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<b>SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE</b>	Bowls on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. - There are 4 people per team - Cost of bowling is \$9.50 per week - Handicap is 90% - League starts bowling on June 3rd - <b>EVERYONE IN THIS LEAGUE GOES TO RENO (ALL EXPENSES EXCEPT FOOD ARE PAID) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEASON</b>

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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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## Customs Agents Raid British Bookstore

*Maupin's 'Tales of the City'  
Confiscated in London*

by Allen White

Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* was one of several books seized in a big raid in London by Great Britain Customs. The raid took place Tuesday at Gay's the Word Bookshop, the largest Gay bookshop in England.

The first incident occurred Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. when Customs and Excise inspectors broke into the flat of bookshop director Glenn McKee. The British police confiscated tapes, diaries, and books.

At 1 p.m., the police entered the Gay's the Word Bookshop. The ten customers in the store were thrown out. For the next five hours customs officials went through the store seizing books. Among the titles taken were

*Cruise to Win, Southern Discomfort, Return to Lesbos, Walking on the Moon, One for the Gods, Tales of the City, and The Joy of Lesbian Sex.*

Michael Mason, a Gay newspaper editor in London, said the books were taken as a first step to prosecution to evade Customs. Mason said that British Customs officials are hesitant to allow Gay books into the country from the United States. "Books are imported by indirect

(Continued on page 2)

## Sex Banned in Sex Palaces with Gay Backing

*Half the Gay Backers Back Off in Day-After Fallout*

by George Mendenhall

"What we are doing today is taking steps, with the support of many members of the community, to eliminate the bathhouses, bookstores, and sex clubs as places of sexual encounters between individuals — places where multiple sex takes place."



Dr. Merv Silverman surrounded by the Gay leaders who supported his stop sex program. Silverman gave 24 names to the media. At press time 11 had recanted or cried "foul." (Photo: Rink)

## VD Rate Drops for Gay Men

*Interpreting Statistics at Root of  
Sex Club Confusion*

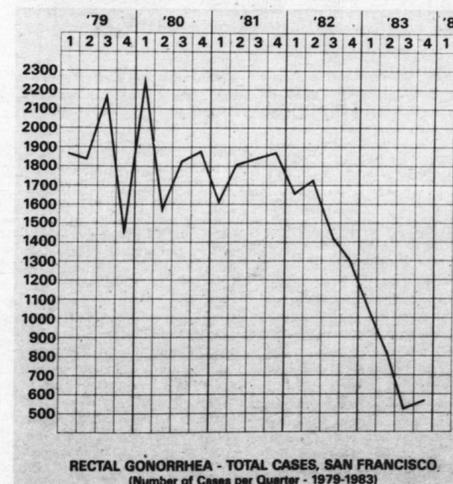
by Brian Jones

Venereal disease among Gay men in San Francisco dropped more than 60 percent from 1980 to 1983, as gauged by several official measures maintained by the city's Department of Public Health.

For example, the number of cases of rectal gonorrhea logged by the health department fell 61 percent from 1980 to 1983. In 1980 — the last full year before the AIDS epidemic became widespread — there were 7,549 cases of rectal gonorrhea recorded. By last year, the number had fallen to 2,934 cases.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, director of public health, said at his press conference on bathhouse policy Monday, "The Gay community has changed its behavior more than any other community has ever changed its behavior in such a short time."

(Continued on page 12)



City Public Health Director Mervyn Silverman made this announcement on Monday. The move was an attempt to help stem the dramatic increase in AIDS cases in this city, but the support was not universal. Faced with possible closure due to lack of business, bathhouse owners were loud in their disapproval, and a frustrated Gay community split over whether the move would effectively help the AIDS crisis.

An impressive group of people (but not, as Silverman contended, "the major part of the Gay leadership of this city") symbolically stood behind the health director as he read a prepared statement. Silverman said they supported his statement, but 11 out of the 24 later told this reporter that they were either nonparticipants, or had never read the statement he had read, or thought the health director had gone too far.

Silverman urged that there is ample evidence that AIDS is transmitted by sexual contact. He pleaded that there were 471 reported AIDS cases here on April 2 with 174 (37%) deaths recorded. The number of AIDS outpatients being seen at General Hospital has increased in one year from 113 a month to 400.

Gay men here felt the impact of the Silverman decision as they tried to evaluate to what extent they should alter their own sex practices. The AIDS scare has already begun to change some sexual patterns. A *San Francisco Examiner* survey this week revealed that 57% of the Gay population that previously had gone to the baths no longer did so.

