matter."

Williams wrote that federal anti-trust law is to "protect competition not competitors" and chided Coors for its "far-fetched" attempt to bring about an "unwarranted expansion" of that law. He suggested that Coors go to state court.

COURT'S ANALYSIS

KQED-TV canceled "Coors Day" at its annual auction in May 1981 because of an "atmo-

sphere of violence" according to station management at the time. Coors next claimed the literature distributed by Wallace and his alleged statements to station officials could not guarantee the safety of volunteers.

Did Wallace, acting as an agent for Solidarity, encourage an unlawful boycott? The judge said he did not, explaining that seeking public support for a boycott is "constitutionally privileged by the First Amendment."

Williams concluded that the charge that Wallace threatened violence was also "unsupported." He wrote, "It is clear from the depositions of those KQED officials that Wallace's comments were interpreted as merely illustrative of the seriousness of the dispute, and the diverse and vitriolic support within the community for the Coors Boycott Committee's position."

The judge concluded that the \$145,000 in damages demanded by Coors was "highly speculative" and inherently flimsy. He wrote that the \$13,000 the company was to donate to have its name displayed on "Coors Day" was an advertising bargain.

(Continued on page 15)

Sacramento Victory

State Senate Passes Gay Rights Bill

by Duke J. Armstrong

Last Thursday morning the ornate State Senate Chamber in Sacramento bristled with action as tension electrified the air. When Senator Roberti finally began, visitors in the crowded gallery impatiently craned their necks. On the floor 38 members of California's Upper House uneasily settled into their seats while aides scurried for the last available chairs and the press corps whetted its pens. Assemblymen Art Agnos and William Filante stepped over from their side of the Capitol to witness the event. Everyone knew this was the debate of the year: Gay rights had finally come to the floor of the Senate.



The California State Senate in Sacramento passes AB-1 February 16, 1984.

By a vote of 22 to 16 the State Senate followed the lead of the Assembly in passing AB-1, a measure to forbid discrimination in private employment based on sexual orientation. It was a hard-fought victory, and the intense lobbying and floor debate in the State Senate said much about

the Gay rights movement, its direction and future.

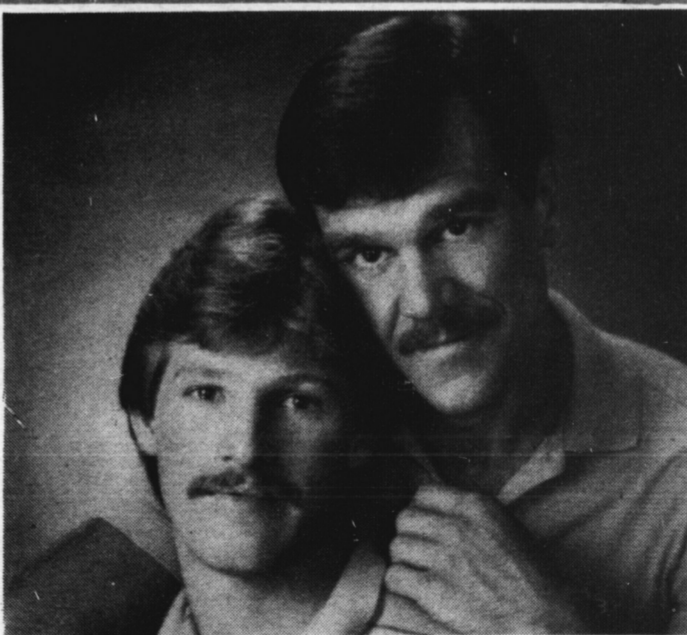
Senate Majority Leader Roberti set the tone of the bill's supporters: "This measure is not on homosexuality but on fairness and employment opportunities." Senator Richardson quoted

scripture to underscore the opposition theme: "It invades my religious freedom to pass this [Gay rights bill]."

The sharp and sometimes emotional debate on the Senate floor centered on those two disparate views of the impact of

(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE



Award-winning photographer Mary Small has a photo exhibit at Atlas S & L through March 16.

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 Shaping up the Demo Convention Protest March — Bruce Pettit p. 11

Crane Out as AIDS/KS Head

by Allen White

Rick Crane, salaried Executive Director of the San Francisco AIDS/KS Foundation for the past year, formally resigned last Tuesday night. The departure came at a hastily-called closed session of the foundation's board of directors.

Dr. Robert Bolan, President of the foundation, declined to give any specific reasons for the hasty departure of Crane. Sources within the organization had said that problems between Crane and the board of directors had been building for months. Though denied by Bolan, a stormy argument in the AIDS/KS Foundation office last Thursday between Crane and members of his staff is given as the primary reason for the meeting and apparently the last straw. Several board members

wanted to move earlier but were stymied by Bolan being out of town until Monday night.

Bolan said that he hoped there would be a smooth changing of directorship at the foundation. There is currently no person assigned to fill Crane's position. Bolan said that those on the foundation's staff would be redefining their job priorities to cover the responsibilities of the Executive Director. The position would then be advertised for.

Following the closed board

meeting Tuesday night, Bolan downplayed any differences between Rick Crane and the board members. He said that Crane had felt that "it was time to step down" and that it was an "amicable parting of the ways." Bolan said he would be issuing a press release to avoid any speculation surrounding the departure of the foundation employee.

A BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

In the past months there has

(Continued on page 13)

Segal Gay Lib Sculpture Goes to Stanford

by Paul Lorch

If an outdoor work of world-renowned sculptor George Segal ever gets to San Francisco, it will be no thanks to the dilly-dallying of local elected officials, feuding of Gay leaders, and would-be art experts.

Twice major Segal pieces have been slated for San Francisco. The first, entitled "Gay Liberation," was offered three years ago to San Francisco's Gay community. Arrangements were developed by Supervisor Harry Britt; he bungled the project and subsequently dropped what was fast becoming a political hot potato. The second Segal was selected for Lincoln Park by the mayor's Holocaust commission. Once displayed in the press it has run into storm clouds from art types who felt they should have been consulted or know better than those choosing the memorial work. The Segal "Holocaust's" future is uncertain.

This week Stanford University announced that Segal's "Gay Liberation" had been installed on the campus on February 21.

Segal works in life-sized figures, the models for which are either coated in plaster or wrapped in plaster-filled tapes. The final works are done in one of two ways: a realistic cast from inside the mold or less real if the outside of the plaster tapes make the mold. Most of Segal's works remain in white plaster; some are painted a single color. For outdoor pieces he casts them in bronze; they are then treated with an anodizing acid which

leaves them with a whitish patina.

The Stanford Segal sculpture consists of two life-size couples: two men stand next to each other. One man's arm is around the other's shoulder. Behind them two women are seated on a park bench. One woman's hand rests on the other's knee.

"Gay Liberation" was installed on an oval area of lawn at the northern end of Lomita Mall, west of the Mathematics Department and east of the Varian Laboratories. According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, the public space ex-

periences heavy pedestrian traffic each day. The sculpture will face benches under the oaks across the mall, "creating an echo effect because of the similar benches in the sculpture."

At Stanford both the university's Art Department and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance are jubilant over their good fortune. The piece received unanimous approval from the university's Panel on Outdoor Art, the University Committee of Land and Building Development, and Stanford President Donald Kennedy. Professor John Merryman, chairman of the outdoor art panel, said the university accepted the work because of the importance of the artist and the intrinsic quality of the work itself. Merryman noted, "Segal is of the international stature of the major modern sculptors already represented on this campus, and the presence of his work will do us honor." The theme of the piece also pleased the art experts. Said Merryman, "The humanity of 'Gay Liberation' will provide a welcome balance to the geometric rigor of the Albers Wall." (He was referring to a sculpture of Josef Albers also placed on Lomita Mall which created much controversy when it was installed.) Stanford art history Professor Albert Elsen, a nationally-known expert on modern sculpture, also

was taken by the importance of the theme. He said, "'Gay Liberation' is a subject which deals with social and political justice."

Gerald Koskovich, spokesman for Stanford's Gay Alliance, said, "Stanford is a particularly appropriate place for a display of this monument . . . We have a long and vital tradition of Lesbian and Gay activism." In 1968 the Student Homophile League, Stanford Chapter was formed. It was the third such student Gay rights group in the nation and the first outside the East Coast.

A SCULPTURE IN SEARCH OF A HOME

Six to seven years ago the Mildred Andrews Fund approached the National Gay Task Force in New York City with the suggestion of commissioning a major work of art commemorating the Gay Rights battle. The philanthropic fund which is administered out of New Orleans fuses art and social concerns. The NGTF wasn't particularly interested, but outgoing NGTF president Broce Voeller took the idea with him. Voeller subsequently formed the Mariposa Foundation, which was itself an educational, philanthropic organization.

"Gay Liberation" became a major project for Voeller. The Mildred Andrews Fund gave the commission to New Jersey-based George Segal, who began work on two castings. One was to be located in Sheridan Square in New York City's Greenwich Village in memory of the Stonewall riots. The other was to be placed in Los Angeles.

Then the battle began. Exactly where would it be placed? Who would pay for maintenance? Who would get the honors and the credits? Missing the point, some Black Gay activists objected to the whitishness of the patina — claiming the work to be an expression of racism. They threatened pickets.

The battle grew particularly intense in Los Angeles, embroiling the city council, pitting militant Gays against conservative Gays. In 1981 veteran LA activ-

ist Morris Kight contacted SF Gay Supervisor Harry Britt to say that if Britt began negotiating with the representatives of the Mildred Andrews Foundation, San Francisco could get the art work. Kight had been involved in the battle of where the LA sculpture was to go. He was at loggerheads with Mariposa's Bruce Voeller, and the project had stalled. In retrospect, Kight had no intention of seeing LA lose out on "Gay Liberation" but by luring in San Francisco he could muddy the waters and shake LA into action.

Britt met with Mayor Feinstein and his office began to clear the way with those city agencies that would have to approve. The tentative installation site was to be Harvey Milk Plaza (the Muni Metro entrance at Market and Castro Streets).

Bruce Voeller, however, had other plans. After giving years to birthing the project, he was not about to let it slip out of his hands. By 1981 he was saying the Mildred Andrews Foundation did not have total rights to the disposition of the Segal sculpture. He claimed certain proprietary rights. Voeller wrote a formal letter to Mayor Feinstein and threatened he would sue if the city accepted the statue. The mayor got instant cold feet and jettisoned any interest in the Gay statue.

Voeller came to San Francisco in the winter of 1982 and met with Supervisor Britt and other Gay activists. He angrily let them know they had been duped and that Los Angeles was still the home for "Gay Liberation." He assured the group that should Los Angeles not be able to reconcile its differences and accommodate the work, he would do everything possible to see that it got to San Francisco. There the matter rested . . . and was allowed to die.

This week the Segal sculpture, which in the artist's own words "stresses our common humanity," got as far north as Palo Alto. At least it had found a home. Its sister casting is far from Sheridan Square; it is currently touring in a national exhibition of recent works in bronze.

Mondale Endorses National Gay Rights Bill — Finally

Other Demo Candidates Start Wooing Gay Aid

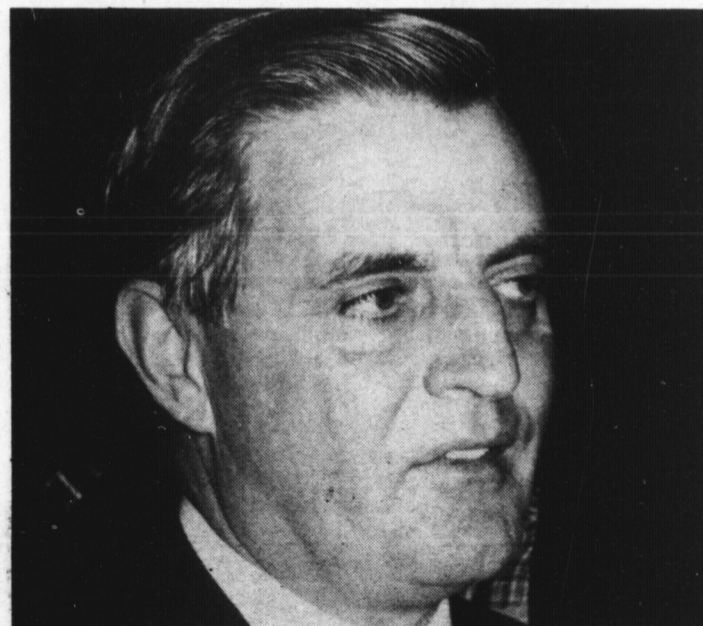
Walter Mondale has belatedly endorsed the Gay community's major piece of Gay rights legislation. He joins four other Democratic presidential candidates who earlier announced support for House Bill 2624 and Senate Bill 430 which would place Gay people under the protection of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. Jerry Weller, Acting Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, stated that up until now the candidate had refused to support such legislation.

The front-running Democratic presidential candidate joins five of his party opponents who endorsed the legislation earlier — Alan Cranston, Gary Hart, Ernest Hollings, Jessie Jackson and George McGovern. Former Florida Gov. Reuben Askew and Senator John Glenn do not support the legislation.

Lesbians and Gay men working in the Mondale campaign in Washington have been urging the candidate to endorse the bills. Jimmy Carter endorsed the legislation, in answer to a question from this reporter, during his 1976 election campaign. Mondale angered Gay activists in 1977 when he refused to even acknowledge a Gay group of demonstrators at a Democratic rally in San Francisco.

In 1982, Mondale was the major speaker at a banquet for the Gay Human Rights Campaign Fund in New York. He

(Continued on page 12)



Gay activists pump Gay rights statement out of Walter Mondale. (Photo: Rink)

State Senate Passes Gay Rights Bill

(Continued from page 1)

AB-1.

Senator Doolittle of Citrus Heights delivered an impassioned oration decrying the legislation as an harassment of employers and an endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle. Referring to the AIDS epidemic, he claimed that the disease could be transmitted by nonsexual means and that AB-1 would therefore do peril to the public health and welfare.

Senator Milton Marks of San Francisco gave simple, eloquent testimony to his belief in equality of treatment under the law and recalled his authorship of the initial Fair Employment Practices legislation over 25 years ago.

But the high point of the debate came when Senator Ed Davis, former Los Angeles Police Chief, took the floor to voice his support for AB-1. In homespun fashion the conser-

vative Republican legislator turned the religious argument around, saying that in a secular state passage of legislation to let people have a decent job was the moral thing to do. He charged as hypocritical those fundamentalist Christians who say, "We love Gays but want them to starve to death." He also derided the fundamentalists who made themselves slaves of a "Paper Pope," an obvious reference to Senator Richardson's reliance on a narrow and literal interpretation of certain Biblical passages.

When the final vote was tallied, four Republicans (Beverly, Davis, Maddy, and Marks) joined 18 Democrats to give the legislation a comfortable margin of victory.

In remarks following the vote, San Francisco Assemblyman Art Agnos, the bill's author, said that passage of the legislation



A new bigot surfaces in the Gay rights battle, Sacramento's John Doolittle.



Signs went up in the Castro after Thursday's historic vote on AB-1 urging the governor to sign the Gay employment measure. (Photo: Rink)

was the culmination of eight long years of work. He called Senator Davis "the big hero of the day," and highly praised Gay Republicans, particularly Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, for their crucial lobbying efforts. "Without that," said Agnos, "AB-1 would not have passed today."

The legislation now returns to the Assembly for its concurrence in some minor Senate amendments. The bill is expected to reach the governor's desk by the end of this week where its future is still uncertain. Governor Deukmejian has two weeks to

sign or veto the bill or it will automatically become law.

Assemblyman Agnos said he was "cautiously optimistic" that Deukmejian would sign the bill, pointing out that the governor had not opposed the measure during its legislative journey, although he had plenty of opportunity to do so. Agnos also noted that Deukmejian had maintained the executive order of his predecessor which forbids employment discrimination by the state government based on sexual orientation. These actions demonstrate that the governor is open-minded on the issue and

does not believe, like Senator Richardson, that discrimination against Gays is a moral imperative.

But mail and phone calls into the governor's office are reportedly running 100 to 1 against the measure, and Deukmejian undoubtedly will be under great pressure to veto this, the first major Gay rights bill to clear the state's legislative hurdle in nearly a decade.

(The phone number of the governor's San Francisco office is 557-3326.)

D.J. Armstrong

LA Gay Center Workers Vote for Union

Contract Talks Begin, Costs Could Reduce Services

by George Mendenhall

Contract negotiations begin later this month between lower echelon workers and management at the Los Angeles Gay/Lesbian Community Center. In a 23-3 vote the employees voted to affiliate with Hospital and Service Workers Local 399 on January 31. The Center has paid staffers and several hundred volunteers. It has the largest annual budget of any similar center in the world, \$1.3 million. The unionization is probably a "first" for a Gay facility.

The conflict between workers and management of the 13-year-old service, located in Hollywood, dates to 1974 when several workers attempted to organize without help from an established "outside" union. That effort failed. Some former employees claim they were dismissed because of their union activity at that time.

Upper echelon staffers were not affected by the vote. Some of them are claiming that the unionization will mean a breakdown in the friendly relationship between workers and management, creating tension. There is also a concern that salary demands by workers will cut into the Center's programs and possibly result in a reduced staff size.

Rollando Palencia, a Jobs Developer at the Center, told this reporter "the Center has had beautiful relations with workers, on paper, but in reality management always has had the final word on everything. The grievance process was casual and not

binding. We needed a more formal procedure so the loopholes do not always favor management."

Acting Director Jodi Curlee said while the Center is a stressful condition it "is not the usual union labor/management situation." She believes the unionization could destroy the flexibility at the Center, making its operation more difficult and costly. An estimated 10,000 people used the 12 departments at the Hollywood facility each month, creating traffic jam problems as the employees attempt to resolve a multiple of human needs.

Two Center employees who helped organize workers, Aaron Todd and Frank Mendiola, told a Boston-based reporter that negotiations this month will include demands for the hiring of more women and people of color, improvements in the working conditions in the clinic, and a consistent enforcement of personnel policy.

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CRIR Endorses Reagan-Bush; Defers Platform Statement

McCloskey Says Gay Issue is a Republican Issue

by Bruce Pettit

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, with only one dissenting vote, endorsed President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush for re-election Tuesday night. But the club opted to take a month to decide what it wants to ask of the Republican party regarding its national platform.

agenda could not be addressed here if that were the case, he said. Still, Bowman agreed to the postponement.

ED DAVIS PRAISED

CRIR issued a warning that



CRIR's President Tom Peretti welcomed former Congressman Pete McCloskey at Tuesday night's meeting. (Photo: Rink)

Member Chris Bowman wanted to amend a Reagan-Bush endorsement motion "to encourage" Reagan, Bush and the party to ensure "there will be nothing homophobic in the platform."

CRIR president Tom Peretti considered Bowman's amendment a condition to the endorsement. "I think a conditional endorsement is not wise," he said.

Don Bowden, local GOP executive director and CRIR member, moved that the endorsement and the platform be two separate questions. He insisted that Reagan and Bush do not write the platform, which is adopted in a different, "very complex procedure."

Bowman agreed to Bowden's separation "only if this meeting is not adjourned after the first motion (on endorsement) is passed."

Member Jeff Harlowe thought the platform resolution "too divisive" for an immediate decision and moved that it be postponed for a month. Membership co-chair David Ward asked, "Are we questioning whether we are opposed to a homophobic statement?" Member Mike Sher answered that "a positive statement" would be more effective with the national party than a negative one.

Bowden insisted the Republican party has never had a homophobic statement in its platform. "Why give them a resolution to encourage them?"

Bowman replied, "The only way to effectively campaign for the Reagan-Bush ticket in this city is if we don't have a homophobic platform on our backs." Other issues about the national

AB-1, the Gay employment rights bill that passed the State Senate last week, may still be in jeopardy. It must return to the State Assembly for concurrence in some minor amendments, and it had only one vote more than necessary last summer. Soft votes for it may collapse in the face of a right-wing onslaught, Bowman advised. "We've got to keep hitting them, otherwise it's dead," he asserted.

CRIR also had high praise for Senator Ed Davis (R-Canoga Park), whose speech, members said, probably sealed the extra few votes needed for passage. Peretti believed that Davis, as former Los Angeles police chief, "probably ran into strident elements that give him a street socialist view of the Gay community." He suggested that Republican Gay clubs in Southern California have likely given Davis a different impression.

Gays Urged to Apply for Deputy Sheriff Jobs

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey announced last week the opening of an extensive recruitment drive for the position of Deputy Sheriff.

This is the first time in more than three years that a test will be given for this permanent Civil Service position, and another one will not be forthcoming in the foreseeable future.

Deputy Sheriff is an entry level position requiring no previous work experience and no residency requirements. Applicants must be at least 20 years of age and have a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalency.

Sheriff Hennessey said, "We are recruiting applicants for a brief time only. And we are especially encouraging Gay men and Lesbians, who have been historically underrepresented in the field of law enforcement, to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Our community is composed of a diversified ethnic population, and in this connection, we are targeting as many Gay groups and individuals as possible to get the word out

about this rewarding upwardly mobile job opening with the Sheriff's Department."

Applicants will receive 14 weeks of P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards Training) Academy training which is the same course given to police and high-way patrol officers.

Band Founder Down with PCP

John Sims, founder of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has been diagnosed with AIDS. He was admitted last week to the University of California Medical Center for tests which confirmed that he had pneumocystic pneumonia and a staph infection.

Officials at the hospital said that Sims is expected to be released from the medical center in approximately two weeks.

Members of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band were made aware of Sim's condition last Saturday just prior to their performing in the annual Chinese New Year's Parade. David Bailey, the drum major for the band, told the players of Sim's illness and reported he was in stable condition and in good

spirits.

