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VOL. XIV NO. 13 MARCH 29, 1984

Pride Founder Will Circulate Stop Sex Petition for Ballot

by George Mendenhall

Larry Littlejohn, a Gay Deputy Sheriff and founder of the Pride Foundation, announced a petition drive this week that could result in a halt in sexual activity in the city's fourteen steam baths. He needs 7,332 signatures by August 8 in order to place his measure on the November ballot. It would be a policy statement, requiring that the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance that would make it illegal for patrons of a steam bath to have sex on the premises. Police would monitor such activity.

Littlejohn argues that his goal is to end multiple-sex activity in Gay steam baths, which some people believe increases the incidence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). He suggests that the Board require that all bathhouse rooms be brightly lighted and that signs be posted stating, "Sexual activity among patrons on these premises is prohibited."

Attorney David Clayton, co-owner of the Steam Works bathhouse chain, told this reporter that Deputy Littlejohn "is letting his police mentality override his Gay mentality. This mentality says that if people are not doing what we want them to do, we will make it illegal and punish them for violations. No one in the Gay community is ignorant of the consequences of sexual activity. Gay men have the right to make that choice. Such an ordinance would only have a token effect and will have no real effect

on the AIDS crisis."

Clayton asked, "What will be next? Followed to its logical conclusion, the police would then begin to halt sexual solicitations in Gay bars, Gay movie houses, and 'back rooms' private clubs." Littlejohn responded, "What people do when they meet elsewhere on a one-to-one basis is their own business. There is control. However, in the baths there is an atmosphere of promiscuous sexual activity with strangers. Even if people are jacking off together someone could make an entry from the rear."

Does Littlejohn go to bathhouses? "No, I stopped two years ago when I got a lover and they began to become boring for me. Now I do not have a lover, but I stay away because I would be exposed to AIDS. You cannot tell who has it, and multiple contacts increase the possibility of getting it."

(Continued on page 3)

The Duke Gets Zapped in Berkeley

AB-1 Veto Protesters Dog Governor's Tracks More Picketing Planned for This Week

by John Wetzel

Governor Deukmejian Monday confronted angry Gay picketers face to face for the first time since he vetoed AB-1. As the governor's entourage for visiting French president Francois Mitterand wove its way across the peaceful UC campus in Berkeley, picketers mobbed the governor's party, coming within two feet of the governor. Gays from San Francisco and from Berkeley wielded pro-Gay and anti-Deukmejian signs in protest of the veto. They chanted during the one-mile walk, "Gay rights now!"

Mitterand was welcomed onto the campus by a virtual wall of at least 40 picketers shouting for Gay rights and the separation of church and state. Mitterand, who supports Gay rights in his socialist country, said to a capacity audience in Berkeley's Wheeler Hall, "I appreciated the welcome extended to me at this campus. (Quote from translation) . . . it was very friendly and very lively."

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Berkeley and San Francisco pickets dog governor's footsteps. (Photo: Rink)

Court Says Coroner Must Return Milk's Clothes to Estate

by Paul Lorch

The battle over who should have the late Harvey Milk's suit, the suit he was wearing the day he was shot and killed, took another turn this week. The suit has been ordered returned to its rightful owners.

Attorney for the Milk estate, John Wahl revealed news of a court victory, which he hopes will be the first of many. On Monday, March 26, Superior Court Judge Victor M. Campilongo ruled that the Captain of Inspectors of the SFPD and the San Francisco Coroner either must deliver the property to Milk's heir, Scott Smith, or "show cause . . . why the property should not be delivered."

The items in contest are all the clothing worn by the late supervisor on the day of his death at the hands of then-Supervisor Dan White. The police held on to Milk's clothes he was wearing November 27, 1978, as possible evidence against White. The clothing which would have revealed information on how and where Milk was shot. And how and from what wounds he bled to death.

The possession of the clothing did not become an item of contention until last year. A play was produced last year that recreated the Milk/Moscone assassination. Some of the more shocking lines in the original script supposedly dealt with where White

placed the final bullets into his victims' bodies. The line — which was excised from the staged version at the last minute — suggested that White's *coup de grace* was into Mayor George Moscone's rectum.

The S.F. Coroner denied this allegation but refused to submit the dead men's clothing for inspection. To him the matter was closed and the clothes nobody's business. He then announced they were his to keep indefinitely to prevent exploitation of the articles.

Wahl, acting for Scott Smith, refused to accept the Coroner's assuming ownership of things that — simply put — did not belong to him.

Wahl took his complaint to court and argued that the clothing "has undetermined intrinsic value, and symbolic value to the claimant and others."

Judge Campilongo agreed with Wahl's arguments and ordered that Milk's effects be returned to the Executor of the Estate, Scott Smith, or to return to court April 6 and argue why they can't or won't.

Eddie Murphy Says to Gays, "Kiss My Ass"

by Allen White

Comedian Eddie Murphy has finally responded to charges he was homophobic by telling the Gay community to "kiss my ass." The comment came in a lengthy interview in the current issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Murphy had been the target of heavy criticism and a boycott of his work because of his inflammatory and inaccurate remarks about AIDS in a Home Box Office cable special broadcast last year. The concert was released this year for home video cassette sale by Paramount. A spinoff of the anti-Gay material was the Eddie Murphy Foundation, a Hollywood group which took out ads in several magazines denouncing the comedian.

In the *Rolling Stone* story, Murphy makes the astonishing statement, "Faggots who have nothing to fucking do but sit around with tight asses and feel like people are pointing at them . . . people who are insecure got offended. The way I feel about it is, what they did helped my album because the majority of

the country is heterosexual, and they read that homosexuals don't like Eddie Murphy and they think, 'Hey, all right.'"

Rolling Stone writer Christopher Connelly then asked Murphy his reaction if a White comic began telling jokes about Black people. Murphy responded, "That's not funny."

It is revealed in the article that Eddie Murphy's father, Charles Murphy, was stabbed to death by his girlfriend over Labor Day weekend in 1969. Asked by *Rolling Stone* if that would be the premise for comic material, Murphy responded, "I don't like to do stuff about my father being dead. No tragedy. My comedy's good time comedy." The Eddie Murphy Foundation did not think it was funny and spent

(Continued on page 4)

Activists Pitch the Press on Convention March

Momentum Grows for Massive Show & Tell

by George Mendenhall

Will Gay and Labor activists meet head-on on Market Street on Sunday, July 15 — the day before the Democratic National Convention at Moscone Center? Paul Boneberg, co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay march from the Castro, and Deputy Police Chief George Emil do not believe that will happen although both have asked for police permits to move their troops on Market Street at the same time.

Emil is convinced that the organizers of both marches have over-estimated their numbers. Both sides have claimed they will have 100,000 people in the street. Boneberg does not believe his projection is exaggerated. Over 300,000 participated in last year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

The police official believes that re-routing one of the marches to a South-of-Market street is not the answer. The solution, he believes, is in allowing both groups to use Market Street — but at different times. For example, the Gay march could leave 18th and Castro at 10 AM, moving down Market to Fourth Street and over to Moscone Center. At 1 PM, the Labor group could move up Market to Seventh Street and over to the Civic Center.

PRESS CONFERENCE

The National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights will culminate with a projected Noon to 5 PM presentation in the block in front

of the Moscone Center. It will feature speeches by national and local leaders, many from the Lesbian and Gay men's community. Music and comedy may be included, but the major thrust of the program will be aimed at presenting a national Lesbian/Gay Rights agenda.

In its first formal announcement of the march last week, the organizers met the press on the steps of Moscone Center. The event received considerable local media coverage and was carried on the first page of *The Washington Post*.

Co-chair Mary Dunlap told the media of the needs of Lesbians and Gay men in many areas — federal AIDS funding,



Convention March organizers line up in front of proposed protest target, the Moscone Center. (Photo: Rink)

immigration restrictions, employment and housing discrimination and the denial of partnership benefits and child custody. She urged, "Denying discrimination exists is pretending. Discrimination is not just in our minds." Ralph Payne of Stonewall Democrats added, "The question is not if there is discrimination but when will it end?"

Speakers stressed that the demonstration is not being set up to protest against the Democratic Party. Many of those on the podium are Democratic activists themselves.

Billy Jones, co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Gays, emphasized that a broad segment of people would participate "from all socio-economic and racial groups."

Ron Huberman, Milk Democrats, said "We are not going to protest against the Democrats but to speak up for human rights and let the Republicans know that we will be campaigning across the country for our candidates."

Dr. Tim Wolfred, president of the Community College Board, stressed, "The governor and the Republicans have demonstrated that they are not interested in joining our movement. We want them to take us seriously. We also want to show our support for what the Democrats have done for us — as well as make our demands clear."

Co-chairs Boneberg and Dunlap emphasized that Lesbian/Gay issues have not been discussed in the recent presidential candidate debates although Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, and Walter Mondale have issued pro-Gay Rights statements. Boneberg stressed that the march is aimed at "creating an event that will bring about a public discussion, to bring our issues to the center of the nation's political debate."

Labor activist Howard Wallace insisted, "We have come out of the closet to stay. We are

reminded that there had not been crowd incidents in the annual parades. Boneberg explained that monitors will be solicited to help with the situation.

Officer Emil later said he did not expect any serious police problems other than the logistics of moving people across town. He said thirty different groups have asked for parade permits but that he did not foresee difficulties in working out the details of who will march where. He explained that he plans to use only 70 officers to police the two major marches.

Gay Convention March grows "more respectable" with each passing week.

not going away. We are a significant number of voting people and if they want our votes they will have to raise our issues. We may polarize more people on our issues, but we will no longer be ignored."

CROWD CONTROL

How will the Democrats in the convention hall react? Will the event get out of control? Organizers told reporters they did not believe that the demonstration would hurt the Democratic Party and could be kept under control. They were

March enthusiasts are meeting twice each month. Committees planning the event are concerned with demands and issues, structure, media, fundraising and logistics. Volunteers may contact the organizers at (415) 552-4287.

A newly formed Gay Republican group in Dallas is beginning to make plans for a presence at the Republican National Convention in that city in August. Details are not yet available. It is not expected that the demonstration in Dallas will match the San Francisco event.



Billy Jones lays it out for the large press turnout. (Photo: Rink)

Milkers Toss-Pot Around Bathhouse Closure

by Allen White

Dr. Marcus Conant pleaded last Tuesday night for discussions directed at stimulating a modification of sexual behavior in the Gay community. "We have to look at the possibility of closing the bathhouses and bookstores." "I do not say close the bathhouses," he said. "The key word is discussion; we must begin the discussion of this problem."

Conant, a respected leader in the fight against AIDS, spoke before a crowd of over 200 persons at the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. Gerry Parker, a long-time Gay politico, accused Conant of trying to close the baths. Parker

sexual activities among patrons of public bathhouses should be prohibited."

Littlejohn stated, "Dr. Silverman (the Director of Public Health), the Board of Supervisors, or the mayor could take action to prohibit sexual activities among patrons of public bathhouses right now, but they have failed to do so. Public bathhouses are licensed by the city."

Continuing, he said, "To date the Board of Supervisors has not been willing to even hold public hearings on measures necessary to prevent the spread of AIDS or to effectively educate the Gay community about sexual activity that is at high risk for AIDS." Larry Littlejohn concluded, "Therefore, it is necessary to take this issue to the people on the November ballot."

"What you are doing is going to be political disaster," Gerry Parker screamed at Littlejohn. "You have given the Moral Majority and the right wing the gasoline they have been wanting to fuel the flames that will annihilate us," he said.

Parker was not alone in his concern about the political ramifications surrounding the petition drive. Many at the Milk club meeting predicted Littlejohn's effort would have little trouble getting the 7,332 signatures he needs to get it on the November ballot. Many said

"No Sex" Petition

(Continued from page 1)

MORAL MAJORITY

Clayton pleads for choice. He also said that it is ironic that Littlejohn, a former president of one of the early Gay rights groups in this city — The Society for Individual Rights — should be promoting such petitions. He said, "The Moral Majority types and the homophobes will flock to sign the petitions. They will be eager to take away consensual sex — and other Gay rights — that we fought so hard to establish in the state and in this city." Littlejohn acknowledges this possibility but adds, "Some people will join in with bad motives but with good results."

Gay activist Gerry Parker told this reporter, "This measure would pass by monstrous percentages in November. There will be few who will battle against it. Liberals will desert as they stay publicly neutral — but will vote for it. The Christian Right will come out in force here as they have never done before. Our heyday here may be over." Clayton agreed and said that if the measure passed, it would have far-reaching effects outside of San Francisco, setting a precedent for every urban area.

Mervyn Silverman, Director of the city's Department of Public Health, responded to an earlier suggestion from Littlejohn that he consider closing the bathhouses:

"The exact cause or causes of AIDS is presently unknown, and because the facilities of most bathhouses do not present a public health hazard, I feel it would be inappropriate and, in fact, illegal for me to close down all bathhouses and other such places that are used for anonymous and multiple sex contacts. It is my belief that we would insult the intelligence of many of our citizens and it would be an invasion of their privacy to take such an action."

Littlejohn says he is having difficulty finding Gay people — or anyone else — who will be public about supporting his "no sex" policy statement. He has one public supporter at this time — Leonard Matlovich, who recently formed a Gay right-wing group in Washington, D.C. Matlovich will be in Europe for one month and states that he will return to San Francisco to campaign for the measure.

Littlejohn says he will be circulating petitions himself and may have to hire paid circulators. He will need over 10,000 signatures to allow for invalid signers.

The *Bay Area Reporter* has repeatedly editorialized that punishing the baths is a wrong-headed move. The paper has labeled it a highly symbolic gesture, but a false and forlorn one.

G. Mendenhall



Larry Littlejohn will circulate a petition to get a proposition forbidding sex in bathhouses on the ballot.

they believe it will turn into a political three-ring circus and a bloodbath for the Gay movement.

Andrew Moss, an epidemiologist who released a controversial study last year pointing up the danger of AIDS, believes the Gay community must act and act quickly. "I see right now," Moss said, "as a window of opportunity." With the Democratic convention coming to town, he believes AIDS will be put on the back burner in a few months and

nothing will be done giving attention to the disease until the fall.

Moss said he believed that if the Gay community didn't act, the state government would. "Don't you think Deukmejian, a Republican, wouldn't love to embarrass the Democratic city of San Francisco?" he asked. "This is one of the worst epidemics to hit in our time and don't believe for a minute that 'rednecks' around the state wouldn't like to move against Gays."

Bill Kraus, a former president of the Milk club and an aide to Congressperson Sala Burton, stressed the need to face the reality of the disease. "We have to learn to provide warmth and comfort to each other, something you don't find at the baths," he said. Kraus continued, "I don't want legislation to close the baths, but I do want people to realize that if they continue in these high risk types of activities, they are fucking fools."

With the statements of Dr. Marcus Conant and the petition drive of Larry Littlejohn, the heat has again been turned up on the AIDS controversy. In San Francisco there are now 14 bathhouses licensed by the city. At the Harvey Milk Club Tuesday night, Littlejohn was the only person who would publicly say they were in favor of restricting or closing the bathhouses. ■

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Sheriff Hennessey Apologizes to Deputies Over 'Chaps' Incident

Recruitment Campaign Called Great Success

by George Mendenhall

Sheriff Michael Hennessey apologized to his deputies in a March 14 letter for a recent deputy recruitment article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The article by Gay staffer Randy Shiels had emphasized that Hennessey had recruited Gay deputies in Chaps, a well-known "leather" bar. The accompanying photo showed Hennessey talking to men partly dressed in leather.

"I am at fault," the popular sheriff wrote to Alan Kennedy, President of the Deputy Sheriffs' Association, "in not knowing the nature of the particular establishment selected for this presentation. Had I known, I would have scheduled the recruitment panel for a different establishment . . . Never would I want the San Francisco Sheriff's De-

partment or its members to be portrayed in the light that it has been recently in the *San Francisco Chronicle*."

He wrote his deputies, "It seems that I do one or two spectacularly stupid things each year and this was one of the most spectacular and most stupid. I apologize to you and the entire department for this embarrass-



Sheriff Hennessey speaking at what became his gaffe for 1984 — The Chaps Recruitment Caper. (Photo: Robert Pruzan)

ment." The sheriff said his letter was "in anticipation of a justifiably outraged protest from the association."

Former Sheriff Richard Hongisto instituted a nondiscrimination policy in the hiring of Gay people in the 1970's, encouraging such recruitment. Hennessey continued that policy and became one of the most popular elected officials among Gay people here.

At the same time, Hennessey was touting the spectacular results of the recruitment drive for deputy sheriff.

In a press release, Hennessey recounted that an unprecedented number of minority applicants (many arriving at City Hall before 5 a.m.) lined up at the Civil Service application desk for the one-day-only sign-up on Friday, March 16.

"Over 1,100 men and women were in line at 6 a.m. when Civil Service analysts opened the doors to accept the first candidate. By noon, Civil Service analysts reported over 2,500 applicants had been processed with more arriving every minute. At 5 p.m., more than 3,500 men and women had filed applications."

The recruitment drive began eight weeks ago, with Sheriff

Hennessey and his team going into dozens of neighborhoods throughout San Francisco with job application information. Community organizations such as Chinese for Affirmative Action, the Mission Hiring Hall, Black churches, and local women's groups were also enlisted to spread the word about deputy sheriff openings.

The sheriff reported that, additionally, hundreds of letters were sent to other community organizations, employment and job placement centers, and student groups. Recruitment efforts included personal appearances by Sheriff Hennessey and other department personnel on local television and radio, at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State College, and City College.

To provide specific information and answer individual questions, a recruitment desk was set up in the sheriff's office in City Hall, staffed by a deputy sheriff nine hours a day, five days a week for eight weeks. More than 2,200 interested applicants came to the recruitment desk, of whom 78% were minority men and women, and over 1,000 additional phone inquiries were received.

To insure that only the most qualified candidates become deputy sheriffs, all applicants

are given written, oral, and psychological testing prior to inclusion on the official Civil Service list. The Sheriff's Department conducts over 40 hours of background investigation additionally on each person hired by the department.

The two-page release made no mention of either the Chaps incident or the word "Gay."

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF

Meanwhile, the County Grand Jury in San Diego has begun an inquiry into statements by County Sheriff John Duffy that he will not permit known Lesbians and Gay men to serve as deputies in his department. The American Civil Liberties Union has also filed a suit in state court to void Duffy's policy of discrimination. The sheriff recently asked, unsuccessfully, for the County Board of Supervisors to oppose AB-1.

ACLU attorney Thomas Homann told *Update*, a Southern California Gay newspaper, that he expects the grand jury to "whitewash" the sheriff. The jury foreman, Pascal Dillard, served 13 years as a sheriff's deputy and is a friend of Duffy. He has assigned the inquiry into the anti-Gay policy to a jury committee which is also chaired by a friend of the sheriff. ■

AIDS Advisory Committee

Assembly speaker Willie Brown has appointed William J. Kraus and Michael J. Roth, M.D. to the new AIDS Advisory Committee.

Kraus, 36, of San Francisco is staff assistant to Representative Sala Burton. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Ohio State University. A Democrat, he is a member of the board of directors of the National AIDS/KS Foundation and serves on the steering committee of the National AIDS

Lobby. Roth, 41, of Pacific Palisades is a physician in practice in Santa Monica.

He received his B.S. and M.D. from the University of Michigan and M.S. from Wayne State University, Michigan. A Democrat, he is on the medical advisory board of the AIDS Project, Los Angeles and a member of the directory staff of the AIDS Medical and Research Center of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Eddie Murphy Says to Gays, "Kiss My Ass"

(Continued from page 1)

several thousand dollars to buy ads denouncing Murphy's humor. His response is to say, "They blew it all out of proportion, and if they want to, I don't give a fuck."

An indication of how *Rolling Stone* portrayed Murphy can be seen in their photos. One shot has Murphy with wrists limply turned backward looking like a 1979 Tenderloin drag queen. In another shot he has his arms wrapped around singer Rick

James. There are no direct statements regarding whether Eddie Murphy is Gay but the magazine does quote him responding to the comment that his butt was getting big. Murphy retorts, "That's 'cause I get fucked in it every night." The article also does not state if Murphy realizes that anal intercourse is considered the primary way to catch AIDS.

In the story, Murphy explains at length how he intends to become a top-notch recording artist. He says his primary reason to believe he will become a success is that he is so masculine. The article neglected to dwell on the fact that record stores have begun boycotting Eddie Murphy's product and are sending it back unsold to the distributor.

He also neglects to discuss his relations at Paramount, where his anti-Gay behavior is giving executives indigestion. Several executives have privately stated that they know they have a multi-million dollar investment in Murphy and that it could blow up in their faces because of his continuing anti-Gay bias. ■

A. White

Fundamentalists Make Hay Out of AIDS Dead and Dying

by Allen White

People with AIDS are being exploited by fundamentalist evangelical Christian organizations. The exploits of these radical Christian groups surfaced this week with reports of "invasions" at the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital and through a letter from the S.O.S. (Save Our Souls) group on the death of an AIDS patient whom they salvaged.

Augie O'Connor, the coordinator of chaplains at San Francisco General, related instances of what she called "a zealotism to convert." In one situation a team of missionaries entered the AIDS ward under the guise of delivering toothbrushes, toothpaste and other personal items. Once inside the patient's room, O'Connor said they started to "witness" to people with AIDS. "Witness" is their word for proselytize.

She said that fortunately for the patients, "we have built up our own kind of immune system, and we reject these types of foreign bodies." The people were ejected from the ward and the hospital within minutes.

The chaplain service at San Francisco General sets an entirely different tone. Bill Nelson, who heads Dignity's Ministry to People With AIDS, said they attempt to respond to people who ask for spiritual support. "We don't go seeking people out," he said. Dignity is the Roman Catholic Gay organization. O'Connor, who is Episcopalian, agrees. She says, "We do what we can." "It is important to be responsive to people." Translated that means if people ask for pastoral care, they will receive it.

At San Francisco General that can mean Catholic priests, Buddhist monks, Jewish rabbis or ministers from the Metropolitan Community Church. "Our purpose is to listen, not to talk," said Augie O'Connor.

To prepare themselves for San Francisco General, prospects are briefed before they minister at the hospital. Chaplains are trained to have respect for the patient and to be sensitive to their needs.

O'Connor said that another situation she had to deal with involved a volunteer chaplain who had not been trained. The man headed for the AIDS ward and got to one of the patients. Trapped in his hospital room, the patient was subjected to the "witnessing" of the volunteer chaplain. The man was also removed from the hospital. Within one day he was bumped out of all the chaplains' programs at San Francisco General.

Nelson and O'Connor were not shocked by a letter received recently by the *Bay Area Reporter*. The letter arrived on S.O.S. stationery, S.O.S., which

dedicated service to the Gay community of San Francisco over the last quarter century. Net proceeds from the dinner will be used to send the Gay Freedom Marching Band and others to the Lesbian and Gay Bands of American joint musical concert in Los Angeles on June 29. A limited number of dinner tickets at \$30 remain available. For information contact Duke Armstrong, 543-0910.

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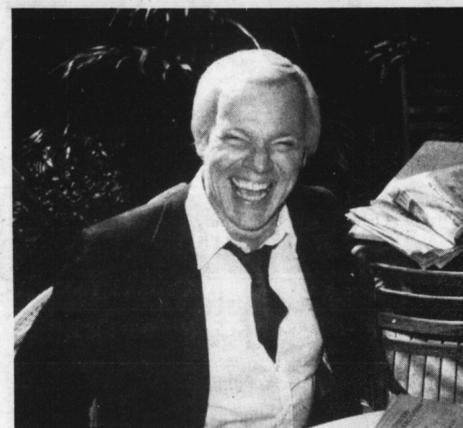
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Wharton Names Exec Committee

The Dave Wharton for Supervisor Committee Tuesday announced the names of its executive committee co-chairs. Wharton called the committee "a distinguished group of people who well represent a cross section of our city's activists and community leaders." The co-chairs for the 1984 campaign are:



Supervisor hopeful Dave Wharton announces his campaign committee. (Photo: Vicki Lenz)

Jerry E. Berg - A Feinstein appointee to the Board of Permit Appeals and its Vice President, Former President of the Human Rights Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and a long-time activist in Democratic politics on the local, state and national levels. Mr. Berg has a business law practice in San Francisco.

Jo Daly - A Feinstein appointee to/and present member of the S.F. Police Commission, Past President and active member of the Alice B. Toklas Gay Democratic Club, a former member of the California Democratic State Central Committee, and a long-time Lesbian activist.

James Hormel - President of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Recipient of the Harvey Milk Community Service Cable Car Award for outstanding work as Fundraising Chairman for the Pride Foundation and Service Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a member of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Advocates and a former Dean of Students at The University of Chicago Law School.