### GAY SUPPORT?

The overall Gay population either favored measures to ban bathhouse sex (34%) or thought they should be closed (18%) in the *Examiner* survey. A *Bay Area Reporter* survey of the local Gay leadership last week indicated that there was universal

opposition to the bathhouses being closed. Silverman attempted to counter this with his plan to officially bar sex "between individuals" — with Gay support. Approximately 20 Gay people, activists and doctors, were invited on Sunday night to a meeting with Silverman, in which he indicated that he supported "safe" sex in businesses but not "unsafe" sex. So-called "safe" sex is basically touching, kissing, and masturbation.

Many of those who attended the Sunday night session told this reporter they understood Silverman was going to talk about his support for "safe" sex in imposing restrictions on bathhouses and sex-related businesses at the press conference. Others said they understood Silverman to say he was going to avoid discussing "safe" and "unsafe" sex acts specifically because it would create wisecracks from reporters and make light of the situation. He later indicated to *B.A.R.* that he was also aware of possible criticism of his allowance for some contact between patrons and of legal problems if the city

appeared to condone any contacts in a licensed business.

Included on the press conference "supporter" list was Gay

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# High-Tech Firm Hit with Gay Bias Lawsuit

Plaintiff Charges He's Denied Promotion and Paid Less Because He's Gay

by Dion B. Sanders

For the second time in seven months, a Bay Area high-technology firm has been sued on charges of anti-Gay discrimination.

Boston-based Digital Equipment Corporation, which maintains offices in San Francisco, was named last week in a \$5 million suit by a Gay employee on charges that he was denied promotion and is paid a lower salary than heterosexual employees doing the same work.

Brandon T. Stanford, a sales marketing specialist for Digital, charged in San Francisco Superior Court that his company "maintains a course and policy of refusing to promote Gay employees" and has "refused to pay (Stanford) on an equal basis with heterosexual employees" in vio-

lation of the city's Gay rights ordinance.

Last September, a former chemical technician filed a \$30 million suit against SEEQ Technology Inc. of San Jose, accusing the firm of doing nothing to stop a year-long campaign of

anti-Gay harassment — including the spread of false AIDS rumors.

That case, filed in Santa Clara

County Superior Court by Larry Gilzai, a refugee from Afghanistan, is still pending.

In the San Francisco case, Stanford charges his supervisor, Ruben Aldrete, called him into his office last month and asked Stanford if he was Gay. Before Stanford could answer, the suit charges, Aldrete said that "he knew when an individual was Gay, that it made him (Aldrete) sick and that if Stanford was to advance at Digital, he would have to change his speech and mannerisms."

The suit further charges that "a Gay 'twang' was similar to that of a Mexican accent and that such individuals would not advance at Digital." Aldrete then warned Stanford not to discuss the meeting with any third parties, the suit claims.

Stanford also accuses Aldrete of refusing to allow him to make a sales presentation required for a promotion "until Aldrete was

convinced that Stanford had no Gay mannerisms or speech patterns."

Moreover, the suit charges, Stanford has not received a performance review for more than a year, while such reviews are given every three months as a policy of the company.

Stanford believes that the lack of such a review is intended "to deprive (Stanford) of equal pay, advancement, and promotion."

Stanford's attorney, Daniel Silva, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he has obtained information from "other persons working at Digital" that Aldrete has also denied advancement and promotion to racial minorities and to women.

"I've been informed that personnel grievances have been filed against Aldrete within the company accusing him of racial and sex discrimination," he said.

Company officials would not comment on the suit. ■

## Libertarian Bergland Hits Gay Bathhouse Closures

Orange County, CA - In a statement released April 4, Libertarian presidential candidate David Bergland sharply condemned the banning of sex in Gay bathhouses in San Francisco, ordered this week by Dr. Mervyn Silverman, San Francisco's Director of Public Health.

"I view the action as a blatant and unconscionable violation of the personal liberties and private property rights of the baths' owners and customers," said Bergland. "It is notable that this has happened in San Francisco, where the rights of Gay people are thought to be more secure than elsewhere."

Noting that banning sex in the bathhouses was supported by the local Gay community's liberal political leadership, Bergland accused Supervisor Harry Britt and the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas Democratic Clubs of "selling out to a growing national anti-Gay hysteria occasioned by the AIDS epidemic. These politicians are not interested in Gay rights; they are interested in exercising the private lives of innocent citizens."