Jon Sims founded the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps in June, 1978. Later that year he also organized the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. From these two groups, over two dozen Lesbian and Gay performing arts groups have formed across the United States. Sims resigned as artistic director of the band in December, 1981.

McCloskey said members of Congress tend to be older people because "it takes time to collect the money needed to run and to convince those who have money to promote you. And it's difficult for people in their 40's, 50's, and 60's to change their views — if you've been reared to believe Gay rights is wrong."

But it can be done, McCloskey said, and he illustrated with the Earth Day organizers of 1970. They targeted a "dirty dozen" on the environment, turned out 3,000 votes in two primaries, and won each by about 500 votes. Clean air, water, endangered species, and coastal acts followed.

So, McCloskey encouraged CRIR to similarly organize for Gay rights. "I stay Republican," he said, "because the Republican philosophy is that one shouldn't intrude on freedom of choice unless someone is hurt. This (Gay) issue is essentially a Republican issue."

Jesse Jackson Won't Be Gay Guest

Campaign Problems Cited for Canceling Out on Toklas Party

by George Mendenhall

Columnist Herb Caen called it "Jesse Jackson's first contact with the local Gay community" but the reception for the Democratic candidate has been canceled. Confusion within the local campaign and the Democratic candidate's need to be available for campaigning in the Southern states are given as the reasons. The affair, scheduled for March 4 at the War Memorial, could be rescheduled at a later date.

"It was not clear at the start whether he was coming or not," activist Billy Jones, National Director of Black & White Men Together, relates. "Local Jackson campaign people said that IF he came to the California Democratic Council convention in Oakland, March 2-4, he would be available for the event. Somehow the IF became lost. This may have happened because at the same time people were negotiating the local Jackson campaign was changing leadership."

Toklas began to extensively advertise the Jackson event on Tuesday after its officers thought they had a firm "confirmation." Bill Camillo, who heads Toklas' Third World Caucus, says the Jackson office in Washington, DC, announced on Wednesday

that Jackson would be campaigning full-time in the Southern states in March. He and Jones both insist that the local Jackson campaign officials would welcome a Gay fundraiser for the candidate when he does begin campaigning here in April or March.

Jones said one of the problems is that "our campaign is different because a lot is done from the bottom up rather than from the top going down. This 'grass roots' involvement can be frustrating for those of us that are used to taking commands from the top. While there was confusion and misrepresentation, when he does come, there will be a Toklas reception for him." Camillo adds that it "could be on short notice but we can bring it off in one week if we have to."



Presidential candidate won't be in the Bay Area in March, nor a Toklas guest of honor.

New Bar to Open for "Las Latinas Lesbianas"

by Dion B. Sanders

A new bar that caters to Lesbian Latinas will open its doors on Valencia Street next summer, the Bay Area Reporter learned this week.

The city Planning Commission last week approved an operating permit for Sophia's, a bar its creator said is in response to both discrimination against Latinas at other Lesbian bars and to a need for Lesbian Latinas for a gathering spot of their own.

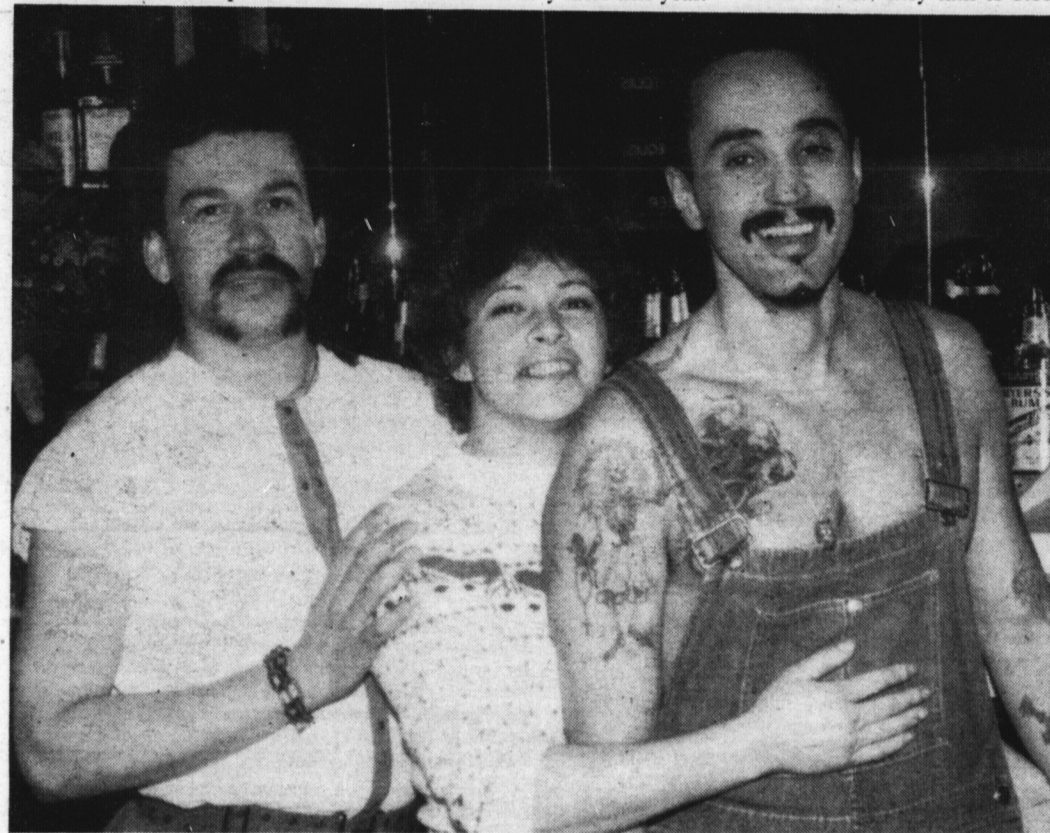
Tony Lopez, co-owner of Sophia's, told the Bay Area Reporter in an interview Tuesday that the story behind the creation of Sophia's is essentially the same as that behind the 1979 opening of Esta Noche, which Lopez also co-owns.

"When we first opened Esta

Latinas," he said.

"But still, Esta Noche was not a women's bar; it wasn't their own bar. So the idea for Sophia's started from the day that this place opened," Lopez continued.

Esta Noche will celebrate its fifth anniversary later this year.



Esta Noche, popular Mission Gay bar, will spin off a Lesbian Latina bar soon. Here bartenders preen for the club's Valentine Party. (l. to r.) Fred, Rosa, and Durga. (Photo: Rink)

Noche, we knew right away that there was a need for (Latina) women to have a place of their own," Lopez said. "But first, we had to build this business, so we had to put it (Sophia's) in the background for the time being."

Lopez related that Esta Noche itself was created out of a need among Gay Latinos for a place of their own after being discriminated against at Anglo Gay bars in the Castro. "Frankly, it started out very male. But we quickly discovered that up to half of our patrons were Latina women who couldn't go anywhere else, or whom felt comfortable coming here at least with a sense of family with other

Lopez told the Bay Area Reporter that he was locked in an uphill fight with City Hall to get the permits to get Sophia's going. "We've had to go through a lot of hassles with the Planning Department, with the Police Department — I've been inspected and re-inspected — it was really heavy," he said.

"When Captain (Don) Taylor was in charge (of Mission Station), the cops must have thought maybe since I'm Latino, they said, 'Well, let's check him out because he's doing something bad,'" Lopez continued. "Thank God he's not there anymore."

(Lopez' sister) and they say, 'Buenos Dias, and she says, 'Como Esta? (How are you?),' there's an immediate sense of family and warmth," he continued. "Now we want to do the same for Lesbian Latinas with Sophia's."

Sophia's will be located on Valencia Street between 16th and 17th — around the corner from Esta Noche on 16th. The site, Lopez said, was once the home of Kay's Club, a Prohibition-era speakeasy.

With renovation scheduled to begin next month, Lopez estimates that Sophia's will open for business in August.

Eddie Murphy to make "Surprising Response and Revelation" to Anti-Gay Act

Eddie Murphy's manager, Bob Wachs, told NBC's Today Show that "We will make a surprising response and revelation within approximately two and one-half weeks." The statement was made on February 9, making February 27 approximately two-and-one-half weeks later.

The response will be to charges that on Eddie Murphy's Columbia album, his Paramount video tape and his HBO special, Murphy is exceedingly harsh on Gays, and that his comments about the disease AIDS are nothing short of inflammatory.

Murphy's anti-homosexual bias and the controversy that surrounds it has been reported by UPI, CNN, the Today Show, and by hundreds of newspapers and magazines across the country. Throughout the controversy,

the only comment made by Eddie Murphy or his management has been, "Eddie Murphy is not anti-Gay, he is only anti-AIDS." (What does that mean?) Bob Wachs' most recent comment marks an abrupt departure from their three-month-old, Let's ignore-it-and-hope-it-goes-away attitude.

Just what the "surprising response and revelation" will be has been the subject of much conjecture at the Eddie Murphy Disease Foundation in Los Angeles. (The Foundation decided to name homophobia after one of its most prominent sufferers, Eddie Murphy, and then try to find a cure.)

Some hope that Murphy will donate a large sum of money to AIDS research. Others think Murphy will save his money and simply make a positive state-

ment about homosexuality on the February 25th airing of Saturday Night Live. That would certainly be "surprising," as the promos for the February 11th show featured Murphy doing his effeminate Gay character. (Murphy has yet to learn that severe stereotyping is just another form of bigotry.)

The more cynical (or are they the more realistic?) members of EMDF say that Bob Wachs' statement is simply a stall. "On February 27th he'll say, 'Another week.' A week later he'll say, 'A few more days.' Then he'll be out of town for a month," explained one member. "He knew Today was doing a piece, and he wanted to soften the blow. Murphy hasn't had a change of heart. All this is nothing more than an annoyance to him."

As the Today Show put it in its broadcast of February 10th, "We'll just have to wait and see."

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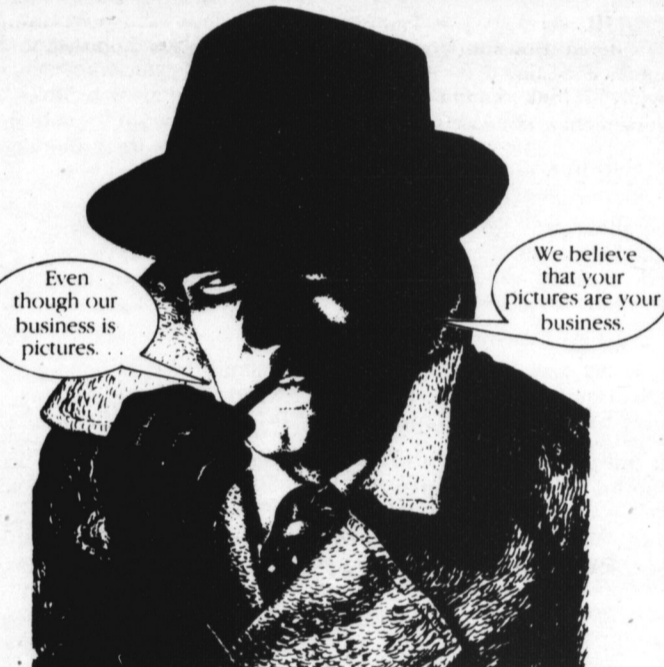
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Pickets and Bar Reach Accord

Owner Says No Discriminating Door Policy

by George Mendenhall

Ten informational pickets who had gathered outside of the Detour bar on upper Market Street Thursday night celebrated instead of marching. Inside, bar owner Dan Denman explained that he had signed a statement declaring that his establishment does not discriminate against anyone. "The Admission policy of the Detour," Denman stated, is to "admit anyone who is of legal age, and who is not obviously intoxicated." That admission is what the demonstrators had sought.



The no-named Detour bar — won't discriminate says owner. (Photo: Rink)

The new written policy states that the Detour will admit anyone who produces one valid photo identification upon request excluding those under the age of 21, anyone who threatens to do damages to persons or property, people under the influence of drugs and anyone who is "unruly, loud or demonstrates obnoxious behavior."

The picketing was scheduled by the Toklas Democratic Club and endorsed by Stonewall Democrats, the Milk Democrats' Executive Board, Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Publicity was also solicited. Two sisters, Sister Viscious Power Hungry Bitch and Sister Sadie, Sadie, the Rabbi Lady, held a "Stop Discrimination — I Am What I Am" banner up out front. KRON-TV ran the incident live on its early evening news.

The Detour's troubles began in December when rumors of overt door discrimination surfaced at a meeting of the Toklas Democratic Club. Some members reported that women were required to show three identification cards at the door while men could just walk in. Five Toklas officials later went to the bar to test the door policy. Two Toklas women were detained and each was asked for 3 IDs.

The two women were Community United Against Violence Director Diane Christensen, and Gael Shapiro, Toklas Women Caucus Chair. Next former club president Randy Stallings met with Denman. They all related their experiences to the club membership that they believed the bar owner was discriminating against women. The club voted, unanimously to picket the bar. The women filed complaints with the city's Human Rights Commission and threatened to file a legal suit charging discrimination under the state Unruh Act.

TROUBLE MAKERS

Detour owner Denman remained calm, explaining that while the Detour is a "man's

What I mean is there are a lot of crazy people out there, and we are suspicious of people who are not our regular customers." He stressed that his bar, which is painted black outside and has no exterior sign is a low key operation. Denman does not advertise his bar and says, "We do not want this publicity. We want to maintain a low profile." Denman says he has never met the two women who claimed discrimination, adding "I am reasonable. I want to promote cohesiveness, not bickering."

UNRUH LAW PROTECTION

Christensen told Bay Area Reporter, "This is not a private men's club, not a bathhouse. There is a need for private places for men and women, but this is a public place. As such it cannot discriminate under local and state law. Making selective ID checks on people is discrimination." She and Shapiro are still contemplating legal action against Denman. The CUVAF official stressed that people are protected against discrimination by the state's Unruh Act.

The Unruh Act has these words: "All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges or services in all business establishments of every kind."

Denman explained to the press that he could not understand why there were going to be pickets, calling the entire incident "a tempest in a teapot." He said that he had met with Eileen Gillis, a specialist in Lesbian/Gay problems at the city's Human Rights Commission, and was understanding of her concerns about alleged discrimination at the Detour. The bar's manager has since posted a non-discrimination policy statement on the wall and distributed it to the Gay press.

The Toklas Club issued a statement expressing its pleasure at the settlement and the avoidance of the picket line: "We believe the current policy of the Detour is nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the law. We applaud the efforts made by the bar management in clarifying their policy and hope that it serves as an example to other businesses in our community."

Denman now believes his "trouble makers" comment "isn't what I intended to say."



Scene outside the Detour, protest leader Bill Camilo (l.) and Detour owner Dan Denman (r.). (Photo: Rink)

Convention Protest March Takes Shape

Some Reservations Persist on Abrasive Strategy

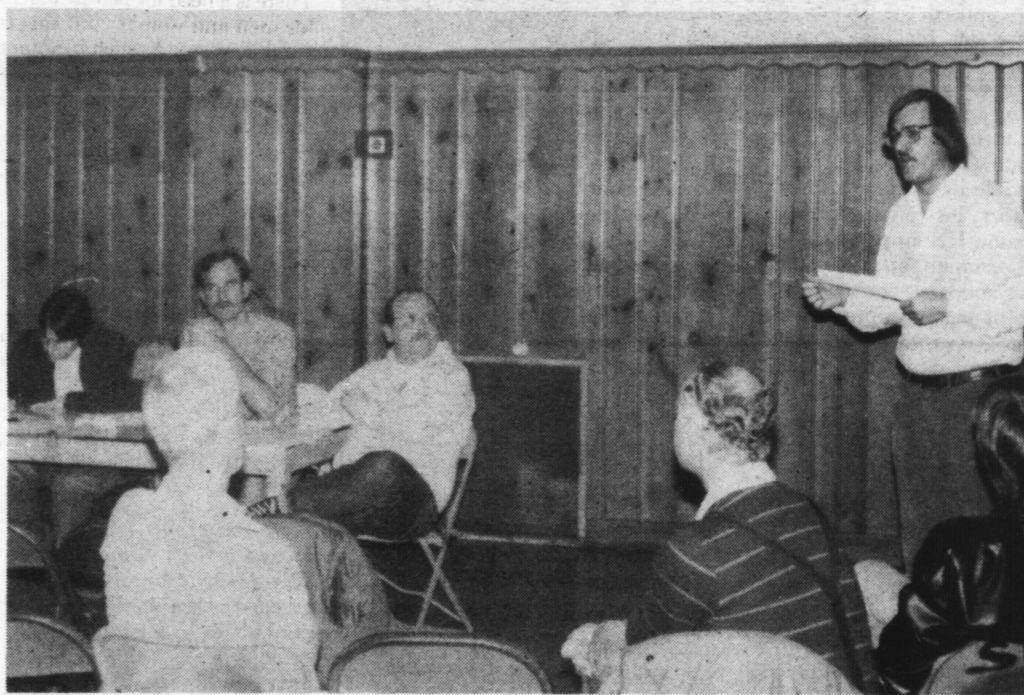
by Bruce Pettit

A cross-section of Gay community elements last week reached consensus to proceed with a national march on the Democratic National Convention here on July 15, despite some reservations.

Of chief concern was a careful definition of the purpose: precisely what is being asked of the Democratic Party?

The National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs lent support for the idea behind the march but wanted it conducted in a way that would not assist the re-election of President Reagan. A letter from that

tivist and health worker, indicated mixed feelings. She noted that international events, like the wars in Central America, may become dominant political issues supplanting all others by summer. "We cannot have Ron-



Stonewaller Gerry Parker talks to club members on Convention Protest March. (Photo: Rink)

ald Reagan, but we can't kiss the ass of the Democratic Party either," she said. "Somehow we've got to push the Democrats in ways that they won't be Tip O'Neills." (The Speaker of the House has variously supported

Paul Boneberg, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, said the march is needed "to bring our issues to the center of the nation's political debate... We need to create the event to create that discussion. You can see our issues aren't there now by noting the two recent (Democratic) presidential debates" where Gay rights never surfaced.

Law Wilson, former political action chair of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, said: "I want to influence my party and the nation, but in a way that we don't re-elect Ronald Reagan. We are feared and hated in much of this country. This event has to be focused on the Democratic platform."

Ron Huberman, political vice president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, said the march would be against Reagan, but also "against those in the Democratic Party who have turned their backs on Lesbian and Gay rights."

Catherine Cusic, a Milk ac-

tion chair of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, said the march would be against Reagan, but also "against those in the Democratic Party who have turned their backs on Lesbian and Gay rights."

Current endorsers of the organizing effort are Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance, National Coalition of Black Gays, International Association of Black and White Men Together, National Gay Task Force, Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club Executive Committee.

The organizing group, representing a broad range of community organizations and activists, held a first meeting on February 15, and targeted July 15 as the date for the demonstration. A march permit has been requested from the City and County of San Francisco

and a mailgram has been sent to Police Chief Con Murphy requesting an early meeting.

Subcommittees have been established to begin the work. They include: Logistics (A. Billy S. Jones, 621-8078), Media/Outreach (Howard Wallace, 431-1522), Fundraising (Ralph Payne, 558-9447), Demands/Issues (Marc Virga, 387-0145), and Organizational Structure (Leslie Manning, 626-0959).

The organizing group, representing a broad range of community organizations and activists, held a first meeting on February 15, and targeted July 15 as the date for the demonstration. A march permit has been requested from the City and County of San Francisco

and opposed parts of the President's foreign policy.)

Jim Manness, speaking as an individual from the Gay community, said the debate is perhaps being forced in the wrong locale. "It's more important that people march in Dallas," — site of the Republican National Convention in August. "That's where they'll know we're serious," he said.

Gerry Parker, former Stonewall president, closed the debate before the group was to break into committees to plan actual logistics. "Don't tone down our demands — ever," he implored.

"The framework of America's body politic is in that convention," said Parker. "Maybe Ronald Reagan will win, but in that hall will be the power over our lives. In there will be mayors of cities that have never passed a Gay rights ordinance. We can force the body politic to make a shift..."

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Mondale Endorses National Gay Rights Bill — Finally

(Continued from page 2)

spoke vaguely about supporting "homosexual rights" but could not bring himself to use the word "Gay."

Mondale endorsed S. 430 during a Susan B. Anthony reception sponsored by the National Organization for Women. Mondale said, "I have consistently indicated my support for a legislative remedy to the problem of discrimination. It is clear that the Moynihan bill (S. 430) is a carefully crafted piece of legislation that represents the best solution." The former Vice President said his support for a Gay rights bill is part of his agenda to bring fairness and justice back to the American people.

NOW President Judy Goldsmith praised the Democratic frontrunner for his "commitment to social and economic justice for all Americans, including millions of Lesbians and Gay men who will no longer tolerate second class citizenship. Mondale has a long history of support for civil rights for everyone. His support for an end to discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men was an important factor in our endorsement, and we are pleased that he has joined us in supporting S. 430."

The reception was held on the 164th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, a leader of the women's suffrage movement in the 19th century.

The local Gay Democratic clubs are currently split on the candidates with none of them showing early support for Mondale. The Milk Club has endorsed favorite son Senator Alan Cranston while the other clubs had unofficial "straw" votes. The "straw" tallies had

Cranston ahead in Toklas and Jackson the victor by a 2-1 vote in Stonewall.