Emilio Nicolas Jr. - Vice President and General Manager of KDTV, channel 14, the only Spanish language television station in the Bay Area, a member of the San Francisco Private Industry Council — a group committed to job development for minority citizens, a director of The Mission National Bank, a concerned and active member of the Hispanic Community. Emilio is married and the father of two sons.

Mrs. Bobbi Griffith - A long-time neighborhood activist, founding member of the Dist. 8

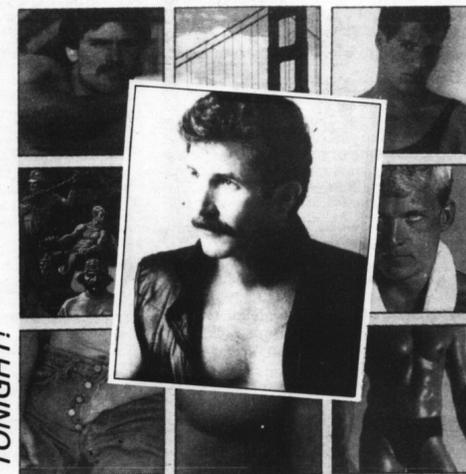
Democratic Club, and Democratic party worker.

Wharton stated, "I am encouraged to have such a distinguished group of people leading my campaign. The early support of citizens like these will assure that our campaign will continue to move forward. This committee will guide us as we address the need for new and more practical approaches to solving the many problems confronting us in the Gay community, and the many problems facing all of us as San Franciscans. ■

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VOL. XIV NO. 13 MARCH 29, 1984

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

The Sea Captain Motel and Questions

Last issue we ran a *post partem* Sea Captain Motel/AIDS residents departure story. We weren't happy with it, and the depression lingers on.

Getting at the heart of the matter resulted in an editor's desk-top thumping, a reporter's heartburn, and a press agent's doing best what they are paid for: bamboozle the public.

We went into the story eyes closed. After all that weekend media-dominating saga was over. The *S.F. Examiner* had written a piece on AIDS people residing in a Lombard Street motel. While PWA's were being vacated, evacuated, or evicted, the rest of the media pack overrode the motel. And the mayor's office, who had housed the men at the Sea Captain, was laying the entire blame at the door of a heartless city editor. Our paper, arriving after the press massacre, got into the business of picking up the pieces. Or as we began to sense, creating the melodrama, creating the legend. We had an identified villain, the Simon Legree, in the name of the *Examiner* editor, David Halvorsen. We had a heroine ready made, Mayor Dianne Feinstein playing a bit of each of Maid Marian, Sister Theresa, and Florence Nightingale. And coming to the rescue was the Lone Ranger and Tonto, the U.S. Cavalry in the guise of the local AIDS/KS Foundation troopers and home guard.

Days after the unsatisfactory piece ran, we still asked the questions which the story demanded answering. More questions blossomed than the piece itself answered.

Like many AIDS stories, the heart of the matter — the hard facts — loomed more like fecal matter. Murky, covered with goo, shrouded in smelly sentimentality.

Like many AIDS matters — because they deal with sick and dying men — because they're dealing with angels of mercy (or so they promote themselves) — because it's all so new and confounding — the fog refused to lift.

From the first, in AIDS affairs, the one ingredient that was never involved was accountability. All the public was asked to do was to clean up their act and get politicians to throw more and more money at the problem. Ask any questions of the money-spenders and one would be handed with opprobrium, obfuscation, hand-wringing, and headkerchief-wetting. Ever since public monies have been involved the rules have changed. But no one has called for the accountability in AIDS operation we would of a day care center, or a convalescent home, or a public hospital.

The community has a right to know — if not a civic responsibility to know.

THE QUESTIONS

Who were these men at the Sea Captain? How did they get there? Who put them there and why? Were all of them PWA's (were there additional part-time or full-time live-ins)? How long did they stay? How long were they going to stay? Who ordered them out and by what authority? Why did they have to vacate in the first place?

The very name of the motel owner, "Patel," opens another Pandora's box of questions. What's his angle?

In the days after the Sea Captain we begin to wonder what is Shanti doing with unfilled halfway houses? We learn that one has to qualify for a Shanti residency. Is Charles Lee Morris a Shanti ward? If he can qualify, on what grounds are others rejected? Does one have to have friends in high places? Does one have to have the right doctors? The right diseases? And the questions go on.

The next thing we hear is that the AIDS/KS Foundation gets into the business of housing these homeless PWA's. They are renting living space we learn. Whose money are they spending? By what authority? Who will be in charge of these hospices? With what authority and expertise?

And then we come to the base question: should we even

(Continued on page 8)

The Show this Summer

★ The world press and TV coverage of the Democratic National Convention will be enormous. They are going to focus their cameras and microphones towards the weird, the radical, and the "shocking." In short, they are going to try to make San Francisco out to be the Kinky Capitol of America. *They always have.* And how could they help it — it sells! Drag Queens, Leather Queens, half-naked Queens, Sissies and Bull-dykes on Bikes — that's what America (and the rest of the world) will see.

We (Gays) are on a downward spiral already with AIDS scaring everyone to death from Miami to Seattle and back again. We are not looked on with the respect we have fought so hard and long to get. Suddenly we are the dirty, penis-breath, shit eaters that all the folks back home used to call us. We are sick and germ-filled. We are perverse and disgusting to millions of people who had just begun to think better of us.

I pray that AIDS will be dealt with through modern medicine very soon. But who is going to deal with the publicity-crazy "Sisters." People like the Sisters and other groups of small town Sissy Marys like them have invaded San Francisco and made a mockery of everything — sex! politics! homosexuality! God! our city! our lives!

Stop the Sisters! Stop the protesters! Stop the publicity Queens! Stop this self-destruction!

Just Plain Jim
San Francisco

Biological Warfare

★ I am aghast at the decision of the governor to veto AB-1. Apparently Gays and Lesbians do not have the right to vote as other minorities do. This is the vision of our elected officials who are buoyed by the pressure of religious zealots oppressing us with their repressed moral convictions and judgements, however hypocritical. As a result of this situation I only hope that we as a group exercise our political power to oust such politicians.

Not only are we now officially denied our right to work, but our government's lack of funding for AIDS research continues to be a problem. Current figures project as many as 1000 AIDS cases by December 1984 in the Bay Area alone, and a recent *Chronicle* article had the nerve to complain about the cost of caring for all the new cases. What price life?

Something else our illustrious government officials should bear in mind is that we not only have a political weapon which is very effective when mobilized, but we also have a biological weapon as well — to which there currently is no appropriate response. Thus far, AIDS has been relatively contained in our community, but a simple knowledge of the transmission of disease (current theory suggests a virus) should tell you that potentially AIDS could jump its current boundary.

What if Gays decided to donate as much blood as possible? What if Gays decided to frequent downtown prostitutes? Biological warfare anyone?

Gordon Treshback
San Francisco

Deputies From Leather Bars

★ The recruitment of deputies at Chaps leather bar by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department is a dangerous precedent. Randy Shilts made fun of it, and a lot of people are trashing him for it. I don't think it's funny at all.

Gaypeople say that the crowd at Chaps is large on Saturday, and that the size of the crowd was the only reason to recruit there. I don't believe it for a moment. Did the Sheriff's Department recruit at the Gangway on Larkin or the Hob Nob on Geary? How about the 181 Club or the transvestite bar next door, the Road

Runner? No way! How about one of the many popular Lesbian bars such as the Baybrick Inn or maybe Amelia's?

I am offended deeply by leather queens who want to take their S&M fantasies out on the rest of us by wearing a deputy's uniform. We don't need any more macho-macho police in this city. We need far more people who are compassionate and caring.

David Kaye
San Francisco

Exotics vs. the Assimilators

★ There is a certain type of individual in San Francisco who believes that because he or she (Lesbians included) doesn't cross-dress or "flaunt" his gayness, he is somehow less despised by bigots than his more exotic brethren. These individuals are noted for their maniacal cravings for acceptance from the Straight community. Their masochistic desires have no bounds. Sadly their cravings can never be satisfied until they take the ultimate step, and become full-fledged heterosexuals. This is a step that I wish Mr. Alley and his billboard would take post haste.

As a member of a subcommittee working on the National March for Gay Rights, I resent the assertions put forth by Mr. Alley in your Vol. XIV, No. 11, March 15, 1984 issue. The parade committee meetings are open to the public and anyone attending two meetings is eligible to vote on any issue before the committee. If Mr. Alley does not feel he is being represented, he is welcome and encouraged to make a major statement to the rest of America about gay people. If only the most exotic types (myself included) show up, it will be because folks like Mr. Alley prefer to sit back and bitch about how *passee* marches are rather than attend. If this is allowed to happen it will be a very sad occurrence, as this is a rare opportunity to show the diversity of the gay community to a television audience of millions. Attitudes such as Mr. Alley's allow people like our governor to dismiss gay rights legislation as unnecessary. Mr. Alley is not part of the solution, he's part of the problem.

Hope to see you all at the march.

John A. Barr
San Francisco

Pals for Handicapped

★ I have been getting the *Bay Area Reporter* for some time now. I love your Prison Pen-Pals, but I believe that our Gay brothers and sisters who are prisoners of wheel chairs, beds, and blindness would also like to be included. May I suggest a Pen-Pals for disabled Gays also be included. I don't know how to reach the blind ones, but at least maybe it might encourage someone out there to make one in Braille. Oh, and about the deaf Gays, how could we help them. Also, maybe this will get some of the disabled to put ads in the classifieds. I want them to know that a healthy brother with all his senses working is thinking of them.

Steven H.
A Reader in Modesto

Carfare

That Master of Porn, Mister Karr, Flays any film found under par. "Quelle horror!" he cries. With unfocused eyes: "If I go blind sue that damn B.A.R.!"

Christopher Bennedit
San Francisco

LETTERS

An Author's Rejoinder

★ What I can't understand is the viciousness of Paul-Francis Hartmann's review of my novel in your March 15 edition. Neither can I understand the reason for it. It just doesn't make sense, journalistically speaking, to have two negative reviews of the same novel in the same edition of your paper, especially when only two weeks earlier you had printed such a positive interview about my life and my work. When I read that March 15 interview I was so pleased that my local paper — in a sense my "hometown" paper — had given such support to one of its own. I work hard at my writing — I die daily at the typewriter — I try to confront issues and ideas and feelings about gay life that don't come easy, but they come true.

And so when I read Hartmann's review, which was so flippant and cruel — well, I just didn't understand it. It's not that I was angry; I was confused. *Why* did he write it? *Why* did you print two negative reviews of the same book? *Why* didn't you at least require Hartmann to read more than 28 pages of *As If After Sex* before he wrote such an all-encompassing condemnation of it?

What I'm trying to say is that I take my writing as seriously as you take your journalism; I'm trying to say something about the world as I see it. I do not throw words off my typewriter; I weigh them heavily. I'm not saying Hartmann has to like what I have to say, but he should at least consider the serious intent of it — and he should at least read it. If we don't take each other seriously, then who will — Gov. Deukmejian?

Joseph Torchia
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: In the arts we are gauged not by our intentions, but by our product. I doubt that there was anything personal in Hartmann's assessment, for it was over the worth of a book, not a person. The reason for any review is for the prospective reader; the author's sensitivities are the least of a reviewer's concerns. For like yourself he follows a muse, but one playing an entirely different tune.

P. Lorch

A Body Fluid Solution

★ Once more the Gay community has received a message from Sacramento via George Deukmejian. He dissented in 1975 on the "consenting adults" law, he declined to proclaim the last week in June, Gay Freedom Week; and in 1984 resists signing into law AB-1. The esteemed governor feels that there is no evidence of discrimination against Gays that warrants Gay rights legislation. However one can bet that if by chance he were to announce that he was Gay to his Orange County/New Right supporters that his chances for retaining his job would be in jeopardy.

I would just like for once to express my feelings to this honorable governor, to show him what I feel he shows me. I would love to see a massive letter writing campaign, with letters filled with secretions from the body that I feel he has flung on myself and the Gay community. If everyone with the slightest hint of anger/disappointment would fill an envelope with either spit, piss or whatever and mail it to the governor I would at least feel somewhat vindicated if not relieved. He wouldn't have to ask, "Where's the beef?" he would have it in his hands.

Waiting for elections takes too long. Thanks Duke, my letter is in the mail to you.

Richard J. Wellner
San Francisco

Bible Babble

★ Re "Free of Theism" (Letters, March 8): If I am handed a dozen eggs, some of which are rotten, but some of which are not, should I throw them all away and go out for a hamburger, or should I break each one in turn, throw out the rotten ones, and make an omelet with the remainder? Either choice will get me lunch, although the latter is perhaps more economical.

A critical approach to the Bible, as to any religious, ethical, or philosophic work, involves neither accepting nor rejecting out of hand, but rather applying one's knowledge, experience, and intuition to discerning the good, true, useful, or beautiful from the bad, false, useless, or ugly. Mr. Randolph admits there are "worthwhile sayings" in the Bible. I am puzzled that he should take me to task for agreeing with him, particularly when I arrived at my conclusions by the very method he seems to advocate.

Roy J. Wyman
San Francisco

Fundraiser Thanks

★ May we take an inch of your space to compliment Alan Selby of Mr. S Products for his tireless, unselfish efforts on behalf of the S.F. AIDS Fund. And to the staff and management of Chaps for making the fundraiser March 21 such a success. It appears that over \$9,000 was raised. Fantastic!

Hugh Swaney & Stan Spaeth

What We Allow

★ I do not understand how Mr. Lorch could allow such an ungenerous tirade as Paul-Francis Hartmann's review of Joseph Torchia's novel *As If After Sex* to be printed (March 15) in what is usually a high quality entertainment section.

The nastiness, the vituperation left me gasping. A critic's assessment should be a reasoned argument. As a literature teacher, I can tell you that the groundrules of criticism were violated in this attack, though one needs only be an intelligent reader to have seen that. Hartmann admits to having read only twenty-eight pages, but even a negative review requires that the entire book be read seriously. If Hartmann found that task too painful, the ethical thing to have done would have been to turn the assignment over to someone else.

Hartmann's review contains nothing but scurrilous potshots against the book, with no quotations or developed analysis. It is true that on the same page a fairly appreciative and literate review of Torchia's novel precedes Hartmann's venomous diatribe, and that juxtaposition serves to expose and condemn the inexactness of Hartmann's words.

Finally, I find it particularly hypocritical for Mr. Lorch to have allowed such unwarranted poison to be spilled on Torchia's novel in the face of Lorch's editorial in the same issue wherein he excoiates, as well he should, the vengefulness of Richardson concerning AB-1. It is a terrible thing for me to have to say that it appears that the Hartmann who wrote such cruel words in his review seems to reflect the same fuzzy, unkind, anti-humanistic, and hysterical sensibility as Richardson.

Roger Silver
San Francisco

CRITIC'S NOTE: Mr. Hartmann responds that he regrets his assessment left anyone gasping. He said he had the same reaction when he began reading the book. He said he didn't know anything about the groundrules of criticism, as he is not a professor of literature — merely a lover of lucid prose and a good writing junkie. He welcomes Professor Silver and all else to sample the proffered wares. Some people, he says, never get over junk food.

As far as the comparison to Senator H. L. Richardson, Hartmann again pleads innocence. He didn't know the senator was a book reviewer as well.

The Bartenders in San Jose

★ I have been meaning to write about this subject for quite a while now, but have never got around to doing it. Every time I go out to bars here I am irked by their behaviour towards the bar patrons.

With the Academy awards being on the horizon, someone should nominate the bartenders in San Jose for Attitude. There might not be enough awards to go around.

I am not talking about a single bar, and since the bar scene is limited when I go out, I don't feel I deserve any special treatment, but the basic service due to a paying customer, I don't want to be at the mercy of the mood in which that bartender decides to be in that particular night. I refuse to be ignored for the time being while he takes care of all his friends, and then decides to wait on me as if he is doing me a favor, and as if I and the rest of the customers are imposing on him.

I am used to good looking bartenders who make you feel that you are the most important thing they are serving at that instant. I am used to getting their undivided attention so that I drink fast enough to come back for another drink or just to gawk at the hunk. I am used to tipping good because I feel they deserve that and more, but I only get this in the city, and I would like to have it in San Jose.

I hope the owners of the bars in San Jose begin to realize that the constant drop in bar attendance is seriously connected to the cold attitude their bartenders project and they better do something about this before bar hopping in San Jose becomes a thing of the past.

Buster Billie
San Jose

AIDS and Plots

★ Since little progress has been made in the search for the cause of AIDS, perhaps some enlightenment could be found by putting the epidemic in the context of the times in which we live.

Here is a disease that first appeared right after the 1980 elections and at a time of many genetic breakthroughs. Here is a disease whose victims are mainly gay men who are not biologically different from the general population group. Curiously, this disease selects as its victims an unusually high proportion of gay men in concentrated areas who are productive and visible members of the gay community. Here is a disease that has accomplished what the homophobes have consistently been unable to do in the past: to suppress the homosexual movement.

Finally, here is a disease that may be the ultimate solution to the homosexual "problem" in this country: homosexual genocide!

Sound paranoid? Okay, then somebody please disprove it.

Paul Angora
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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 6)

be asking the questions? If we shouldn't be asking them, should the city's health and social service agencies be asking them? Or do we all keep our fingers stuck in the goo and wait for the day the District Attorney's office launches an investigation into AIDS fraud.

Sound silly? Remember, the Gay community's battle with AIDS is no longer a private fight. We are drinking at the public trough, and that *aqua vitae* is very, very expensive.

Paul Lorch

LETTERS

Perkins Pearls

★ In high school, many of the guys called me "chick-on" as opposed to "queer" cuz when one of the rude ones got me down in a fight, I bit very hard. I never took stock in the socially imposed behavior mode which required one to "fight like a man." And so the boys learned "not to fuck with me." Thanks to this — freedom of thought — on my behalf I have preserved myself and am today still one of the hottest "chickens" around.

So comes to light the latest in homosexual jokes — "What do you get when you cross a chicken with a bear?"

- a bear ass chicken
- a gay blade (S. Perkins)
- a wordy subject
- a joke.

There are some deep ones in there, sonny; so try.

Other multiple choice questions which have caught our funnybone lately are:

1. Whenever a gay person stands in front of a medical x-ray machine, what does he get?
 - a star
 - 5,000,000 rads
 - a red queen
 - RINK
 - quadruple the dose
 - f, b & e

2. The moral of the story is:
 - Be gay; you can't do anything about it.
 - They got to experiment on somebody.
 - Get down-trodden.
 - Ech!



Steve Perkins

Steve Perkins
San Francisco

Snap . . .

★ This is my first letter to your rag and what brings it on is lately you've been running these long, boring, making no sense letters. I prefer short, snappy letters from super-nerds like S. Perkins. Excuse me for thinking some of those anti-gay letters are more interesting than some of the intellectual BS you print. I love/hate those letters that point out grammar errors like someone with anal retention. (If you're so smart, what's wrong with that?) Just sign me . . .

Not my real name

P.S. Please warn Mike Hippler that if I ever run into him in a dark alley at night he'd better watch out. His pants'll be 'round his ankles in no time flat.

ED. NOTE: Dear "Me," will you hate reading your own letter or will you love it?

P.S. "Sense" and "intellectual" are spelled the way we did above, not the way your letter did.

P. Lorch

On the Pen Pal Capers

★ I read the *San Francisco Chronicle's* article "Convicts' Scam Victimizing Gays" (March 22, 1984).

I wrote a letter of warning many, many months ago about using caution with prison pen pals. You published my letter and followed with numerous warning messages on the same subject.

Doesn't it seem incredible that a "victim" could be duped out of \$20,000? It sure does to me, although the article doesn't indicate the home base of the victim. If San Francisco, then I presume the guy wouldn't look for an Exit sign when the Fire Alarm rang.

Anyway, Paul, I fully agree that even though some guys refuse to heed warnings and have allowed themselves to be victimized, it does not mean that we should discontinue our efforts to assist the worthy and unfortunate through correspondence and words of encouragement.

Most don't ask for anything more. So, again I say, "Be careful, it's not all that difficult to sort out the bad apples!"

Keep up all the good works and reporting of your publication.

Larry Holvey
San Francisco

Fisting Reaction

★ Response to John Morrison's letter: Last night I awoke to find my asshole bloodied. Is it possible that I raped myself or was it my own fault for not wearing pajamas? Furthermore, my mother was, and is, a woman! Ronald Reagan is a nut because of his wife!

Jon Sugar
San Francisco

Males Stand Fast

★ The slap-down by The Duke and the promise by H. L. Richardson, Bigot, comes at a particularly bad time for the homosexual men of this state.

We have allowed our strength to be whittled away by embracing every ding-a-ling project that came down the pike, all in the name of "Solidarity." It is axiomatic that each time we embrace one of these "U.S. out of Lower Slobovia" we lose strength. Those who do not agree that the U.S. should get out of Lower Slobovia find themselves at variances with the Community and thus are alienated.

Of course, the primary thing that has sapped our strength is the continual alliance with the Lesbians. The male homosexual and the female homosexual have exactly as much in common as the apple and the orange. The inclusion of the female, in this case a natural and "normal" alienation, has driven a hefty percentage of males from activist roles. And it is natural and "normal" for the female to fill the vacuum, thus further driving a greater percentage away from activist roles.

Unlike Mr. Edwards, I would not ban the female but would have her realize that her problems are unique to her. I have rarely seen any evidence of problems as intense and pervasive as confront the male. It is difficult for the female to draw the line between her sex-activity problems and her sex activist problems. Example: It is difficult to think of a poor downtrodden, underprivileged, defenseless, sinned-against, unequal-inquality-ridden female such as Dianne Feinstein.

I am not at all sure that there is enough vitality, enough strength to reverse the trend. When we see a group of male/female homosexuals endorsing the current administration in the White House and see Ed Davis welcomed with open arms, then the indications are not good. Mr. Davis, his predecessor, and his successor were all cut out of the same piece of cloth. And the same pattern was used to fashion The Old Man in the White House and H. L. Richardson.

Only those who steadfastly stand opposed to such as these, with no bargaining, no solidarity deals, can do for our detractors what we did for such as Anita and Jack Shelly.

Guy Strait
San Francisco

In Shilts' Defense



Randy Shilts (Photo: Rink)

★ I'm tired and angry to hear the continuing sarcastic, critical remarks related to Randy Shilts by the Gay press. The bottom line of his message to us is — take responsibility for yourself and others. I have mixed feelings about closing the baths, but I do not have mixed feelings when I talk with other Gay men who could give a damn about who they sleep with, could care less what their health status is, mine, or others in

the community. As Randy pointed out in his article of March 7, the epidemic is growing. My own survey indicates that too many Gay men could care less, or perhaps are foolish enough to think it can't happen to them.

Let me say also in defense of Randy Shilts that I see no reason why Sheriff Hennessey needed to go to a leather bar (except for political reasons) to recruit for the available police positions. Ads in the Gay press have been quite visible and if people are motivated, they should be able to get their bodies to the appropriate place to make an application. Is Shilts to blame for this or Sheriff Hennessey? A good sheriff he is — but his time could be better spent supervising his department. No matter how that article had been written — those who are anti-Gay would have been repulsed.

Howard Lader
San Francisco

Softball Food

★ The Gay Softball League sponsored a canned food drive for people with AIDS to launch their new season, and we'd like to thank everyone for the generous donations that they made. The league donated over eighty boxes of food — which we desperately needed, as over fifty people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions are regular recipients of food from the SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank. We'd also like to extend a special thank you and congratulations to the two teams who donated the most food — Trax and the Kokpit. They will play the opening game of the season on March 25. Commissioner Bobby Docca made a very special contribution as well — donating \$50 for people with AIDS.

Anyone who would like to donate to the SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank can drop items off at our office at 54 Tenth Street. All food donations go directly to our clients, and the more food we have, the more we can suit their individual needs.

Thanks again to the Gay Softball League and Bobby Docca — you've made a lot of people very happy!

Steven Pratt & Cary Norsworthy
Food Bank Co-ordinators
San Francisco

LETTERS

Prison Pen Pals

Getting Impatient

★ I'm writing to you once again at this present time, asking will you please publish an ad for me if you will. I wrote to you on February 13, 1984 asking for an ad to be published, but I haven't received a reply back yet. This is the ad I wish to be published:

I'm a black male 5' 7 1/2", weight 176 lbs. I'm 24 years old. I'm doing time here in Florida prison. I want gays to write to. I love any guys. I also wish to write to any freak or female. I wish I could get a reply back soon as possible. I'm very lonely seeking someone to write to. It would be very kind of you to help me with this.