Observing that "the AIDS epidemic will end as the result of a medical solution, not a political one," and that "the enemy is some as yet unknown micro-organism, not promiscuity in bathhouses," Bergland pointed out that "the nature and extent of one's sexual activity and the risk of exposure to AIDS one takes are personal matters.

"The public does not get AIDS; individuals do. Therefore, bathhouse activity can be a personal health problem, but not a 'public health' problem.

"I hope that the Gay community will now look for new political leadership. The band of liberal Democrats now in power who purport to represent Gays agrees with anti-Gay conservatives in one very important respect: Both believe that social problems can and should be dealt with by vain attempts at government control of personal and peaceful behavior. What's next? A ban on hot tubs altogether? Or the outlawing of spas?" Bergland asked.

"The Libertarian Party," Bergland stated, "welcomes Gays who understand that Gay rights are individual rights to life, liberty, property, and the peaceful pursuit of personal lifestyles, and that these rights can never be assured by increasing government controls over people's behavior."

Bergland, a California attorney,

was nominated as the Libertarian Party's 1984 presidential candidate at the party's National Convention in New York City last fall.

The party's platform calls for the repeal of all laws which regulate consensual sexual practices, an end to government harassment of Gays, an end to discrimination against Gay immigrants, and other reforms. ■



Libertarian candidate David Bergland

## British Bookstore Raided



Author Armistead Maupin learned Tuesday copies of his *Tales of the City* were confiscated in London. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from page 1)

routes," says Mason. What this means is that books are purchased from major bookstores in the United States and then sent to private residences in Great Britain. When the books arrive, they are then put on sale at stores such as Gay's the Word. A major supplier in the United States, according to Mason, is Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia.

Michael Mason said the absurdity of the raid is revealed by the fact that *Tales of the City* was a syndicated column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The *Chronicle* is regularly available in London.

Contacted in San Francisco, Armistead Maupin appeared puzzled at how to react. He said, "I had always wondered if I would make it to forty without

having my books banned somewhere. Now I find I'm banned in London."

Michael Mason, who contacted several people in San Francisco when learning of the raid, was a key figure in a recent United States Customs issue. In 1979, he and his lover, Carl Hill, were detained in San Francisco by U.S. Immigration officials as they arrived to attend the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. As a result of their difficulties in entering the United States, legal history has been written through court challenges relating to the rights of Gays to enter and leave the United States. Mason said it was too early to know what the legal ramifications might be to the Tuesday raids on the bookstore in London. ■

## Dignity Finds A Church That Welcomes Them

by Allen White

Dignity, the organization of Catholic Gay men and Lesbians, has found a new home at St. Boniface's Church on Golden Gate Avenue.

The group which has been meeting at St. John of God in the Sunset will make the move after the first week in June. The move was made primarily because they have been forced to turn away people from their current worship location. A move to Most Holy Redeemer in the Castro was nixed because, as one Dignity member said, "We would have to cut off our balls to worship there."



Tenderloin parish, St. Boniface rolled out the welcome mat for Gay Catholics. (Photo: Rink)

The move to St. Boniface is a choice with no qualifications. Father Robert Pfisterer at St. Boniface said he and the people of his parish are delighted of the decision. The St. Boniface pastor said he has announced that Dignity would be coming to the church and the members of the parish welcomed the group.

Steve Chrysler, who headed Dignity's relocation committee, said 24 Catholic churches were contacted regarding the move. Only two churches showed any sign of interest. One was St. Boniface. The other was St. Ignatius. It is significant to note that the two churches are the sites of two huge public relations gaffes when the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorus were refused permission to sing in the churches by Archbishop John Quinn.

For whatever the reason, there is an entirely different attitude at the archbishop's office regarding Dignity's move to St. Boniface. Fr. Miles Riley, the public affairs officer for the archbishop, praised the move. When asked if Quinn would approve, he could find no reason why there would be disapproval.

For Dignity the move will mean a larger seating capacity.

Their current St. John of God seats only 125, whereas the new location will accommodate 650 people. As was the case at St. John of God, the mass will be performed by Roman Catholic priests and will be equal in religious significance to any other mass performed by priests. Dignity will be building a ramp into the social hall for the handicapped members of their organization. It will become a permanent part of St. Boniface's.

The move to the church further builds a relationship between Dignity and Father Robert Pfisterer. The Franciscan priest has been a leader in support of rights within the church for Gay men and Lesbians.

Brother Robert, OFM, wrote to the parishioners in their April newsletter. He said he was thrilled and proud to have 100 Dignity members vote to come to St. Boniface.