The Milk Club is not affiliated with the statewide California Democratic Council (CDC) so it is not bound by the coming endorsement vote at the March 2-3 CDC convention in Oakland. Stonewall and Toklas must either endorse the candidate chosen at that meeting or do a "no endorsement." Some analysts are predicting that the CDC will endorse Cranston, a founder of the CDC organization.

Gay Community News reports that two Demo candidates — Cranston and Jackson — made personal appearances this month before the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Jackson told the crowd, "I think the rights of Gay and Lesbian people must be affirmed as a matter of law. I think it is important that we move beyond the idea of making pariahs of any group." Cranston, who was the first member of Congress to appoint an openly Gay aide (1972), presented a lengthy accounting of his long-time record — including support for Gay rights legislation, immigration policy changes and AIDS funding.

Meanwhile Gay supporters of Colorado's Senator Gary Hart have been promoting his Gay rights statements. Hart, who finished second in the Iowa caucuses stated: "No person committed to civil and human rights can tolerate the clear discrimination practiced against Gay and Lesbian Americans. The barriers to full participation in our society must be eliminated, and I am committed to seeing that all Americans

achieve basic equality. Congress should take the legislative steps necessary to ensure the protection of these rights. I would put the full authority of the office of the President behind all efforts to this effect.

"As a United States Senator from Colorado, I have supported much of the legislation designed to promote civil rights for those excluded from the benefits of American life. As President, my commitment to achieving full equality for all Americans would remain. Specifically I would:

- Enact an Executive Order which would prohibit discrimination against Gay and Lesbian Americans in Federal employment.
- Continue to support the extension of civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination against protected groups in Federally contracted private employment.
- Support and sign the Gay Civil Rights Bill.
- Continue to support the repeal of anti-Gay exclusion language in the U.S. immigration laws.
- Oppose the "McDonald Amendment" which restricts Legal Service advocacy where homosexuality is an issue.
- Continue funding for the much-needed AIDS research.
- Provide equality of opportunity for all minority applicants for Hart administration positions.

"As President," concluded Hart, "I will commit my Administration to expanding opportunity and enterprise for all Americans. Every American — whatever his or her sexual orientation — can expect fair treatment from a Hart Administration. I want my Administration to be judged by the highest of our national ideals — tolerance, respect for diversity, support for freedom and liberty." ■

Compiled by George Mendenhall and Paul Lorch.

NEWS BITS FROM THE GAY MEDIA CIRCUIT

Minneapolis Nixes Porn

A controversial Minneapolis anti-pornography ordinance that would have declared certain kinds of pornography to be a violation of women's civil rights and instituted procedures for redress against its producers and purveyors has been vetoed by Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, according to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

The campaign for the amendment to the Minneapolis civil rights ordinance pitted radical feminist advocates who assert that "pornography is the theory, rape is the practice," against civil libertarians and feminists who opposed the proposed ordinance on the grounds of censorship. After two days of public hearings the amendment passed the Minneapolis City Council by a 7 to 6 vote.

In the amendment, drafted by nationally-known anti-pornography activists Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, Pornography is declared to be "a form of discrimination on the basis of sex" and is defined as the "sexually explicit subordination of women, graphically depicted, whether in pictures or words, that also include" one or more of the nine categories in which "women are presented as sexual objects, things or commodities, or . . . whores by nature . . . or reduced to body parts or . . . penetrated by objects or animals," who "enjoy pain and humiliation or . . . experience sexual pleasure in being raped," or are presented in

"scenarios of degradation, injury, abasement, torture, shown as filthy or inferior, bleeding, bruised or hurt in a context that makes these conditions sexual."

The measure provided for redress of grievances through civil action against the producers or purveyors of pornography by any woman showing that it precipitated an attack against her, that she was coerced into a pornographic performance, or simply that its existence causes offense. The measure also includes a provision that "any man or transsexual who alleges injury by pornography in the way that women are injured by it, shall also have cause for action."

Supporters emphasized the amendment's framing of pornography as a civil rights issue of equality for women under the Fourteenth Amendment while MacKinnon, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Minnesota, said the amendment was "designed specifically to define pornography as discrimination against women without infringing on the First

Pro-Gay Billboard Goes Up at SMU

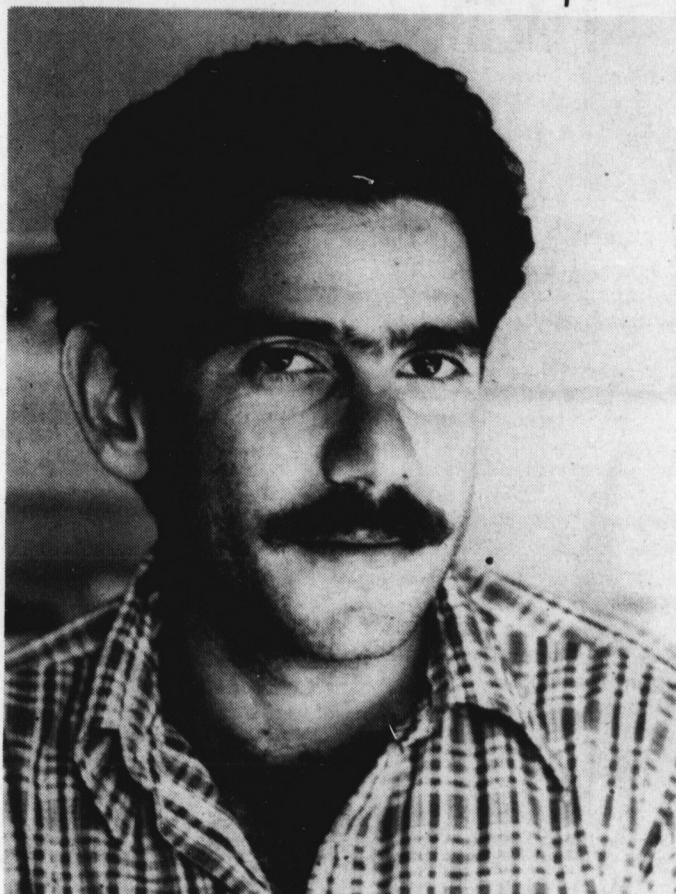
David Beebe, who owns a billboard near the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has taken a stand for Gay rights. Beebe, who is not Gay, pasted a sign on his billboard that reads: "Some may understand but others are ashamed of your position on Gay rights," in reference to the denial by the university of official recognition to a Gay and Lesbian student organization there.

Amendment" and without reference to obscenity issues. The Minnesota Civil Liberties Union pledged to challenge the measure if it became law.

Opponents of the amendment, including two self-described feminist Councilmembers, maintained the dangers of censorship outweighed the debatable relationship between pornography and violence. The only public Gay male opposition was delivered at the public hearings by Tim Campbell, publisher and owner of the *GLC Voice*, a Minneapolis Gay newspaper. He engaged in what some observers termed "Lesbian baiting" and made disparaging comments about Dworkin's appearance, which one Gay male activist termed "misogynist."

MacKinnon emphasized the criterion of "postures of sexual submission" including "beaver shots" and most *Playboy*-type portrayals. Dworkin termed the measure "model legislation" that supporters plan to introduce in cities around the country. ■

Crane Out as AIDS/KS Head



Rick Crane, who went from volunteer to well-paid executive director of the AIDS/KS Foundation. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from page 1)

been a growing chasm between the Gay community and the AIDS/KS Foundation. Receiving tens of thousands of dollars in government funding, they have found little need to look to the Gay community for support. As a result, people concerned about AIDS have become more visibly supportive of the San Francisco AIDS Fund, Shanti Project, and Ward 5B at San Francisco General Hospital — or not at all.

With slick, expensive printed materials, the foundation is now a costly Gay extension of the Department of Public Health. It has recently received a statewide 800 telephone number and is slowly starting to put an expensive advertising campaign in place to advertise the service. In the last few months several thousand dollars was spent to supplement office furnishings that were donated to the foundation at a time when the organization was more dependent on the Gay community. Office expenditures and the handling of such things as petty cash continued to rankle board members — as they have from the beginning of the AIDS/KS Foundation.

In another area, the AIDS/KS Foundation has been geared more to the long haul philosophy than a quick immediate educating of the public. As the number of people with AIDS has increased, frustration with the foundation has also mounted. As of January 31, the Center for Disease Control had reported 393 cases of AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area. Nationally the number stands at 3,339. Over 43% of the cases reported have died.

With people dying, the internal bickering at the AIDS/KS Foundation has continued. Last June, the foundation split into a National and a local foundation. Crane had headed the local organization and Phil Conway became the director of the National.

Following a fundraiser last June at Davies Hall for the National group, a many month tirade of articles appeared in *The Sentinel*. As the articles hammered away at the National AIDS/KS Foundation, Rick Crane continued as a staff writer for the paper, feeding them information from the local organization in the name of public

relations. Ed Power, the assistant director of the local AIDS/KS Foundation and also a writer for the same newspaper, will continue on a part-time basis working for the foundation.

As the foundation has floundered for direction, they have been the butt of constant criticism for lacking a take charge thrust in a mounting health crisis. Their laid-back attitude has been particularly galling to politicians who feel the foundation should have been more powerful in working to get federal money released to fight the disease.

Recently they were the subject of criticism for not releasing statistics relating to a slowdown in the drop of anal venereal disease. The statistics were combined with statements relating to bathhouses in a sensationalistic two-part series in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Many felt the foundation would have better served the Gay community by releasing the figures. Others did not like the foundation's latest poster.

At press time Bolan issued a press release on Crane's leaving. He wrote:

"Crane's skillful shepherding brought the foundation from an all-volunteer 'grass roots' organization to its current position as a professionally staffed organization which is nationally prominent in AIDS education and services. In addition, Crane was responsible for securing the governmental grants and private funding essential for the foundation's operations and growth.

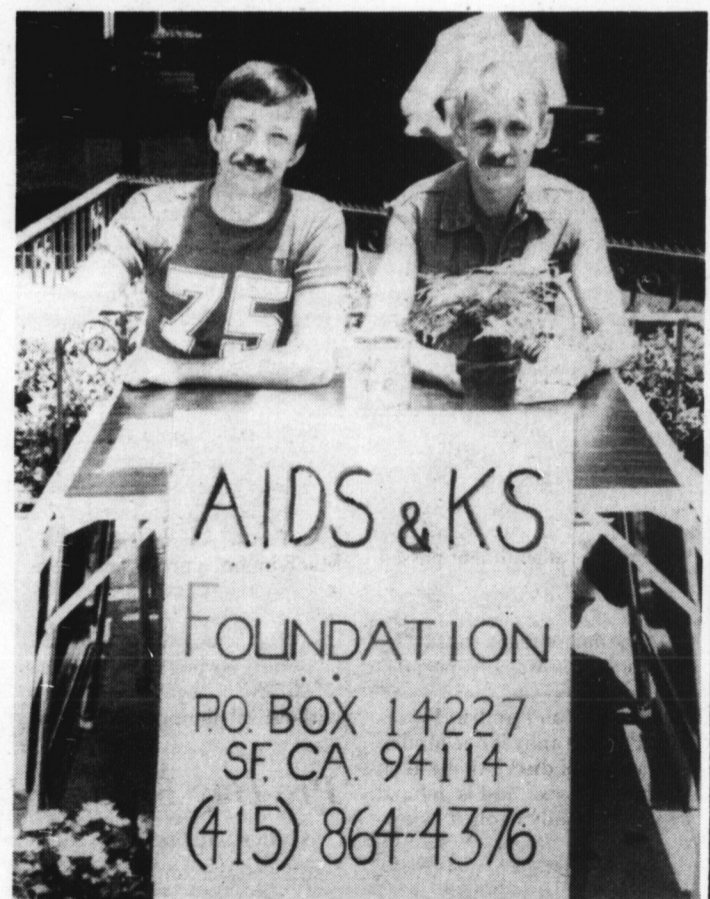
"Mr. Crane, who holds a Masters of Public Health degree from the University of California at Berkeley, will serve as a consultant to the foundation following his departure. Mr. Crane said that the time he served with the foundation was rewarding, enlightening, and exhausting.

"During the search for a new director, interim co-directors will be appointed from the current staff." ■

A. White



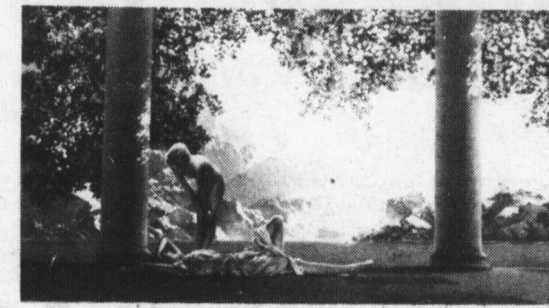
Dr. Robert Bolan, Foundation Chairman, will be looking for a new Executive Director or will there be a coed team in the crystal balls is this week's question. (Photo: Rink)



The community sense of the AIDS/KS Foundation has waned in recent months as funding bases shifted. (Photo: Rink)

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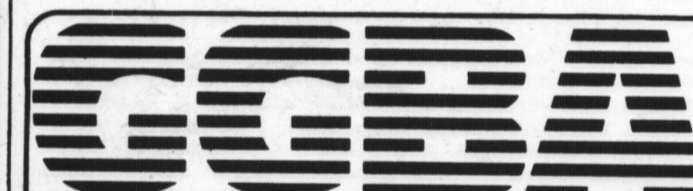
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BORN TO CLEAN

The Inside Story of a Gay Male Maid

by Mike Hippler

His heroine is Opal Sue Gardner, formerly the maid on the soap opera "All My Children." When the phone rang, Opal Sue answered it. "Wallingford Mansion," she would say. "Maid speaking." He has watched the show for nine and a half years now, and although Opal Sue is no longer on it, having gone on to Opal's Unisex Glamorama, he has never forgotten her. Little did he realize, however, when he first watched the show that before long he would follow in the hallowed footsteps of Opal Sue. One day he too would be a maid.

Jim Commander, 36, earned his first money cleaning houses six years ago when he moved to San Francisco from Santa Monica. He had worked in the registrar's office at UCLA for eight years and planned to continue doing the same kind of work here, but when he moved to San Francisco, he found that all state jobs were frozen due to the passage of Proposition 13, and he could not find a position. When someone at a party asked him what he was going to do, he jokingly replied, "Day work." He was overheard by someone else who took him seriously, and by the end of the week he had received offers to clean apartments from that person, that person's sister, the host's cousin, and a neighbor. Overwhelmed, Jim said, "What the hell," and grabbed the nearest broom.

When the state freeze thawed, Jim (whose friends call him "Madge," after the Palmolive lady on TV) got a job at the University of California Medical Center, but after two more years in a registrar's office, he wanted a change and quit to find "something" in private industry. "Something" was hard to find, however, so when his friend Janet asked him to help her part-time and then full-time with her janitorial business, he agreed — as long as she sold him one-fourth of the business. For nine months, then, Jim cleaned 7-11 stores, office buildings, tennis clubs, vacated apartments, and laundromats, often from midnight until dawn. The vacated apartments were the worst, he says. "Those were the nasty jobs. Once I spent eight hours on a shower stall and still didn't get it clean."

Eventually Jim left Janet to form his own partnership with another friend, David. "It was just incredible how quickly the business grew," he says. "We started with one client in May, and by August we were generating enough income to support both of us working less than thirty hours a week. There was so much work that I knew it was only a matter of time before we could pick and choose who our clients would be." In December 1982 Jim became the sole owner of his own business, and he has been "basically self-employed" ever since then. At times he

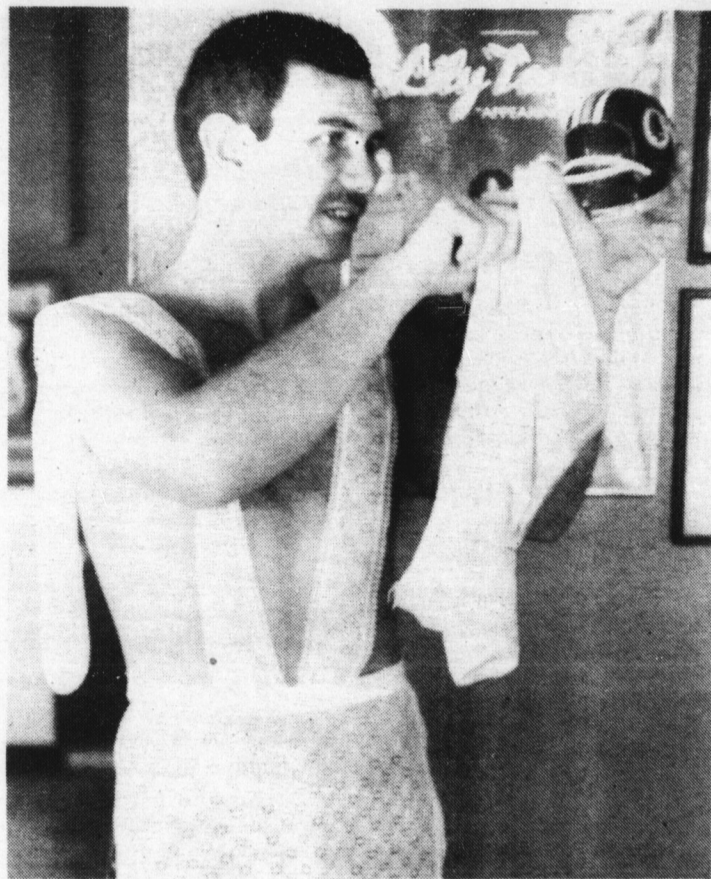
works alone. At other times he works with a number of employees.

Because Jim is a UCLA graduate with ten years of business experience in an academic setting, does it ever bother him that at age 36 he is earning his living as a maid? "No, I never worry about that because I am confident enough in who and what I am that that type of label doesn't bother me. Besides, doing a really good job house-cleaning is just as difficult and as complicated and as much of an intellectual challenge as any office job I've ever had. I have gone

through a lot of changes in attitude toward the business, though. When I had no employees and did all the work myself, I tended to hold myself in lower esteem. I thought that the answer to that was to expand and to generate enough income to justify employees so that I could think of myself as a businessman and not a maid. But now I'm finding that it's more trouble than it's worth, and I would just as soon be a self-employed maid. When people ask me what I do, I used to fudge by telling them that I am self-employed or that I am the



A male maid never has to bring work home from the office. (Photo: Rink)



Jim Commander, 36, who's been cleaning Gay homes for over six years. (Photo: Rink)

twelve hours, depending on how many jobs he has to do, how large they are, and how much help he has. "I will do just about anything the client wants," he says, "as long as it's agreed upon in advance — including laundry, ironing, making beds, and, of course, windows."

Jim points out that being a maid has a number of advantages that few people realize. Because he sets his own hours, not only can he work whenever he wants, he can work as little or as much as he wants. He has the benefit of ready cash and the comfort of knowing that his job is, in his opinion, recession-proof. "If the Commies take over tomorrow, honey, somebody is going to have enough money to pay somebody else to do the dirty work." He never has to bring his work home from the office with him, and because his work is so automatic for him, his mind is free while at work to think of other things. Furthermore, his workplace is his gym. "You get a lot of exercise scrubbing floors," he claims. "There are also side-benefits, which not every maid gets. One client, he explains, leaves a note that says 'Open me' on the outside of his oven whenever he wants his oven cleaned. Inside is always a mirror with several lines of coke on it — 'to help me get through the job,' Jim says. "I tell him, 'My missy be so good to me.' I am often tipped that way."

This is only one of Jim's many amusing stories. "I have walked in on clients in embarrassing situations lots of times, both Gay and straight," he continues. "I've also met some very nice tricks of clients who are still there when I arrive in the morning. They've been told the cleaning man is coming, so they lie around in bed waiting to see what he looks like. One time someone walked in with a tremendous hard-on under his robe and said, 'I've got to do something about this.' I replied, 'Well here, honey, this is a full-service maid.'"

Jim is reluctant to tell stories like this without the assurance that the anonymity of his clients will be protected, for trust, he says, is one of the fundamental aspects of the client-cleaning person relationship. "I've got to be extremely discreet because these clients trust me in their homes, and it's a very personal thing. I have reached the point where I can walk into the home of a new account, and just by the fingerprints I can figure out pretty much how they live, what

their patterns are. I know from their dirt what kind of food they eat, where they shop, and what they do on their days off. You don't have to peek at their mail to find out things like that." Nevertheless, Jim claims, "I am not a snoopy maid. I do open doors and drawers sometimes because I need to know where things are, but I am not snoopy, and my clients know that. They trust me completely. Once you've lost that trust, you've lost the client."

When pressed, however, Jim will reveal a few general truths that he has learned through cleaning houses over the years. Gay clients almost always have four things, he confides — poppers, porno, trick towels, and lubricant — and they are invariably easy to find. Also, Gay people usually have cleaner houses than straight because they have fewer children, use the house less often, cook less, and have more modern units and appliances. "I really have no prejudice one way or the other whose dirt I clean," says Jim, "but a family does make more mess."

Like any other job, cleaning has its ups and downs, Jim adds. There are things he likes to do and things he doesn't. "I love floors," he coos. "Floors are my very favorite. Just like my mother said, there's only one way to get a floor clean, and that's on your hands and knees. It's none of this 'And her hands never even get wet!' business. That's a lot of crap. The only way to get something clean is with elbow grease, and there's no way around it. I love kitchens, too. I could spend hours in a kitchen and rip it apart. I'm not really crazy about bathrooms, however, especially shower stalls. I get real bored dealing with the tile. Windows that are very difficult to reach or are very high up are another of my least favorite chores. Even that dislike, however, is not that intense."