Marvine A. Brown, #081188
M.B.139, G-537
P.O. Box 158
Lowell, FL 32663

Gay Wants to Relate

★ I would like my name added to your ads. I am in prison and I really don't have another Gay to relate to. The dudes in here have been forced and made to enjoy another male. How can you relate to them?

I need someone to share my feelings and life with. I am 30 years old, 5' 10", 180 lbs. I love sports and outdoors.

Charles E. Jones, #055227
21-3107
P.O. Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

"Please," in Ohio

★ I'm seeking to establish a true, honest and sincere relationship with someone whom I can share my feelings, thoughts and future plans. Someone who will write me as often as I write. I'm 26 years of age, 5' 11", 148 lbs., black hair, blue eyes, clean shaven and at present very lonely for friendship.

I love to write, reading, swimming, sports and meeting good people. I play bridge; also chess. I have my associate degree in business and accounting. Also my degree in cooking school. I will be released in June 1984.

Larry Cash, 150-946
P.O. Box 45699
Lucasville, OH 45699

Not Playing Games

★ Hi! I am wondering, or rather would appreciate your placing the following ad for me. I got your address from a friend, but I've never seen your newspaper or magazine.

I am Bi, and very lonely and would love to hear from that special someone who is not into playing games. Any race. My interests are music, theater, and life and love. Thank you very much for your help. Love & Peace.

Walter Webb, #15428
Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Little Luck

★ I'm writing for the possibility of placing an ad with your circular. I wrote before and only received one or two letters with no great satisfaction in order to establish a relationship!

I would greatly appreciate your placing again an ad for me that I may become more fortunate this time.

I am 24, 5' 9", weigh 160#, have black hair, almost black eyes, and a dark brown complexion. My hobbies are prose, poetry, painting, martial arts, outdoor life. I love animals, children, movies, all types of music and I'm sensitive. Turn offs: Dishonestness, liars, bars, crowds. Interests: Seeking a Lifemate, someone understanding, loving, gentle and compassionate.

Willie Cochise Redd
40710 Unit 24
Parchman, MS 38738

Very Attractive

★ I am writing you this letter in the hopes that you will be able to run an ad for me in your paper. If possible, I would also appreciate a subscription of your paper.

At this time I am an inmate confined at the State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana. I do not receive any visits or letters from anyone at this time and I am a very lonely person.

I am interested in meeting new people in the hopes that I can receive the drive and determination to make a better life for myself, so as I am a better than when I entered this place.

I'm a G/W/M, 26 years, 6' 3", 155 lbs., Brown hair, Hazel eyes. I'm sincere, caring, honest, slim trim, very attractive.

Danny Smith, #5337
P.O. Box 41
Michigan City, IN 46360

Straight Acting

★ I have been incarcerated for five years now, and during this time I have lost contact with friends and needless to say I have become quite lonely. So I am in hopes of finding friendship through an ad in your publication.

But sir, I have no funds to have an ad printed, but no words could ever express the many thanks that would be in my heart for whatever you could do for me.

I'm a W/M, 25, 5' 9", 160#, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm straight acting and appearing and could be versatile. Looking for honest friendship now/love as it comes.

I am honest, sincere, understanding and you must be the same. Any race/age. Will answer all. Please send photo.

Richard Clemons, #97777
P.O. Box 411
Michigan City, IN 46360

Mississippi Man

★ I am incarcerated in the Mississippi State Prison. I am a W/G/M, 21 yrs, 6' 1", 170 lbs. Br hair, G. eyes. I hope to be getting out soon and want a sincere, long lasting relationship. Race and looks unimportant.

John Wilson
#55695 U/24 E.T.
Parchman, MS 38738

Seeking a Special Person

★ Very Sexy W/M 24, 53 1/2 inches, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm looking for some one special male that will turn me on. Write and send pic. I will do the same. I am a Fireball in bed.

James W. Davidson, #A-074546
P.O. Box 1500
Cross City, FL 32628

Older Gentleman, Please

★ I'm writing to you in hopes you will put my letter in *B.A.R.* as I'm searching for an older gentleman for a lasting relationship.

I'm 5' 8" and weigh about 135 pounds. I have dark brown hair and brown eyes. I'm 23 years old and all alone as both my parents have passed away. I am soon to be released and hope to find that special somebody who I can devote my life, time and love to.

John L. Gibson
P.O. Box 30 — 8612
Pendleton, IN 46064

Looking for a Home

★ Hi Fellas. I'm a nice looking 25 year old bodybuilder. I have wavy brown hair, green eyes, 5' 7", 135 pounds. I'm very open minded and hearted with average intelligence. I would like to write to other gay men for friendship, and have a loving relationship with someone of interest to me who would not consider it a burden for me to live with him upon my release. I will send a photo of myself when responding or as soon as possible. I would appreciate yours also.

Tommy Martin, #12871
Box 30 (27-1J)
Pendleton, IN 46064

Handsome in Indiana

★ Hello. My name is Frank Arnett and I am interested in corresponding with men of all ages. I'm at a very lonely point in life and want to find someone who can help me to overcome this loneliness and in turn give me the chance to start a new life with someone who I can give much love and friendship to. I am to be released soon and want to start a new life with someone who I can give much love and friendship to. I am 23 years old, 5' 11", 200 lbs. I have a mustache, brown hair and eyes. I am extremely hairy, considered handsome and very masculine. I work out regularly. I am a very open minded guy, so if you feel we may be compatible, please write. I will answer all letters same day. Thank you.

Frank Arnett, #24807
Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Hot 'n Horny

★ I am a light skinned Black male currently incarcerated in the Indiana State Reformatory. I'm looking for women or gays to write me. I'm being released this year (in late September). I am 5 feet ten inches tall, brown wavy hair, brown eyes and medium built with an eight inch cock (when erect). Write to me if interested.

DeWayne Smith, #10868
P.O. Box 30 K-5
Pendleton, IN 46064

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SEATTLE GAY NEWS

Seattle Cops Get Gay Trained

Seattle - Amid reports of police harassment of gays in Volunteer Park here, a cross-section of the Seattle Police Department participated in an all-day training session aimed at busting stereotypes of Gay people.

Developed by the Police/Gay Training Task Force and drawing participation from the Dorian Group, Washington state's largest Gay organization, the session included segments on domestic quarrels between Lesbian or Gay lovers, physical attacks on Gays, and fighting a persistent attitude among cops that Gays "get what they deserve (anti-Gay attacks)" by placing themselves in dangerous situations, such as cruising in Volunteer Park.

The park, located a few blocks from Broadway — Seattle's Castro Street — was the scene last summer of several highly-publicized assaults on six Gay men by a gang of violent, club-wielding teenagers whipped up by AIDS hysteria.

A new controversy has erupted meanwhile over reports that police officers are harassing Gay men in the park, with complaints coming into the Seattle Gay News charging that uniformed officers come into the park several times during the evening and post-midnight hours in their patrol cars and verbally harass Gay men strolling inside the park.

Police steadfastly deny that there have been any such incidents and point out that there have been no arrests of Gay men on charges of sexual activity in the park, but the complaints keep mounting.

— Seattle Gay News

New Jersey Will Have Gay Bill

Trenton - A bill aimed at outlawing discrimination against Gays has been introduced in the New Jersey legislature.

Assemblymember Bennett Mazur (D-Hoboken), sponsor of the bill, said that the bill, unlike the recently vetoed AB-1 in California, would include housing and public accommodations, as well as employment.

Mazur, described by the New Jersey Lesbian/Gay Coalition as "a longtime friend of the Gay community," acknowledged that getting the bill passed "will not be easy," and acknowledged that in the face of the AB-1 veto, he faces certain opposition by

Christian fundamentalists and Orthodox Jewish rabbis. But Mazur said that the bill will be assigned to the State Government Committee, which he said "is made up of relatively sympathetic people."

Although Democrats control both houses of the Legislature, the bill would face an uphill fight in the Senate, which has traditionally been dominated by conservatives in both parties.

And like his California counterpart, Gov. Thomas Kean, a Republican, is remaining silent on the issue.

— Washington Blade

Aspen Turns Off the Music

An Aspen, Colorado, heterosexual bar reportedly closed its doors early to prevent several male couples from dancing, according to *The Advocate*.

Eyewitnesses reported that several members of a dearth of Gay ski groups from around the U.S. in town for an annual get-together began dancing to the Village People's "YMCA" at the Paragon Ballroom about 10 p.m. on January 23. The music abruptly changed to "undanceable" country and western music. All dancing stopped when the music was turned off about 10:45 p.m. and the Gay men were "herded out the door."

The bar's owner, Fred Koutsoubs later said there had been a sound failure and that the bar had remained open until 1:15 a.m., but a spokesman for the Aspen Gay community said he passed the bar at midnight and saw chairs on the tables and only three employees visible inside. Aspen is the only municipality in Colorado covered by a sexual orientation anti-discrimination ordinance, and the only legal option for the bar management was to close up to avoid catering to Gay people. The Paragon Ballroom management had attempted to have several Gay people arrested three years ago for "creating a disturbance."

Although the more than 100 Gay ski club members in town for the event were welcome at two other Aspen discos, the Paragon responded to the temporary influx by placing a newspaper ad announcing "Country and Western Week" and offering half-priced drinks to "ladies."



Black & White Sue Bars in Baltimore

Baltimore - Two Gay bars in the Waverly section of this city have been sued in federal district court by five Black and six White members of Black and White Men Together, accusing the bars of race discrimination in admitting patrons.

The suit charges that The Torch on East 32nd Street and The Porthole on Gorsuch Avenue exclude Blacks from admission by requiring three or more pieces of identification, while Whites were admitted unimpeded.

The plaintiffs seek a total of \$2.6 million in damages.

— Baltimore Gay Paper

Gay Mimmers Emerge

An all-Gay "fancy brigade" may appear someday soon in Philadelphia's annual Mummer's Day Parade, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Reverend Joseph Gilbert, pastor of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Community Church, has applied to form a brigade, but was put on a waiting list because only a certain number of fancy brigades are allowed in the parade each year.

Gilbert said the Board of Directors of MCC has endorsed the idea of a Gay brigade in the parade, but plans to turn the idea over to a separate group not affiliated with the MCC once a spot in the parade is snagged.

Gay Chicago

Canadian Lesbian Teacher Gets Canned

A hearing examiner for the Evergreen School District in Vancouver, Washington, has upheld the firing of a teacher because of rumors that she is a Lesbian, according to the *Seattle Gay News*.

Cheryl Mercier was suspended from her teaching job last September in a local high school after four years because rumors had reached the school district office that she is a Lesbian. Mercier contested the suspension and requested a hearing, but the

hearing examiner found the dismissal was based on adequate cause and would stand.

According to the *Seattle Gay News*, informed sources at the closed hearing said much of the evidence produced at the hearing was hearsay, and that students at the high school used as witnesses merely repeated rumors they had heard about the teacher. There has been no direct accusation of sexual involvement with students made against Mercier.

The Empire Gazette

Philly Gay Reformers

Homosexuals Anonymous, a "Christian organization" that claims to "reform" homosexuals, has been holding meetings in Philadelphia since October and has taken out a personal ad in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* to attract more members, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

The group, which operates much like Alcoholics Anonymous in that support from others in the group is essential, centers its philosophy around the idea that "people can become heterosexual through the deliverance of Christ." An unnamed HA spokesperson contacted by the

Gay News claimed a Gay man from Baltimore "is totally free from desires for homosexuality" because of his acceptance of Christ. The spokesperson, who said he is not involved "in homosexual activity anymore," though he is still "tempted," feels it has been clinically proven through tests that Gay people can lose their homosexual desires by being "delivered" by Christ.

The group has connections to the Reading, Pennsylvania, Quest Center headed up by "reformer" Colin Cook and has about 15 members who attend weekly meetings in Philadelphia. The group also holds a meeting for "parents of Gays and others."

Christopher Street

Censorship in Toronto

Toronto - Controversy has erupted over censorship of an erotically-oriented Gay men's magazine.

Canadian customs agents deleted the text of a story about masturbation from the February issue of *Torso* — yet left intact an illustration of a man masturbating.

The agents also removed a full-page ad for several erotic Gay magazines from the same issue — yet left in an even more sexually-suggestive full-page photo collage.

— The Body Politic

LA Council Race

Gay Candidate's Modeling Career Exposed by Press

by George Mendenhall

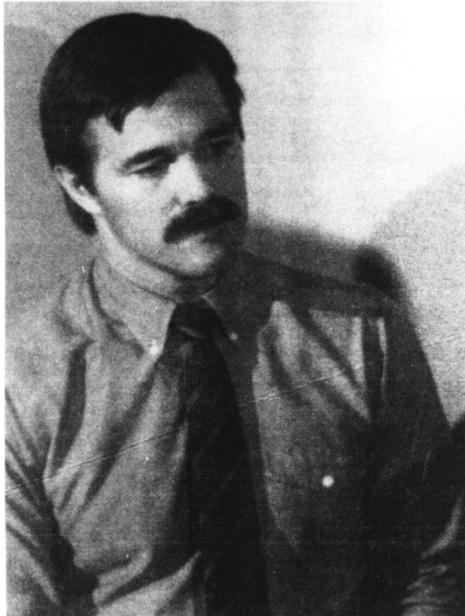
A popular Hollywood Gay figure, Steve Schulte, has been revealed in a *Los Angeles Times* article as a former nude model for Colt Studios. Schulte is the only announced Gay candidate for the seat of Los Angeles Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson. She will be running for re-election. The primary election is not until April, 1985. Some Schulte supporters hope the public will forget it all by then.

The handsome weightlifter with the Arnold Schwarzenegger build has received \$50,000 in pledges from some well-heeled LA activists. He recently resigned as head of the LA Gay/Lesbian Community Services Center to run full-time for the office. Several candidates are expected in the race as incumbent Stevenson proved herself vulnerable in her last re-election bid. She says she had not lost support of the Gay community in her district but others dispute this claim.

Will it hurt his campaign now that the world knows about his nude photos, still being distributed under a pseudonym, Nick Chase? Schulte told this reporter, "We were going to bring this up early ourselves — to be honest and upfront about it. The photos are part of my history, but hopefully they will not damage my campaign. On the plus side is the fact that it was revealed over a year before the primary."

Schulte does not know who told the *Times* about the photo but anyone could have. The article was written by Kevin Roderick, who recently wrote a major series on the Gay community in California. "He didn't have to look hard to find this out," the candidate explains, "as it was common knowledge in the Gay community here."

The photos themselves were relatively harmless — rear and frontal shots with no erections.



Steve Schulte runs for office.

sessions at Colt since 1977. A Colt official said he was one of the firm's most popular models.

"It's something I wish weren't there," the candidate now admits, "but it is not something I feel bad about or ashamed of. I don't think nudity is pornography."

Schulte, a Yale graduate, is highly respected in the Los Angeles Gay community. Funding for the Hollywood-based Gay Center increased considerably under his direction. He is now a part-time consultant to state and national health organizations, allowing himself time to meet with his campaign advisors. He does not believe he has lost any of his supporters because of the recent revelation, but adds, "We won't know for some months."

Liberace Wins Round One in \$113 Million Love-for-Cash Suit

Scott Thorson, who says that he was discarded as millionaire entertainer Liberace's lover in 1982, filed a \$113 million damage suit. Much of the validity of Thorson's claim was based on his contention that Liberace promised him a lifetime income and paid him for sexual services. A Los Angeles Superior Court has ruled that even if Thorson did have an oral contract to perform sex with Liberace that such a contract was for prostitution so it cannot be ruled to be legal.



Liberace's "ex," Scott Thorson

Judge Ricardo Torres' ruling was based on the 1975 Marvin vs. Marvin decision in the California Supreme Court. In the "palimony" case the court ruled, "The courts should enforce express agreements between non-marital partners except to the extent that the contract is explicitly founded on the consideration of meretricious

sexual (sex-for-hire) services." Other "palimony" lawsuits involving same-sex relations have not been successful.

Thorson, 24, claims that he met Liberace, 64, in 1976 in a Las Vegas Casino. He was 17 at the time and claims that although he found it "revolting," he entered into sex with the entertainer. They entered into an alleged agreement wherein Thorson was to provide sex, take care of several dogs and serve as chauffeur, secretary, on stage assistant, bodyguard and confidant. In return, Thorson states that he got \$7,000 a month and up to \$30,000 a year for caring for the pets. Thorson insists in his lawsuit that this was promised as a lifetime arrangement in an oral, not written, agreement.

About the only strain in their relationship, Thorson alleges, is that "he constantly worried that the public would find out about his homosexuality so there was never anyone else in our lives." The six-year arrangement ended in 1982 when Thorson claims his partner began dating younger men. Thorson claims he moved out of the Las Vegas resi-

dence. He says he was intimidated by four men hired by Liberace. He agreed to accept \$74,000 in equity on jointly owned property, a gold-plated Rolls Royce and three dogs, as a separation settlement.

Shortly afterwards, Thorson changed his mind and filed the multi-million dollar claim. He now says he has suffered "anguish, suffering, humiliation and distress" and was denied a career as a veterinarian. Ironically, he claims he still loves "Libby," pleading "I gave my life to him. He was very kind and gentle to me. I thought it would go on forever."

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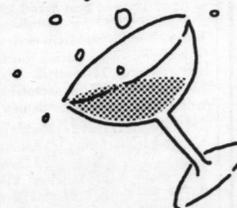


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QUICKIES!

Vassar Adopts Pro-Gay Policy

Vassar College, in upstate New York, has amended its general anti-discrimination policy to include protection based on sexual orientation. The move to get this added protection was begun by the Gay People's Association of Vassar, a student organization. The policy has now been officially changed and will be published in the 1984-1985 college catalog.

E.K. Weedon, Jr., an Associate Professor of English, helped the students shepherd the proposal through the proper channels. When he met resistance, Weedon called upon National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, for assistance. NGR's Legal Director, Leonard Graff, worked closely with Professor

Weedon to achieve a speedy and successful result. Prof. Weedon said: "All of NGR's information and advice was greatly useful and influential on those doubtful and even hostile to the proposal. NGR effectively answered every one of their objections concerned with the law."

Jean O'Leary, NGR Executive Director, said, "This policy is an important precedent that will surely be followed by other universities. It is another step toward ending discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in this country." While NGR is primarily involved in major test case litigation, O'Leary noted that the organization's legal expertise is available for resolving all law-related problems affecting Gay people. ■

Stonewall to Endorse for President

Stonewall Gay Democratic Club will endorse for the Democratic Presidential Nominee and all Democratic Central Committee seats at its meeting Monday, April 2 at 7:30 PM. Stonewall will meet at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street (near Valencia).

"All three Presidential campaigns are expected to send spokespeople" said Political Vice President Ralph Payne. "In addition, every candidate for Democratic Central Committee are expected to address the Club. Many of these candidates are expected to seek the Club's endorsement, and each has been sent a background questionnaire asking for his or her position on specific Lesbian and Gay issues."

Stonewall will also vote on the "Sunlight Initiative" (Proposition K), and the sole contested race for Municipal Judge. For the Judge's race, incumbent Albert Wollenberg and challenger Jonathan McCurdy will address the Club.

Stonewall Gay Democratic Club is the second oldest Gay Democratic Club in the nation. Annual dues are \$12 (\$6 low income). For information call 552-4287. ■

Georgia Highway Named for McDonald

Atlantans Reject Decision

The Georgia General Assembly named a portion of Interstate 75 for deceased homophobic US Rep. Larry McDonald on the last day of its 1984 session.

McDonald killed by a well-aimed Soviet missile last fall, was a passenger on the downed Korean Air Lines flight 007. During his three terms in the US House of Representatives he sponsored the McDonald Amendment, which would deny use of federal funds to the Legal

Services Corporation for law suits involving Gay rights or homosexuals. He opposed government AIDS research.

"There are a lot of fine, honorable congressmen. Larry McDonald was not one of them," said Atlanta state Rep. Billy McKinney. "He was a person who was considered a kook, a kooky congressman from Georgia, and I don't see us naming a major thoroughfare after him."

VD Volunteers Sought

April has been named "VD Awareness Month" and the city VD clinic has put out a call for volunteers.

Interested parties are asked to contact Marty at 285-1167. ■

Sha'ar Zahav Passover Celebration

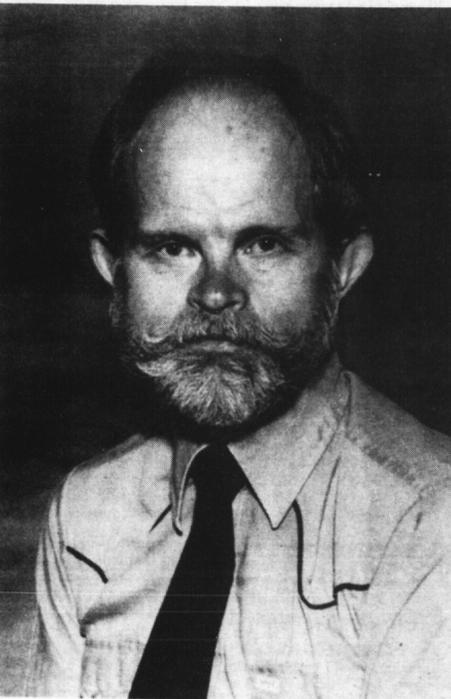
Passover, the Jewish celebration of freedom, will be celebrated by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav with the traditional Seder, beginning 6:30 PM on Tuesday evening, April 17, the second night of Passover. All are welcome to join the congregation at this event.

The congregational Seder will be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn at Van Ness and Pine. The Seder, a ritual retelling of the exodus from Egypt through story and song, will be led by members of the congregation and the Seder meal will be specially prepared with recipes from members. As another special feature, Sha'ar Zahav uses its own Hagaddah (the book that tells the Passover story).

This congregational Seder is for everyone but especially for those whose families may not be in the Bay Area. This will be an opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy a relaxing evening in the warmth of Sha'ar Zahav's extended family.

The deadline for Seder tickets is April 12. The cost is \$30 for the public, \$25 for members, and \$18.50 for children. Strictly kosher and vegetarian meals are available on request. The Seder is wheelchair accessible and signing available on request.

Please make checks payable to Congregational Sha'ar Zahav, Congregational Seder, 220 Danvers Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. For further information, please call the synagogue office, 861-6932. ■



Frank Scarlett was designated as Hospital Chaplain of the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, San Francisco, during the Morning Worship Service, Sunday, March 11, 1984.

His credentials include the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Divinity degrees with thirty years in the pastoral ministry including approximately one hundred hours a week hospital visitation.

Those needing his professional services should call the Church, (415) 474-0307. They do not need to be members of MCC. ■

ON THE JOB: GAY PEOPLE AT WORK

Valley Woman

ARTHUR LAZERE, C.P.A.

Her story calls to mind 1940s Hollywood soap operas — some of Mildred Pierce, perhaps. A touch of Daisy Kenyon. The role might have been played by Crawford or Stanwyck. The ending is upbeat, but one that could only have happened in the 1980s.

The setting is Fresno, California, a San Joaquin Valley city equidistant between Los Angeles and San Francisco. In the heart of rich agricultural country, Fresno is without geographic, architectural, or cultural distinction. Aside from the more temperate climate, it seems more like a Nebraska town than one in California. The current population nears a quarter of a million. Back when Bobra Tahan was growing up, the count was about half that many.

Her grandparents were Okies, refugees from the dustbowl who came to California during the depression. Her father was a long line truck driver, on the road for many days at a time while her mother stayed home, kept house, and drank. When her father was home, he abused and beat his wife. Bobra — steely determination clear in her voice even these many years later — swore that "I was never going to allow that to happen to me."

Bobra was the third of four children and the only girl. The parental preference for males was reflected in the spelling of her first name and the gender-neutral middle name of Gene. "I was always put in a secondary position to the boys," she recalls. "I always had to compete with the boys to get attention. I was a bright child, but you didn't get a lot of strokes for being bright. You got strokes for being strong. I caught on real quick. Anything that the boys did, I just competed with them. I could do better than they did. I could run faster, I could climb trees, I could wrestle just as good as they could..."

Her mother divorced and remarried. At 16 Bobra left home, living first with a brother, then at the YWCA, then with a friend. She dropped out of high school and shortly thereafter got pregnant. She wasn't yet married, but that didn't matter to her: "It was, at the time, the most wonderful thing that had ever happened to me. It was the sheepskin of womanhood, a validation of my womanhood. We did get married. I was programmed to marry; that was the role I had been taught to play. And I knew what I wanted in a husband: he wouldn't beat me; he would be a gentle person; and he would be someone I could manipulate, someone I would have a sense of power over."