He concluded, "Dignity is a most active, energetic group of Catholic Christians who are deeply committed to their Church. I am sure that they will prove to be a marvelous addition to the St. Boniface parish community." ■

## Stanford Alumni Sought

The recently organized Stanford LAG Club, an organization of Gay and Lesbian alumni, faculty and staff of Stanford, is having a gathering on Sunday, April 15, between 2 and 5 p.m. at 1737 Webster St., San Francisco. Members of the student Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford will be present to speak on student activities and problems. All Stanford affiliated people are invited. For information, call 835-2387. ■

## Coalition to Treat Sex

The Coalition for Human Rights will hold a meeting Wednesday, April 18, 5:45 p.m. at 350 McAllister, Room 1202. "The Banning of Bathroom Sex" is the topic. The public is invited and all members are urged to attend. ■

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# Unionizing Pickets Hit Castro Pizza Parlor

by George Mendenhall

Castro Street's popular Marcello's, a fast-food pizza house, continues to be irregularly picketed by employees and sympathizers. Most of the workers at the three Marcello's have signed union-authorization cards, indicating that they want to be represented by the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Local 2. Brad McFadin, the Gay owner, has hired the major law firm that fights union activity and is ready for a protracted dispute.

Marcello's pays slightly higher starting wages than McDonald's — \$4 an hour for counter workers and \$5.25 for a cook. There are company-paid health benefits if any employee stays six months and pay raises for those who stay over 90 days. However, McFadin admits few employees stay that long. The turnover of such employees, often students and others who want short shifts, in the fast-food business is 300% a year, according to McFadin.

The pickets are not striking, as their signed union cards have not been recognized by McFadin. They are attempting to get

management to recognize Local 2 as their union. The National Labor Relations Board rules allow management to call in an impartial person to check cards and verify that most of the workers desire unionization. Then the union is verified, and the union and workers then begin negotiating a contract. However, McFadin refuses to look at the cards and has begun a legal battle that will take the issue before the NLRB in Washington and possibly into the courts.

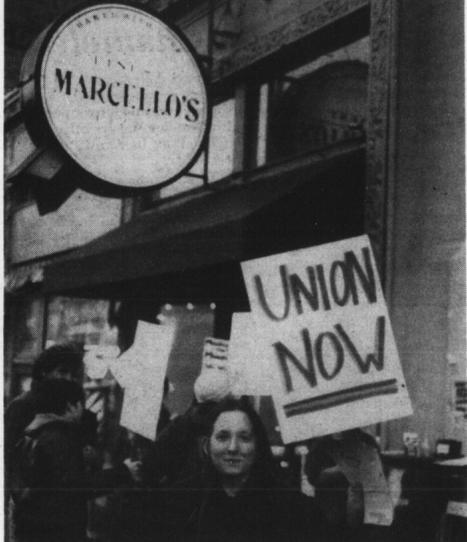
Kevin O'Connor, a Local 2 organizer, states that a group of Marcello's employees came to him a few months ago and soon

a majority of workers had signed cards asking for a union. He angrily states that McFadin "hired this union-busting law firm and evidently has no intention of accepting his workers' request for representation. This could take three years in the NLRB hearings and various court actions."

## GAY RIGHTS?

McFadin has three Marcello's — Castro, Haight, and Embarcadero Center. He is extremely proud of having risen from a restaurant worker on Castro to a major restaurateur. His Haight store recently opened after a \$280,000 remodeling of the building — financed with loans. He urges, "I have worked hard for this and now I see pickets out front intimidating patrons and shouting 'Gay Rights.' What does this have to do with Gay rights? The vast majority of my 54 employees and management is Gay. I like to see people happy — and now this."

Donna Kelley, a cook at the Castro store, urged workers to organize. She likes Marcello's and intends to stay, in spite of the low wages and "frustrating working conditions." She said too many of the benefits offered by management come months



Employees and sympathizers drew attention to their unionizing efforts. (Photo: Rink)

Not all employees are on the informational picket lines — partly because they are embar-

assed in a unionizing effort. McFadin insists that no one will be fired for union activity, and he has informed each employee of this.

McFadin claims, "If we pay prevailing union wages, we would no longer be competitive. We could not afford to pay \$7 an hour." O'Connor insists that he can afford to pay that and additional medical benefits.