Does Jim intend to clean floors forever? "I don't know," he says. "This was never intended to be a career. But I took it like a duck to water, and I will certainly do it for the indefinite future." Despite appearances, Jim is one of the lucky ones, for there aren't many people who can earn a living doing what it is they love to do, much less do it on their knees. "You just tell everybody I'm dealing in dirt, honey. Make me famous. And can you get in the article somewhere that I also play softball?"

The Ebony Triangle: Gays in Black History

Part II: A Male Impersonator and a Poet Laureate

by Dion B. Sanders

February is Black History Month. During this time, the names of scores of Black historical figures — great and small — are recalled with reverence in Black communities coast to coast. Names like Booker T. Washington, Crispus Attucks, Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Kunta Kinte, Alex Haley, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Whitney M. Young, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and even a fictional character, Miss Jane Pittman. The list goes on and on.

But one may not be aware that many of the hundreds of Blacks who have made their mark on American history were Gay or Lesbian — or, based on circumstantial evidence, at least Bisexual.

In Part I of this report the Bay Area Reporter profiled blues singer Bessie Smith and civil rights veteran Bayard Rustin. In Part II, we take a look at a flamboyant male impersonator who made no secret about her Lesbianism, and a renowned poet and author whose homosexuality has only recently come to light.

GLADYS BENTLEY (1907-1964)

As mentioned in my first installment, Gladys Bentley was Bessie Smith's mentor in show business — and maybe more than that, although there is no concrete evidence that Bentley and Smith had a relationship. The closest piece of circumstantial evidence was a gossip column in the *Interstate Tattler*, a Black version of today's *National Enquirer*.

In an item appearing in the February 27, 1925, issue of the *Tattler*, columnist Floyd Snelson (who was also the *Tattler's* publisher) wrote in his "Town Tattle" column a warning to Bentley:

"Gladys, if you don't keep away from B. (presumably Smith) G. (presumably Smith's husband, Jack Gee) is going to do a little convincing that he is her husband. Aren't you capable of finding some unexplored land 'all alone'?"

Unlike Smith, who despite her openness about her relationships fought tooth and nail to keep them secret from her husband, Bentley was not only out of the closet, she was quite militant about her Lesbianism, even going so far as to have what we now call a "Holy Union" ceremony with her lover in the early 1930s — and it was a civil ceremony!

Like Bayard Rustin, Pennsylvania was also Bentley's native state, having been born there to a poor Philadelphia family in 1907. The eldest of four children, Bentley grew up very much

a tomboy, and, by her own admission, the "Black Sheep" of the family.

"My mother," Bentley wrote in a 1953 autobiography in *Jet* magazine, "was very bitterly against having a girl. She had prayed and made all the preparations for a boy until having a son became an obsession with her. Girls, she was convinced, were fated for trouble."

As it turned out, Bentley's mother got her wish — even though her firstborn was a girl.

Bentley became a "male impersonator," a torch singer performing in male drag — off stage, as well as on. In fact, Bentley wore male clothes as early as the age of ten, when she stole her brothers' suits and wore them to school.

In 1923, at the age of 16, Bentley left home for the bright lights of New York, where she landed a job as a pianist at the Mad House nightclub in Harlem — despite objections by the club's male-chauvinist owner that only men were capable of playing the piano.

With her piano expertise, a socko singing voice and male-impersonator routine, Bentley was a smash hit, eventually moving south to engagements in swanky night spots downtown — often places where no Black performer ever set foot in.

From that success came engagements all over the country, and by the time of the stock market crash in 1929, Bentley had become something that was an extreme rarity among Blacks — a millionaire.



Gay Black poet Langston Hughes

only weeks after the celebrated sex-change operation of Christine Jorgensen — Bentley writes that she was caught in the "Twilight Zone" between the sexes, suggesting that she, like Jorgensen, was a hermaphrodite.

Whether she really meant that, or whether she wrote it to avoid being blacklisted, we may never know.

LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967)

James Mercer Langston Hughes, poet, playwright and author, is perhaps best remembered for *The Dream Keeper*, *The Barrier*, *Laughing To Keep From Crying*, and other works.

That Hughes was Gay was made known only after his death, as Hughes had kept his private life a closely-guarded secret. Even today, details about his private life remain difficult to come by.

Hughes was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1902 to a very distinguished Black family. His great-uncle, John Mercer Langston, was a graduate of the exclusive Oberlin College before the Civil War, first dean of the Howard University Law School, ambassador to Haiti, Charge D'Affaires in Santo Domingo, and a one-term congressman from Virginia from 1888 to 1890.

His grandmother's first husband, Sheridan Leary, fought

and died with anti-slavery crusader John Brown at Harper's Ferry. His grandmother was the first Black graduate at Oberlin College, and her second husband, Charles Langston, was a successful businessman. Perhaps because of his family's high social standing, Hughes kept his private life very private.

About the only real clue to Hughes' personal life in print is in the book *When Harlem Was In Vogue* by David Levering Lewis.

Lewis writes that in 1922, while a student at Columbia University — whose campus was only a stone's throw from Harlem — Hughes worked odd jobs to partially finance his education. He wasn't thrilled about these jobs, and said so in confidence to author and poet Countee Cullen, his best friend.

Cullen, who was well-known for his lifelong relationship with Harlem schoolteacher Harold Jackman, had, according to Lewis, grown very fond of Hughes (perhaps even fallen in love with him) one time sending Hughes an autographed photo of himself with a somewhat sensuous poem, "To a Brown Boy," dedicated to Hughes.

Hughes wrote back with a cute note: "I don't know what to say about the 'For L.H.' but I like the poem."

John Patterson, creator and performer of *The Dream Keeper Speaks*, an anthology of Hughes' writings, cited another possible clue: a poem, entitled "Cafe: 3 A.M.," which describes a police raid on a Prohibition-era "buffet flat" party: *Detectives from the vice squad / With weary, sadistic eyes / Spotting fairsies, / Degenerates! / Some folks say.*

But God, Nature, / Or somebody / Made them that way. / Police lady or Lesbian / Over there. / Where?

We won't know for certain whether Hughes was Gay or not until Arthur Rampersad completes his biography. The Hughes estate has restricted access to Hughes' papers until the biography is published.



Black Lesbian entertainer of the 20s, Gladys Bentley.

It was during this time that she met her lover, whom she "married" in a civil ceremony in New York in 1932. Details about her relationship are not available, only that it ended after World War II.

With the rise of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s and his relentless hounding of suspected communists and homosexuals in the entertainment industry, Bentley, apparently out of fear of seeing her career destroyed, married twice.

In her *Jet* magazine article, entitled "I Am A Woman Again" — which was published

TO J.H.A.

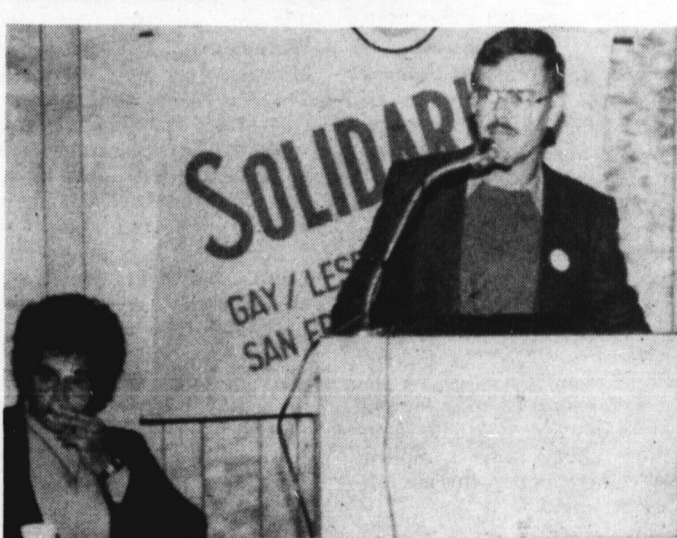
The clock read 12 Midnight as the background noise and voices from the bar clicked into silence — as you set the receiver down — I laid there holding the broken contact, hoping you would pick your end back up.

I grew very cold — rigid — every muscle began to ache. The dial tone — the cruel dial tone — became an unbearable noise — but dared place the phone down.

My pillow — soaked now — I find myself wanting to run to the bar you called from — but alas, my emotions have me paralyzed in their grip. I cannot move; I can only hold on — hoping you will soon pick up your end of the phone.

LOVE, T.R.B.

Coors Case Dismissed



Howard Wallace at rally on Solidarity fighting Coors Brewery. Coors filed suit and this week it was dismissed. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from page 1)

Art Brunwasser, the attorney who represented Solidarity for the ACLU, commented on the Wallace decision. "This was a frivolous lawsuit that had no legal basis. It was another effort by Coors to crush the boycott. It is the classic case of the use of the court in an attempt to stop a

political opponent." He added, "I hope those who were sued will now sue Coors for unlawful prosecution."

Wallace was represented by two AFL-CIO attorneys, Fred Altschuler and Marsha Berzon. Neither was available for comment.

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A GAY VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

Part I of Four Parts

'84 Will Test Gay Clout and Community

What to Expect at the Federal Level

by Larry Bush

Washington, which often catches on to things after the rest of the country, started the 1984 year at the end of January. President Reagan gave his State of the Union message on January 26, and Congress had only begun the year by reconvening two days earlier, on January 24. The President's new budget (which will take up most of the year's debate) came out February 2, and then the details — including the amount for AIDS research — weren't clear for weeks after that. Even in an election year that feels as though it started months earlier, the first votes by rank-and-file citizens weren't cast until February 20 in Iowa.

Most of January was taken up, politically speaking, by dress rehearsals. Politicians floated trial balloons on new programs or approaches to win votes. Reporters scanned the horizon for new ways of looking at the same faces, and ordinary citizens searched for new reasons to feel optimistic.

Among the January try-outs was the idea, renewed with a bit more evidence behind it, that Gays might make a considerable difference in the elections and in American society in 1984. *The Wall Street Journal* ran a feature suggesting Gays could be "the major factor" in the '84 elections, the *Los Angeles Times* ran a mammoth front page article January 1, the *New York Times* began researching a second article on Gay politics, the McNeil-Lehrer Program began interviewing Gay politicians, NBC collected more footage at Gay endorsement meetings, and the Christian Right churned out new warnings about the "Gay threat" for 1984.

Amidst the hoopla, however, Gays got a new glimpse into the way the world views their efforts. It came in the *Times* article, which included a major new public opinion survey. Public attitudes toward homosexuality continued to show a large disapproval factor, and attitudes toward civil rights laws showed a large approval factor. But for the first time, the public was surveyed on a new question: "How sympathetic would you say you are to the homosexual community?"

Nationwide, Americans said they were unsympathetic: 63 percent to 30 percent. That compares with 52 percent opposed to homosexuality and 43 percent accepting it for themselves or others, and 52 percent favoring job protections for Gays with a minority 36 percent opposing them — almost a reverse of the figures of those sympathetic to a Gay community.

While not enough information is available about how the public feels about other minority communities, there still appears to be some thought-provoking relationship in these responses. The public is increasingly acceptant of ending discrimination, uncertain on the issue of homosexuality itself, and unhappy about the emergence of a Gay community.

In 1984, that may well turn out to be the cutting edge of change for Gay people. Other and even stronger indications suggest that Gays as individuals are winning public acceptance out in the open — the changes can almost be characterized as a "post-Harvey Fierstein" climate. Certainly one of the ironies in January was the launching of an Olympics 1984 fundraiser in New York with

million. The addition of some carry-over money from 1983 means that about \$47 million will be spent on AIDS in 1984. For 1985, expect the Reagan Administration to propose something between \$50 and \$60 million, with new funding for local Gay groups to provide services.

Congress will make some increases in that figure, depending on how well Gays argue for more money. The scientific community already has made its arguments at every level, and so the major tinkering will come through new money for counseling programs, hot lines, and the like, where Gays are now trying to document needs. In addition, expect Congress to push harder for funding of the \$30 million Public Health Emergency Fund, which it authorized but did not fund last year. Do not expect the Reagan Administration to put any money in its budget proposal for the fund, however.

The Reagan Administration may also get smoked out of hiding on the immigration reform issue on exclusion of Gays. Congress will take up the exclusion question in a Judiciary subcommittee hearing, perhaps in March, but even before that White House counselor Edwin Meese will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation hearings for his new post as Attorney General. That could lead to questioning on the Administration's feelings about reform of the anti-Gay exclusion. Observers also expect Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Edward Brandt to deliver on a commitment to oppose the anti-Gay exclusion's health rationale, thus adding another Administration voice in favor of reform.

Don't expect Administration meetings with Gays outside the Health and Human Services Department, at least pre-Meese, was unwilling to meet with the National Gay Task Force on civil rights legislation or on its review of security clearance requirements. However, some meetings did take place with the Justice team working on immigration reform. Defense Department officials flatly refused to meet with the NGTF even on the humane issue of servicemen with AIDS. The White House itself has remained aloof from Gays, although representatives of the Liaison Office have been quoted several times making derogatory remarks about Gay civil rights and expressing hopes that Americans will tag the Democrats as the "pro-Gay" political party. As the year begins, there are quiet moves among Gay Republicans to bring their issue to the White House, but the outlook for success remains uncertain.

In Congress, however, there now are more open doors than Gay groups can handle. In addition to the AIDS concerns and the immigration reform issue, there now are efforts to have the Government Accounting Office issue a report on how much the military spends to determine who is homosexual and then to process them from military service; a Congressional Research Service study of what anti-Gay laws and regulations currently exist around the country that would be overturned by a federal Gay civil rights law; and oversight hearings will continue on such topics as police responsiveness to minorities, federal security clearance requirements, even some consideration about minority participation in federal funding for the arts and humanities.

The reason for this activity is clear: all 435 House members

CUAV

Whistle While You Lurk

by Stef Mattfeld

What would be your long and short strategies to end anti-Gay violence? This was a question on the application form that was handed to me the first time I walked into CUAV a year and a half ago. It is a question that the folks who started CUAV must have asked themselves and that we continue to ask each other today. Beyond providing support and assistance to people who have been attacked, what are we doing to end street violence? CUAV was started by some people who were sick of queerbashing, and who began a crisis hotline and began street monitoring. We have talked about self-help (safety-tips, self defense classes), community responsiveness (monitoring, organizing), and about education. Talk has turned to action and today CUAV's projects have expanded beyond client advocacy and monitoring, although these remain an important part of our work.

WHISTLE DAY: FEB. 25

One project that we do each year is the whistle campaign, and we're doing it right now. Whistles are an effective way to avoid attack. Countless people have phoned our hotline with success stories of how, by using whistles, they have scared off an assailant or summoned neighbors who caught the attacker. The campaign reflects community involvement: people have volunteered their time to sell whistles on the corner of 18th and Castro each weekend. Merchants are selling whistles from their stores. Flyers have been printed with our best graphics yet, thanks to volunteer Cary Norsworthy.

All of this is leading up to this coming Saturday, February 25, when volunteers will meet at CUAV, break into teams and flyer six major streets in the city. The information will be familiar to many *Bay Area Reporter* readers but we hope to reach many new people and inspire them to use whistles when in danger and respond to their neighbors when they need help.



For further information on the whistle campaign call CUAV at 864-3112.

are up for re-election this year, as are 34 Senators. While no one expects major legislative initiatives, oversight hearings give members of Congress a wonderful platform to raise issues they believe will help back home.

OUTREACH TO THE DEAF COMMUNITY
CUAV finally has a TTY machine which is hooked into our telephone, so that deaf and hearing impaired people can call into the hotline. The machines type out our conversations on both ends! This means that our services are now accessible to many people who couldn't use the hotline before. Our thanks go to the Catholic Social Services and the Deaf Services Network for helping us to begin to publicize this capability.

There are two other strategies that have repeatedly come up at CUAV. One is education and the other is neighborhood organizing. Enter our two new staff members — Carmen Vazquez, Self Defense Project Coordinator and R. Hunter Morey, the Youth Education Coordinator. Both will be doing outreach and interacting with other neighborhoods and agencies. Carmen will be looking into assault trends through city statistics and providing resources to people who live in neighborhoods where there have been recurring street violence problems. Hunter is putting together a slide show on anti-Gay violence to be shown to junior high and senior high school students.

Self Help - Safety Tips - Education. Our other strategy must be community responsiveness — to encourage each other to get involved. This week you have the chance to take a short term strategy for ending anti-Gay violence!

1. Take a couple of hours Saturday to post whistle flyers, with other CUAV volunteers.
2. Buy a whistle for yourself and a friend.
3. Use them!

Our thanks go for the outstanding work of volunteers Cathy Cain, Jonathan Goldman, and Denise Young, and to the concerned merchants who are selling whistles. Castro: High Gear, SF Office Supplies, P.O. Plus; Mission: Valencia Rose Cafe, Old Wives Tales, Modern Times; Haight: Mendell's, Green Gulch Grocery, Held Over.

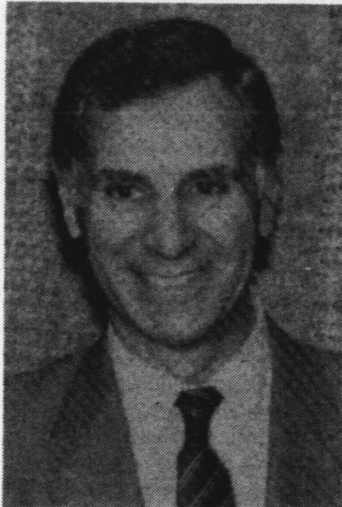


POLITICS AND POKER

AB-1 Goes to Governor

WAYNE FRIDAY

With the passage last week of AB-1 by the state Senate (4 Republicans joined 18 Democrats in the vote) the fate of the legislation sponsored by San Francisco's Art Agnos is now left up to Republican Governor George Deukmejian. AB-1, the bill that would prohibit discrimination in employment in California on the basis of sexual orientation, makes California the second state to enact such legislation. Similar legislation was signed into law two years ago in Wisconsin by its then Republican Governor Dreyfus.



Governor Deukmejian — will he sign AB-1?

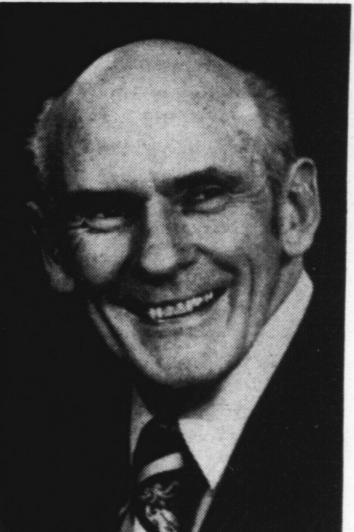
Assemblyman Agnos told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that he is "hopeful that Governor Deukmejian's sense of fair play" will lead the governor to sign the bill into law. Deukmejian can, of course, let the bill become law without his signature, but a gubernatorial veto would doom the law because the votes clearly would not be there to override. A number of Gay Republican activists around the state, including those here in the City, have told me they actually expect the governor to sign the law despite a well-organized telegram campaign directed at Deukmejian from fundamentalist backers of State Senator H. L. Richardson (R), the chief opponent of the measure. Agnos and his staff were jubilant after last Thursday's vote and immediately sent out a press release under the heading "Agnos Wins Senate Gay Rights Vote," although the same release did give credit to where it actually belonged last Thursday — with Senate leader David Roberti (noting that "thanks largely to the leadership of Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti, AB-1 has cleared its last major hurdle before going to Governor Deukmejian").

Send a telegram to Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, urging him to sign AB-1 or call his SF office at 557-3326.

Walter Mondale's the winner in Monday's Iowa caucus, but his opponents all claim they will stick in there, for the time being anyway. Jesse Jackson, interviewed last Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation," is beginning to show both of his faces. Asked if he in fact urged Mondale to recognize the PLO when he met with Mondale before he (Jackson) entered the race, Jackson tried every way possible to avoid answering, and was clearly uncomfortable when the opening of the program featured a tape of a much younger Jackson in full Afro urging, some years ago, "a summer of unrest and discontent," some-

thing a presidential candidate of 1984 would rather not be reminded of. Asked if he would press Mondale for PLO recognition if Mondale wins the Democratic nomination, Jackson finally admitted he would, saying simply, "Of course." Meanwhile, tension between Jackson and the Jewish community is getting no better. The *Washington Post* editorialized last week criticizing Jackson for reportedly telling reporters that Jews are only "hymies" and saying that New York City was "hymietown." Aren't racial and ethnic slurs supposed to be passe in politics — even from Black candidates? Jackson would do well to take a page from political history books of Earl Butz or James Watt.

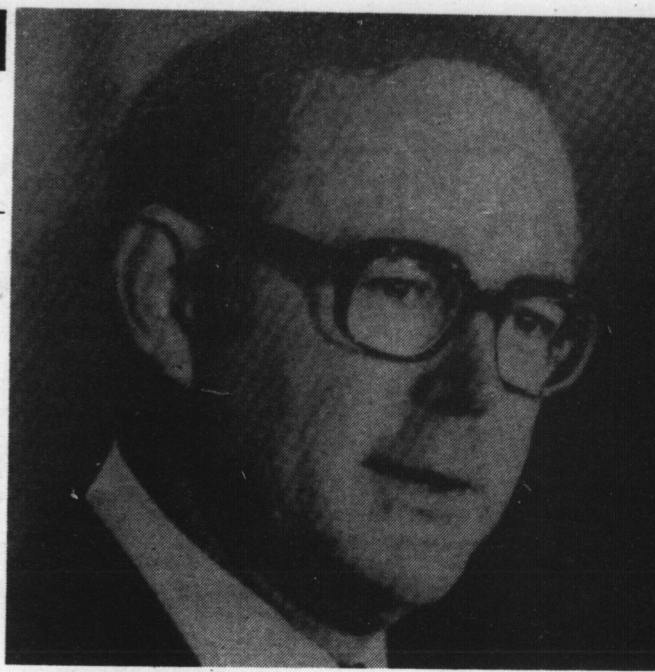
You can always tell it's an election year in the City. Quentin Kopp, who has consistently attacked and voted against the San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project, actually attended and spoke to their annual dinner Thursday night, but found himself on the losing end of the applause meter when put up against longtime Diversion supporter Jack Molinari. • And yes, that was Molinari huddling with some Gay politicians at the Elephant Walk on Castro the other evening. • Zohn Artman, Tom Waddell, Dick Hongisto, Mike Hennessey, Harry Britt, Nancy Walker among those sponsoring a reception next Wednesday night, February 29, for Alan Cranston at Waddell's Albion Hall (6-7:30, \$25, 885-4908 for info).