Her first husband, a warehouseman of Italian/American descent, met all her requirements and, in addition, he had big brown eyes and a '57 Chevy. But Bobra didn't find fulfillment in cleaning house and changing diapers. She felt trapped and had no idea how to escape. She became slothful and slept whole days away. She was bored and decided to relieve the boredom by having a second child. The arrival of her daughter, predictably, did not solve her problem.

Then, in a further attempt to relieve the tedium of her life, she had an affair with a neighbor, a policeman. He confided in her that he was bisexual and told her about his encounters with men. Hearing about his experiences

And, while she felt the experience transcended anything that she had experienced with men, it was short-lived and unhappy. She was possessive and she was jealous of her lover's husband. She was drinking more; it was clear now that she was an alcoholic. When her lover broke off the affair, Bobra committed herself to a psychiatric hospital, the first of several times she did so.

Her next adventure was with her daughter's music teacher, an attractive woman who "seemed normal." Bobra rented the bridal suite at The Smugglers' Inn, ordered champagne and flowers, selected romantic music. This was to be her "move into the Gay lifestyle." But she was terrified and she drank too much. "My \$500 Lesbian experience was throwing up and passing out and she left."

Confused and despairing, hurt by continuing rejection by her first lover, and feeling helplessly trapped, Bobra, at age 31, attempted suicide. She started slugging down pills with alcohol. "I thought to myself, 'If I don't die, I'm going to be real, real sick.' So I took some Maalox in case I woke up..."

Somehow, finally, she found the strength to pick herself up and start to redirect her life. She divorced her husband and set up house with her three children, planning to start living as a Lesbian. "I was terrified that I would become what, in my ignorance, I thought a Lesbian was — that I would grow a beard and my voice would change."

Bobra's mother came to visit and confronted her on the subject. (Her ex-husband had called her mother with the informa-

One week later Dr. Tahan offered Bobra (now 28) \$100,000 to marry him and help raise his children. Despite her difficult circumstances, she refused him because she didn't love him "and you are supposed to love someone if you are going to marry him." But she kept seeing him and she worked at learning to love him. She finally agreed to marry him upon completion of a premarital contract in which she got half of everything he owned. It was a quick transition from welfare mother to lady millionaire, complete with honeymoon in Las Vegas. "I finally had gotten to where I was supposed to be. I had really made it. I had married a professional man."

Her new life began: an enormous home with maids, gardener, and pool man; charity work for handicapped children; and, of course, the ladies who lunch. But the good doctor turned out to be more difficult than Bobra had anticipated. There were sexual problems which he blamed on her. At his suggestion she had surgery twice (including breast implants), but that did not improve the situation. By now she was drinking more than socially. Then she fell in love with one of the ladies who lunch, a six-foot-tall redhead.

At this point she started psychotherapy. On her first visit to the therapist, she remembers, "I walked in, sat down, and crossed my arms over my chest. I looked at him and I said, 'You know, what I'm not going to do here is, I'm not going to talk all about my past life, I'm not going to dig up all that old stuff, and I'm not going to deal with the fact that I am a homosexual.'" It was the first time that she had said it to anyone, including herself.

Bobra, at this time 29, had her first serious affair with another woman, the tall redhead.

tion.) When Bobra confirmed that she was a Lesbian, "Mother slapped me across the face and told me she would just as soon that I was dead." Neither did her prior circle of straight friends give her any support.

She found a job — the first in her life — teaching in a real estate school. There she met Barbara, a woman who had recently relocated to Fresno from Ohio and, also, a mother. They became lovers and later combined their households. It was Barbara who insisted that Bobra quit drinking. In the four years that Bobra has been on the wagon, she has built a new life.

She has become a successful real estate agent. In addition she has started a business called Valley Women, a mail order operation selling books, art works, and other items to the feminist/Lesbian market. With Larry Mesple she became one of the founders (and subsequently President) of the Central California Business and Professional Association, Fresno's Lesbian/Gay chamber of commerce. She has become active as well in the National Association of Business Councils, heading up the NABC's Speakers' Bureau.

CCBPA, she says, helped her to come out, to express her Gayness in a context that also reflected on the rest of her newly found life. She likes the sharing and the energy that she finds through participation in the business organizations. She especially likes the positive message that she feels is implicit in these groups: "You can be productive, you can be healthy, you can be okay. You don't have

to be a second-class citizen. I'm not going to buy that from anybody. Sometimes I feel weak and tired. It's like water dripping on a stone, the continued perception of others' attitudes toward us. I almost get back to accepting that, to buying in to second-class citizenship. What helps me not slip back is the shared positivity of CCBPA and NABC."

Bobra was also a founder of the Central California Political Action Committee, a Gay PAC modeled on Los Angeles' MECLA. Recently she was appointed by Mayor Dan Whitehurst to Fresno's Civil Service Commission, the first up-front Gay person ever appointed in Fresno.

"For the first time in my life," she said recently, "I'm where I'm supposed to be; I am in focus. If there's one single woman out there who has been in any of those awful places I've been, I want her to see that she can do it. She can work and be productive, she can raise children, she can contribute to her community."

She paused and glanced down at the lambda dangling from a gold chain around her neck. "Everything about me that is healthy came through the transition from straight to Gay. And the coming out never stops. I came out drunk and I came out all over again sober. It happens every single day, with another person or in another way. Every act of coming out makes me stronger."

Her voice is soft-spoken, but something in Bobra Tahan's tone insists upon being heard. ■

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Remembering Nikita

The Evolution of a Friendship

by Mike Hippler

Wednesday night was Bette Davis night my freshman year of college. A small group of us who lived on the same hall in the dormitory basement used to gather in Joe and Nikita's room promptly at 11:30 every Wednesday night to watch the old Bette Davis movies shown on TV each week. Leaving our books and studies behind, we arranged ourselves around the room on beds and couches and argued whether or not the windows should be open or closed as we smoked a joint and shared a bottle of wine. If there was time before the movie started, Joe would entertain us by lip-synching to Four Tops records. Norman, the theater major, often joined in while Nikita, the perpetual water-boy, ran to the Cambridge Inn (the C.I. for short) for munchies. Nikita never volunteered — we made him go — and when he returned he brought back piles of greasy junk food. It was a great time, those nights watching Bette Davis. At last I had found a group who enjoyed the same things I did, a group with whom I felt comfortable.

I never questioned at the time why I felt comfortable with that particular group or why we spent our time watching Bette Davis movies together, not until I ran across a small Gay newspaper in an obscure bookstore downtown and read the lead article about why Gay men idolized certain movie stars, stars like Judy Garland, Mae West, Joan Crawford, and — gasp — Bette Davis. "Oh no!" I thought. "Can it be?" Is that the reason we like Bette Davis? It could be, and it was. I didn't fully realize I was Gay then, and I didn't come out for a year after that, but when I finally did, I discovered that not only I, myself, but also everyone else in that original group was Gay — all but Nikita, and he came out two years after I did.

Nikita, when I first met him, was not named Nikita. He was David Greenleaf, boring old David, from a small town in Western Massachusetts. He wore glasses with thick, black rims and slicked his hair over to one side. He was a good many pounds overweight and was painfully self-conscious and insecure. He was clearly something of a nerd, and at first I resisted liking him, for I was trying desperately to be anything but that (I was going through my status-conscious phase) and I feared guilt by association. Soon, however, I grew up and learned to see beyond the exterior, and, in any case, soon that exterior changed. David grew his hair long and wore bandanas. He did away with the horn-rims and lost weight. David was transformed into Nikita, a name chosen for him because he studied Russian and also, although he denies it to this day, because when we first met him he looked a good deal like Nikita Khrushchev. The one change I never expected to see, however, the one that surprised me utterly when it occurred, was when Nikita "turned" Gay. "Sure he likes Bette Davis," I thought, "but Nikita — Gay?" Somehow I couldn't imagine how Nikita would be happy in a society that, as diverse as it is, doesn't encourage diversity. I was still a novice faggot when Nikita came out, but already I had discovered one basic fact of life in the Gay New World: "Faggots (Like Everyone Else) Can Be Shallow and Cruel."

Over the years the small group of freshmen disbanded. We moved on to other dormitories, to different majors, and eventually to other towns, and most of us lost touch with each other. But I never lost touch with Nikita. When I moved into a coed dormitory my sophomore year, Nikita followed. Later, when he spent a year bartending and skiing in New Hampshire, I visited. We wrote to each other and called. We discussed boyfriends and drugs, hopes and frustrations. But the main reason we stayed close, I think, is that when we graduated and I moved 200 miles away to the mountains to teach, Nikita settled in Durham,

our college town, and thus became the main link I had to a community I loved, a place I visited again and again when the solitude of life in the mountains became too oppressive.

When I was in college, there was no Gay community to speak of, none that I knew outside that small group of friends I rarely saw after my freshman year. Oh, there was a local Gay bar, the Pegasus in Chapel Hill, but it was a dump, and I never went there. But as soon as I graduated, Durham had a renaissance of sorts. Gay boys bloomed in every garden, spilling into the streets. Wherever I looked on my return visits, I saw Gay people. Everyone I met seemed to be Gay. It was wonderful, albeit frustrating — "Where were they when I was here?" I wondered — and I envied Nikita his opportunity to participate in that renaissance. And participate he did. Despite my expectations, Nikita had developed a circle of friends, and I was quick to ingratiate myself with them, as I had no Gay friends where I lived.

This homosexual renaissance should have been no surprise to me. There may be no big cities in central North Carolina, but there are three major universities within a 15-mile radius — Duke, the University of North Carolina, and North Carolina State — and where there is a college

"Nikita seemed to do okay despite my concern."

— Mike Hippler

town, there are boys in the band. For reasons I'll never understand, the boys suddenly coalesced when a major Gay party bar opened on the road between Durham and Chapel Hill the year after I left. Blueberry Hill it was called, and on any given night there would be hundreds, sometimes thousands, of handsome Gay men from all over North Carolina, brought together in the one place such gatherings were possible. Although I had grown up in Atlanta, I had never been to a big-time party bar. Consequently with little with which to compare it, Blueberry Hill looked like heaven to me, and I made Nikita take me there whenever I came back to Durham.

Eventually I moved on from the mountains to the big cities, one after another, and in each of these cities I met more faggots in a week than I had ever met in Durham. It was then that our roles reversed, and it was Nikita who inhabited the comparatively restricted environment. I even learned to feel "sorry" for him. Accustomed as I was to the inexhaustible opportunities of Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, I wondered how Nikita could possibly

be content with a backwater like Durham. What could he do there? Who could he find to love? How did he spend his nights? Didn't he miss the parties in New York or San Francisco? Where would he find a green nylon flight jacket, for God's sake? Was there a Gay bookstore in Durham? A Gay theater or cabaret? How could he consider himself civilized when he lived in a town with no Gay gym? How could he consider himself educated when he had never heard of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, or jack-off nights at the Caldron. I was distraught. "Poor Nikita," I thought. "Doomed."

Nikita seemed to do OK despite my concern. In the winters he worked at various catering and bartending jobs, and in the summers he lived at the beach, where he worked as the head chef at an exclusive country club for East Carolinians. He still maintained his close circle of friends, and somehow he even managed to find people to love. Unfortunately, they all seemed to be a good deal younger than himself. Like many of us, Nikita was drawn to All-American, blond, surferboy types who were invariably 18 or younger, and his place at the beach became a refuge for the young and restless — local youths looking for a place to escape. A few were Gay; most were not. No sweat, really, if you don't mind the risk of going to

jail for child-molesting, but the trouble is that most young kids are terribly unsettled, and Nikita found himself losing his heart to people who hadn't even discovered theirs yet. Consequently, he was continually facing hurt and disillusionment, and — if such matters can be the subject of levity — his affairs with *les petits* became a standing joke with us. "What can you possibly do with a 16-year old?" I asked him recently. "The same thing you do with a 26-year old," Nikita replied. "Only quicker, before his parents find out."

So it has been for years now — Nikita in Durham and me in the city — and I began to fear that our relationship was doomed to an ever-decreasing flow of cards and letters between two people fated never to see one another, when suddenly the prospect of a driving vacation from Washington DC to Key West gave me the opportunity to stop off for a night in North Carolina just to see Nikita. I pounced on the opportunity. Consequently, on a dark and stormy night in early February, I found myself in Durham once again, standing with Nikita in a Gay bar for the first time in almost eight years.

(Continued on next page)

A GAY VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

Part II of Four Parts

Federal Civil Rights Commission Open to Gay Concerns

by Larry Bush

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission will consider a request that it conduct hearings and an investigation on antigay violence, according to Robert Roehr, president of Capitol Area Republicans, which represents Gay Republicans in the Washington, D.C. area.

The commitment, expressed by Civil Rights Commission staff director Linda Chavez, came in the first meeting between Gay Republicans and the newly reconstituted civil rights commission on March 8. The commission, which previously heard testimony on the anti-Gay hiring policies of police departments, was revamped last year with Reagan nominees who hew to more conservative interpretations on civil rights remedies.

At the Commission board's first meeting in January, a resolution was passed holding that the work of the previous commission was neither "affirmative nor denied" by the new commission, and that it would instead establish its own positions on civil rights issues.

Roehr described the meeting with Chavez as "positive," and said topics discussed included Gay civil rights "generally," the federal Gay civil rights bill now pending in Congress, and the mandate of the commission to hear discrimination complaints from Gays and Lesbians. Chavez

indicated that the Commission generally would be unable to hear complaints about anti-Gay bias since no federal law banned such discrimination, but kept the door open to hearing complaints about anti-Gay violence.

Chavez indicated that she would submit a proposal to consider anti-Gay violence for consideration at the next full Commission board meeting, which will take place at the end of April. She gave no indication on whether the full Commission board would approve the proposal, Roehr said.

Chavez also suggested that the federal Gay civil rights bill be redrafted to clarify current language which bans quotas and affirmative action programs as remedies to anti-Gay bias, according to Roehr.

Roehr said that he will meet again with Chavez before the April meeting to discuss the proposal on anti-Gay violence with more specifics, including material to be provided by the National Gay Task Force.

faith in San Francisco's superiority.

At 3 AM I went home with Nikita to his apartment. We talked into the night — the morning — and found that in many ways our lives have followed parallel paths despite our different environments. We both did drugs for a while. We both stopped. We both fell in love (several times). We both fell out. We both read books. We both continue to read. We both have goals. We both have yet to fulfill them. So what that this describes a thousand others as well? It describes us, and we remain, as ever, the best of friends, albeit a continent apart. In the morning, at last, after scant sleep I left with promises to write, to call, to keep in touch.

Once upon a time, Nikita and I (and several others) had a dream. We would establish a restaurant in Durham, we said. Nikita would be the head chef, and a woman named Giacci would be the hostess. Barb, Missy, and Georgia would be the waitresses, and Priscilla Porch would provide the entertainment. I — I? — would write the menu descriptions, I suppose.

The meeting on Gay concerns coincides with two other developments involving the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The Justice Department made public its proposal for the Civil Rights Commission budget in a message to Congress that included an unusual and lengthy explanation of the Regan Administration's approach to civil rights concerns.

"The Administration has moved to resume progress toward implementing the dream of a society without discrimination which led to the enactment of those laws," the report says in its concluding section. "A dream that had been for too many years deferred while the Federal Government too often seemed confused about what discrimination is — and even on the fundamental issue of whether discrimination itself is wrong."

"On that score, in this Administration, there can be no confusion: discrimination is the treatment of individuals not on the basis of their abilities or character, but on the basis of the group to which they belong. And discrimination, regardless of its purpose, is wrong."

Critics of the report suggest that this affirmation of a discrimination-free society is

simply an explanation of the Administration's commitment to end all remedies which correct past discrimination by imposing affirmative action and quotas.

At the same time, the Civil Rights Commission has been pressured by religious fundamentalists to begin investigating alleged discrimination based on religious belief, notably, the insistence of state governments that religious schools meet certain educational standards before students are permitted to receive academic credits. Those pressures now are reaching into the White House, making the decisions of the Commission about what it will and will not investigate an election-year issue.

Finally, in an early March development, representatives of the congressional women's, Black and Hispanic caucuses asked for hearings to "defund" the Civil Rights Commission altogether, claiming that the Reagan tilt undermined the opportunity for serious consideration of civil rights issues. Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) agreed with the groups that hearings should be held, and announced his subcommittee would take up the issue in April or May. ■

It is especially nice when those friends are Gay friends, friends who have gone through many of the same changes and have shared many of the same experiences, despite the distance and the years. Nikita is one such.

Bette Davis nights have come and gone, but the friendship endures.

M. Hippler

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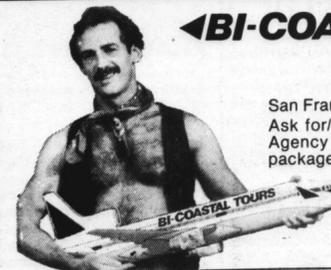


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Gay Italian "por Aprile"

The Gay Italian-Americans (GIA) will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 2, 7:30 PM at the Pride Center on Hayes and Fillmore. A short in-

formative business meeting will be followed by an "Italian" Social Hour. Donation for refreshments is \$1.00.

If you cannot attend the meeting, write for information to GIA, Box 114, 1550 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. ■

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POLITICS AND POKER

Hart Wins Connecticut: Tightens Delegate Race

WAYNE FRIDAY

Colorado's Senator Gary Hart won an overwhelming victory in Connecticut's important primary Tuesday and his campaign now seems on a new surge of momentum after also winning the Montana caucus on Sunday.

In Connecticut Tuesday, the Hart win was strong in all parts of the state including cities like Hartford and New Haven, where labor support of Walter Mondale was expected to help the former vice president prevent a Hart sweep. Connecticut's win for Hart completed a six-state sweep of the New England states for Hart and gave his campaign a boost for the big New York primary slated for next Tuesday and the following week in Pennsylvania.

Until Tuesday's win in Connecticut, Hart's only victory during the past two weeks had occurred in the Montana delegate caucus, but he has now won caucuses or primaries in 13 states and Mondale has won 11 states and Puerto Rico. Mondale finished second behind uncommitted in Hawaii as did the third candidate, Jesse Jackson, in South Carolina.

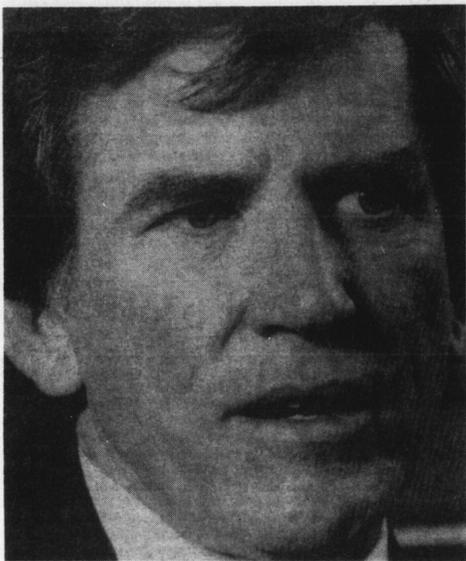
Jackson, meanwhile, has been haunted continuously by his famed "Hymie" remarks when appearing before Jewish groups in both Connecticut and New York state where the Jewish vote is thought to be as high as 40%. Jackson's main campaign problem, in fact, seems to be that he is getting practically none of the "White vote," although he gets an unusually large proportion of the "Black vote" in nearly every primary he has entered. In Tuesday's Connecticut primary, in fact, Jackson, despite a strong showing in the state's Black areas (only 7% of that state's voters) finished a distant third behind Hart and Mondale.

Gary Hart's huge victory in Connecticut, where he even beat Mondale by 5 to 3 among union members, was sure to give the Colorado senator a boost for the April 3 New York primary, where Mondale has the support of Governor Mario Cuomo, Senator Pat Moynihan, and NYC Mayor Ed Koch. Two polls in New York show Walter Mondale with a slight lead in that state, but his support in Connecticut among both Jewish voters and union members, both big groups in New York, could put Mondale on the defensive there and most political observers predict that next Tuesday's big primary, with 252 delegates at stake, is simply too close to call.

The current delegate count, including Tuesday's Connecticut results, stands at Mondale with 692 delegates, Hart with 422, and Jackson with 76; uncommitted delegates stand at 160. A total of 1,967 delegates are needed to gain the Democratic nomination.

Milton Marks had better be aware that Lia Belli is deadly serious about winning his State Senate seat. The latest item: Belli has hired Democratic political hotshot Richie Ross to run her campaign and he's one of the best in the business. Incidentally, Ben Gardiner told me this weekend that he isn't at all happy about how he was unceremoniously canned last week from his job in Marks' office.

The executive board of the Toklas Club is giving a reception



Gary Hart takes Connecticut

at the home of Supervisor and Elizabeth Hongisto for the leadership of all San Francisco Democratic clubs on Saturday, March 31. • KRON's Rollin Post, describing his recent visit to Plains, Georgia, on last Sun-



Maureen Reagan on GOP's National Committee on women's issues.

day's "Weekend Extra" program, said that Plains has once again become a sleepy, near-ghost town, and came up with this brilliant understatement: "It just shows that Plains, Georgia, is not Monticello and Jimmy Carter is not Thomas Jefferson." • And on that same "Weekend Extra" program, New York political gadfly, former congresswoman Bella Abzug predicted that "Gays are part of that large coalition that will come together this year to defeat Ronald Reagan."

A large crowd of pickets expected to greet Governor Deukmejian when he shows up here at the Hyatt Regency this Saturday night (March 31, 6:30 p.m.) and I'll see you there. • Incidentally, Supervisor Jack Molinari is still so incensed over Deukmejian's veto of AB-1 that when he was asked recently to introduce the governor at a scheduled fundraiser for his wife's church, he flatly refused. • The 1984 convention of the national Gay

guy. Meanwhile, Assemblyman Art Agnos says he will help set up a new political action committee to help support those members of the legislature who helped pass AB-1, and the plan is to call the Agnos PAC "Californians for Justice." • In Angola, Louisiana, last week a federal judge threw out a lawsuit requesting separate living quarters for Gay inmates at the state penitentiary. Reason: such a move would promote double standards for prisoners, U.S. District Judge John Parker ruled; three Gay inmates had filed the suit. • It seems some city officials have all but decided on the new Northern Police Station being located on property at Turk and Fillmore Streets. Why not take another look at the deserted Safeway Store at Bush and Larkin?

Famed design king Calvin Klein, in the upcoming May issue of *Playboy*, tells why he turned his back on drugs, despises Gloria Steinem, and denies again that he suffers from AIDS. Klein, speaking of the stigma that Gays dominate the fashion industry, says "there are a lot of Gay people in fashion, but there are a lot of Gay people delivering sandwiches from coffee shops, too." (Hear! Hear!) • The S.F. Lesbian and Gay History Project will present a benefit screening of "Home Movies: Gay Documentaries, 1968-1979," a program of short films illustrating the growth of the contemporary Gay Rights Movement on Wednesday, April 4, at 8 p.m. at the Valencia Rose. Admission is \$4.50. The History Project is a nonprofit, community-based group working to uncover and make public the historical roots of the Gay community.

They aren't likely to admit it, but key Gary Hart supporters made sure to bump Quentin Kopp from their delegate slate in the 5th District. Some of those in charge simply

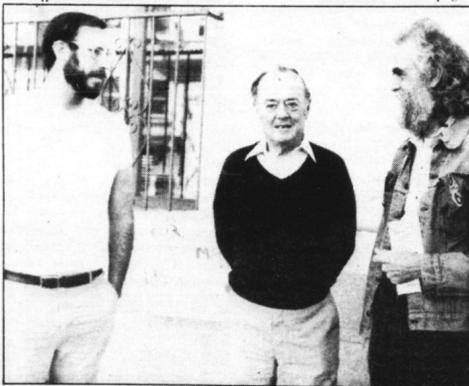


Abzug includes Gays

didn't want Kopp representing their man on the June ballot. • Clint Reilly has been hired to run the campaign for collective bargaining for city workers, which will appear on the June ballot. Jack Molinari, chair of the Civil Service Committee, carried the measure for SEIU Local 390/400 (only Kopp and Renne opposed the pro-labor charter amendment).

In L.A., two longtime Gay ac-

(Continued on next page)



Senator Milton Marks with his two Gay aides, Chris Bowman (L) and Ben Gardiner (r.). This week Gardiner left Marks' staff. (Photo: Rink)

GUEST COLUMN

Gay Republicans Are Here to Stay

CRIR's Tom Peretti Responds to B.A.R.'s Wayne Friday

Dear Wayne:

I'm pleased that I've been given the opportunity to respond to the suggestions and comments you made in your March 22 column. I have to admit that I've always enjoyed your column because it's informative, provocative, and often good satire. In fact, it's the first thing I look for in the *B.A.R.* I have always agreed with your opinions and conclusions, but I've never doubted your sincerity or good intentions. However, those comments, insinuations, and accusations regarding the existence of CRIR, the effectiveness of our leadership, and our future role, cannot be ignored or go unchallenged.