Alan Cranston's campaign is on the ropes.

Demo Party warning Ohio's Senator John Glenn that his increasing attacks on frontrunner Mondale getting a bit out of hand. National Demo boss Chuck Manatt sent Glenn a message that it was getting to be too much, warning that "we Democrats can't afford rhetoric that might eventually give comfort to our foes." Alan Cranston joined in by saying that "the only American who finds the Mondale/Glenn debate useful is Ronald Reagan." (And it's just warming up. A long time until July; i. could become fun.)

Supervisory candidate Kevin Starr got a bit of bad news last week when Jonathan Buckley threw his hat into the race for supe. Buckley, a member of the Coalition for Better Housing's Board of Directors, is expected to cut into the money Starr was hoping to get from real estate interests. • And school board member Dick Cerbatos has his election effort off to a healthy start. Cerbatos, married to Claire Pilcher, the popular Director of the Board of Permit Appeals, is picking up early en-



Chief Demo Charles Manatt telling Demo rivals to drop level of attack on each other.

dorsements. • The large turnout for Pete McCloskey at Tuesday night's CRIR meeting showing the former congressman still has a lot of supporters. • Incidentally, you can expect to see State Senator Ed Davis (one of the four GOP votes for AB-1 in the Senate) at a future CRIR meeting. The Concerned Republicans are looking for a way to thank the senator for his vote.

She knows him too. At a rally in New Hampshire honoring Susan B. Anthony on her birthday anniversary, Lyn Glenn, daughter of anti-Gay presidential candidate John Glenn, was seen wearing a button that read: "If We Can Send One Man to the Moon, Why Not Send Them All There?" • Bill Mandel's column in Sunday's *Examiner* on the Gay Games a beat.

Last week we reported that there was a real possibility that the Republicans would not run a candidate this year against Congresswoman Sala Burton, and one of the main reasons is the healthy re-election account the lady already has. By the end of last year Burton had raised \$354,791, compared to \$189,645 raised by the City's other congressperson, Barbara Boxer. • Donald J. Devin, the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, spoke to last Friday night's annual Lincoln Day Dinner at the Meridian Hotel sponsored by the San Francisco Republican Party.

NY Governor Mario Cuomo has given up hopes of being the Dems' keynote speaker at the July convention and some are saying that opens the way for Mondale to consider him for the veep spot. • And the latest tall all book about to hit the stands

is by former Carter press secretary Jody Powell. In the coming book Powell takes off the gloves (ala Ed Koch) on a number of big names, mostly Democrats. On Ed Koch and former NY Governor Hugh Carey, Powell says, "No more slippery pair of political ingrates had ever sidled into the Oval Office, hat in one hand, shiv in the other." Ted Kennedy is accused of "sabotaging" Carter's re-election campaign, adding that Kennedy suffers from "childlike self-centeredness" and of "adolescent peevishness."

Famed Las Vegas entertainment gossip columnist Dick Maurice on Monday's "People Are Talking" program on Channel 5 saying that in fact comedienne Joan Rivers is no friend of Gays, commented that "although Joan professes to be a friend of the Gays, she is always putting them down at the expense of getting a laugh," adding that during Jerry Brown's dismal presidential candidacy a couple of years ago Rivers cracked to a national television show that "it would be great if Jerry Brown wins, that way we get a President and a First Lady all in one." On the same program Maurice brought up the question of sexual preference of such stars as Rock Hudson, Liberace, television's Mr. T., and singer Michael Jackson, adding that he "wouldn't be surprised if Michael Jackson took hormone shots" (and how was your day?).

The Harvey Milk Gay Demo Club has set the date of May 30 for their Annual Dinner. The site is the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park and the speaker is to be announced. ■



State Senator Roberti brought home AB-1.

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San Jose Poll

Thumbs Up on AB-1

Employment Rights Bill Gets 2-1 Support from Whites, Hispanics, and Blacks

by John Wetzel

Following State Senate passage of AB-1 on February 16, Bay Area Reporter's East Bay correspondent John Wetzel drove to San Jose and began asking questions only to be dealt some interesting, though not shocking, responses. His findings are not scientifically derived but give a feeling for the South Bay state of opinion.

This informal survey was biased as follows: slight overrepresentation taken by the 19-25 year age group (13 respondents), singles (11), Whites (14), and males (13).

Interviews were conducted randomly with people in the Eastridge Mall, on San Jose downtown streets, and around the Civic Center area. Bay Area Reporter called itself neutral to all respondents.

Fifteen out of twenty-three people polled in San Jose's Eastridge Shopping Mall and downtown areas last Thursday said they supported Senate approval of California Assembly Bill 1. None of the twenty-three had been aware of the bill's passage, but most thought it was fair for Gays and Lesbians to receive legal job protection.

Three interviewees were worried that Gays might "bother" fellow employees, or customers being fitted for clothing (pants), or young students in the classroom. Only six surveyed (27%) were steadfastly against AB-1 and against equal opportunity employment.

"I find that this area is fairly conservative. But I believe the bill has support here. There are some very liberal thinkers," explained one 35-year-old, Parlene. A secretary, Parlene did not know AB-1 had passed through the state Senate.

A majority of those surveyed

had been leaning, bag in hand.

By and large, however, support for AB-1 and recognition of Gays and Lesbians as a class was strong.

"Gay and Lesbian is a minority in itself and all minorities are discriminated against," said Elena. "We have to be supportive. That's just the way I feel. I've been raised open-minded."

"I believe the bill has support here. There are some liberal thinkers."

Parlene, secretary, 35

San Jose's Hispanic and Mexican-American community is large and has a certain amount of political influence in San Jose, despite its lack of representation. Five Hispanics surveyed, both women and men, all supported job protection for Gays and Lesbians. "They're people too," says Juan.

Most of those asked indicated that homosexuality is discussed in the home, an important institution for Mexican-Americans. "Yes, we discuss it," says Patricia Rensso, who is separated from her husband. "We talk about what's right and what's wrong."

A surprising number of interviewees signaled support for job protection, despite their condemnation of homosexuality. "It's none of the employer's business," said Nancy Gonzalez, 19. "It's up to people whether they will be homosexual. I'm against it, still, but I don't think it's fair to fire people. They're human too."

And Coy Rushings, 39, melo-ly by a divorce and an easy-going disposition, nodded his measured approval too. "I think (the Senate) probably did the right thing but that doesn't mean I condone homosexuality."

"I would just as soon fire them. I don't want them around."

Lily, jeweler, 21

officials only "represent their own interests anyway."

Across the mall, Whitehall Jewellers employee Lily, age 21, was surprised at AB-1's passage. "I'm totally against that," she asserted, flashing a charming smile. "I would just as soon fire them. I don't want them around."

Lily joked an "insult," probing the reporter's sexual orientation, then she constructed a postage stamp review of Whitehall employee sexuality: "Nobody here's like that. We all love guys."

"It would be unacceptable grounds for dismissal..."

Michael

Lily thought a majority of San Jose's citizens would agree with her because "the majority is not Gay and the majority that I talk to can't stand them. They're all on my side."

Said Dan Corey, 35 and married for over 20 years. "I don't think God put people on the earth to go with their own sex." Corey went down on the record against AB-1, then shoved off from the balcony rail where he



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East Bay Demos

Potential Presidents and Gay Rights

Alan Cranston and Jesse Jackson were the two top vote-getters at the February endorsement meeting of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, though neither candidate received the 60% necessary for endorsement. Cranston was by far the largest vote-getter, garnering 52% of the Club's vote. Jackson got a little more than half that amount with 29% of the vote. The other candidates trailed far behind: Mondale 7%, and Mc Govern, Hart, Hollings, and No Endorsement each getting 3%.

Jo Kuney, former vice president of Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and now on the Cranston staff, represented the senator. Peggy Hora, Alameda County political activist and candidate for judge in Hayward, spoke for Mondale. Joel Paul represented Gary Hart, and Paul Melbostad did the same for McGovern. Perhaps indicative of that campaign's lack of organization, no representative was sent from the

Jackson campaign. Fortunately, club member Billy Jones, a Jackson supporter, was able to fill in and represent that candidate.

Deciding not to have succeeding ballots, the Club then voted approval of a proposal commending all the above candidates for their positions in favor of Lesbian and Gay civil rights.

Virtually the entire East Bay legislative contingent that is up for re-election attended the meeting. Early endorsements were made for Democratic incumbents who are supporters of Lesbian/Gay rights. State Senator Nicholas Petris (9th district) made his first appearance before the Club and emphasized his continued support for AB 1. He said he would have introduced it in the Senate, but that Roberti had decided he would do it.

State Assemblypeople Tom Bates (12th district), Elihu Harris (13th district), and Johan Klehs (14th district) spoke of

health at food and beverage facilities should AB-1 pass.

It was refreshing that AIDS never came up once in any course of discussion with San Jose residents. I never brought

AB-1

(Continued from previous page) should be of least concern."

One man put his perspective simply. "It would be unacceptable grounds for dismissal."

"They probably did the right thing, but that doesn't mean I condone homosexuality... a man is supposed to be a man..."

Coy Rushings, divorced, 39

AB-1 prevents discriminatory hiring and firing practices of Lesbians and Gays by California employers. The bill's chief opponents had claimed that the law would encourage homosexual behavior. They also said AIDS carriers could endanger public

up the issue either. The recurring theme in San Jose these days seems to be, to each his or her own at the workplace. It is likely that the governor will let the bill pass into law unvetted and unsigned.

J. Wetzel



Demo Endorsing. Democratic candidates were well-represented by (l. to r.) Peggy Hora for Mondale, Jo Kuney for Senator Cranston, EBL/GDC member Tom Brougham, Joel Paul for Gary Hart, Paul Melbostad for McGovern, and club member Billy Jones filling in for Jesse Jackson's rep. (Photo: M.A. Brownstein)

their commitment to achieving Lesbian and Gay civil rights. Bates, a longtime supporter of the club, is the author of AB 848, the "anti-Gay bashing" bill that would extend civil rights protections to victims of anti-Gay violence. Klehs is sponsoring AB 621, which would prohibit employers from asking "irrelevant" questions about employees' or job applicants' private lives.

Lee Halterman spoke for Congressman Ron Dellums and Jeff Stark represented his father, Congress Pete Stark. Both have

been strong supporters of national Gay Civil rights legislation.

The next meeting of the EBL/GDC will be a public forum to discuss the new Oakland Lesbian/Gay rights ordinance. It will be Sunday evening, March 11 at 7 PM at Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. The meeting is free and wheelchair accessible. All those interested in finding out about the new Oakland law are invited to attend. Info: Call 843-2459.

Oakland

Glenn Unacceptable

The Lesbian & Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party meeting in Oakland on February 4, 1984 at the State Party Convention passed the following resolution:

"We declare that John Glenn's position on human rights for Lesbians and Gay men is so lacking in humanity that he is totally unacceptable as either the Presidential or Vice-Presidential candidate of our Party."

The Caucus also joined the Jesse Jackson Campaign in asking the State Party to release voter registration funds before the June primary.

It was also announced that Bill Kraus, aide to Congresswoman Sala Burton and former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, was appointed to the Platform Committee of the National Democratic Party.

Arson Closes LA Area Gay Disco

One of the oldest and most popular of the Southland's Gay discos was set afire last week and has closed. The Pink Elephant at 2810 Main Street, Santa Monica, had severe damage. The Wednesday a.m. blaze involved several small interior fires set by an arsonist. The business was not open at the time.

The arsonist had poured out all of the bar's liquor, robbed the jukebox and cigarette machine, and pulled a clock from the wall before setting the fires. This indicated that "it was a revenge fire," according to local fire Battalion Chief Paul Stein.

The Pink Elephant was one of the few Los Angeles area Gay bars that catered to both Lesbians and Gay men. The perplexed manager, Ken Evans, said the bar had a quiet clientele and had been open for 13 years. He said he was perplexed because "we have had instances of hostility but nothing would explain this."

FUNNY BOY

His humor is a little weak. No repartee excels. Of course he's very tongue-in-cheek. In everybody else's.

by Woolly

VD Can Be Yours

A Free and confidential VD clinic, offering screening, testing and treatment is operated by the Gay Men's Health Collective each Sunday from 7 to 9 PM at the Berkeley Free Clinic. The VD Clinic is for Gay men and run by Gay men and is wheelchair accessible. The Collective can be reached at 604-0425. The Clinic is at 2339 Durant in Berkeley.

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Tiburon
Gay Ministry Matches Grant

At a board meeting on February 9, Ministry of Light Treasurer, Ann Graves of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Marin City, announced that Ministry of Light had succeeded in raising the \$9,400 required to qualify for a matching grant made last December 1 for the same amount. The grant was awarded by the Mission Development Committee of the National Office of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and will be channeled through the Presbytery of the Redwoods, the regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Normal processing of the grant delayed starting of the fundraising campaign by Ministry of Light — A Nonjudgmental Ministry with Gay Men & Lesbians until early January. The boards delight was expressed by its Executive Director, Rev. Jane A. Spahr, who attributed the highly successful drive to the overwhelming support of the ministry by the local and national Lesbian's and Gay men's community.

Said Rev. Spahr, "It is a wonderful response from a community whose spirituality and responsibility has been attacked over the years by well-meaning but uninformed people. Like the

spectacular growth of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwoods in Mill Valley, this is resoundingly positive response by the hundreds of Gay men, Lesbians, their families and sensitive straight friends who are often ignored or threatened by most mainstream denominations. Presbyterian churches, locally and nationally are beginning to understand the need for ministries such as ours. We thank the Presbyterian Church (USA) for giving Ministry of Light not only its money, but also for the opportunity for our Gay brothers, sisters, family and friends to publicly demonstrate their support of the ministry."

Sacramento
Action In River City

River City Family held its Fourth Anniversary Potluck and Annual Business Meeting on February 4 and seventy-five people attended. By special vote the word "Our" was dropped from its lead-off position of the group's name. The consensus was that "Our" sounded too exclusive, and the organization is open to all Gay men, Lesbians, families and straight friends. Spokesman John Helm said, "You are a member of River City Family when you walk in the door and there are no dues. River City Family provides a warm, friendly, family atmosphere, and an alternative to the bar scene."

Among other actions, the RCF elected officers, reduced the number of leadership positions, and changed the office of Historian to Publicist. The elected officers are: Director, Paul Schierenberg; Associate Director, Sandy Nance; Secre-

tary, David Shields; Treasurer, Dennis Elliott; Publicist, John D. Helm.

The next RCF potluck will be held Saturday, March 3 from 6 to 10 P.M. Those attending are asked to provide a food dish for 4-6 people and BYOB... RCF provides the rest. For directions and/or further information, contact Paul or Larry at AC (916) 371-2946. There will also be a raffle. Anyone wishing to donate prizes, please contact Sonny at (916) 925-4667. We will discuss the possibility of a booth at the Gay Freedom Week Fair, and other fund raisers.

Volleyball continues on Thursday evenings from 7 PM to 11 PM at Sacramento City College Women's Gym. All equipment is provided and a \$2.50 admission is charged to cover the cost of gym rental and equipment upkeep. Power as well as recreational teamplay is available.

Religion Comes to the AID

While awaiting clues to its cause or a cure to its ills, theologians will talk. A conference and panel discussion titled Pastoral Counseling and the AIDS Patient will take place from 12-5 PM on Saturday, February 25 in the Mudd Building, Room 100, of the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic in Berkeley. There is no admission charge.

Panel discussion topics include an AIDS overview and East Bay Issues, Psychological Issues and Pastoral Counseling and AIDS. Participants come from local and national AIDS foundations, Pacific Center AIDS Interfaith Network, and Mt. Zion and Saint Mary's Hospitals. The event is sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Community of the Graduate Theological Union. Info: Terry, 548-4810, evenings.

LA Gay Pride Festival Plans on Schedule

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles (CSW) Operations Coordinator Chuck Montgomery has announced that all committees for the 1984 Gay Pride Festival are meeting regularly and are generally ahead of schedule for the massive event to be held on June 30 and July 1. The officers of CSW, on the second floor at 7925 Santa Monica Blvd. (above Barbaras Place Printing) are now open from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. Chuck is there to handle all inquiries about the Festival, including the Festival Games, concession space on the Festival grounds and Parade information. The CSW office phone number is (213) 656-6553.

New organizations and businesses that may wish to take part in this years event are encouraged to call the office to receive an official Festival or Parade application. All participation must be funneled through CSW.

Boalt Alumni

Lesbian and Gay alumni of Boalt Hall are forming an alumni association. The primary purposes will be to provide information and support to currently-enrolled Lesbian and Gay law students, to establish a network of contacts for both students and alumni as a resource on areas of practice (in both legal and geographical senses), and to voice our concerns on Gay-related issues to the school administration.

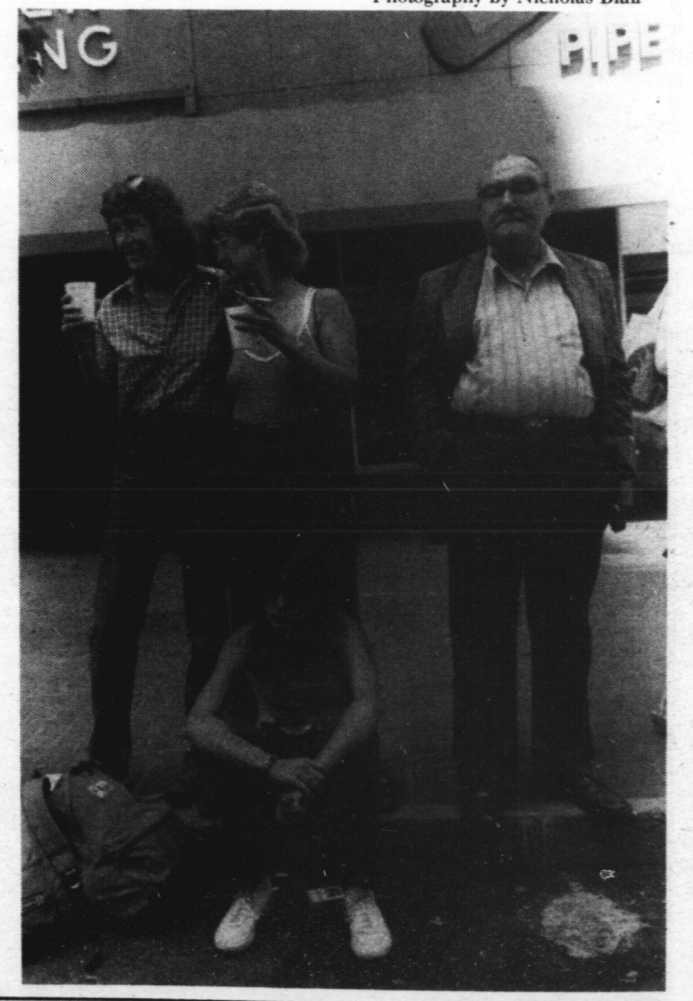
The kick-off event will be a pot-luck get-together with current members of the Boalt Hall Lesbian and Gay Caucus at 2167 Virginia Street in Berkeley. All interested alumni are invited to attend, to bring friends, and to contribute food or drink. For further information, telephone Tom Reilly at 557-0323 or 845-6655. The Alumni Pot-luck will be held on Saturday, March 10 at 7 PM.

Kentfield Support Group

A support group for Gay men is now being formed in Kentfield in Marin County. The group, limited to eight participants, will meet for eight weeks on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM. For more information and to enroll, call Anita Eagleton, 454-9399.

From Castro to Christopher

Photography by Nicholas Blair



BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

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

It's The Little Things You Do Together

"Ms. Feminist" Takes a Humanist Look at the Details That Make Up Love

by John F. Karr

Plays are frequently not about the story they seem to be telling. Plot can be a tool, the trappings by which a playwright conveys the ideas that were the germinating force of the play. Thus it was that C.D. Arnold said of the crystal meth users and abusers in the script Theatre Rhinoceros premiered last season, *King of the Crystal Palace*, "It's not about drugs. It's about love." Adele Prandini makes a similar claim for her new script, *A Safe Light*. The play, which Rhino premiered on Wednesday of this week, tells how a woman and her present and past lovers prepare for the woman's death. "It's not a play about death," Prandini explained. "It's about love and loss and living with that loss."

It is surprising to some that Prandini, a San Francisco native, can turn up with a full length script. She's written articles for the *Bay Area Reporter* and appears regularly in *Coming Up*, but her extensive theatre training and background and list of credits are not well-known, a problem which she helped create by "taking a few years off" after her last project, the well-regarded *The Mountain is Stirring*.

"I studied acting at City College," Prandini told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "and was involved in the Performing Arts Workshop from 1969 to 1972, doing much in local theatre. But I was fed up with the heterosexuality of it, its sexism. There wasn't much for women that interested me. You were either the ingenue or the bitch. I'm not exactly the ingenue," she explained, trailing off before revealing whether it was personal identification or the expected lack of interest which kept her from the latter role.