Let's start with "excuses for the governor and his blind allegiance." Now it is not my intention to be an apologist for the governor, but I think the real enemy here is H.L. Richardson, not George Deukmejian. I was as angered as anyone that he took such action, and I wish he had followed the example of the courageous Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus of Wisconsin who signed, despite heavy pressure from right-wing sources, the nation's first Gay rights bill. At least Duke was quoted on page 17 of your publication as saying "discrimination based on sexual preferences cannot be tolerated." Well that's a beginning. Whether any of us like it or not, George Deukmejian is going to be the governor for at least two more years. Are you proposing that we all sit on our hands for two years waiting for a replacement? That's not going to get us the results we want.

Communications are strained, but they haven't been cut off completely. What we did at our March 19 meeting which was reported by George Mendenhall on page 2 could hardly be considered "blind party allegiance." We're taking strong actions that

we believe will have some long-term benefits.

Wayne, let's look at the facts and the record. Let's not indict an entire party because of a couple of lousy bigoted senators. The California Republican Party doesn't have a monopoly on rotten apples; take a look at those pompous, self-righteous Democrats Ayala, Alquist, and McAlister. Furthermore, can you tell me why over a seven-year period, with a two-term Democratic governor and healthy Democratic majorities in both houses that AB-1 or similar



CRIR's president Tom Peretti talks back on what Gay Republicans should and should not do. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

activists are making spirited bids for public office: James O'Brien is running for the Assembly in the 46th (Hollywood) District, and James Green is running for Congress in the 24th District. Both on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. • Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver spoke to an overflow crowd at Tuesday's Tavern Guild meeting at the Land's End bar on California Street. • Maureen Reagan, now serving as special consultant to the GOP National Committee on women's issues, telling reporters last week that "the fact I have some basic differences with my father, especially about ERA, doesn't mean I don't think that overall he's been a great president. I'm glad he's running and he deserves to be re-elected." Reagan says she's "impressed with the way the Gary Hart people have been running his campaign." (Maureen Reagan, while a candidate for the U.S. Senate a couple of years ago, once told me, in a recorded interview, that she loathed the Moral Majority and thought that the Rev. Jerry Falwell was a "pompous jack-ass.")

Burton Asks Study of Cost of Anti-Gay Discrimination in Military

Representative Sala Burton (D-SF) joined by eight other Members of Congress, has requested the government General Accounting Office to undertake a major study of the financial cost to the armed services of its policy of removing Gay people from the military.

In addition to Rep. Burton, who initiated the request, the letter was signed by Representatives Barbara Boxer, Julian Dixon, Ronald V. Dellums, Don Edwards, Henry Waxman, Patricia Schroeder, Edward R. Roybal, and Ted Weiss.

In addition to Rep. Burton, who initiated the request, the letter was signed by Representatives Barbara Boxer, Julian Dixon, Ronald V. Dellums, Don Edwards, Henry Waxman, Patricia Schroeder, Edward R. Roybal and Ted Weiss.

"The military policy of excluding Gay people is costly not only in terms of human rights, but also, I suspect, in financial terms," Rep. Burton said.

"We would like to determine

legislation was never passed? What if Governor Brown or a Governor Bradley had vetoed AB-1; would you be advocating the dissolution of the Toklas, Milk, and Stonewall Democratic Clubs and that every one of their leaders become Republican? I think not. Wayne, can you honestly dispute the fact that AB-1 would never have reached the governor's desk except for the votes of Republican legislators like Filante in the Assembly and Beverly, Davis, Maddy, and Marks in the Senate? We all know that Milton Marks has been a supporter of AB-1 since the beginning, but where do you suppose those added GOP votes came from? Certainly not by magic or accident or Democratic lobbying. It was CRIR and L.A.'s Log Cabin Club that made that difference! And wasn't everyone surprised when Ed Davis, of all people, not only voted for AB-1 but spoke eloquently for it, contrasting the hysterical pseudo-religiosity of

Senators Richardson, Doolittle, and Ayala.

Most other Democrats are at least willing to give us some credit for those accomplishments. I wish you better understood and appreciated what we're doing and why we have to continue to work within the Republican Party until the last vestiges of bigotry, lack of understanding, and prejudice are eliminated. It's not easy and it's a tough fight. A fight none of us is willing to walk away from. You talk about "courage!" It doesn't take much courage to get hysterical, call the governor names, make idle threats, etc. It does take courage to wage what seems to be an impossible and lonely fight, particularly when we get continual cheap shots from the press. We've openly attacked and challenged the Richardson partisans; to many it seems like a massive exercise in futility. A formidable mighty Goliath against our seemingly impotent and weaker David. Remember the outcome of that famous encounter?

Wayne, I'm sure you meant well when you suggested that we disband CRIR and all become Democrats. No way, Wayne! We all have a lot left to do. You see, most of us believe in the historic traditions and philosophy of this Grand Old Party. We're the party of Hiram Johnson, Earl Warren, Pete McCloskey, Lowell Weicker, Eliot Richardson, Nelson Rockefeller, and Chuck Percy. As long as we continue to forge alliances and coalitions with the other progressive elements in our party, I am not going to let the H.L. Richardsons, Doolittles, Reinickes, or Sebastianis bother me. Someday there will be party-wide acceptance of Gays and we can get back to arguing over social, economic, and foreign policy issues.

So you see, Wayne, Gay Republicans are here to stay, and despite what temporary party officials or leaders say, we are not going to disappear or go back into the closet. When the dust settles over all this and we have AB-1 or a similar bill enacted into law, you're going to look back on your column and thank me for not taking your well-intended advice.

Tom Peretti
President, CRIR

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GREAT BAY NEWS

The Duke Gets Zapped in Berkeley

(Continued from page 1)

Gay activists believe that the governor's veto was a symbolic bow to the demands of the religious right, hence they carried signs reading "Freedom from Religious Bigotry," and "Impeach H. R. Richardson" (fundamentalist Christian and anti-AB 1 lobbyist/Senator).

Protestors also responded to the governor's reasoning that

AB 1 would protect a special class of people. The signs read: "Gay Rights Aren't Special, Just Human."

Other protesters denounced Mitterand's support for U.S. Euro-missiles in Western Europe, and the sale of chemical weapons to Iraq by France. Gay anarchists protested against both officials: "We don't think either of them represent the interest of

liberation whether it be Gays or people of Color." But most Gay protesters focused their message on the governor and on the cameras of U.S. and French press.

One security official said of security efforts, "They were ready for that. Most of the protesters were for Gay rights. The Gay rights people had the chance to shout at the Governor. They walked right with him." He emphasized, "most of the protesters were for Gay rights, who have no beef with Mitterand."

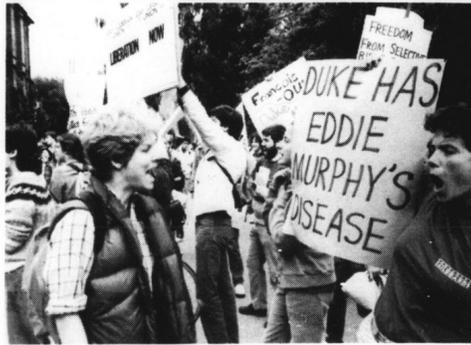
The governor was first picketed last week at the California Republican Convention by an informal protest network calling itself "Operation Duke Watch." At that time, the Governor ducked in and out the back door for a speaking engagement and met no press or picketers. The governor met with no press Monday in Berkeley, but could not avoid the protesters as he walked to his lunch appointment with Mitterand.

Assembly Bill 1, introduced by Assemblyman Art Agnos (D. San Francisco) would have protected job rights for Gays and Lesbians. Deukmejian vetoed the bill on March 13. Operation Duke Watch participants now vow to follow the governor throughout the state to establish a presence at all of his speaking engagements to make Gay demands known.

Duke Watch picketer and Gay activist Howard Wallace:



French president Mitterand at UC Berkeley with host Governor Deukmejian, who ran into another flock of Gay pickets. (Photo: Rink)



1984 Gay enemies (and targets) George Deukmejian and Eddie Murphy. (Photo: Rink)

"Wherever the governor goes, we hope the governor will find a presence."

Cooperation in the picket was secured with the U.C. Berkeley Gay and Lesbian Union which offered its endorsement and the active presence of its members. Students initiated the chant "I don't know but I've been told Patriarchy is mighty old." "It seems clear, everyone's a little queer," and all the protesters chanted "two, four, six, eight, separate the church."

Deukmejian led off Mitterand's speech with an in-

troductory of his own in which he lauded California and French cuisine and wines offering a bridge for the visiting president to California where Mitterand will have talks with representatives of high-tech industry. Following the two hour state lunch, featuring only California wines, Mitterand flew by helicopter to Stanford.

Operation Duke Watch plans another protest against Deukmejian at San Francisco's Hyatt Regency next Saturday.

J. Wetzl

Bakersfield

Gay Activist Runs for Congress

Opposes Anti-Gay Incumbent

Francis Serra, a Gay rights activist from Bakersfield, has announced his candidacy for the 20th Congressional District of California. He opposes Republican Bill Thomas, a consistent opponent of Gay/Lesbian civil rights legislation.

Serra, a Democrat, is pro Nuclear Freeze, pro ERA, pro Choice, and supports "U.S. Out of Central America." Serra said his candidacy will measure voters' willingness to support an openly Gay candidate who supports their issues.

Serra is following what he calls "a new Gay and Lesbian political strategy." Serra reasons that only by joining the mainstream will Gays finally realize full civil rights and be accorded the community services that most straights take for granted. An important tactic is running Gay or Lesbian candidates for office rather than always relying on non-Gay friends or closeted Gays to carry Gay issues, Serra said.

East Bay AIDS Forum

A Public Forum on Prevention of AIDS is scheduled for 7 PM Thursday, April 5, in 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California in Berkeley.

Nearly 40 people with AIDS have been diagnosed in Alameda County to date. The three-hour information session, co-sponsored by the Pacific Center, the Gay and Lesbian Union at U.C., and the AIDS Foundation of Nor-

thern California, is part of AIDS Prevention Week and U.C.'s Lesbian/Gay Awareness Week activities. Open to the public, the presentation will include information on "Sex in the Age of AIDS," "Who Is At Risk?" and a medical update. There is no admission charge.

For further information, call the Lesbian/Gay Switchboard at Pacific Center, 841-6224.

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OAKLAND

April Fools

NEZ PAS

Gobemouche! (An April Fool's Nose? — ??) Hooboy! This is the one time of the year that we columnists cannot be held accountable. Hey, it's the April Fool's issue, isn't it? And, being the fool that I am, your task this column is to determine just which items are "for reals" and which ones are "puttin' you on!"

Those of you who know me (and love me?) should immediately pick out just which "entries" are true and which ones are "made up." There will be a clue or two in the bogus ones — big clues. Good guessing!

Detritus I: Can you believe that Taco Toni (of Hayward fame?) ACIE Empress III, is now on the planks of Bench & Bar? I understand he is planning a shindig for that place on Sunday, April 15, Palm Sunday. It's supposed to be the second annual (in three years!) Easter Hat Party! Does your boss know yet, Toni?

Detritus II: The "Tavern Turnabout Triplication" starts Sunday, April 1, at Big Mama's; continues Monday, April 2, at Revol; and concludes Tuesday, April 3, at Turf Club. Festivities begin at 8 PM each night, with a complimentary buffet at the host bar on its night.

Detritus III: There will be a general organizational meeting for the Oakland Marching Corps (pom-poms, banners, flags) for the 1984 Gay Freedom Day Parade (held June 24). The meeting will be held at the Lake Merritt Hotel on Monday, April 2, at 7 PM. For further information, call Juan at 268-1797. (You might inquire why it's smack dab in the middle of the Tavern Turnabout Triplication?)

Detritus IV: Not necessarily an offshoot or an extension, as it were, but the auspices of the Lake Lounge will take (or has taken) over Et Al (nee Grandma's House) on 12th Street. Lunches for sure, and perhaps dinners and Sunday Brunches? Joe, from Lake Lounge, will have the chief stint on those "new" planks. Of course, there's a name change; it's called Paradise Isle — or is that "I'll?"

Detritus V: Town & Country's homecoming party for its very own Miss \$1.98 was a raffle/auction which netted \$1,000 two Sundays ago. All monies will

be donated to East Bay AIDS (Nez' Notes, which see!). It was quite a nice crowd they managed to gather for that function!

Detritus VI: The Ladies Cha Cha and Billy will present the second High Heel Dance Contest this Sunday, April 1, at the Jubilee. Entry fees are \$1.50 with heels and \$2 without. The festivities, starting at 8 PM, include a \$2 buffet and trophy prizes.

Detritus VII: In all cajolery, Fat Fairy, I personally thought that you were absolutely terrific as Mistress of Ceremonies at the Miss \$1.98 function. Pay NO heed to those who said they left early because you bored them to tears! No one can touch YOU, hon, when you have a mike (or Mike) in your hands! Sam and Marv want you to MC every function held at the Town & Country!

Detritus VIII: Important Date Change: The ACIE Privy Council will meet on Monday, April 16, instead of Monday, April 9. I can only surmise that all interested parties know of the place and the time. April 9? Gads! That's the biggie Academy Awards night!

Detritus IX: Trashy Trish's "Please Don't Take It Personal, But You Really Do Deserve It" Awards was a fun, fun, FUN evening! Every Crowned Head of the East Bay was either in attendance or was represented! And "awarded," I might add! It is with sincere duplicity that I reveal the reason(s) behind these "awards" of hers: there's sooooo much dirt on her that she reacts in self-defense! However, Trisha, next time couldn't you select a more conducive spot than Hayward's infamous parking lot? That's tacky, hon — and cheap!

Detritus X: Aha! The ACIE means business — money business! A recycling program has begun (no, not for ex-Emperors and Emperesses!) so save your papers and aluminum cans. Saturday, March 31 is the first day of collection. Dumping — oops! — donation sites will be publicized soon. I think that the papers may be taken to Cha Cha's house on that day, but the aluminum cans go to another spot. Watch flyers for details.

Detritus XI: A "Trip to Fantasy Island '84?" To be sure! You might call the event the

"Who's Who '84 Party." The Lady Johnny, Imperial Crown Princess ACIE, presents this affair at the Spoiled Brat on Sunday, April 29, at 7 PM. It's a benefit for the ACIE Coronation '84 (Saturday, September 22 — A Trip Through Time) and East Bay AIDS (Nez' Notes, which see). Heaven help me if I leave any names out, but here's the list of "Who's Whos" (in no particular order): Lady Johnny, Empress and Emperor V Cha Cha and Don, S.F. Grand Duke and Duchess Ken and Sable, Tony Valentine, Spice Empress Ginger, Gene Bettis, Royal Grand Duke of All California Larry, Michael Lei Spears, Naomi Del Rey, Sandy Sorrelle, Stephanie, Modesto's Amazon, Tim Domingo, Lady Billy, King and Queen of Hearts of Northern California Jim and Chris, Desiree, Lady Kawika, Ms. Gay Alameda County Lady Randi, Nova Lei Spears, and Manuel Oliver — wheeeew! There will be a \$2 buffet, raffles, a limbo contest ("How low can you go?") with plaques to the low, lower, and lowest; plus a three-act entertainment segment (1 - USO Celebrity Salute; 2 - special guest performers; 3 - The Polynesian Rainbows). Gads! Will there be any room for any customers? Er, Lady Johnny, *aloha nui loa* (very much love) doesn't have a hyphen between the last two words!

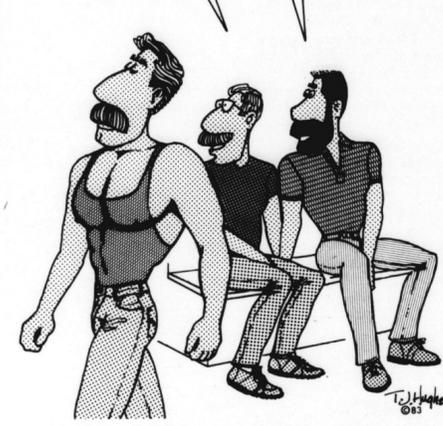
Detritus XIII: It was really generous and great for Phil to donate several shampoos, cuts, and sets at a recent auction, but why did he donate someone else's labor at someone else's beauty salon? This is honest subreption from yours truly!

Detritus XIV: Grand Duke of All California Larry's first "Auction Your Basket" event takes place on Sunday, April 8, at the Kokpit in San Francisco. Watch for flyers announcing dates, times, and places in the East Bay. Remember, the pro-



If muscles were brains, that one would probably be a genius.

Yeah, and if attitude were money, he'd be a billionaire!



ceeds from these functions go back to the immediate community in which the auctions are held. Larry tells me he's lined up several East Bay bars for these fun and imaginative auctions. Catch this slogan for this series of events: "Is Your Basket Good Enough?" Be on the lookout for a "special contest" for the Biggest Basket between Oakland and Hayward. What kind of baskets? It's up to your own ingenuity and creativity! One East Bay auction is on Monday, April 23, at the Town & Country and another at Turf Club on Sunday

afternoon, April 29 (before Lady Johnny's "Trip" at the Spoiled Brat).

NEZ' NOTES

To say that I am bewitched, bothered, and bewildered is putting it mildly! So many of the upcoming functions over here are donating the proceeds to East Bay AIDS. East Bay AIDS — what is it? Ed Paulson and Little Mother couldn't get direct answers as to how the victims would receive the money. Their

(Continued on next page)



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OAKLAND

(Continued from previous page)

latest communication from Berkeley — via THAT letter — was merely that "We have to pay salaries first."

I don't know about you, but when I donate to something called East Bay AIDS, I expect the monies to go to the victims. Evidently, that isn't the case with that Berkeley "clearinghouse." Ed and Little Mother opted to go through the Tavern Guild Foundation (via President Russ Glenn) with a guaranteed return to the East Bay victims of 100% of all monies raised. That's certainly better than the "save qui peut!" answers from Berkeley!

For yours truly, when I see "proceeds to East Bay AIDS" I'll think twice, thrice, and more before any of my money leaves my pocket. I want a guarantee that the victims get the proceeds! Anything less would prove "penny wise and pound foolish!" If you're for real, I suggest you do the same, too.

Isn't this the shits! Something as devastating as AIDS should not be pulled through the politi-

cal wringer! Must these types of things always get down to "community" embarrassment? Is a Berkeley phone bill more important than a dying brother?

If you know the answers, please tell them to the AIDS victims over here. I'm sure they'll understand and appreciate the run-around answers!

Several previous events to raise monies have decided to hold on to the proceeds until it is clear as to just what is going on. Hopefully the future events will do likewise!

Hmmm? Oh! The April Fool's items? Hey, the clues were "big," as in big bodies; plus I used synonyms for lying! Re-read for the phony items — or are they?

Oh yeah, whoever can find me working the highways of Alameda County (er Big Brother) either March 31 or April 1 gets \$20 worth of drinks at Big Mama's, Revol, and the Turf Club on any TTT night.

Confidentially, I have NOTHING worth hiding — behind my SMILE! Love,
Nez

Gay History

The San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project will present an evening of short subject movies documenting the development of the contemporary Lesbian and Gay rights movement Tuesday, April 3, at 8 PM at the La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley.

Called Home Movies: Gay Documentaries, 1968-1979, the

films include Second Largest Minority, documenting a pre-Stonewall Gay picket, Gay and Proud and Coming Out, which illustrate Gay demonstrations from the early 1970's, and Greetings from Washington, D.C., which records the 1979 National March on the Capitol for Gay Rights.

Admission is \$3.50, with all proceeds going to the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project, a nonprofit, community-based group.

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Chorale Sets East Bay Concerts

The Contra Costa Chorale, conducted by Dick Kramer, will perform J.S. Bach's Mass in F Minor and Cantata 50 ("Nun ist das heil und die Kraft"), Mozart's "Vesperae solennes de confessore," and four Brahms motets in two East Bay and one San Francisco concert.

The concert is being given in Oakland at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, March 31, 7:30 PM, and in Lafayette at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 8, 3:00 PM. It will also be performed at First Congregational Church in San Francisco on Sunday, April 1, at 7:30 PM.

Soloists are soprano Susan Jacques, alto Joan Khara, tenor Abram Wilson, and bass Gregory de Silva. San Francisco organist Mark Bruce will accompany. Dick Kramer (pictured here) will conduct.

Tickets are available at BASS outlets and at the Chorale office, 527-2026.

Contra Costa Hotline Training

Diablo Valley Crisis-Line is offering its second training workshop. If you are interested in receiving training to become a volunteer, or for your own personal growth experience, you will want to get your reservation made now.

The training workshop will be held on two consecutive Saturdays: April 7 and April 14, from 9 AM-4 PM. You must attend both sessions to work on the Crisis-Line.

Registration for the workshop

is \$35, nonrefundable. This covers the cost of all reference materials used for the training.

Send your name, address, phone number and a check or money order to Diablo Valley Community Center/Crisis-Line Training, 1818 Colfax Avenue, Concord 94520.

Be a part of a fine volunteer team, reaching out to our Gay/Lesbian community. You'll be glad you did. For more information: 674-0171.

Sunnyvale First

Peter Fowler, member of the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force, will speak and answer questions at the April 8 meeting of High Tech Gays.

High Tech Gays is a professional organization of Gays in the high tech businesses in the Santa Clara Valley. The group meets monthly for social and business functions and has invited Fowler to address its Sunday, April 8 meeting at 6:30 PM.

Fowler is one of three members of the NGTF Board resident in the Bay Area. He is currently completing work on his Law Degree from Golden Gate University, and is co-chair of the

Gay students group at the university.

Fowler has been a member of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, is active in Lawyers for Individual Freedom, and serves on the Board of the National Educational Foundation for Individual Rights based in San Francisco.

The High Tech Gays meeting will be held at 1486 Ormsby in Sunnyvale (off Cheyenne near Hollenbeck) and is open to any and all interested persons. Non-members may join at the meeting; all are encouraged to bring something for the pot luck supper at 6:30 PM preceding Fowler's talk. For information on High Tech Gays call Rick Rudy, president, at (408) 255-6128, or write H.T.G., P.O. Box 6777, San Jose, CA 95150.

Gay Film Fest

Entries are now being accepted for the 8th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 18-24, 1984. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary, shorts and video by and about Lesbians and Gay men. The Festival has been established by Frameline, a nonprofit media organization, to develop an audience for Lesbian and Gay cinema and to promote

a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition both within and outside the Lesbian and Gay community.

Awards will be presented to outstanding films in the categories of feature, documentary, short and super-8 films. The deadline for entries is May 1, 1984. Formats accepted are 35 mm., 16 mm., Super 8, 3/4" and 1/2" VHS video cassette.

For entry forms (please specify film or video) and more information contact: Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 861-5245.

UC Gay Week

The Gay & Lesbian Union at UC Berkeley will present Lesbian Gay Awareness Week 1984, to be held April 2-7. The following is a schedule of events. All events will be held at the UCB campus, are wheelchair accessible, and free of charge unless otherwise noted. The general public is greatly encouraged to attend and participate.

• Monday-Friday, 12 noon - 2 PM. Table on Sproul Plaza. Come pick up brochures, information packets, buttons, and T-shirts. Staffed by friendly people. All are invited to stop by our table.

• Monday, 7-10 PM, 145 Dwinelle Hall. Slide presentation "Marching to a Different Drummer," by Allan Berube, concerning Lesbians and Gay men during WW II. Co-sponsored by the ASUC Draft Counseling Center.

• Wednesday, 7-10 PM, 155 Dwinelle. Homophobia Workshop presented by the Lesbian/Gay Coopers and GLU. Workshop especially geared for non-Gay people, particularly those who recently found out a relative/friend is Gay, or suspect one might be.

• Thursday, 7-10 PM, 2503 Life Science Building. AIDS Forum. The best defense against AIDS is information. Our speakers are well informed and ready to give out information and answer questions.

• Friday, Blue Jeans Day. Wear your blue jeans to school if you are a Lesbian, Bisexual, or Gay man.

• Saturday, 8:30 PM-12:30 AM. Haas Clubhouse. Dance. Copresented by Mills Lesbian Union. Haas Clubhouse is on Centennial Drive, in Strawberry Canyon Recreational Area. Admission \$3. Call the GLU for wheelchair accessibility information.

Call the Gay & Lesbian Union for more information 642-6942. See you there!

BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

MARSHALL MASON

Director of Bluefish Cove Speaks About the Play and His Work

by Bernard Spunberg

Marshall W. Mason, co-founder and Artistic Director of Off Broadway's Circle Repertory Theatre, is in San Francisco to direct the first Equity production of Jane Chambers' Lesbian drama, *Last Summer* at Bluefish Cove. The production opens April 1 at the Theatre on the Square.

Mason's work, closely associated with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights Sam Shepard, Marsha Norman and, above all, Lanford Wilson, has been widely praised. He has won four Tony nominations, six Obies, and numerous off-Broadway awards. The notoriously cranky critic John Simon has probably described his work best: Marshall W. Mason's direction is as inventively true to the text (of Lanford Wilson's *Talley's Folly*) as a Balanchine choreography to its music.

Recognition of Mason's substance as an artist extends to his appointment to the National Endowment for the Arts and his recent election as president of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Mason happens to be Gay, and he is out. His achievement gives the lie to the notion that success requires Gay artists to keep their Gayness in a strongbox separate and apart from the rest of their lives. Mason speaks proudly of his ten-year relationship with stage

relationships are beautifully psychologically motivated. Lil, the principal character, is one of the most completely-drawn characters in contemporary literature.

"It may be that Eva has never encountered a Lesbian before, and it may be that she has never encountered cocks other than her husband's, as she says, but that doesn't mean that she's unknowledgeable about other aspects of life. I think she's got to be a very interesting, alive,



Part of the cast of *Last Summer* at Bluefish Cove including Susan Sullivan as Lil (lower left), Camilla Carr as Kitty (left), Joan Pringle as Rita (center) and Katherine Cortes as Eva (right).

I've certainly experienced the fear of it, and I have known people who have succumbed to it. Because of AIDS and the possibility of a homophobic backlash, I think it's very much a time when I am obligated to do plays that illuminate Gay life in a way that the crossover audience can understand and appreciate. I would not want to do a play about whether the House Ways and Means Committee were giving enough money for AIDS research. That's the kind of agit-prop that's best served in other ways. Plays that illuminate emotions that Gay people experience — that's a valid thing for theater to do, and we'll probably be doing more of that kind of play. Bluefish Cove fits into that category.

"There are rumors about a film of *Bluefish Cove*. The possibility of a film is one of the things that attracted me to the project. The co-producer of *Bluefish Cove* owns the rights to *The Front Runner*, of which an excellent treatment has been written by John Bishop. One success could lead to another.

"I think the idea that only a woman can direct *Bluefish Cove* is odious and backward-looking. I don't accept the idea that women are not just humans but occupy some restricted class that can only be understood by other members of the class. I think it's the job of the artist to understand all people, and I certainly hope to depict the lives of these women in an honest and illuminating way. If I have the skill to do that, it doesn't matter if I'm a woman or a man. There have been few successful woman directors, although this situation improves as time passes. We at Circle Rep have hired many women directors in the last few years. I respect and admire a number of my woman colleagues.

"In *Bluefish Cove*, Jane Chambers uses the dramatic device of having a straight person wander into a crowd of Gay people. The device is dangerous because it suggests that everyone is seducible or that way down

deep the whole world is Gay. It's a fantasy that some Gay people have, and dramatically, it's a cliché. I intend to evade the cliché to which previous productions of *Bluefish Cove* have fallen prey by drawing maximum texture and variety from my actors' characterizations.

"I think it's particularly important for Gay artists, given our culture which has misunderstood homosexuality so completely, to avoid stereotypes and easy labels. Looking at *Bluefish Cove*, we must concede the familiarity of its structure, but we must also acknowledge that clichés are clichés because they possess an element of truth. If we can understand that theater in itself, by its nature, is a ritual in which we are celebrating life in its various aspects and that the relationships depicted are always drawn from universal truths, we must also accept that all drama is, in its nature, cliché. But within that cliché we attempt to find the individual that we want to examine and celebrate.

"I think a Gay sensibility has to do with the things you are attracted to, and I find myself attracted to the sort of sensibility reflected by *Bluefish Cove*, where an individual is struggling to come to grips with her own sexuality. That process of coming out of the closet is exciting, lonely, and something I can identify with immediately. I am drawn to plays about identity

and family — these are the themes underlying my work, and Lanford Wilson's, too. I come from divorced parents, as did Lanford — who in America doesn't, these days? Maybe that's what makes it important for us to create a theatrical family, which we have done at Circle Rep.

"I was very late coming to terms with my sexuality. I was brought up in Southern Texas, and I didn't know what queers were. But I knew I liked the guys in the body-building magazines, and I bought them every week. But I was aware of no category that I fit into easily. I felt like Eva in *Bluefish Cove*; I didn't belong anywhere. I felt like a misfit everywhere I went.

"When I got to NYU, I became lovers with a great big, strapping football player-type. He was really my physical ideal, and he was reading *Madame Bovary* and really identifying with her. I was drawn to him the moment I saw him."

"The American theater is not very old. We've only been around as a serious theater movement since the Second World War. Before that there were O'Neill and Odets, but the American theater really didn't begin until the appearance of Williams, Miller, Hellman, Inge, and that whole group of early '50s play-

(Continued on next page)

'Front Runner' Back in the Running

by Steve Warren

The Front Runner is going to be filmed this summer, according to producer Jerry B. Wheeler, the latest in a series of people (Paul Newman, Frank Perry, et al) who have held the rights for a screen version of Patricia Nell Warren's celebrated Gay novel.

"The film is very much in development right now," Wheeler said on a visit to San Francisco as co-producer of Jane Chambers' *Last Summer* at Bluefish Cove at Theatre on the Square.

Saving the details for a "major announcement" in June, Wheeler would say only that filming will start in July in Santa Cruz with "all independent financing... No major studio will be involved."

Don't get in line for tickets yet. We've had our hopes raised on this one before.

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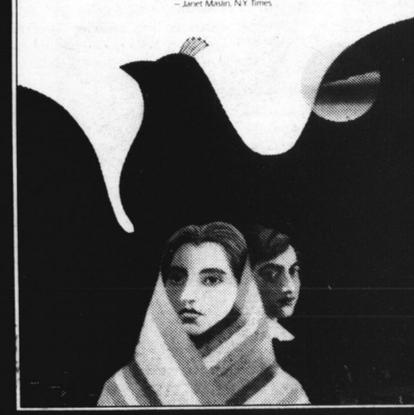
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STAGE

Steeltown Stumbles

by Bernard Spunberg

Who can dislike the SF Mime Troupe? For 25 years it has laid bare the evils of bigotry, ignorance, war, and nuclear pollution in vigorous outdoor productions of plays including Factwino Meets the Moral Majority, Factwino versus Armageddonman, and last year's Secrets in the Sand. This year's piece, written by Joan Holden and entitled Steeltown, is currently onstage at the Victoria Theatre. Steeltown will tour California but, unlike most of its predecessors, it will not be performed outdoors anywhere. Even more unlike most of its predecessors, Steeltown suffers from dull, conflicting satirical points and undue length.

In Act I, cheap foreign labor has pushed down the price of steel and threatened the closure of a marginally profitable steel plant. Dan Chumley, playing a worker about to retire, wants to rush to the plant to increase production by working overtime. His wife, however, tries to trick him into staying home to celebrate his birthday and her own graduation from junior college. Chumley's neighbor, played by Eduardo Robledo, also tries to keep Chumley away from the plant because he's sunk in vindictive depression, having

already been laid off. But just who is being satirized here? The greedy and exploitive plant owners are the ostensible villains, but it's the workers and their families who are made to look ridiculous. Chumley's wife's study of martial arts and Impressionist painting is ridiculed, as is Robledo's yen for his repossessed symbols of middle-class status. Chumley himself is a crazed workaholic. If everybody is a buffoon, there's nobody to root for.

Act II flashes back to the same steel plant at the end of World War II. The plant has been "manned" by women who are displaced by returning GI's. Chumley appears as his youthful self in the form of a sailor who woos and wins his wife from among the displaced workers. Act II dramatizes conflict between male and female workers and the growth of unionism to fight exploitive labor conditions. Though the drama is undercut by too much singing and dancing celebrating the end of war and the blossoming of romance, that singing and dancing is the best part of the show. The big number welcoming Chumley home is particularly impressive, as is a sweetly romantic and erotic courtship duet for Chum-

ley and Sharon Lockwood. The duet also provides welcome relief from efforts to unravel the tangle of satirical threads.

Under Barbara Holden's direction, the cast works hard — too hard. You can practically hear them sweat. Dan Chumley, however, makes his points without resorting to caricature, and Wilma Bonet radiates charm with every move. She is irrepressibly magnetic and adorable.

Steeltown tackles issues too complicated for broad satire. I'm no economist, and I'm certainly not a laissez-faire capitalist, but what about the issue of cheap foreign steel? Does the Mime Troupe believe U.S. consumers should pay top dollar for U.S. steel for the sake of U.S. employment? Should foreign suppliers pay a hefty tariff for the right to sell their product in the U.S.? Why don't we bring back the Wobblies — the International Workers of the World? Then workers everywhere would be protected against exploitation.

As ever, the Mime Troupe's heart is in the right place. This time out, however, they have stumbled on questions of global economics beyond the scope of musical comedy, no matter how enlightened.

Steeltown
Victoria Theatre
Through April 8; 550-8870

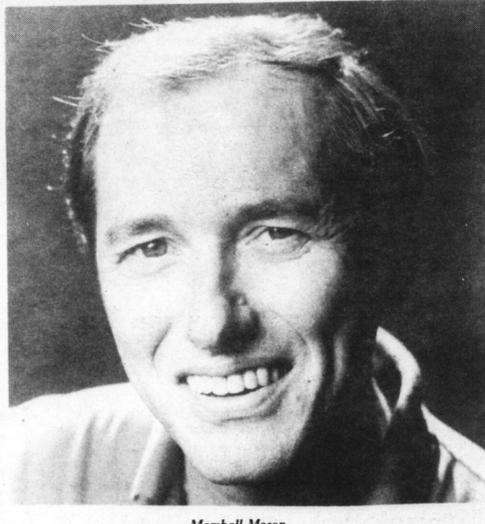
MASON

(Continued from previous page)

wrights which really ended with Edward Albee and his last smash success, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Just about that time, I arrived in New York, and the American theater was dying. We had a big British invasion, spearheaded by Pinter and Osborne. As a result, American theater went underground to Off Off Broadway. The Caffe Cino, La Mama, Theatre Genesis, and Judson Poet's Theatre were the first four. We went there because we had things to say and an opportunity to say them with relatively no pressure to be commercially successful.

"My own Circle Rep came along when nonverbal, abstract experimentation was at its peak. Circle Rep led the rediscovery of realism and the native American voice. That rediscovery has been our most important contribution to the theater. In the long run, I hope that Circle Rep's example of creating a permanent ensemble of actors to perform the work of resident playwrights works for others as it has for us. Artists do give up a certain amount of economic potential in the resident theater system. The individual cannot become a highly paid star, and I think it was this desire for fame and wealth that broke up the Group Theatre under Clifford Odets. At Circle Rep we encourage actors like Richard Thomas, William Hurt, and Judd Hirsch to do television and film when they need to and then return to do artistic work with us when the time is right.

"I find that one of the illnesses of American culture is an insatiable hunger for the novel. We're constantly looking for new playwrights and new forms. Meanwhile, when we have found playwrights of value, quite often we will only sustain them through their first two or three efforts. Then we decide, well, they're not as good as they're supposed to be. Look at the whole life of Tennessee Williams. The moment Tennessee stopped writing the masterpieces, he became a has-been. How dare anyone require that a playwright produce only masterpieces! But on Broadway, you've



got to get better, you've got to get bigger, you've got to get richer, and you've got to get more successful. Any deviation from that pattern is failure, and failure is not forgivable. That philosophy lies at the heart of our whole American socio-political system — our educational system, too — and I find it frightening.

"Lanford Wilson and I have the longest playwright/director relationship in the history of the American theater. It's been a very healthy, artistic relationship. It's really like having two heads. When we started out, he was in charge of the words, and I was in charge of everything else. That division of labor has grayed out over the years. By the time we did the first production of Lanford's *Angels Fall*, many of the lines and the shaping of the text was my contribution, and a great deal of the actors' performance grew out of Lanford talking directly to them.

"Some artists seem to have a problem with the close relationship Lanford and I have. I've heard some writers say they wouldn't like to use the same director again and again because it's sort of an admission of

weakness. I don't see it that way. To me, if you have something that works, why disturb it? I hope that when the history of what I've done with my life is written that my most important work will be seen as my assistance in the birth and nurturing of Lanford Wilson's work. I hope our relationship lasts as long as we live.

"Even though the work of the director ought to be invisible, I'm often told that my work can be spotted in a second, which both flatters and upsets me. I would like to think that what's recognizable about my work is precision of detail and the organic nature of the life on stage. Nothing should be done purely for effect; everything should come out of some essential need of the psychology of the characters."

Marshall W. Mason's dedication to truth and beauty reflect a commitment to eternal artistic values. San Francisco audiences look forward to a rare theatrical experience in his production of *Jane Chambers' Last Summer* at Bluefish Cove.

B. Spunberg

FILM CLIPS

Greystoke
Not Your Average Guy

What's this — a Tarzan movie that never mentions "Tarzan" except in the title? Yes. It's a sumptuous \$27.6 million telling of the original Tarzan story by Edgar Rice Burroughs without any of the previous Hollywood romanticism.

There is no musclebound actor swinging from vines on some mission of mercy. There's no "Me, Tarzan, You Jane." Instead there is a meticulous and cerebral showcase of "Quest for Fire" style narrative showing how Tarzan was actually raised by a family of apes after his shipwrecked parents die.

The infant is weaned on apemilk, grows up learning ape-talk and gesture (all authentically enacted based on scientific consultation), and then is dis-

covered by a Belgian explorer who figures out Tarzan's original parentage. Tarzan is forced to return to his ancestral home in Victorian England where he is heir to a mammoth estate. It is in England that he meets Jane.

Portraying Tarzan is a Yankee, American-born French actor named Christopher Lambert, obviously cast against type. He is the antithesis of any previous Tarzan. At one point he cries "Half of me is the Earl of Greystoke, the other half is wild." As directed by Chariots of Fire director Hugh Hudson, Greystoke, explores the forces of civilization to tame the beast in all of us.

With much the same pacing as *Chariots*, Greystoke builds energy as it proceeds. The verisimilitude it creates is breathtaking. From the opulence of Scottish castles to the oppressive and claustrophobic jungles (much of



Christopher Lambert as Tarzan in Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes.

Monkey Business on the Set
by Michael Lasky

"The apes were made so well, we couldn't tell them apart from the real ones," says director Hugh Hudson. "Usually we would discover our mistake after holding a conversation with an ape for a few minutes and then realize it was a real one, not an actor."

Hudson, whose *Chariots of Fire* won a "Best Picture" Oscar in 1981, has taken the same care to turn fiction into reality in Greystoke as he did reality into fiction in *Chariots*. With an extra \$20 million to spend on studio sets and location shooting in Cameroon, it was obviously much easier. Or was it?

"A week before we arrived in Cameroon, a volcano erupted and shortly thereafter so did the up-to-then peaceful government. When we arrived we found that while the plane had been cleared for landing, no one said anything about letting us disembark," Hudson said.

"We came at the end of the rainy season and the roads, if you could call them that, had potholes that could swallow elephants," Hudson said. "We'd been warned to be careful where we walked and what we touched. We had taken shots for every disease known to mankind and still had to be aware of mosquitos and tsetse flies, various poisonous snakes and spiders."

A larger challenge was making the actor apes appear to be real ones. The actors, including lead Christopher Lambert, needed months of training in ape movement and sounds.

"So successful were we at accomplishing this that at one point an infant chimp actually thought an actress in costume was her real mother," Hudson boasted.

"The authentic story has never been treated in films before. It considers how we live, halfway between the apes and the angels. We long for the freedom and primitive urges of the jungle, yet need the discipline and order of society. They are opposing forces, yet we can't do without either.

"I think this is demonstrated quite well in the conflict that Greystoke Tarzan must deal with when deciding if an alien civilization is for them. But it is equally clear in the primal, childlike desires of Ralph Richardson for whom his grandson inspires his return to youth," Hudson said.

In the end, Greystoke finds he can't live in both worlds, and that while each has its benefits, only one can be considered "home."

M. Lasky

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

That Sinking Feeling
Küsch 'n' Sinks

Never has a movie gotten by on pure charm to the extent *That Sinking Feeling* does. By the time he went on to make Gregory's Girl and Local Hero, Bill Forsyth had developed as a writer and director to the point where he could interject his delightfully quirky touches to enhance films that could have stood on their own without such help.

That Sinking Feeling is nothing but touches, with only the thinnest, lamest plot to hold them together. It looks grainier than a beach movie, and for once the actors appear younger than they're supposed to. The soundtrack has been poorly redubbed with voices more understandable to American audiences (though retaining a Scottish flavor).

That's the bad news. The good news is that the bad news doesn't matter. Your mouth may hurt from smiling by the end, for you'll have little reason to stop while the affable, mostly teenaged cast lopes amateurishly through their paces.

The plot is a basic caper comedy about a bunch of boys, just out of school, who plan to heist a load of stainless steel sinks from a warehouse. Not having found a niche in society yet, each looks for one in the gang. Vic (John Hughes) is so eager to dress in drag to divert the night watchman that his girlfriend starts to worry about him.

Another scene with Gay overtones is a reunion between Ronnie the ring-leader (played by Robert Buchanan,

who is from the Kevin Bacon school of cuteness) and a former classmate who has become a copper. It ends with one of them in handcuffs!

A bit of social comment is intended, with the heroes representing the losing side in the war on poverty. In a more realistic movie they'd probably have formed a rock band; but this is a fantasy so they drift into crime, just like in real life.

That Sinking Feeling has the technical crudeness of the early Brian De Palma movies (*Greetings, HI, Mom!*) that still make the rounds, but it's a lot more enjoyable.

(Mercury) S. Warren

Tank
Sledgehammer

Uncannon Valor was a surprise hit of the Christmas season. An apparent waste of Gene Hackman in a mediocre action flick released at the "wrong" time of year, it outgrossed *To Be or Not to Be*, *Christine* and *Two of a Kind*.

Tank was actually filmed first, so it can't be called a ripoff, but by a strange coincidence it's about another soldier who stages a paramilitary action to free his son from the enemy.

That's where the resemblance ends. James Garner's enemy is G.D. Spradlin, sheriff of a small Georgia army town, who arrests Garner's son, C. Thomas Howell (who looked cuter and acted better in *The Outsiders*), to get even with dad for a personal beef. Garner happens to be "the only soldier

(Continued on next page)

MICHAEL DOUGLAS KATHLEEN TURNER DANNY DE VITO

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FILM CLIPS



Racing with the Moon

War Bonds

Racing with the Moon, the most romantic movie in a long time, will show the new generation of moviegoers that young love was like during World War II.

At Christmas of '42 two buddies — Henry (Sean Penn) and Nicky (Nicolas Cage) — have six weeks left before entering the marines. Henry falls in love-at-first-sight with Caddie (Elizabeth McGovern), who lives in the Big House on the Hill but isn't really rich. He retains his optimism about surviving, but at least learns to question the war: "Before it was just there . . . (now) I think about things."

When they're not setting pins at the bowling alley, Henry and Nicky discuss issues of the day — important stuff like whether or not "Tyrons Power is a pussy." Then Nicky's girlfriend turns up pregnant. This cliché is the catalyst for the dramatic events of the final half hour, and the excuse for a pool hustling scene that doesn't quite belong in the film but still makes a good vignette.

The course of Racing takes a few odd turns. Benjamin applies a light touch to potentially heavy material, but pulls out the dramatic stops in a scene that's pure sitcom stuff. Everything is strictly heterosexual (this is the 40's after all), but at some peculiar moments the script decides it's more interested in the friendship of Henry and Nicky than the romance of Henry and Caddie.

McGovern and Cage, who look a bit

Penn is Mightier. Versatile Sean Penn is the best thing about Richard Benjamin's World War II era romance, Racing with the Moon, which was filmed in Mendocino.

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

old for their parts, have given more convincing performances elsewhere. The incredible Penn, however, could play a three-year-old and make me believe it. Never known for his good looks, he acts handsome and pulls it off, bringing truth to every scene he's in.

Richard Benjamin worked with comedy and nostalgia in My Favorite Year. Here he tackles a different style of comedy and a different decade with equally imperfect results but more than enough compensating treats along the mildly inconsistent way.

(Regency I) S. Warren

Misunderstood

Gusher

Misunderstood begins with Gene Hackman burying his wife and telling their sons about her death. Then it gets sad.

The kids are Henry (E.T.) Thomas and Huckleberry (Terms of Endearment) Fox, and they all live in Tunisia in a house that looks like the Taj Mahal inside, built with the money Hackman's shipping business has made off oil billionaires.

The house and kids are great. The only thing wrong with Misunderstood is everything else — Hackman, the script, the direction, etc. Everybody mopes around a lot and Hackman picks on the older boy because the younger is so sickly and like his mother that dad's always liked him best.

All three have some adjusting and growing up to do, but they do it to slowly and sympathetically. There's an oil well in the picture, but the only gusher is supposed to come from your eyes.

I wouldn't bet on that. Misunderstood is a losing bet all around. (Galaxy) S. Warren

(Continued from previous page)

in the entire army who owns his own fully operational Sherman tank," so that's what he uses to break Howell out of the prison farm where, the sheriff taunts, ". . . degenerates . . . gonna fall in love with that little boy of yours."

The rest is a race to the border, where it becomes a war between the states of Georgia and Tennessee, the media having promoted Garner into a folk hero.

Shirley Jones overplays Garner's wife, and her dancing days are over; she's put on enough weight to resemble a WASP Shelley Winters. Like everyone else she grins too much in the first reel to be sure we know who to like.

Tank is from the sledgehammer school of filmmaking, the title vehicle being as subtle as any element of the plot, which is so outrageous as to border on self-parody. The rednecks may love it; but it takes almost two hours to unfold and any intelligent person will, as with those cameras Garner sells on TV, get the picture in ten seconds.

(Alhambra, Empire, Serramonte) S. Warren

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzry

Thursday, March 29: (Strand) As our local straight rag would say, "These are REALLY hot," Members Only starring Jon King (but what size member?) and The Boys of San Francisco starring everyone and his nephew.

(UC Theatre) Fellini's Satyricon is a visual and sexual surreal trip through ancient Rome with lots of nice male flesh. Fellini's City of Women has nice women.

Saturday, March 31: (Pacific Archives) Pasolini's excessive Salo or 120 Days of Sodom is intended to reveal Fascists as disgusting, but is close to being a disgusting film that is difficult to watch. A group of Fascists kidnap children for their pleasure as Italy falls.

Tuesday, April 3: (Strand) Fassbinder's Querelle is a study of male lust and emptiness, filmed on an incredible set with barely credible dialogue. Equus explores the exploding sexuality of a young man.

Wednesday, April 4: (UC Theatre) Turkey movies The Conqueror, Inchon, and Can't Stop the Music with the Village "searching for what we all treasure, pleasure" People. Remember them? Remember disco? Remember pleasure?

Thursday, April 5: (Strand) Cafe Flesh featuring the gigunda Rico. After atomic war, the negatives can't fuck and the positives are forced to fuck so the negatives can watch. With Exhibition.

MUSIC

Temescal Chorus Sings Sweetly

by Bernard Spunberg

Golden sunlight bathed the faces of the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus at precisely the moment they commenced Raymond Hannisian's lovely "Movin' On," first of three encores following the Chorus' March 25 concert at Pride Center. With the official program completed, Director Robert Tharp relaxed his usual fierce concentration just a hair. His seventeen singers responded with tonal warmth and ensemble born of discipline and natural musicianship, and accompanist Dick Hagen contributed a sweetly soaring counter melody.

Director Tharp's highly refined approach achieves carefully molded phrases, rhythmic point, stylistic responsiveness and, above all, sweet and transparent tone. His insistence on memorization of repertoire frees his singers' attention to concentrate solely on him and the music. The Chorus' finely honed musicianship enables them to breathe and phrase as one, produce beautifully homogenous tone, and to generate the illusion of spontaneity.

Tharp's program was highlighted by the Bay Area premiere of Edward Elgar's From the Greek Anthology, Op. 45, comprised of five translations from ancient Greek. Elgar's fleet, impetuous settings are a far cry

from his larger works. The Temescalians reveled in the dramatic word painting of "Yea, Cast Me from the Heights," the tenderness of "Whether I Find Thee," the rhythmic virtuosity of "After Many a Dusty Mile," and the romance of "It's Oh! To Be a Wild Wind." "Feasting I Watch" was sung with especially striking sincerity of expression and warmly expansive, unforced tone.