"I founded 'It's Just A Stage' in 1975 with Jill Rose and Iris Landsberg. It was an all women's Gay theatre, and we performed original comedy, satire and musicals until 1980. We wrote the pieces ourselves, and the experience culminated in *The Mountain is Stirring*. We tried to appeal to a wider audience with that, and it was a total burnout to create, direct, perform and publicize something of quality." This is where Prandini gave herself some time off.

"For two years I didn't know

what I was doing. I wasn't into stand-up comedy or one-woman shows. About the only thing left was to write. Previously I'd been a performer who directed and wrote. That's been turned around now. I sent a monologue to Iris about a woman describing her life with her lover. Iris saw it was a full play in synopsis and told me, 'This is your play,' and that's how *A Safe Light* came into being."

With her extensive background, why didn't Prandini move on to the professional world of theatre? "I decided to stay with my own community. 'Making it' in theatre was not as important to me as giving something to my own community. My theatre has to communicate directly to my own experience, so I went full circle. I started out within the community, went more mainstream and said, 'What the hell...'"

Safe Light brings Prandini back to her community full scale. It's about a dying woman, Nellie, and her present and ex lovers. A safe light is the red bulb photographers use in darkrooms to provide light without exposing their photographic paper. Nellie is a photographer, and her dark-

"A Safe Light is about the simple things that make life worth living, cherishable."

— Adele Prandini

room is a place where she's safe, where she can be truthful with herself.

"A Safe Light is about the

simple things that make life worth living, cherishable. It concerns itself with the three women dealing with how they love each other. And since I love happy endings, they do it successfully.

"I have a simple philosophy about life — people have a right to be happy. Because death is a fact of life it does something to the way we live. If we could do something about that we could lead happier lives.

"When you lose a lover you don't miss the big things, the accomplishments. You miss how they looked in their bathrobe, how they smelled behind the ear — the little details. Too often we ignore these details, yet they're what gives us the fuel to accomplish the greater things.

"On the surface my play is about Nellie's leaving. Actually, it's about all of them losing those wonderful details. It's about continuing to live until we die, creating those details that make up life.

"On another level, and important to me, is the play's comments on love. It's a three person love story, though not your traditional triangle. People often want love to be exclusive; Nellie loves both the other characters

very much, but in different ways.

"I have a reputation as Ms. Feminist; people expect me to

Bird in the Hand...

"Come on, you know you want to."

Raimoki Engler has heard the line before, but the first time he heard it was when his parents encouraged him to join the Hawaiian dance class they were taking at the YWCA when he was 13. He resisted at first, but when he went to class to watch and saw how much trouble his parents were having with a particular step, he said to himself, "My God, that's so easy. I could do that." He got up, joined the class, and picked up the step "like that." He has been dancing ever since.

Raimoki, a native San Franciscan of mixed Hawaiian, Filipino, Dutch, and Chinese ancestry, learned the dance of his Hawaiian forefathers so quickly that at 15 he started teaching and at 17 he formed his own dance company. While other students at McAteer High School in San Francisco were



Ms. Feminist Rides One Track to Love. Playwright Adele Prandini writes of love and life in her play about a woman facing death, *A Safe Light*. (Photo: Rink)

eat men for breakfast. Of course, I'm not all that one-track, but in a subtle way *A Safe Light* is feminist. We feminist Lesbians pride ourselves on equality in love. My characters try to love each other in a way that's respectful of all of them, with dignity.

"Some people like telling heterosexuals that we're just like them, and I disagree. I think we love very differently. We're trying to love differently. Lesbians make a conscious effort to love.

We feel the feelings, think a lot about them, consider each other and each other's feelings a lot.

"Women spend a hell of a lot of time talking. We sincerely don't want to hurt each other. It takes work to seriously respect each other. But it pays off, because there's nothing so precious as that commitment between people."

A Safe Light is currently being performed at Theatre Rhinoceros. Info and reservations: 861-5079.

"getting high and screwing girls," Raimoki was studying dance at the Y with Neilani Rogers and cutting all classes but dance and drama. From the beginning he knew he was different from the others — in more ways than one. "I didn't fit in," he says now. "They weren't ready for me."

Others were ready for Raimoki, however. He first came to the attention of Gay San Franciscans when he and his dance company, *Moe Moea Polynesian* (which means Polynesian Dream or Fantasy), performed in Randall Krivonic's first Rites of Spring concert nearly two years ago. Raimoki, who prefers to be called by his given Polynesian name, Hulumanu (Dancing Bird), was the delight of the crowd and one of the evening's major stars. His fire dancing had the audience on the edge of their seats, but his Genital Hula would have had them up on stage and on their backs had it been allowed.

Hulumanu's ultimate ambition is to become a *kumuhulu*, or Hawaiian dance expert — "sort of like a Black Belt in karate or a Masters," he explains. This takes ten to twenty

The evening was as exhilarat-

(Continued on next page)

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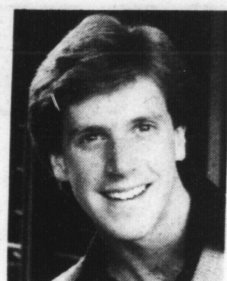


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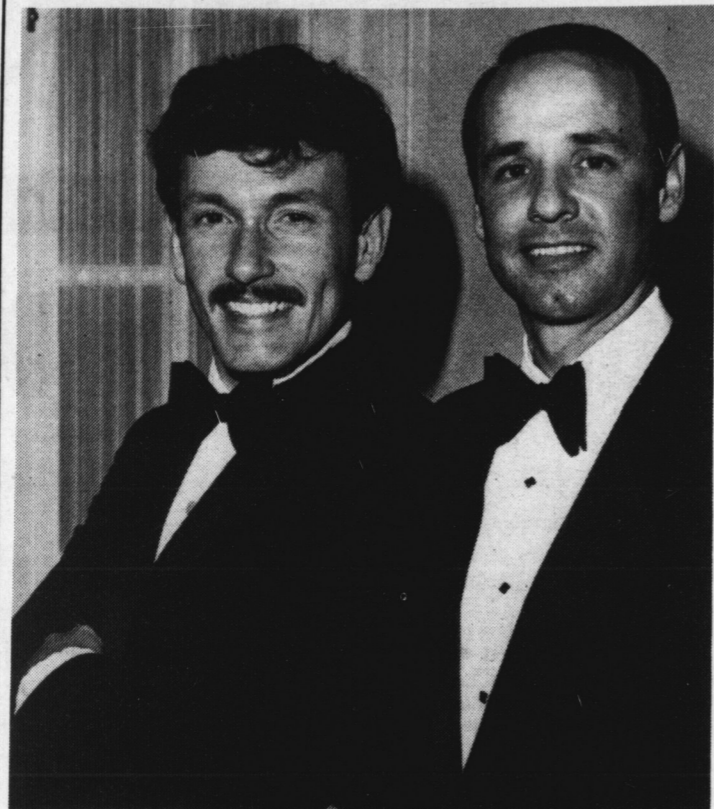
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Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY Gay



Dimples Gets Serious

If Beverly Sills can be nicknamed Bubbles, Sean Martinfield (l.) should probably be dubbed Dimples. He's earned a reputation for camp and vocal acrobatics as the "Jeanette MacDonald" of the SF Gay Men's Chorus, and charmed cabaret-goers with his recherche repertory and capsule versions of MGM operettas.

Now Sean is going legit, with accomplice Terry Peterson (r.) at the keyboard. On February 25 (8 PM) and 26 (3 PM) at the Unitarian Center (Franklin and Geary), the pair will offer a program of concert works. It won't be totally serious, however. Songs by Mozart and Schubert will be heard along with coloratura showpiece "Lo, Here the Gentle Lark," a Sills specialty, a Lily Pons favorite, and selections from The Merry Widow. The tenor also promises "encores to die over." Tickets at the door, \$10.

For Purim

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav offers a Purim celebration! On Saturday, March 17, from 8-11 PM, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (A Bay Area congregation with a particular outreach to the Gay and Lesbian communities) will celebrate Purim at the Swedish-American Hall, 2174 Market Street.

Purim is the celebration of the rescue of the Jews in Persia through the courage of Esther (one of the original Jewish queens) and is traditionally celebrated in a carnival spirit with costumes, games and wonderful food.

Megillah Madness is the name of Sha'ar Zahav's Purim celebration. It begins at 8 PM and includes game booths, food booths, folk dancing, continuous raffles in a bizarre bazaar atmosphere as well as these highlights: A lively dramatized retelling of the Purim story. The Reading of the Megillah. San Francisco's annual Hamentaschen bake-off. A zany contest with awards for the most delicious and original creation of the traditional Purim pastry. Costume judging.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav holds services every Friday night at 8:15 PM at its synagogue, 220 Danvers at Caselli.

HULUMANU

(Continued from previous page)

years to achieve and would necessitate an eventual move to Hawaii, but this is no problem for Hulumanu, who has been traveling back and forth to Hawaii for training and competitions for years. In the meantime, Hulumanu will continue to teach here, to work with his present company, and to look for those who would like to participate in his Gay men's dance group. "You don't have to be Polynesian," he says, "to participate in Hawaiian dance. Hawaii is a melting pot, where everyone is one and everyone is welcome — which is as it should be everywhere."

Mike Hippler

Hulumanu and Moe Moes Polynesian will perform at the Pride Center (Hayes and Fillmore) as a benefit for the Gay American Indian Organization, on Saturday, February 25, at 9 PM.

ORGY ROOM REQUEST
also Olde Scottish Prayer

Deliver me from the ghoulies and ghosties
And the long-leggity beasties
And other things that go bump in the night.

— Anonymous

VARSITY JOCK

Aggressive is the game he plays
I though he may try to mask it.
With junior twinks he always gets
The first shot at the basket.

— Wooly

Dancing the Sylvester Two-Step

What a scandal I caused by dishing Sylvester's *One Night Only* concert. It seems a Gay man speaking ill of our Crown Diva is like a Catholic saying the Pope has four lips. I even received disagreement from a fan who flew in from New York for the concert. But all the lovelies who replied so quickly to my terse review (B.A.R., 2/9/84, page 25) are requested to reread it, slower.

I fully credited Sylvester's always glamorous, always well-produced and beautifully sung appearances. "What else is new" might be a flip way to credit his sterling qualities, but I'm Gay, honey, not boring. Which a "concert" of disco music is. My tastes are more progressive, as I wish were Sylvester's. I attended, as did friends, to hear some of his pre-disco music, of which precious little was offered. That was my only complaint.



During his midnight concert, Allen White presents Sylvester with a Cable Car Award moving the singer into the Hall of Fame. Thus ensconced, will he dance off the disco turntable? (Photo: Rink)

Linda Ronstadt, who doesn't have one whit of Syl's talent, has had the good sense to grow and renew herself. Now she's singing — boringly — the very songs which Sylvester used to bring body and soul to. My impatience with Diva S. comes from having heard him at the Palace, at Cabaret, at Elephant Walk, singing Aretha, Roberta Flack, Billie Holiday, and Leon Russell, and knowing that as good as he currently is, he has been and can be so much more.

So manager Tim McKenna doesn't feel I'm a "real" critic because I'm bored with the disco he's selling. He names the audience the "real" critic. Several years ago Sylvester sold out the Opera House — 3,220 seats. Two weeks ago he couldn't sell out the Castro — 1,600 seats — once. The *Bay Guardian* reported the first show half-empty; I was at the second, and it was half-full. Those present were crazed with adoration — but their number seems to be dwindling. Does that number of "real" critics speak louder than disco? Sing for me, Sylvester! Sing songs!

John F. Karr

Karr's cabaret going this week: Amy Dondy, finishing her month's debut at Fanny's with stylish performances of well-selected *sophisticata*, Monday 27, 8:30 and 10 PM, \$3. Stephen Sloane returns after a long absence, with Paul Ferris at the piano; Fanny's, Sunday, February 26, 2 PM.

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

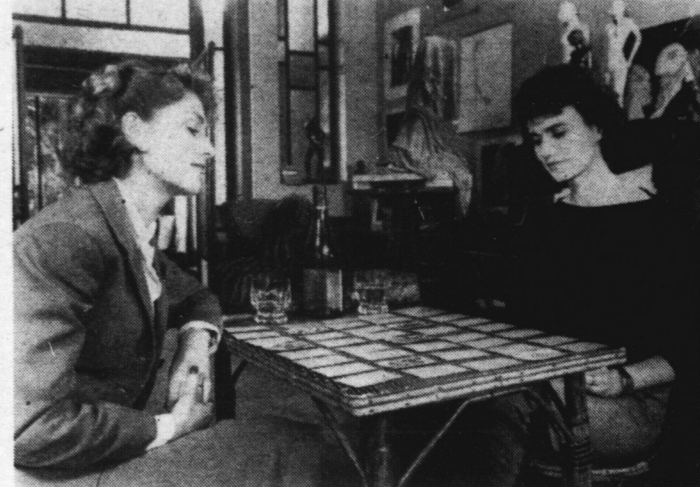
Entre Nous

Women in Love

Entre Nous is about two nice men and their nice wives and how the women find they are better suited to each other than to their husbands. Like many modern works by women it seems to be telling us that men are only necessary when one wants to have a baby.

Perhaps because writer-director Diane Kurys is dealing with her own childhood and the main character, Lena (Isabelle Huppert), represents her mother, sex is not the central issue between the women. One admires the other's "adorable" breasts at one point, one says she'd like to kiss the other at another point, but they go on screwing their respective husbands and various other men while their souls grow ever closer.

Were the film handled any less intelligently or not acted as well as it is (especially by Huppert and Miou-Miou as her friend Madeleine), this do they-don't they? will they-won't they? at-



Love is in the Cards. Isabelle Huppert (l.) and Miou-Miou indulge in fortune-telling in *Entre Nous* before uniting to share a collective fortune.

titude could be seen as mere teasing; but a series of incidents establishes the characters and builds their relationship believably and sensitively without creating any villains. The men make some stupid mistakes, and so do the women.

Kurys said in an interview that the story would not happen

the same way today as it did in the 50's, but for all its nostalgia *Entre Nous* is definitely enlightened by an 80's sensibility.

Some of our male readers will be indifferent to *Entre Nous*, but you women will want to see it at least twice.

(Clay) S. Warren

Unfaithfully Yours

Sex and Violins

The trend in recent film comedies (*The Lonely Guy* is a perfect example), if they're funny at all, has been to put the best gags at the beginning and fizzle out by remaining on one mildly amusing level without being able to top themselves.

Unfaithfully Yours, besides being a remake of a 1948 Preston Sturges comedy (which starred Rex Harrison and Linda Darnell), revives the technique of saving the best for last and the neglected show business cliché, "Always leave them laughing."

The last section begins with jealousy-crazed, Othello-like Dudley (the Moore of Venice?) imagining while conducting Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto how he's going to kill his wife and her "lover" after the concert. This is followed by his mirthfully bungled attempt to carry out the plan, replete

with more pratfalls than a Peter Sellers film festival. (Sellers had been scheduled to make this film before his death.)

The ending is weak, but the half hour that precedes it is pretty funny stuff. Moore gives his best performance since *Arthur*, which isn't hard to do considering the bombs he made in the interim. Kinski looks mildly bewildered, befitting her character but not the film's style. Assante is credible as the stud to whom Dudley says, "You walk around in a constant state of heat. It's a good thing you don't play the cello."

It was easier to make a farce work in the days of studio productions. Location shooting adds a touch of reality that makes suspension of disbelief more difficult in what is basically *I Love Lucy* on a life-or-death level.

In addition to the inconsistencies already cited, director Howard Zieff opens with a voiceover narration by Moore which is resumed only once, to close out the flashback section. That style doesn't work unless it's used throughout to make the audience co-conspirators with the protagonist. One gets the impression that the three writers each wrote sections of the script independently without consulting each other.

Those of us with jealous natures will understand Unfaithfully Yours and perhaps take it too seriously, but I for one would have been happy to laugh more if it were funnier.

(Coronet) S. Warren

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week
by Michael Benzry

Friday-Saturday, February 24-25: (Roxie) In *La Cage aux Folles* a Gay couple's son marries into straight society. *Some Like It Hot*. Hiding from the mob in drag, Tony Curtis romances Marilyn Monroe while Jack Lemmon romances Joe E. Brown.

Tuesday, February 28: (Strand) Back Row with Casey Donovan and

Erotikus: *History of the Gay Movie*. Half of *History* is great and dripping with cum; half is dripping with boredom.

(UC Theatre) Fassbinder's Berlin Alexanderplatz continues with episodes 10, 11, and 12. Unhappy with his woman's career as a prostitute, Franz becomes a gangster.

Monday, February 27: (York) Beauty and the Beast is Jean Cocteau's most accessible and magical film. It stars his tres beau lover Jean Marais. Black Orpheus is the Orpheus myth set in Rio during Carnival.

TALES OF TESSI TURA

Doubling Up on Donizetti

GEORGE HEYMONT

Most people gravitate toward their favorite flavors of ice cream the same way that my tastes gravitate toward a certain group of composers. One of them, Gaetano Donizetti, has always held a special place in my heart, for his music has kept me going in those rare moments when I'm down. Indeed, there is some strange quality to Donizetti's melodies (which echo through one's mind like the sounds cascading from a calliope) that has the ability to soothe my savage breast. Whether the music is meant to be intensely dramatic, deliciously droll or just plain sweet and merry, there is an odd magic to it which, quite simply, makes me a happier man.

Donizetti's operas, though highly theatrical, present tough obstacle courses for most singers. The stylistic and ruggedly athletic challenges in the score are coupled with dramatic demands which test an artist's true mettle. The hit tunes, of which there are many, are so well known to opera fans that almost every singer begins the evening facing an awesome handicap in terms of sheer popularity of this composer's music. Those who succeed in carving out a niche for themselves often develop international careers which brilliantly showcase their artistry.

POUR SOME MORE POISON

I doubt, however, that Gabriela Cegolea will fall into

that category. The Italian soprano, who recently made her American debut singing the title role in Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* at Davies Hall, was so

frighteningly lacking in technique as to make one wonder whose relative got her the job. Whether clenching her fists in a desperate attempt to pull some critical note out of nowhere or gasping for breath where she should have had ample reserves, Ms. Cegolea instilled much fear as to whether or not she could make it through the evening. Her artist's bio, while impressive in the size of the roles she has already sung, heralds storm warnings of a young and potentially big voice ruined before even being given a chance to warm up.

If Ms. Cegolea's vocal technique, or lack thereof, exposed a singer who had foolishly tackled one of Donizetti's beefier roles without the top range, vocal or stylistic goods to match its demands, her performance was the sole blemish on the debut of William Lewis' new Concert Opera Association of San Francisco. Other soloists that evening, particularly mezzo-soprano Wendy Hillhouse and tenor George Livings, offered pleasingly competent performances. Timothy Noble's jeal-

(Continued on next page)

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ONE DEAF TONE DEAF TONE

**I Write Your Name
on Bathroom Walls**

JERRY DE GRACIA

Marin-based recording artist Jim Carroll, who moved into the limelight as author of *The Basketball Diaries* and as the singer/songwriter behind a dramatic debut album, *Catholic Boy*, has released his third lp, *I Write Your Name*, now available on Atlantic Records, maintains Carroll's bond with quality material and disturbing lyrics. This is a trademark most notably demonstrated on *Catholic Boy* with the song "People Who Died," in which Carroll's attitude toward the fatality of drug abuse hangs unresolved between paeon and damnation.

While Carroll's acute talents as both author and singer are meritorious on their own, perhaps more important from a gay viewpoint are some of the experiences and attitudes which the artist purveys in his music. In *The Basketball Diaries*, an autobiography of his pre-rock years, Carroll explains that one of the methods he used to support his heroin addiction was to hang around New York City's Grand Central Station, letting faggots suck his dick.

Drug addiction and hustling are not uncommon in the Gay ghettos of urban America, and the cosmopolitan Carroll does not judge Gays by the men he hustled to earn his daily fix. He maintains an indifference on the subject, explaining away his bathroom exploitations as simply one means among many to support his habit. Although he does utilize degrading language to describe the incidents, he maintains the neutrality of "People Who Died" instead of sitting as judge.

As one of the master poets of

new wave, Carroll's lyrical sexuality takes a back seat to such topics as drug addiction and death. Unlike Prince, who revels in sex as pure pleasure and a main menu item, Carroll gives it a secondary stature, pushing it aside by focusing more on the overriding power of drugs, death and other dark sides of the human experience.

Carroll's music on *I Write Your Name* is closer to the powerful, emotional music of *Catholic Boy*. His second album, *Dry Dreams*, is the weakest of the three, although it too contained noteworthy material in line with the concept of death and despair that seems to lurk in every poetic thought conjured up by this junkie turned poet turned musician.

His cover of "Sweet Jane" is the most immediately accessible song at first listening, and Carroll does justice to the Lou Reed classic. But on closer inspection, Carroll's own material creeps into the psyche like a thick, slow fog that does not quickly burn away with the morning sun.

The title track, "I Write Your Name," homesteads this transplanted New Yorker to the Bay Area with the line "I write your name on bathroom walls, in San Francisco, in new wave discos." In light of his Grand Central



Jim Carroll

Station escapades, it also raises the question of a possible bathroom fixation and hints that the artist does not limit his sexual antics to the cliched missionary position.

Carroll has maintained a deliberate distance from press and public and much of his story since *The Basketball Diaries* remains an enigma. Nonetheless, his music identifies a world many fear and in which many others become fatally entrapped; this may be disturbing to those who identify with his rhetoric of despair.

More Balm Demanded

Extra performances of Lanford Wilson's *Balm in Gilead* have been scheduled for this weekend to meet the unprecedented demand for tickets. Extra performances are at 8 PM

February 23, 24 and 25. Previously scheduled performances of *Balm* stand at midnight on February 24 and 25. These are the last performances. \$6; 863-3863.

TESSI TURA

(Continued from previous page)

ous Don Alfonso was superbly sung, delivering some exciting moments of lush, forceful and masculine sound. This performance was conducted by San Francisco Opera's Kathryn Cathcart, a young woman who is a highly competent, if not particularly inspiring conductor. One hopes that time and experience will broaden her orchestral sweep.

As much as I have enjoyed Pippin's Pocket Opera in past years, one reaches a point when the ragged and anemic sounds coming from the Pocket Philharmonic are more embarrassing than tolerable. Obviously, there is an audience eager for more concert opera in San Francisco, particularly for performances backed by a solidly professional orchestra. Such audiences deserve quality playing and one hopes Concert Opera Association can fill the painful gap currently existing in the local concert opera scene. Plans are afoot to present the Gertrude Stein/Virgil Thomson *Mother of Us All* in July. This reviewer and many others in town wish William Lewis well in his company's future endeavors.

MAKING WHOOPEE!

A much happier occasion was the Washington Opera's recent production of *L'Elisir D'Amore*, one of Donizetti's most tuneful works. Oddly enough, I had never before seen a performance of this opera that really hit its mark. Too often, the work's delicacy gets lost in the vast reaches of some huge opera house. In 1982, when Lou Galterio directed this more

intimately-scaled production for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the well-meaning cast didn't quite pull it off. This time around, however, in the 500-seat Terrace Theatre above the Kennedy Center, Donizetti's deliciously droll opera hit a bull's-eye.

Those who still insist that the young American opera singers on the rise are "a bunch of untalented, boring nobodies" would have been silenced forever by the frighteningly strong cast which, under Galterio's slick guidance, romped through Donizetti's score in the nation's capital. Soprano Marianne Telese was deliciously coquettish as Adina, using her strong dramatic presence to work the stage with uncanny skill and panache. Dashing

handsome and outrageously vain, baritone Stephen Dickson had himself a field day with the role of Sergeant Belcore. As his klutzy rival in love, Tonio Di Paolo gave a magnificent performance which glowed with so much genuine theatrical warmth and vocal beauty that his Nemorino will not easily be surpassed. Francois Loup's Dulcamara was pure vintage ham.

Framed by Zack Brown's handsome sets and supported by Cal Stewart Kellogg's lusty conducting, this evening was as intoxicating and exhilarating as the effects of Dulcamara's magical elixir. And you wonder why Donizetti makes me happy?

G. Heymont



Playing Hard to Get. Nemorino (Tonio di Paolo) and Adina (Marianne Telese) test each other's love in the Washington Opera's production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore*.

BOOK RACK

The Puck of Paradox

Ecstasies
by James Broughton
Szyggy Press; \$7, paper

by Ron Bluestein

"I firmly feel that aesthetics is for the artist as ornithology is for the birds." — James Broughton

That Puck from the *Paradise of Paradoxes* Nonpareil is up to his old word-playing tricks. *Ecstasies* is a wedding song, an epithalimion. We've come across different weddings in James Broughton's writings before; in *Whistle in the Labyrinth* he wed his own grief. In *Ecstasies* all grief, even the grief of death, is vanquished by love. The first poem, "Wondrous the Merge," iterates the poet's troubled state of mind, which is relieved with the magical "And then" of a child's story:

Had my soul tottered off to sleep
taking my potency with it?
Had they both retired before I could
leaving me a classroom somnambulist?
Why else should I at sixty-one
feel myself shriveling into fade-out?
Then on a cold seminar Monday
in walked an unannounced redeemer . . .

The redeemer was half his age, and even flipped-out filmmaker poets are sensitive to social absurdity:

This is preposterous I said
I have a wife in the suburbs
I have mortgages children in-laws
and a position in the community
I thoroughly sympathize said He
Why else have I come to your rescue?
These exchanges gave me diarrhea

Thank goodness, Love took away the diarrhea it gave, and the couple had nuptials, not hemorrhoids. *Ecstasies* celebrates their wedding (in the "connubial masque," "Behold the Bridegrooms") and sings in songs, canticles, sermons, and poems the rejuvenation of the poet and the joy of the marriage:

Was I born to worship delectability?
I eat your salad and fettuccine
as if they were altar offerings . . .
Were you born to cherish my eagerness?
I devour your zabaglione
as if it were the sunrise of life

("The Aisles of Eden")

The poems are wonderfully funny, wonderfully excessive, wonderfully Broughton. Wouldn't you love to see these lines from "Behold the Bridegrooms" in *The New Yorker*:

PRIEST

These avowals deserve our happiest praise.
Let us repeat our Pleasure Mantra once again.

GUESTS

Aaahhh! Aaahhh! Aaahhh!

It is also easy to understand why Broughton has not been asked to recite recently at any of the Seven Sisters. I don't know how "Godbody is the great fucking interlocking/ of every fucking thing" would go over at Mount Holyoke.

I must admit that there are moments in *Ecstasies* just a little too "California" for Ronnette to countenance, such as these lines from "Together":

Together
to gather
to begin
to come
to be

This goes on for two pages until we are reading with wonder:

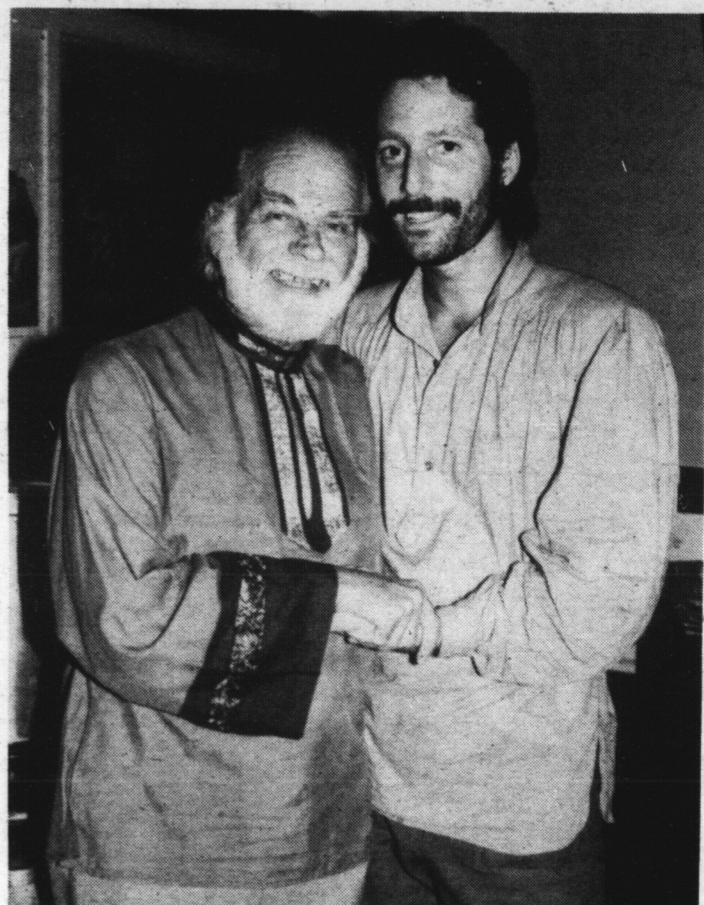
together
altogether wholly in toto in toto
in totally toto together altogether
together

Writers Speak Up

Two members of the Gay Writers' Workshop at Small Press Traffic will read their works on Wednesday, February 29, at 8 PM. David Freedman is a new writer, and Edward Mycne has many books in print. The bookstore is at 3841-B 24th Street. Admission is \$2. Info: 285-8394.

**Tell Ol' Ferro,
Let My People Come**

Robert Ferro, author of the recently published and well-received novel *The Family of Max Desir*, will greet readers at the Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market, on Saturday, February 25, from 1 to 4 PM.



Ecstasies and Me. That's not Hedy Lamarr to the right of poet James Broughton; it's friend/lover Joel Singer. (Photo: Rink)

which makes me think of Dorothy and Toto and Valley Girls, which I do not think was the poet's intention.

"A fool and his rapture are not easily parted," as Broughton writes, and I would not part that well-wishing Hermes of the Marin hills from his. Who would want to stop this man who "call(s) on all guzzlers in the vineyards/ to swig juicy portions from one another"?

Ecstasies' wonderfully funny, excessive, Broughton-esque poems sing the rejuvenation of love and the joy of marriage.

Broughton has not been well anthologized, but fortunately the Jargon Society has published a selection of his poetry from 1949 to 1969 under the title *A Long Undressing*. It is handsomely bound, contains some of Broughton's loveliest work including "True & False Unicorn," "High Kukus," and a perfect children's poem that's just waiting for the perfect children's illustrator, "How She Got With It":

She was a Cat
who was doing all right
just as She was
with this and that . . .
until one year
(on her birthday too)
She heard a big thought
bellow in her ear:
WHAT IS IT, WHY IS IT
and WHAT DOES IT DO?

And one can hope at least that there's an American Purcell waiting in time to find the music to some of Broughton's lyrics:

Pure will blow my love,
honeyed will she be:
O what beautifying of the bee!

**Aphorisms
From An Odd Aviary**

Film Culture magazine, having voted James Broughton their Twelfth Independent Film Award, devoted an issue to his films. The award is an honor previously presented to John Cassavetes, Kenneth Anger, and Andy Warhol. The magazine called Broughton "the grand classic master of Independent Cinema," and "the old master of comedy among all directors anywhere." The following quotations were made by Broughton in that issue.

"Geniuses are people who can't help doing what they most like doing, no matter what else happens. They don't worry about making a living, and doing their art in their spare time that kind of thing. That is the simplest level of genius. The geniuses with the vision, luminous sense of the wholeness of life — they are rare. And I don't claim to be one of them. But I value those most."

"The talk of problems that we hear all the time has nothing to do with the artist. His problem is to solve his own problem. That is, to do his own work. For him a lifetime is too short even to ask the right questions."

"We have to be careful of the tyranny of fashion in our present culture . . . We have to remember that fashion is only the knack of conforming faster than anyone else."

"There is an enormous difference between art and self-expression."

"The reason angels can fly is that they take themselves lightly."

Lesbian Slide Show

On Sunday afternoon, March 11, 4 to 6 PM, the Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California will present "She Even Chewed Tobacco, Women Who Passed as Men," a slide show compiled by the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project. This fascinating program documents the lives of women in the 19th and early 20th centuries who chose to live their lives as men in order to take advantage of the greater freedom accorded men in American society.

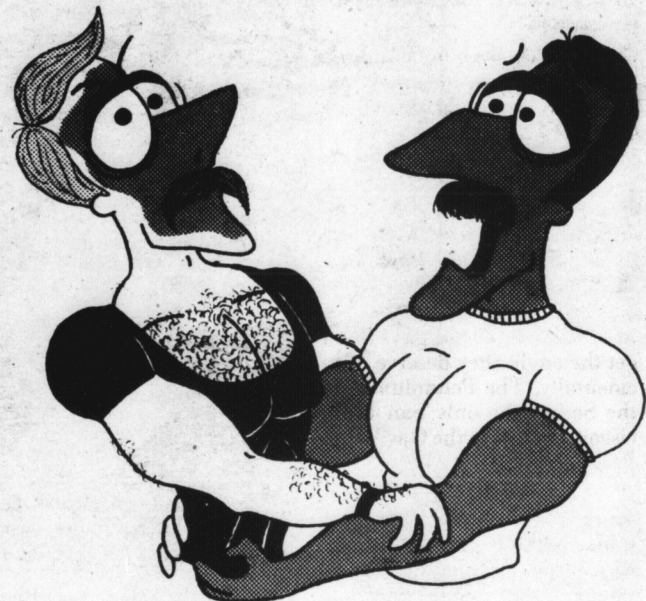
Place: Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia Street, San Francisco. Admission: \$2.00/ACLU members, \$4.00/nonmembers.

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Then dance to:
The Western Electric Band
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Then
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Pumps

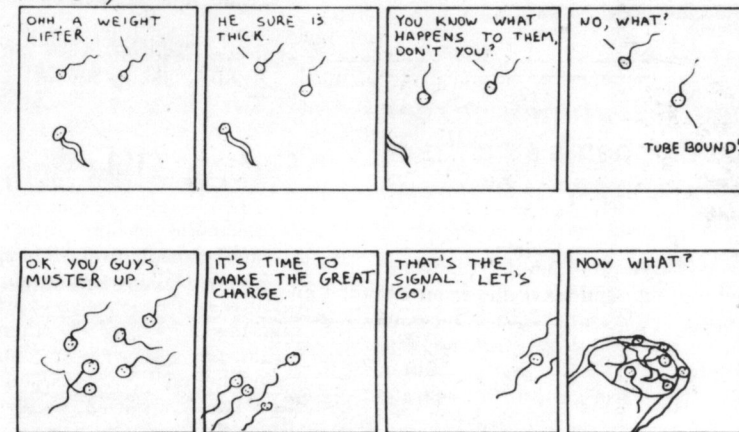


Too much bronzer, huh?

BIG AND LITTLE IKE

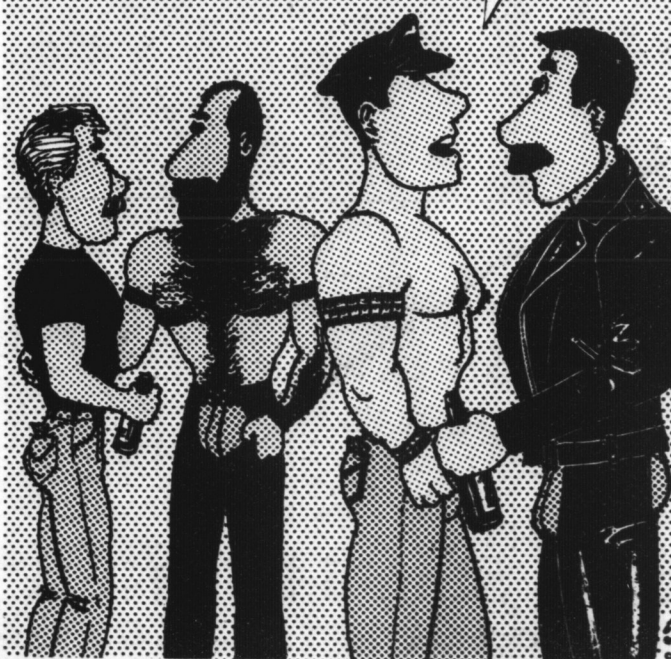


NUTS



UNCUT

Oh, I'm super health conscious! I work out 4 times a week at Pump 'n Primp. And I take extra MEGA-MAN vitamins after I do drugs or pig out at the HUNGRY HOLES.



by Michael Goldberg

Castro Confessions



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SPORTS

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Outstanding Athletes Profiled

Men and Women Together

by Paul Trefzger

Prior to interviewing the two women and two men who were presented Cable Car Awards for their 'Outstanding Contribution in Athletics,' I contacted Rikki Streicher, owner of Maud's and Amelia's and Tom Vindeed, for years the driving force in the Gay Softball League.

People are nominated by their peers who submit six or seven names. A secret ballot then determines the winners. A problem that continues to plague such events is that there are always many categories that overlap or are omitted as well as are many talented, qualified people.

Tom Vindeed spoke highly of Arthur Jackson both for his athletic ability and for his behind-the-scenes work. He spoke equally highly of John Bracco whose distributing company has been supporting Gay sports since before many of us were aware there were teams.

Rikki Streicher was no less proud of the two women winners, Sara Lewenstein and Susan Fahey. 'Any woman who gets this award has worked her buns off for women's sports. She has to have shown excellence and a sense of responsibility to the sport and other women.'

Most often, Sara can be found at her Artemis Cafe where exotic salads, quiche, meat pies, hot and cold sandwiches, beer and wine and Just Desserts are served. On Valentine's Day a big 7th birthday was celebrated.

SARA LEWENSTEIN

Sara Lewenstein is owner of the Artemis Society Cafe at 26th Street and Valencia. She was selected as a Cable Car Award winner for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Sports.

For two terms she was vice-president of the Softball Advisory Board which involves over 18,000 players, both Gay and Straight; this year she was president. One of her on-going tasks is to make sure that the fields and umpires, etc. are kept up to par.



Sara Lewenstein (Photo: Rink)

what has to be done. They tell me I haunt them," Sara said.

There are four women's softball divisions, A through D. Last year Sara took charge of the D league which consists of women age 21 to 40, some who have never played. They finished 8 and 1 and first in their division.

Sara's parents are in Los Angeles and very proud of her community involvement. This involvement began truly at the grass roots level, when Sara, at age 16 and unsure of what she wanted, moved to San Francisco.

Most often, Sara can be found at her Artemis Cafe where exotic salads, quiche, meat pies, hot and cold sandwiches, beer and wine and Just Desserts are served. On Valentine's Day a big 7th birthday was celebrated.

A goal has been to "get women involved with their bodies and to get these concerned women to come on out and participate. I also like to see that Gay men and Lesbians are attaining a unity through sports."

"I feel that sports is political. I noticed at the awards, these political organizations and the non-profit organizations had their tables . . . and it seemed as if they considered sports to be a little out of place. That's why I said in my (acceptance) speech, I'm glad to be receiving the award and I want to remind everyone that sports is political."

Sara said her speech had not been prepared, since she had been nominated twice before. "I was excited and very happy. I just wish that more people could be mentioned."

Many people may recognize Sara's name because last year she and Dr. Tom Waddell, co-founder of the first Gay Games, decided to have a child together.

"The big thing I have in the works right now is the 1986 Gay Games," she said. A concerted effort is being made to ensure that the facilities for each event are adequate to accommodate the crowd of spectators and participants, which are expected to far exceed those of 1982.

Arthur has been outstanding as the manager/pitcher of the Pendulum Pirates. His sponsors there, Rod Kepila and Michael Frawley, were very helpful with his efforts to keep a winning team, which he did. To show their hospitality to the visiting teams during the 1982 Gay World Series here, "They threw a party . . . Well, it was just . . . electric. Those guys don't get the credit they deserve."

The "Outstanding" Women athletes sound the same theme: Sports unite Gay men and Lesbians; let us see each other in a different light.

Triumph '86. It contains results and photographs from the '82 Games along with raffle tickets for a round trip for two to the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

ARTHUR JACKSON

Arthur Jackson is thirty-five and was born in Chicago. He generally spends his weekends involved in some sports activity, and that's most likely softball.

Arthur came to San Francisco in 1970, five months after being here on vacation. He didn't have a job waiting, but he knew that this was where he wanted to be.

His award for Outstanding Contribution to Athletics is a highlight to many years of active involvement. The first year that



Arthur Jackson (Photo: Rink)

he played team softball was for the Community Softball League, and in the five years since, for the Gay Softball League. He has been an outfielder catcher and most recently manager/pitcher.

While playing for the (former) 527 Club with Lenny Mollet as sponsor (he has nothing but praise for all his sponsors) he organized the first team effort, resulting in raising money to finance a trip to a tournament.

Arthur has been outstanding as the manager/pitcher of the Pendulum Pirates. His sponsors there, Rod Kepila and Michael Frawley, were very helpful with his efforts to keep a winning team, which he did.

He was Assistant Commissioner in 1981 and '82. Under his guidance the Pendulum Pirates haven't lost a game during the regular season and he's only had one loss while in the GSL.

the same category last year. Arthur laughed it off, "No, — I never think I'm going to win."

SUSAN FAHEY

Susan Fahey is the manager of Amelia's and Maud's where she bartends three nights a week. Originally from New Jersey,



Susan Fahey (Photo: Rink)

Susan played basketball in grammar school, high school and college, and came to San Francisco when she was twenty-one. Talking about that time, she reminisced about the very active women's basketball that existed some nine years ago.

Advertisement for The Line Up restaurant, located at 398 7th Street, serving lunch and dinner.

Advertisement for Leather Forever boots, featuring Gorilla Boots with Vibram soles and heels for \$51.00.

LASHES

(Continued from previous page)

afterward. This ended a frolicsome weekend. The next biggy is the Casualty Capers in April.

RED HOT LASHES

Valentine's Day is traditionally time to seek and express love toward your friends and your lover. One of the deepest and most heartfelt of those expressions was our community's

farewell to John Ponyman. Jim Gilman's eulogy at John's memorial service was characterized by an unselfish and expansive quality, which those of us who knew and loved John well found were his greatest qualities. John's extensive theatrical contributions were documented by photos, along with some of his own original manuscripts displayed around the room. His crowning moment in San Francisco theatre was Sawdust, a one-man show of his songs

which he also produced and directed at 544 Natoma last year. Its broadcast following the service elevates us to celebrate his accomplished life and love.