The concert also included three folk settings by Brahms and three pieces by Schumann. Sweet tone, lovely ensemble, and sensitive shaping of melodic contours brought a stylistic lilt to all six pieces. Grieg's "Landkending" proved the Temescalians capable of weight as well as sweetness. Fabian Olivier sang his solos in the spiritual "King Jesus is a-Listening" with full, rich, and controlled tone, and the Chorus provided effervescent rhythmic support. Tharp filled out his program with sacred music in contrasting styles.

Robert Tharp and his Temescal Gay Men's Chorus have created a sound based on transparency and grace. Their performances enrich the Bay Area's Gay cultural scene.

Temescal Gay Men's Chorus Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana, Berkeley March 30; 8:00

BACK TO BATON

Mostly Memorable Mozart

PHILIP CAMPBELL

The fifth annual "Mostly Mozart Festival" recently ended its two-week run at Davies Hall and Herbst Theatre with a snuffle rather than a bang, but even with sagging ticket sales and a somewhat lackluster ambience, the series managed to yield many fine moments and several delightful surprises.

The snuffling was provided by the San Francisco Symphony's Concertmaster Raymond Kobler during a performance on closing night that should dispel any misapprehensions about the acoustics of Herbst Theatre. While distracting, Mr. Kobler's nervous condition didn't seriously impair his otherwise admirable participation in Mozart's Piano Quartet in G Minor. The real treat of that evening came from Haydn's delicious Piano Sonata in C anyway. As lovingly played by Garrick Ohlsson, who seems to improve with every hearing, this rarely heard but thoroughly delightful piece helped demonstrate why festivals like the "Mostly Mozart" are worth having in the first place.

No one can seriously expect the Festival to be a blockbuster every year. Regardless of what Ronald Reagan thinks, most people simply can't afford to plunk down money for concert tickets two or three times a week. With the dizzying number of musical offerings that vie for our attendance all year long, the patron of the arts is forced to be especially discriminating. Add the fact that Mozart appeals to a relatively select audience and it's small wonder that the series rarely reached capacity.

Perhaps it would be more sensible in future to use smaller Herbst Theatre exclusively. Selling every seat would be easier and the Mozart fest is basically a celebration of chamber music anyway. It might even force the Administration of the Museum of Modern Art to admit that the auditorium they seem so bent on destroying is really a great cultural asset to the city they profess to serve.

The larger scale performances were chiefly notable, this year, for the excellence of the guest conductors and soloists. Sir Charles Mackerras, known to San Franciscans for his Janacek interpretations, proved on opening night that he is no slouch as a Mozartian either. His elegant finesse and tight control created a beautiful setting for Pianist Misha Dichter and his exquisite rendering of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23. Thank god no film directors have seen fit to exploit this glorious music box like the Concerto No. 21, which will probably bear the subtitle "Elvira Madigan" for the rest of its days.

Comic relief was supplied once more by "Professor" Peter

Schickele in his hilarious role as "Intellectual Guide" to the wit(?), music(?), and wisdom(?) of that most justifiably neglected of composers — P.D.Q. Bach. Schickele finds more lost P.D.Q. manuscripts than Richard Bonynge manages with Massenet. The results tend to be a lot more fun, too. If Mr. Schickele's desecrations are less gentle than, say, Victor Borge's, in an age when Joan Rivers character assassinations are all the rage, Schickele has the extra edge of being *au courant*. One has to forgive the momentary lapses into school boy vulgarisms when we are also treated to such revelations as P.D.Q. Bach's "Variations on an Unusually Simple-Minded Theme." I really think the Ballets Trockadero should secure Peter Schickele as its Music Director.

The Mozart Marathon, which should be the centerpiece of all the festivities, curiously turned out to be the only real disappointment for me. Soprano Karen Erickson gave credible, if colorless, life to songs by Mozart and Haydn and Garrick Ohlsson was in good form, but the evening lacked excitement and was less banquet than smorgasbord.

The rest of the series offered opportunities for gifted Flautist Ransom Wilson to dazzle with his technique and romantically dashing good looks, and a wonderful find in the gorgeous little Concerto for Harp in B-flat by Handel, played to perfection by Douglas Rioth.

Conductor Raymond Leppard, well-known for his work with the English Chamber Orchestra, made several gratifying appearances, backing the charmingly shy Mr. Rioth once and then also providing a suitable foil for Guitarist Alexandre Lagoya and his reading of the devilishly tricky Haydn Guitar Concerto No. 3 in G. The results earned Lagoya and Leppard an appreciative ovation.

Funny, in a way, that my best experiences during a Mozart Festival should come from other composers than the honoree. I'm still enthusiastically searching for a good recording of the Handel Harp Concerto, and I'm renewed in my sense of awe for the extravagance of Haydn's genius.

Regardless of the image given to Mozart in the play Amadeus, I'm sure his spirit looks benevolently from the ether; and unlike Salieri, he is not jealous but pleased that a celebration of his music should also rekindle interest in other beloved composers.

We now return to the regular subscription series of the Symphony, but be advised, the Beethoven Festival is coming in June. Start saving those dollars and quarters early. What would life be without these musical parties?

Lamble Interviews Filmmaker John Waters

Gay films will be in focus as David Lamble Interviews underground film director John Waters this Wednesday, April 4, between 4:30 and 6 PM on KPFA (FM 94). Gay film writer Vito Russo has described Waters' Pink Flamingos as "a truly Gay film though it hasn't much to do with homosexuality." Pink Flamingos also depicts Divine's attempts to be proclaimed "the world's most disgusting woman" and if it existed, the film would probably win hands down the poopier-scooper

award for cult movies. Waters' entire outrageous genre, including Multiple Maniacs, Mondo Trasho, and Female Trouble will be on display for their "shock value" in a marathon of bad taste Friday, April 7, at the Castro Theatre.

Lamble will also be previewing Gay films debuting in the San Francisco International Film Festival (April 11-24), including The Fourth Man, a new occult thriller from Paul Verhoeven, director of the acclaimed Spetters.

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Watch Your Mouth

GEORGE HEYMONT

All too often we take the English language for granted. Just look at the title of this week's column: Watch Your Mouth. Well, perhaps one can hear words as they are being spoken, but I sincerely doubt anyone can actually see them as they fall from a speaker's lips. Similarly, when dining out, if one were to order and receive the literal translations of such American culinary delights as a hot dog, a slice of mud pie or the proverbial shit on a shingle, one might be sorely tempted not to finish the meal, much less pay for it. And certainly without much relish.

"What is this sick queen writing about?" you wonder. Simply that our fantasies, as we express them, can get us into deep trouble if someone takes what we are saying too seriously. The Gay man who wishes to sit on someone's lap in hopes of getting a ride to the ceiling (or who prays for some beefy stud to take him home and rape him) is conjuring up sexual images which lie far afield of the true meaning of the language being used. Many of us are already examining alternate meanings of that truism "That number over there is to die for." Sometimes we only learn the folly of our words when it is too late. If you don't believe me, just as Semele.

ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE

Gullibility has its place in opera, but this foolish woman's greed and vanity know no bounds. Having been royally laid by the head god in one of his mortal disguises, poor naive Semele gets tricked into her self-destruction by Jupiter's jealous wife, who knows her husband's powers all too well. By the end of Handel's moralistic little opera there can be little doubt that Jupiter was indeed a very hot trick and Semele was playing with fire.

What's the gimmick? In a royal display of witchery and bitchery Juno disguises herself as Semele's sister, Ino. Advising Semele to withhold her sexual favors from Jupiter until she can get him to promise on a solemn oath that he will forsake his human shape and appear before her in his full glory, Juno rather gleefully plots her revenge.

Knowing full well that to appear before Semele as thunder and lightning means her instant destruction, Jupiter nevertheless gives the eager girl what she wants, descending upon her as a lightning storm and consuming her with flames. No, they didn't have Bolt or Rush on sale in those days so you'll just have to imagine Jupiter moaning "Oh, it's hot, baby. It's really hot tonight," with full knowledge that (having ravaged her body on previous occasions) he can't even hope for a smoked virgin when

it's over.

If such role-playing gobbledygook sounds too far-fetched, let me assure you that the Washington Opera's recent production of Semele not only succeeded in making this claptrap stage-worthy but delivered a stunning evening of opera as well. Making baroque opera work on a modern stage is not an easy task but director Roman Terleckyj and conductor Nicholas McGegan did a superlative job. Set in "mythological antiquity," Zack Brown's delightful scenery and



Mirror, Mirror, What A Ball! Semele (Elizabeth Knighton, l.) is captivated by her own beauty in the Washington Opera's production of Handel's opera.

Cabaret Dates

CLEMENTINA'S

April 2: Fundraiser for the AIDS/KS Foundation with Blackberry, blues guitarist; Jon Sugar Band, new wave; and Frantz, funk. Danny Williams will be the MC; \$5, 9 PM.

No-cover cabaret Sunday through Friday at Clementina's this month will include: Lady Bianca (Sundays, 4 PM, jazz); Maryanne Price and the Millionaires (Mondays, 6 PM, boogie-woogie); Debbie Saunders (Tuesdays, 6 PM, blues); Lisa Pavlak (Wednesdays, 6 PM, acoustic rock); Tuffy Eldridge and Christa Hillhouse (Thursdays, 6 PM, string originals); and Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez (Fridays, 6 PM, comedy).

CLUB 181

March 31 and April 1: Naked Brunch, a new episode of the live soap opera series. Saturday at 11 PM and Sunday at 9 PM; admission \$5.

FANNY'S

March 29: Audrey Finer, 5:30 and 7 PM, no cover; Pamela Brooks, 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.

March 30: Carolyn Van Putten, 5:30 and 7 PM, no cover; Lynda Bergren, 9:30 and 11 PM, \$5.

March 31: Gomez and Palacios, 6 and 7:30 PM, \$3; Faye Carol and Trio,

Trio at 9:30 and 11 PM, Faye Carol at 10 PM and Midnight, \$6.

VALENCIA ROSE

March 29: Judi Friedman, guitar and vocals, 8 PM, \$4.

March 30: Mother tongue Reader's Theater presents Did You Come or Fake It? Women and Sexuality, 8 PM, \$5 to \$8 sliding scale. Also March 31 at 8 PM; Baum and Tolo, comedy, 10 PM, \$5.

March 31: Gay Comedy Night with emcee Marga Gomez. Also Linda Moakes, Kelly Kittell, and Jason Serinus, 10 PM, \$4; Did You Come or Fake It?, 8 PM.

April 1: The April One Revue featuring Lea Centuri, vocalist; Ed Joseph, jazz percussion; and dancer Tommy Tiboo Seon with drummer Val Serant, 8 PM, \$6.

April 2: Gay Comedy Open Mike with co-emcees Tom Ammanno and Monica Palacios, 8:30 PM, \$2. Performer sign-up at 7:30 PM.

April 3: Charlie Murphy and Jami Sieber, world-fusion gospel music combining elements of jazz, new wave, gospel, Latino, and folk; 8 PM, \$5.

April 4: Home Movies/Gay Documentaries, four films documenting birth of contemporary Lesbian/Gay movement, 8 PM, \$3.50.

costumes achieved maximum impact within the intimate confines of the 500-seat Terrace Theatre above the Kennedy Center.

Elizabeth Knighton's radiantly beautiful Semele and Martha Senn's double-faced Ino/Juno were strong characterizations which were handsomely sung and stylishly sculpted. The women were neatly matched by Rockwell Blake's butch and stentorian Jupiter. Countertenor Melvin Earl-Brown's fluid singing as Athamas was a special delight but it was Juno and the musical staff of the Washington Opera who reigned triumphant at the final curtain.

THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED

While in the nation's capital, a chance to savor Gian-Carlo Menotti's deliciously droll one-act opera, The Telephone, was a welcome opportunity. In the 37 years since its premiere, the use of the phone in American society has reached new fetishistic heights. Indeed, in an age marked by fear of exchanging bodily fluids it's hard to ignore all those classified ads for hot phone sex which have left many an All American Boy grasping Ma Bell's receiver with one hand and his own instrument with the other.

Things were a bit more subdued onstage, however, as Lucy kept primping nearby the ever-ringing telephone while her boyfriend, Ben, stammered his way

toward proposing, only to be interrupted by a string of callers. Unable to capture his beloved's attention and at his wit's end for a means of breaking into her conversations, Ben finally rushes out to a pay phone. After an occasional busy signal, he eventually gets through and blissfully proposes to Lucy while several irate commuters anxiously wait for the lovebirds to free up the phone.

As you can see, the plot is a mere piece of fluff. But this production was so deliciously staged by the composer and slickly executed by Wayne Turnage and Sheryl Woods that it became an instant hit with the audience. Again, Zack Brown's witty set and costumes were a fantasy delight.

Now what was that boy's number? Indeed, one might question the thrust of all this rambling on about fetishes and lightning storms. Perhaps nothing more than a mere observation about the meaning of words. Every now and then someone repeats the stern admonition: "Beware of your fantasy. It might just come true." It certainly happened to Ben and to Semele. And, having dreamed about becoming a theatre critic in my youth, just look what happened to me!

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

FITNESS EIGHTIES

Jamie Moran: Biking, Not Brunch

PAUL TREFZGER

Jamie Moran has been a bicyclist since high school. "I've never owned a car. In 1977 I rode to Santa Barbara. I began taking it seriously, though, one year ago. Well, it's still a hobby and I do it to feel good. You know, it never occurred to me that I'd use a Sunday to ride a bike sixty miles. But it's a great outlet," he said.

Moran is a member of the cycling club "Different Spokes." The organization organizes events, most notably their weekly "Decide and Ride." Anyone interested in a "leisurely and casual ride" can meet others so inclined at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park each Saturday at 1:30 PM or Sunday at 10:30 AM. A destination is agreed upon. These rides may be from "five to fifteen miles," and round-trip to "possibly Fort Funston or Sausalito."

"I led a club ride during October, last year to Half Moon Bay. Three of us started out. Only two finished because one guy had a wheel problem. I don't usually go to Decide and Rides. I like longer rides myself. There's a scheduled ride to Crystal Springs from the city and back, about thirty miles," said Moran.

The ride about which Jamie seemed most enthusiastic was a seventy-mile round-trip to the Cheese Factory in Petaluma. The trip, when taken alone, begins at 9:30 AM and lasts six or seven hours. Once, when he made the trip with a friend, they began a little later after a breakfast of bagels and butter. Along the way, they stopped "for coffee, to look at scenery that's unusual. You need a lot of liquids." The pace Moran sets he describes as "moderate." The route is via the smaller, back

teacher," he said. "Happy is very enthusiastic and energetic, and she pushes. With George, you feel like you're at a dance. He has a very good sense of aerobic choreography." Jamie's been doing aerobics for two years.

Yes, he does use the exercycle at the Y. He does this mainly as a substitute, however, when the weather is bad, especially during January and February, or if he finds himself with additional time at the end of a workout.

Moran loves to socialize. He can often be found out dancing and doesn't often miss a Sunday night at the I-Beam. As far as a special person, he said he's "not currently in love . . . but contemplating." He has given up

Sunday morning brunches for bicycling.

Says he, "I like getting up early. It's a nice feeling. It's so quiet. I think it's important that everyone realizes the value of exercise, particularly with regard to stressful situations. It's a release. I'm sure that I'm in better shape. I'm not talking about just physically. I handle life better. At least I think so."

Is keeping fit more than exercise for you? Fitness Eighties will be a regular feature of the Bay Area Reporter Sports section. If you'd like to share your regimen, diet, and the positive effects fitness has had on your life, write to columnist Paul Trefzger in care of this paper with some information about yourself.

Saturday Sparkler!

by Tom Vindeed

Keep this Saturday night open, as the Gay Softball League launches its 7th season. Opening game festivities get underway at 6 PM and then the Kokpit and Trax square off in what promises to be a lively contest. Lang Field, Turk and Gough Streets, will be the site for what promises to be a fun-filled evening.

On Sunday, April 1, the GSL will get underway with a full slate of games. Featured this week will be The Village vs. Google's and The Vagabond vs. Moby Dick. Games start at 10 AM (Good Luck!) and are at Lang Field.

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Bicyclist Jamie Moran (Photo: Rink)

Final Pins Settle Second Place Spot

Final 83/84 Winter League Achievements

by Jerry R. De Young

One of the most competitive bowling seasons in TGWNBL history came to a breathtaking end March 14. The indomitable Japantown Bowling Bombers seized first place on February 1 and held the position 'til the very end, finishing the season with a comfortable four-game lead over the nearest competitor.

Second place was up for grabs until the very last frame of the very last game. Pilsner I and Sweet Inspiration seasawed for second until the last game tipped the balance in favor of the Pilsner team. Congratulations to all the teams that participated in this exceptional Winter Season; a special congratulations to the top three teams.

In addition to team standing, there are many other categories that deserve recognition. Here are a few:

- The TGWNBL ended the season with a 739 league average, the highest of any Taven Guild League;
- The Most Improved Bowler

Certificate was awarded to Alan Turpin of Scenic Hyway Tours for his magnificent 18-pin increase over his entering average;

- R. J. Powell of David Kelsey's Unmentionables won an ABC Triplicate Patch for his marvelous series of three 103 games;
- The first bowler to surpass the 10,000-pin mark for the season was Randy Peterson of the Japantown Bowling Bombers (where have I read that team name before?);

The Pilsner #4 was the only team on which all members reached a 10,000+ total pin count. This is indeed a fine individual and team achievement.

The five highest team averages for the 83/84 Winter Season are:

Japantown Bowling Bombers	845
Park Bowl	832
Pilsner Pot Lickers	825
Play With It, Ltd.	824
Sweet Inspiration	816

That is not the order in which they finished. In fact, the second



TGWNBL's Winter Season first place team, Japantown Bowling Bombers. (Photo: Rink)

place team, Pilsner I, is not even listed; it has a 792. (That should provide inspiration for you teams that are intimidated by high averages.)

There were 51 600+ series bowled by 22 bowlers, and 323 200+ games bowled by 70 bowlers. Rob Mallin of the assiduous Pilsner Pot Lickers bowled the greatest number of 200+ games with an astounding 25. Rob's teammate and League President, Keith Ray, came in second

with a total of 19 200+ games, in addition to bowling a sensational 655 H.S.S., the highest of TGWNBL's Winter Season.

John Rogowski, of the Park Bowlers, realized the unique distinction of bowling not only the highest Scratch Game of TGWNBL's season, his 269 is the best scratch game bowled by any Gay bowler on any Gay league in S.F. during the TGWNBL 83/84 Winter Season.

Here are the high achievers on the last night of bowling for this past Winter Season, the amazing 200+ bowlers.

J. Snidac (DOL)	233
R. Mallin (PPL)	209, 229
R. Peterson (JBB)	227
S. Christian (JBB)	224
K. Ray (PPL)	211
L. Kramer (PB)	208
E. Carmick (SI)	203
R. McGarry (P #4)	203
R. Bremner (PWIL)	201
T. Sipple (JBB)	201

A fitting farewell to a fantastic season.

STARTING DATES FOR SUMMER LEAGUES

Monday Tavern Guild - April 16: 7:30, meeting on second floor of Park Bowl; 8:30, commence bowling. Probably openings for both individuals and teams.

Wednesday Tavern Guild - April 17: 7:30, meeting on second floor of Park Bowl; 8:30 commence bowling. No team openings; however, there are a few openings for individuals.

Thursday Tavern Guild - April 18: 8:30, meeting on second floor of Park Bowl; 9:30, commence bowling (4-person teams). Openings for both teams and individuals.

SCOREBOARD

TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES TEAM STANDINGS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

SF WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE (SUNDAY)

(Week 22 of 24 - as of 3/18/84)
League Average: 692

1. Mabel's of S.F.	24	8
2. Pig's	23	9
3. Cole Valley Graphics	21 1/2	10 1/2
4. Artemis II	20	12
5. No Money Down	19	13
6. Rub a Dub Scrub	17	15
7. Artemis I	16	16
8. Mona Tong Realty	16	16
9. Maud's Squad	13 1/2	18 1/2
10. Amelia's	9	23
11. You See Flowers	8	24
12. Natural Snacks	5	27

High Scratch Game
Virginia Brusco (RDS) 268
Sara Lewinstein (A-1) 252
Joan Shepard (RDS) 246

High Scratch Series
Joan Shepard (RDS) 645
Bernice Straub (Amelia's) 634
Velda Gooden (Amelia's) 622

TG MONDAY LEAGUE

(Week 19 of 22 - as of 3/12/84)
League Average: 705

1. Renegade Dance Bar	54 1/2	21 1/2
2. Park Bowl	48	28
3. Grand Central Sta.	48	28
4. Men's Room	46	30
5. Pendulum #1	46	30
6. Twin Peaks	45	31
7. 4 Aces & a Spade	44	32
8. New Image	41	35
9. S.F. Gym	40	36
10. The Sus-spencers	39	37
11. Pilsner Pick-ups	39	37
12. Stables Also	39	37
13. Body Center	37	39
14. Crystl Spring-olaters	36	40
15. The Deluxe	35	41
16. Eagle Creek Saloon	34 1/2	41 1/2
17. Perfect Petals	32 1/2	43 1/2
18. The Galleon	31	45
19. Stables	31	45
20. Ethel Mertz Mem'l	25 1/2	50 1/2
21. Pilsner I	25	51
22. La Mediterranee	16	60

High Scratch Series
Jack Hiatt (Park Bowl) 268
Rob Mallin (RDB) 247
Tim Hagerman (4A&S) 244
Gere Cooksey (Twin Peaks) 206
Jackie Tingle (Stables Also) 187
Donna Geecwicz (PP-ups) 178

High Scratch Series
Hank Givan (New Image) 660
Scott Mower (ECS) 633
Rob Mallin (RDB) 627
Gere Cooksey (Twin Peaks) 527
Jackie Tingle (Stables Also) 490
Donna Geecwicz (PP-ups) 468

TG WEDNESDAY LEAGUES

Winter Season Final Standings (Week 23 of 23 - as of 3/14/84)
League Average: 739

1. Japntwn Bng Bmbrs	64	28
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2. Pilsner I	60	32
3. Sweet Inspiration	59	33
4. Play With It, Ltd.	58	34
5. Stallion Stampede	57	35
6. Pilsner Pot-Lickers	56	36
7. Park Bowl	55 1/2	36 1/2
8. D Kley's Unmntbls	53	39
9. Pilsner #4	51	41
10. Plum Pussies	50	42
11. Pendulum Swingers	46	46
12. Gay Sports Mag	43	49
13. Grady's	40	52
14. Bearback Riders	39	53
15. Cafe San Marcos	39	53
16. Fire Mtn Lodge	38	54
17. Hr Tdy Gn Tmrw	37	55
18. Scenic Hyway Tours	35	57
19. Animals	34 1/2	57 1/2
20. SF Eagle	34	58
21. Pilsner II	33	59
22. Days of Our Lanes	29	63

High Scratch Game
John Rogowski (Park Bowl) 269
Keith Ray (PP-L) 266
Randy Peterson (JBB) 255
Tony Szep (SI) 246
Greg Cassinelli (PWIL) 244

High Scratch Series
Keith Ray (PP-L) 655
Rob Mallin (PP-L) 639
Adrian Stenson (PWIL) 633
Randy Peterson (JBB) 628
Mal Garcia (Park Bowl) 625

SF POOL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE STANDINGS

(Week 6 of 12 - as of 3/25/84)

DIVISION I		
Pendulum Pirates	57-39	.593
White Swallow Storm	46-34	.575
Arena Hellbreds	42-38	.525
Pilsner Doughboys	47-49	.489
Maud's	39-41	.487
DeLuxe Rebels	45-51	.468
Brig Inmates	34-46	.425
Village Tribe	34-46	.425
Pipeline Deaf	29-67	.302
DIVISION II		
Febe's	61-19	.762
Rainbow	67-29	.697
Chaps Outlaws	50-30	.625
Stallion Steeds	46-34	.575
Castro Station Express	52-44	.541
White Swallow Wreckers	47-49	.489
Macante's Moonancers	35-61	.364
Pk Bwl Parallel Pockets	27-53	.337
Peg's Pugs	26-54	.325
DIVISION III		
Stallion Stampede	52-28	.650
Macante's MARTYRS	55-41	.572
Bear Shots	43-37	.537
Pendulum Chaos	41-39	.512
Village Knights	49-47	.510
Febe's Snow	48-48	.500
Arena Centurians	39-41	.487
Castro Sta Identification	39-57	.406
Academy Plebes	27-53	.337
DIVISION IV		
DeLuxe Spare Tires	68-28	.708
Arena Warriors	54-40	.583
Brig Guards	44-36	.550
Peg's Promises	50-46	.520
Pilsner Ltd	46-50	.479
Academy Cadets	37-43	.462
Maud's Squad	34-46	.425
Bear Claws	33-47	.412
Daly City Rough Riders	23-57	.287
League Top Twenty		
R. Peterson (Febe's)	13-0	1.000
Mr. B. (Rainbow)	14-2	.875
C. Arguello (Rainbow)	11-2	.846
B. Kelly (DeLuxe ST)	11-2	.846
K. Stephens (Peg's Prm)	10-2	.833
C. Bradley (Brig Grds)	10-2	.833
A. Ravena (Brig Grds)	16-4	.800
E. Z. (DeLuxe ST)	16-4	.800
C. Lundberg (A Ctrns)	11-3	.785
B. Kazee (Febe's)	13-4	.764
P. Fleury (Febe's)	15-5	.750
O. Bubar (DeLuxe ST)	12-4	.750
B. Boyles (CS Exprs)	17-6	.739
S. Abramo (Rainbow)	14-5	.736
R. Moore (DeLuxe ST)	14-5	.736
C. McGarry (Cps Olws)	11-4	.733
S. Sims (Maud's Squad)	10-4	.714
W. Moreira (Febe's Swn)	12-5	.705
L. Williams (Pdm Prts)	14-6	.700
L. Duncan (MRTYRS)	16-7	.695

BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

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BLACK LASHES

Just Whip-It!!