Another individual (still with us) who I personally consider to be San Francisco's greatest lover, is Sanford Kelman. Valentines weekend witnessed his most successful Gift Center party yet. Sanford's attention to detail and effort in bringing us the very best talent is appreciated — the finest sound production by Randy Schiller, the video artistry by Jack Williamson, the magic of musical integrity created by DJ Michael Garrett and the renowned song stylings of Sharon Redd. Sharon was playful with the audience, tossing a lily here, receiving and using a red hat there. I asked her where she found her best audiences, and she replied without hesitation,



Friends Gather. A quiet moment was shared by mourners at John Ponyman's memorial service, preceded by an eulogy by Jim Gilman. Photos from John's years as a budding Hollywood star were part of a loving tribute created by John Janes. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

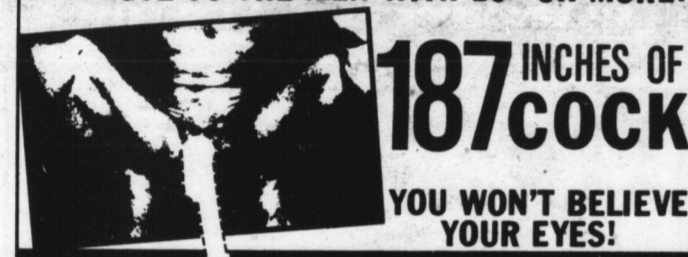
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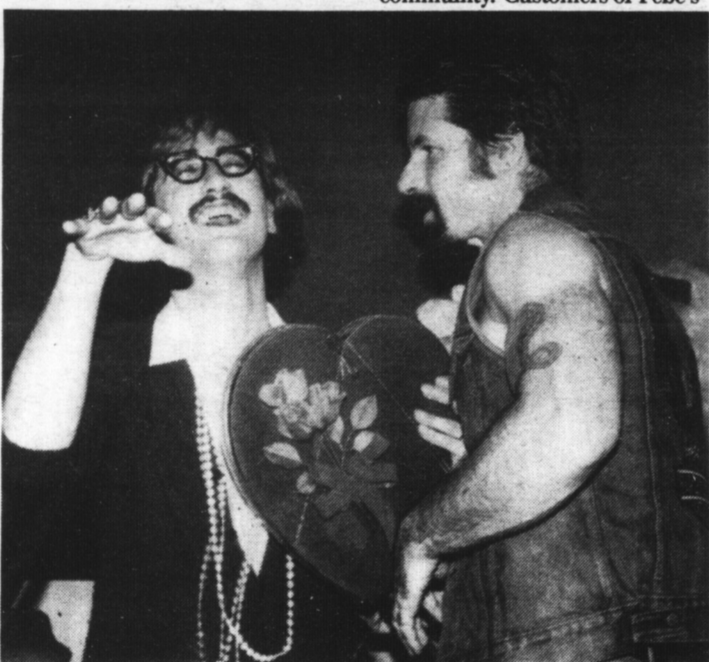


Pres to Pres. Barbary Coasters President Anthony Vega presents the President's Trophy to Guy Hugenoff. (Photo: Rink)

"San Francisco is my heart." She elaborated, "Holland is also a favorite of mine. The young people there are so aware. They dress up and turn out and really support you." Sharon may soon begin a tour featuring full length concerts in old theaters and using live bands as opposed to taped backup. Sharon's intoxicating music again was a source for a very successful Valentine's party.

No Valentine's Day would be complete without the warm glow of a romantic dinner. In this case it was the Fickle Fox's annual Valentines' buffet. Dennis Collins (Hongisto's aide) was seen in the bar with a hunk tapping his foot to the pianist's music. A Valentine tune or two was delivered at the open mike by Don Robinson, who has some big talents in other places as well, as Jim Heddon can attest.

Another way of celebrating sweetheart day was to take your honey bear to the Pilsner High for their Sock Hop. The queen of that prom was Susie Sweetcakes (Jim Cvtonich), and a perfect hostess too. Jim Corwin was cast as captain of the basketball team and had the boppers



Sock It to Her. Audience applause voted "Francine" (L) winner of the Prom Queen title at the Pilsner Inn's Sock Hop. Emcee Killer is about to kiss the winner, making her efforts worthwhile. Don't get ideas about Killer; he's Susie's boy. (Photo: Rink)

swooning over his Valentine shirt (and what was in it). English teacher Wanda June looked very nervous when the kids started taking their clothes off. Agosto,

are asked to vote early and often, on a list of both MC members and independents. Some of those lionized were Trixie Trash and Rick Manning in the one nighter category; Don Wintrow (Turkey) best father (ind.) and Gene Dennis as best mother. MVP awards were garnered by Sable in the independent category and associate Warlock Myra on the emcee side. The staff and management of Febe's always gives special medals to deserving characters: Mr. Ringold Alley this year is Vincent Russell, Don P. received the Crying Towel award and Febe's official hostess of 1984, Queen Mother III (after Michael) is SFGDI's new road captain Jim Leuer.



No Coasting in Talent. Warren Cave and Bob Bacci (l. to r.) award Best Run Show to Matthew Brown (center). (Photo: Rink)

LASHED TO A CROWN

This weekend will bring several interesting events: King and Queen of Hearts of all of

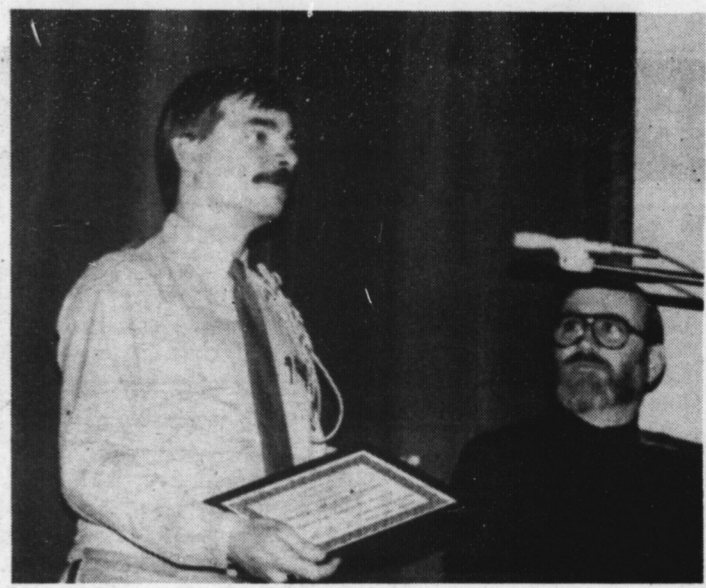
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(Continued from previous page)

Northern California, with Patrick and Sandy who will host their annual ball. The ball's creator, Tony Valentine, has garnered Cable Car awards two years in a row. The ball is to be held Saturday, February 25, at 7 PM in the Rathskeller. Tickets are \$10 and include buffet dinner, live band and a no-host bar. The fun includes cash for best theme costumes, and of course, crowning the new Queen & King of Hearts VI. The victory brunch the next day at noon will be held at Lipp's, 9th and Howard Streets; a chit is a fin.

Also Sunday, Castro Station and Emperor Rich Carle (in conjunction with Jim Cvtonich productions) will show their tape of Men Behind Bars on Castro Station's new video system. This is a benefit for Ward 5B and Shanti Project and will cost \$2 at the door. Doors open at 2 PM. The showing is at 3 PM and is followed by a live performance of the fabulous fifties follies featuring Jim Baroni's fourskins. The tape will be repeated later in the evening, free of charge.

Our new Emperor and Empress are already making an impression. They've made a suc-



Charity Pays Off. SF Inter-Club Fund Chairman David Sarathain (l.) accepts the Barbary Coasters President's Special Award for the club's Outstanding Achievement in Benevolent Community Service. Bob Rowbottom (r.) presented the award. (Photo: D. Fitzmaurice)

cessful trip to Sacramento's Grand Ducal Ball, held a splashing fundraiser at the Ramrod (including a real castle for them to sit on), hosted Gene Forest's festive birthday party at the Kokpit, and have lent their presence and/or names to events in every part of the Gay community. They are inviting you to

attend their investiture Saturday, March 10, 7 PM, in the War Memorial building's elegant Green Room. Reserved seating will be \$10 and general admission \$7. We wish them a prosperous and expansive reign.

I want to extend my gratitude to my friends and readers for the concern shown after my recent injury, and especially thank you for your support in voting me Outstanding Columnist of the Year at the Cable Car Awards.

See you in the skins — and black lashes.

K. Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Friday, 2/24: Joint Birthday Party. Rick Jones; Michael Troll; Rick Manning; Mr. Gay SF; Michael Bowman. Febe's, 8 PM.

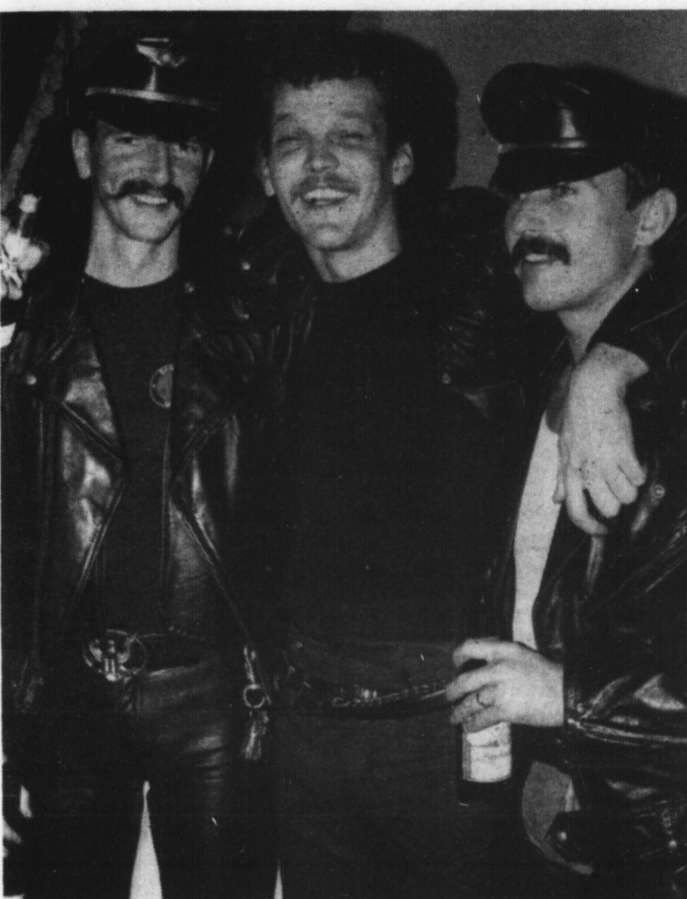
Knights Templar S/M Party. Doors open 10 PM and close at midnight; \$10 plus six-pack. Info: Jim at 863-0476.

Saturday, 2/25: Bike Christening. Eagle Patio, 3-6 PM.
King and Queen of Hearts Ball. Rathskeller, 7 PM; \$10.

Sunday, 2/26: King and Queen of Hearts Victory Brunch. Lipp's, 9th & Howard; noon, \$5.

"Men Behind Bars" Video Show. Benefits Ward 5B and Shanti. Castro Station; doors open 2 PM, show at 3 PM; \$2; host: Emperor Rich Carle; special guests: The Fourskins.
Casualty Capers Cattle Call. Chez Mollet, 4 PM; come and help ICF.

Monday, 2/27: Investiture Planning Meeting. Chez Mollet, 8 PM; Chairs: Rich and Remy.



They Thought It Was A Jock Hop. Three studs drove the girls wild at the Pilsner Sock Hop. They jittersbugged together and wouldn't allow any cut-ins. (Photo: Rink)

Sports Clubs

Frontrunners. Sunday, February 26: China Basin - up to 5 miles. New, revised route. Meet at Mission Rock and Third Street, 10 AM. Saturday long distance runs meet at 9 AM, Call Steve, 221-6912 for locale. Saturday Fun Runs meet at 10 AM at Star Lake Boat House, Golden Gate Park.

Different Spokes Bicycle Club. Sunday, February 26: Walnut Creek Bart to Fremont Bart, moderate pace with occasional stops, few low hills. Bring lunch or money for deli on way. Meets at 10:30 AM Walnut Creek Bart Station (Bring money for Bart return!) Contact Derek, 339-2345.

S.F. Hiking Club. Sunday February 26: Bill's Day Hike. Explore the wilderness within the city, which prove there is more to San Francisco than concrete and pavement. It's advisable to bring lunch or snack, although food may be purchased on the way. Also bring bus fare change. Meet at McDonald's Stanyan and Haight, 9:45 AM.

S.F. Track and Field. Saturday February 18: Practice at McAteer High School at 9:30 AM. All-Corners Track Meet, UC Berkeley. Final meet, 11 AM, Sunday, February 19: Practice at SF State U. at 11 AM.

MEN & WOMEN

(Continued from page 28)

(Bracco Distributing Co., Inc. — Budweiser, Budweiser Light, Michelob, Michelob Light, Kirin, etc.) has advertised in every newspaper and program, has donated thousands of dollars and in general, has been extremely supportive.

Born in New Jersey, John Bracco came to the Bay Area while in the Army in 1950. He fell in love with San Francisco, and has been here ever since. He lives in the City, is married, has two children and two grandchildren. He's been in business twenty years and said, "We were there when the first Gay papers hit the streets." He was giving financial support back when there was only a bowling league. Then came pool and then softball. Most recently Bracco Distributing has contributed to the fight against AIDS.

John seems embarrassed about taking any credit, saying, "We're glad to give back what we take. The Gay Community's been good to us, so we're glad to

repay them. They're my customers just like the Irish and Italians . . . We try to treat our retailers and our customers right and give them back what they deserve. It's a two-way street. That's something my mother taught me years ago."

I asked if he had ever worried what other advertisers would say about his openly advertising to Gay clientele. His reply was succinct. "They wouldn't, because they know if they said anything what I'd say to them." He went on to stress that he's always felt he had a good relationship with the Gay community and that his actions were just a part of his trying to be "a good citizen." He was sorry he had to be out of town the night of the awards, "It's something that we really appreciate. It's nice to know people recognize what we're doing."

John Bracco wanted to be sure credit went to his on-line people who attended the awards: Frank Cardelli, his sales manager, Bob Patterson and Dick Usin.

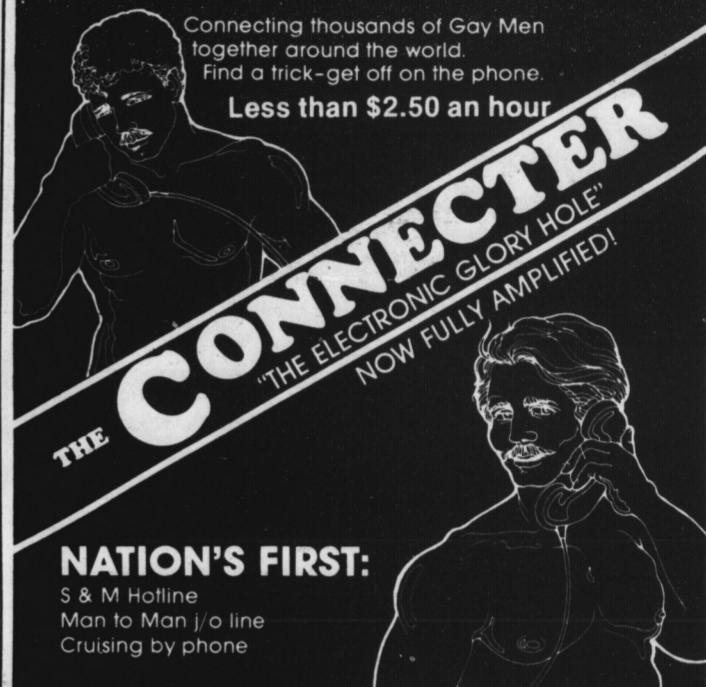
I asked if the Gay Community drinks a lot. He laughed and said, "Oh hell, yeah."

P. Trefzger

Due to illness, Sweet Lips' regular column will not appear this week. Feel better, Lips!

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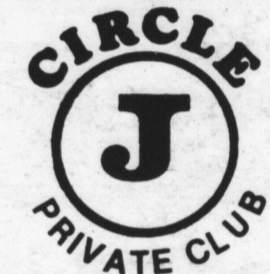
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VOL. XIV NO. 9 MARCH 1, 1984

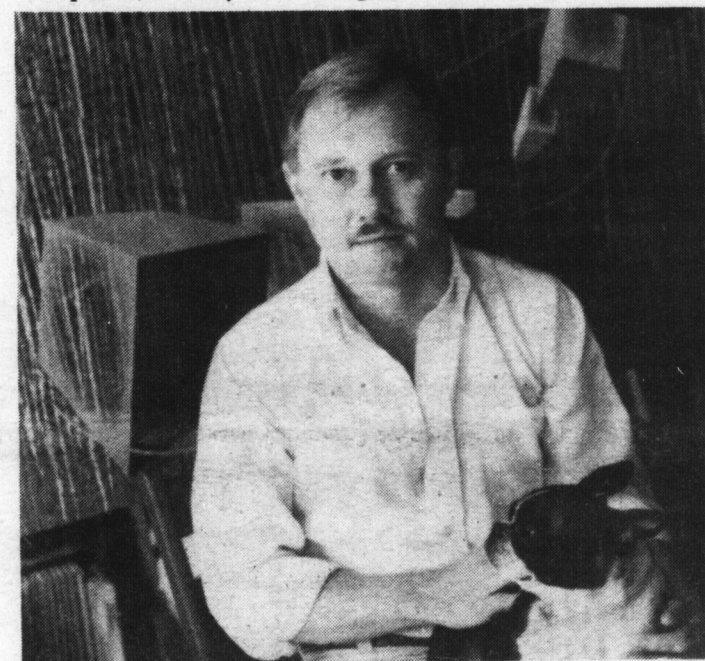
Ex-Lover Sues Society Pianist for Half of Everything

Partnership, Commitment of 13 Years Can't Be Broken Unilaterally Claims Gay Man

by Paul Lorch

Cafe society pianist Peter Mintun and his lover of 13 years Thomas Nieze are the latest contestants of note embroiled in a palimony suit.

More to the detail, two suits are underway, one filed by the entertainer and a second, a cross-complaint, filed by his estranged lover a month later.



Gay accountant Thomas Nieze sues Peter Mintun for palimony. (Photo: Rink)

Mintun has built a reputation as San Francisco's cafe society pianist. He plays at the chic L'Etoile restaurant and is often mentioned in the society and gossip columns. He is a favorite of *SF Chronicle* wag Herb Caen; he has recorded albums and has prospered. Nieze claims that he was instrumental in building that career and fortune. Nieze, an accountant, maintains that he curtailed his own ambitions and future for the sake of his lover. After 13 years he refuses to be turned away with nothing by a man who now refuses to acknowledge their relationship.

Mintun's lawyers went into Superior Court on November 7, 1983, with a complaint for Declaratory Relief against Nieze. He asked the court that any partnership with Nieze be declared null, void, and of no effect.

Mintun's attorneys prepared a short, businesslike complaint. (Continued on page 12)

Slashed at Rock Club

Teenager Knifed by Gay-Baiter

Punk Rocker Gets 36 Stitches in Neck — Blasts 'Rude' Cops

by Dion B. Sanders

A teen-aged punk-rock fan who was enjoying a night out on the town was seriously wounded when a knife-wielding man, yelling "Faggot!" and other anti-Gay epithets, stabbed the youth in the neck at a North Beach rock club, the *Bay Area Reporter* learned last week.

Unlike most anti-Gay assault cases, however, this one has a rare and unusual twist — the victim is straight.

It was nearly one o'clock in the morning on Thursday, February 9. Seventeen-year-old Mike Britschi and his girlfriend Tracy Mendieta, also 17, were dancing to punk-rock music at the Mabuhay Gardens club on Broadway.

"It was a pretty good night," Britschi said in an interview last Wednesday from his bed at San Francisco General Hospital. "A lot of my friends were there, and we were having a pretty good time. We were waiting for our favorite band to play."

Suddenly, at a few minutes past one, "this really tall guy in a leather jacket came in — roaring drunk — being belligerent toward everybody and harassing

(Continued on page 13)



Mike Britschi, teenage punker, stabbed in the neck while being called "lame-assed faggot."

A Letter to the Governor California State Senate



H. L. RICHARDSON
STATE SENATOR
TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

February 17, 1984

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you veto Assembly Bill 1 (Agnos).

As you know, my office has provided you and your staff with an extensive amount of information relative to the potential medical dangers to which AB 1 may very well subject California citizens. Of particular importance is the Legislative Counsel's opinion which states that an employer may be forced to retain a homosexual employee during an appeal process; that no one can refuse to hire for any reason without being subject to review by a state agency or a court; and finally, imposes these circumstances on our citizens without any legal recourse for any damages which may occur. Added to these excessive employment strictures are the unfortunate and unique circumstances of AIDS. An individual can have the disease for 6 months to 3 years before any evidence will be present. In the meantime, as the letter I gave you from CDC clearly shows, transmissions of the disease can occur.

You, as Governor, simply cannot place the citizens of California in potential grave jeopardy by signing this bill. It is particularly onerous since there has never been any major indication of the need for this bill in terms of a significant rate of employment discrimination against homosexuals. Since there is no great compelling need for the bill, it makes little sense to play Russian roulette with the lives of our citizens because so much is unknown about this terrible disease. I would personally resent such a situation being imposed upon me and I suspect millions of Californians feel the same way. I would think they would expect you to take an affirmative stand in vetoing this piece of legislation rather than simply letting it become law without your signature that would be a terrible abrogation of responsibility.

I personally believe, George, that you have a responsibility to veto this bill. I have always believed and thought that you share my beliefs about the moral implications of this bill, but I will leave those thoughts to you in that category of consideration. If they are not enough for a veto, then I appeal to you for it on the grounds of the very real danger it represents from a medical standpoint.

If you have any questions on any of the material I have provided to you, please feel free to give me a call. I know that this is a difficult political decision to make, but you have shown great courage in other areas and I pray that you will do the same here. The vast majority of Californians will support you in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

H. L. Richardson

P.S. I will be talking to you personally on this in the near future.

CC: Members of the Legislature and Press Corps

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