KARL STEWART

The whole Soft Porn industry has a hard on for Brutus. It seems *Drummer Magazine* recently hired the gentlemen to complete a spread or two for *Mach 7's* "The D.I." as well as appearances in *Drummer* itself. JR and publisher John Embry liked this butch guy's awesome attitude so much they decided to fly him up again last week for an audio taping of a fantasy nature.

Folsom). This is a rare and exclusive opportunity to meet one of the leather community's biggest.

Last year it was the summer's hottest Experience: 1984 Mr. Drummer Contest is coming this June. One of the regional contests, Mr. Southern California Drummer (which produced Luke Daniels '82 International Mr. Leather) will be held at



Brutus

Because of a long-standing business relationship and the beautiful appointments, the Drummer folks but Brutus up at the Atherton Hotel. The evening of one session (complete with slaves, leather whips, etc.) Mr. Embry takes Brutus to dinner, still wearing the leather harness and briefs from the taping. Brutus, being the real thing, is still hissing, steaming and barking from beating submissives for hours. John Drummer at the hotel, where he continued to terrorize the desk clerk, bartender and several unsuspecting guests. Brutus was staying in another hotel the next day and the Atherton will no longer be doing business with Alternate Publishing.

Results: Of course what is one man's disadvantage is another's gold. Wings Distributing (Drummer's merchandising division) will soon have available *The Interaction*, an audio tape fantasy complete with available photos from the Compound during the taping.

Another of my all-time favorites: The cartoonist responsible for "Drum" (sometimes the only thing I jack off to in *Drummer*) is Bill Ward. He will be featuring his first American appearance on April 4, from 5 to 7 PM in the Studstore (690

Greg's Blue Dot on April 26 and 27. Mr. Northern California will be held the same weekend at the Woods in the Russian River area. I'll bet John Ponce remembers this one as being quite greasy. Onward!

Last week Chaps, in conjunction with producer Alan Selby, mounted Mr. South of Market, as it were. The contest and auction was a well run and full evening of macho quips from MC Jim Cvitanich and auctioneer Big M, raising more than \$9,000 for the SF AIDS fund. The 18 contestants were bid to sell raffle tickets for points, as well as being judged by a distinguished panel of leathermen, including Colt Thomas and SFPD's Paul Siedler.

We were fed well at an opulent display of food, and entertained well by stars from Men Behind Bars — the Four Skins from Castro Station and the Belly Dancers from the Ambush. The auction was filled with wonderful things for the bidding: Jerry Downing road off on a 1000cc Honda Goldwing which he stole for a mere 1,100 clams. All in all a full evening. The Chaps staff, particularly PR king Kim Wittington, worked its butts off. The winner already has a string of titles, including 'Mr. CMC,

Mr. Bare Chest I (both of which will already carry him to Chicago in May) as well as being a real prince: Michael Merriot walked off with an arm load of prizes, including some new leathers from Cycle Leather Wear. First Runner-up was hunky little Michael Schultz and Miles Mitchell took another title as 2nd Runner-up (did he take the same position in the original Mr. So/M Contest four or five years ago???)

Chaps will be seeking a Mr. Chaps in mid April to send to Chicago. More about that later.

Another little contest is Febe's Man Contest with categories for those 21-30, 30-40 and 40-7. Friday, March 30 at 10 PM is the hour and is just for fun. More fun will be dished up by the Barbary Coasters the next night at Febe's for an 18th Anniversary at 8 PM. Too Much Fun!!!

The following Tuesday, April 3, M&M Production, Skip and Randy, will present Jim C's Men Behind Bars videotape and will feature Skip Blaikie's Dixieland band and some snacks. I know several that would settle for just one bite of Skipper's pretty bod. This event, too, begins at 8 PM. If these three parties are like last Saturday's Larice Look Alike Contest, there may be nothing left of Febe's, Trixie Trash tucked that dubious trophy under her arm, another perpetual title winner. The festivities were in honor of SFGDI's Larice and Febe's Queen Mother Jim Leuer, upon the occasion of their birthdays, but neither would say which one. I wouldn't admit that many years either.

Saturday was a pleasant and comedy filled evening: Spring Interaction was The David Society's way of bringing contemporary Gay society together. The Imperial Family, headed by Rich and Remi, were represented as well as the crazies from Castro Station, Polk Gulch and End Up's Jock Strap Contest promoters Jerry Semas and Diamond John, all camping and carrying on. The focus of the evening was a long and rich program of entertainer Lea DeLaria and her loving wife Jeanine Strobel, bringing us broad humor and good jazz. Lea asked a few of her friends to help out: Doug Holselaw gave us some queently comedy and Mario Mondelli in leather served up some of his original tunes. Lea and Jeanine will be featured at Theatre Rhino in Ragging Bull today through April 1 before taking off on an eight month, nationwide (I shouldn't use that word when speaking of Lea) tour.

The Fabulous Dumonts began slowly but warmed up to the audience with their rock 'n roll stylings. Elliot may become the next caberet sex symbol. The second appearance of the Four Skins this week was much less ideal than at Chaps. The stage couldn't be used because of equipment, and the dance floor, where they performed, was ringed with Ad Hocks' video equipment. So the guys went on and took hold of the crowd anyway and Armando did his level best to capture it on tape. Should be interesting to watch when Castro Station shows it on its great video system. Between the show, the drinks (part of which went to the evening charities) and a raf-

(Continued on next page)

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BAY AREA REPORTER MARCH 29, 1984 PAGE 28

BLACK LASHES

(Continued from previous page)

fle a tidy little sum for the Ward 5B Patients Care Fund (money for personal supplies) and Casa de Los Madres (battered women's shelter) was raised.

One of the prizes was a Rich Carle Look Alike frog complete with crown. Bill Wood (President of the Forum, Prez of the year, VeePee to Cyclorunners MC, Imperial Sec/State) (!!!) is now the father of "The Pretender" to the throne. It was he who was responsible for that forum clearing the air surrounding which AIDS/KS charities do what for whom. He's a worker and a reeal nice fellow.

Cal Eagles MC will have its official debut at Chaps, Thursday, April 5 at 9 PM. Al Bee and his merry band of road toads will sponsor a bike trip to Sacramento on April 14 and 15, beginning at Febe's at noon. They will leave at 2 PM. The 20 dollar chit brings run button, bridge tolls, Saturday evening meal, Saturday beer bust at the Power Plant as well as Sunday brunch and eye openers at K Street. Sacramento can be fun. If you go, say hi to the men at the Wreck Room for us.

BATTER UP

The Kokpit was the rowdy scene of the fundraiser for AIDS charities and that bar's GSL softball team. This might have been just another in the blur of charity fundraisers and auctions this reporter attends, but for the tremendous support of other GSL teams. The bar was filled with teams for places like Hector's elegant Cafe San Marcos and the Starlight Room. One popular auctioneer was Chuck Smith, manager of The Phone Booth (25th & So. Van Ness). He is the team coach (filling any jock's head full of locker room

fantasies). You can find out for yourself at the Phone Booth's 10th Anniversary Friday and Saturday March 30-31 at 8 PM. There will be a buffet, drawing and lots of frivolity.

Getting back to the Kokpit; the softball folks have forged what is obviously a tight and supportive society-within-a-society. Their crowned prince is Commissioner Bobby Docca. Dowager Tom Vindeed and Rich (Rita) Brattin also lent their voices on stage in aid of the Kokpit's team. Mark Brown (Gay Sports) seems to have put away Bubbles for good; there were some mighty big gowns auctioned off. One was purchased by bartender Betty Bonco (as in Tavern Guild) for Mr. Macho, himself, Cowboy Randy, with the stipulation that he wear it. When he refused, Marlana, Empress Char and Empress Remi (certainly no less butch) but him in it—kicking and screaming. One less myth to worry about remembering!!

Mr. Shore crammed a tidy group into the Starlight Room last week for a great fundraiser benefiting the Barbary Coast Cloggers. The \$2200 raised will just cover the air fare for that gang to wing toward the New Orleans World's Fair this summer where they will perform their Appalachian dance wonders.

After one of these crazy parties, Sec/State Bruce Herrelson lead the Imperial troops to Deja Vu where Gene Forest was mistaken for Wendy Nelder. Perhaps Gene would be a better choice???

Friday, March 30, the Roadrunner and Empress Mae will host another fund-er at 8:30 PM. This will no doubt include a show. It's hard to understand why Shiela doesn't invest in a real stage (portable) and fill that useless dance floor with more seating (also portable). It's



The winners of the Mr. South of Market contest: (l. to r.) Michael Schultz, 1st runner-up; Miles Mitchell, 2nd runner-up; Michael Merriott, Mr. South of Market. (Photo: Rink)

even more difficult to understand why anyone would pay up to 35% more for drinks in the Tenderloin and come back for more. I won't even mention the ten cent charge to take a pee. These questions and more will not be answered in next week's edition!

Battle of the Lashes: On May 12 cannon fire will be heard. Tony V. Ginger and Ms. Space-out will host the King and Queen of Heart's (No/Cal) Investiture at Lipps. Bucky and Crystal, fashion plates of Polkstrassa, will also be there to make you happier.

Firing from the Rathskeller with a lotta chili for amo is Mr. Cowboy Randy, who is mounting his big hoedown, featuring Western Electric Dance Band and lots more. Mr. Gay SF will be host that evening. Stay tuned for front line battle reports.

Remember this weekend is the big toast to Empress I Jose at the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. The Saturday evening fete will feature a \$30 a plate dinner and will benefit the SGF Marching Band & TC. This is Duke Armstrong, Hector, Bob Cramer and Bond Shand's way of saluting Jose's quarter century (or more) of dedication to the Gay Community.

Friday eve, Billy Ray (another with Imperial designs) will host a benefit for the "K&QofH/NoCal" Chris and Jim at Kimo's at 8 PM.

ART WITH A SIMPLE STROKE

Tonight Moby Dick will host the reception for Photographer H. Grant at 6 PM. This will celebrate his show of color photography in that bar and will hang there until April 25.

Around the corner you have the opportunity to view the work of my buddy in print, photog-

rapher Rink. The Village Deli Cafe is the place and will be through April 8th. You won't want to miss the "other side" of this man's work (that's not seen in these pages).

If you don't have your tickets for the Grand Premier (de la



Jerry Downing (r.) rode away from the Mr. South of Market contest on a 1000cc Honda Goldwing after bidding \$1,100 at the auction. (Photo: Rink)

West Coast) of La Cage aux Folles do not wait. Tuesday, May 29, may seem a couple of fur-longs away, but I have it on good authority that it will be sold out long in advance. This is a benefit for Cable Car Award Charity; SF Aids Fund, Lesbian Rights Project, Operation Concern and BAPHR's "Can We Talk" brochure (Harvey Milk Demos). Phone (415) 826-2999 for seating and ticket info.

Onward into April and all those Leather contests; where's the beef? It's in the skins!!!!

K. Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Friday, 3/30: Man Contest, Febe's,

10 PM, categories are ages: 21-30, 30-40, 40-death. Prizes.

Benefit for Travel Fund, of Jim & Lady Chris (K&Q of Hearts/NoCal), Kimo's, 8 PM. Entertainment and raffle. Host Billy Ray, MC's Ronny Lynn & Sissy.

GSL Benefit, Roadrunner, 8:30 PM. Host Mae; show.

Tenth Anniversary, Phone Booth (25th & So. Van Ness) 8 PM. Buffet, drawing; also Saturday 3/31 at 8 PM.

Saturday 3/31: Salute to Jose I, Green Room (War Memorial Bldg) 7 PM, dinner 8 PM, \$30. Benefit for Gay Marching Band, ticket info: 543-0910.

18th Anniversary Celebration, BC/MC, Febe's, 8 PM (this is usually wild), also Fred Lindy's birthday.

Knight Templar S/M Party, doors open 10 PM (close at 12), info: Jim 863-0476.

Sunday 4/1: Swap Meet, upstairs, 1 to 4 PM (BYO-Junk), Chaps Loft.

Tuesday 4/3: Men Behind Bars videotape showing, Febe's 8 PM, host: M&M Prd., Skip B and Randy J, featuring Skip's Diecieland Band, snacks.

Square Dance Lessons, S.F. Eagle, 7-9 PM (also Wednesday).

Wednesday 4/4: Drum's Daddy's Reception, Cartoonist Bill Ward, The Studstore (960 Folsom), 5 to 7 PM.

SWEETLIPS SEZ

This 'n' That

DICK WALTERS

This Saturday and Sunday Linda Pancost will be celebrating 10 years of the Phone Booth from 8 PM on, so come on out to the Booth at 25th and South Van Ness and join in the festivities. Is Wyoma flying in for the festivities, Linda?

They are having a raffle for the Vagabond softball team and donations are only \$1. The prize is either \$600 cash or three days and two nights in Reno including hotel, round trip airfare for TWO, plus \$200 in cash. See any Vagabond team member or the Vagabond at 800 Larkin for tickets.

This Friday at 8 PM there will be a party at Kimo's for the King and Queen of Hearts for All Northern California. This is being presented by Billy Ray

and it promises to be a fun event with some great entertainment, so don't miss it.

Remember, Bobby of the Mexican Mafia, you only have three days open . . . I like numbers two and four . . . persons, that is.

On Saturday, March 31, there will be a tribute dinner for Jose at 7 PM for \$30 at the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg., and the proceeds go to the Gay Marching Band. Wait 'til you see them in their new uniforms . . . HOT!

Cha Cha has a winner with Dave of the Giraffe on the Goochie's softball team. You can find Dave on the plank at the Giraffe Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The GSL opens its season this Saturday at Lang Field, and it will be a night game, so don't miss this one . . . Kokpit vs. Trax. They have some surprises prior to the opening that you won't want to miss.

The noon crowd at the very popular Sutter's Mill gave Mayor Dianne Feinstein such a rousing round of applause when she arrived for lunch last Friday with Wayne Friday that you would have thought she was already vice president. They even had a special dish on the menu named after her. Hi, Tim.

Have you seen Walphy's Productions' video for Chez Mollet yet? Not too much art, but the most hilarious 13 minutes you'll ever see. It is shown on request at the Chez Mollet, so just ask Lenny to show it to you while you are having dinner.

The popular Bob Sandner is now at the New Bell Saloon on Mondays and Tuesdays. Incidentally, Boo and Teddy and Totie and Russ are leaving for a vacation in Hawaii on the 5th. Totie is afraid to be here on her birthday, which is the 7th of April . . . how old now, girl?

The New Bell will be shortly celebrating its 15th year . . . how time does fly.

Tickets go on sale this Saturday and Sunday at the Mint from noon 'til 3 PM for the annual Robert Michael Productions' very popular Closet Ball. This is one event that shouldn't be missed, as it is loads of fun and takes place on the 28th of April. The tickets go fast . . . hi, David.

Yes, that is Robbie aka Helen Trent still on the plank at the Kokpit on Sundays and doing a great job of it . . . you looked very good the other day, Kenny Allison, when I stopped in for a few drinks . . . hi, Florida.

Can you believe that Reba (the Cinch) and Big Bird (Ginger's) took yours truly out for drinks the other afternoon at the Ram's Head where we ran into Bobbie Calicoate, who was on her way to Omaha (?) to do two shows.?

Happy Birthday to the publisher of this paper, Bob Ross, his 50th on Monday, the 2nd of April . . . hope you have many, many more, Bob.

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Revelers at the Larice Look-Alike Birthday Party at Febe's: (l. to r.) Michael Gill, Larice, and Gilda. (Photo: Rink)



Looney Tunes. The cast of Naked Brunch will return to Club 181 this weekend. Some of the cast members will appear Wednesday, April 4, at 10 PM on "Fruit Punch" on KPFA (94 FM).

Women's Film Series

The San Francisco Women's Building film series will continue this week with *Women of the World*, an animated film which presents a playfully earnest history of the world from a womanist point of view, and *The Life and Death of Frida Kahlo* a portrayal of Mexico's most famous woman painter. Friday, April 6 at 8:30 PM. Ticket prices are based on a sliding scale from \$3 to \$10 and may be reserved in advance by calling 431-1180.

Frontrunners

Frontrunners San Francisco will sponsor a Sunday Scenic Run April 1, beginning at 10 AM at the Twin Peaks parking lot. The run will be one to five miles over hilly terrain.

Frontrunners also sponsors Thursday Fun Runs (meet at 6 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park); Saturday Fun Runs (meet at 10 AM at the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park); and Saturday Long Distance Training Runs (meet at 10 AM, call for location.)

Hiking Club

Two day hikes will be sponsored this weekend by the San Francisco Hiking Club. One will take participants to a nameless beach in the Marin headlands that has a great panorama of The City and Golden Gate bridge. The hike will begin and end at the car park on Vista Point. Meet for carpooling at McDonald's on the corner of Stanyan and Haight Sunday, April 1, at 9 AM.

The other hike which will take participants to the Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, was originally scheduled to be one to Mt. Tamalpais/Alpine Lake, but has been postponed. This hike was originally scheduled to take place March 18. Meet for carpooling at McDonald's on the corner of Stanyan and Haight Sunday, April 1, at 9:45 AM.

Wednesday, April 4, will be the general club meeting at 7:30 PM at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 18th and Collingwood. Slides of East Africa taken by Loren on his photo safari will be shown and information will be available on activities for the month. Anyone wishing to sign up for the April Pinnacles National Monument State Park camping trip should be prepared to pay the \$5 campsite permit fee (\$10 for non-members).

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Bathhouse Closing Decided, Delayed, Debunked

Community, Ignited by Issue, Opposes Shutdown

by George Mendenhall



A Castro Street idler checks out the latest AIDS posters. This week bath closing riled the Gay community. (Photo: Rink)

Many Gay men began to think about AIDS and their own sexual practices seriously for the first time last week. The word was out that San Francisco's famed steam baths and possibly other sex-related businesses could be closed by the city's health director, Mervyn Silverman. It was difficult to ascertain what the Gay community as a whole thought of this possible move, but its leaders and activists were overwhelmingly against closure.

It was clear that Silverman himself, who receives continuing input about AIDS and is considered highly informed on the subject, had not been able to make up his mind. He called a press conference to allegedly make THE announcement and then postponed the decision. While the city's top officials apparently favored closure, Silverman remained calm as he evaluated the legal and medical problems involved in such a move. He says the decision may take two more weeks of deliberation.

Sensational daily headlines and quickie news reports baffled the Gay community as well as the general public. Bay Area Reporter was inundated with television cameras and inquiring reporters while staff members attempted to pull the story together. Finally, it was decided that amidst the confusion a chronology of the week's major events would help:

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

A Gay deputy sheriff, Larry Littlejohn, went to City Hall and filed an intent to circulate an initiative petition which, if successful, would have made it city policy to prohibit "sexual activity among patrons of public bath houses." There was general agreement among the Gay activists and doctors that the initiative would get the necessary 7,332 signatures and be approved by the voters in November. The fear that this would call for a city ordinance from the Board of Supervisors that would eventually result in a locked-in and irreversible closure of the steam baths and sex clubs.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

A group of five Gay activists and six Gay doctors met at the home of psychiatrist David Kessler to discuss a possible newspaper advertisement explaining the AIDS crisis. During the meeting the co-director of the AIDS/KS Foundation, Dr. Marcus Conant, said he had talked with Dr. Mervyn Silverman, Public Health Director.

There is confusion among those who attended as to what

Conant related. Evidently, he indicated that Silverman might move quickly to close the city's steam baths because of an alleged link between bath house sex and AIDS. The group voted 10-2 to support a baths closure.

This led to an immediate statement being drafted by the participants and an organized effort was launched to get broad Gay community support for the closure with 100 signatures as the goal. Callers had difficulty

(Continued on page 10)

Gay Men Will be Screened Out of Giving Blood

New Test Will Eliminate High Risk AIDers

The Irwin Memorial Blood Bank revealed last week that all blood donated will undergo a second testing to eliminate contaminated blood.

The new test, which will begin May 1, is targeted ostensibly at detecting hepatitis. However, the real reason is that the new testing will eliminate the blood from Gay men from entering the system. Dr. Herbert Perkins, Scientific Director, of the blood bank said that the new blood testing will screen out "about 90 percent of all people in groups at high risk for AIDS."

Four categories of people make up the high risk AIDS group: hemophiliacs, Haitians, intravenous drug users, and Gay men. Little likelihood exists that hemophiliacs donate blood. Few Haitians reside in San Francisco, and of the last two high risk groups, in San Francisco, Gay men are in the vast majority.

The additional hepatitis test, known as the core antibody test, will reveal evidence of past infection of hepatitis. About 90% of Gay men, according to the Irwin Blood Bank, carry the core antibody of hepatitis. The test will insure that no blood given by a Gay man (a high risk for AIDS) will be transfused. There exists no test to detect AIDS in blood.

Perkins said the new test will enhance the safety of the community blood supply in two ways. It will reduce further the risk of post-transfusion hepatitis and will serve as an added safety net for screening donors at high risk for AIDS.

Currently the blood bank screens for AIDS-possible donors

by a series of medical questions and will soon offer donors a "discreet, post donation method of recalling their donation if they believe their blood is not safe for transfusions."

The Blood Bank admits that their current screening (in addition to the new test) will not detect AIDS. Neither has their current screening for hepatitis eliminated hepatitis B as a cause of post-transfusion hepatitis. The test cannot detect the presence of another hepatitis virus known as non-A, non-B, which can be present in healthy donors. The core antibody test, however, will detect blood that is twice as likely to transmit the non-A, non-B virus, thereby serving as an additional screening for hepatitis.

Perkins emphasized that Gay men (90% of whom carry the core antibody) with few exceptions, should have no concern that its presence indicates illness. They have been either been cured of hepatitis B or developed an antibody on their own. ■

State Readies Quarantine Format for AIDS Patients

Public Health Officials, State Attorneys Take First Steps in Restraint of Movement

by Paul Lorch

Dr. James Chin, State of California Chief of Infectious Disease, has begun the initial procedure of setting up a quarantine protocol for AIDS patients.

Of concern to Dr. Chin is what to do or what can be done to people with AIDS "who do not follow the recommendations of the health department." Chin began work in December 1983 and opened a discussion with the state's Office of Legal Services in Sacramento.

Following up on several phone conversations, Chin wrote a memorandum to Ramon Perez at the Office of Legal Services outlining his plan. Chin laid out the steps that could be taken if an AIDS patient refused to follow the recommendations submitted by the health department.

Chin was concerned over the AIDS patient who would have sexual relations with partners who did not know of his condition. The Chief of Infectious Disease recommended that first the PWA be contacted by the local health department. The PWA (person with AIDS) would be informed in word and in print of the "need to adhere to public health recommendations such as abstaining from sexual activities that could transmit a possible AIDS agent to sexual contacts

who are unaware he has AIDS."

Next, if the patient either denies he has AIDS or is "openly hostile and refuses to adhere to medical recommendations" that the local health department refer the patient to an AIDS support group who would counsel the patient. The idea being to change his behavior by a talk from his peers.

If this step failed, the public health official would go further and issue orders for a "modified isolation." The health department orders would detail the need to adhere to policies. It would also outline quarantine procedures that would be implemented.

Again, if this warning failed and the PWA ignored the order to modify behavior, the local health department would take

severe measures. They would quarantine the patient's residence by posting a sign at the

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

How leader types are reacting to the closing of the baths and sex clubs p. 2

Stonewall fights bath closure — Bruce Pettit p. 3

Whistles stop an armed assault — Allen White . . . p. 5

Bay Area Reporter's new feature: Our weekly calendar, "This Week" pp. 18-19