Employees in three other Castro-area restaurants sought union representation in the past year with varied results: New York City Deli ownership changed (not Gay-owned) after employees indicated they wanted representation. After projected NLRB hearings, in which two clean-up workers were included in the union vote count, a signed contract was voided. It is no longer a union house. Without Reservations workers have been waiting for months for the NLRB in Washington to rule that they have a union house, after management challenged sign-up cards. Luisa's became a union house after 120 days of informational pickets. Its workers are still represented by Local 2. Luisa's, which is not Gay-owned, is the only unionized restaurant in the Castro area.

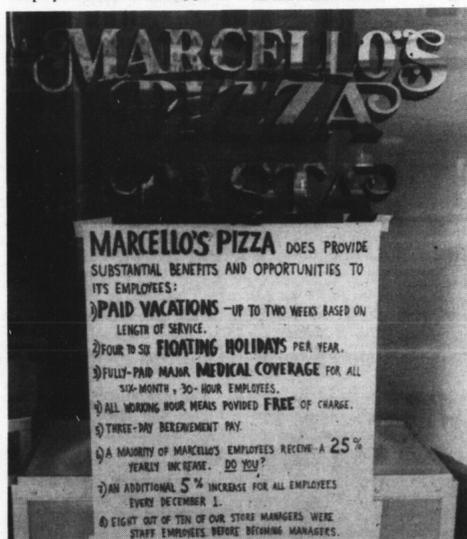


Informational pickets sprang up last week at a Gay pizza chain. (Photo: Rink)

after an employee is on the job, and few stay that long. Kelley claims the Castro store does \$30,000 of business a week.

Since the unionizing effort began, McFadin has hired a personnel manager, Dean Freedman. Both men now admit that there have been mistakes in employee relations and a reluctance to handle grievances which they seek to correct. He is attempting to put on paper what Marcello's policies are. One obstacle they are facing in making improvements is a NLRB regulation that prohibits employers from significantly changing the work situation before an election is held. This is to prohibit management from changing the situation in order to end a union organizing effort.

There is considerable bitterness between the union's Kevin O'Connor and Marcello's Brad McFadin and Dean Freedman. At one recent meeting of workers, McFadin was invited without knowing that O'Connor would be there. An argument ensued when the union organizer attempted to give McFadin a petition from his employees. McFadin refused and claims that this might have meant that he was participating in negotiating with his workers — which he has no intention of doing. There are numerous charges and countercharges.



Marcello's management presented their case in their front window. (Photo: Rink)

## 'Bay Area Reporter' Interview

# MERV SILVERMAN

## Public Health Chameleon

by George Mendenhall

Bathhouses and sex-related businesses may no longer permit sexual activity on their premises. So directed this week Public Health Director Mervyn Silverman. Silverman's explanation of why he took this action and some details about its ramifications are revealed in this at-presstime interview with the vacillating director.

BAR: Will new city ordinances be describing sexual acts or will you just be licensing new businesses?

Silverman: There would be two things. The licensing of the bathhouses would have to be expanded to include new regulations. Nonlicensed businesses would have to come under licensing. One thing included as part of that would be that there would not be sex between people in those facilities.

People are making this so damn complex. I think that carrying it out might have some complexities as far as the legal system is concerned, but the concept is very simple.

A lot of this is up to the city attorney. The licensing of new places will require legislation and that will go before the Board of Supervisors.

What I hope will happen before all this happens is that there will be movement in this direction within the Gay community. I would have loved it if government had not gotten involved at all. But things were not moving in that direction.

The Gay community appears to be supporting the decision. That is what is going on to reduce AIDS — nothing else.

BAR: Are you talking about increased checks on businesses by your health inspectors?

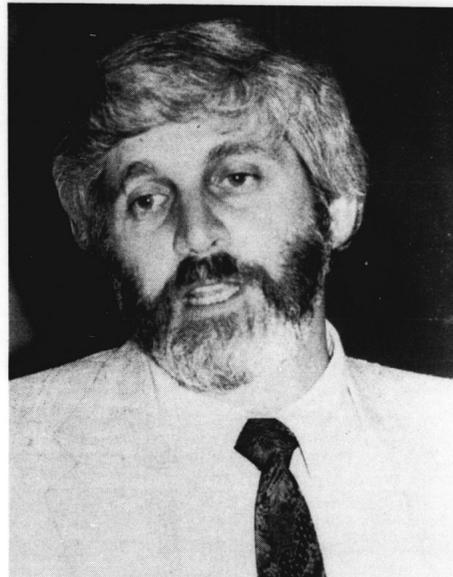
Silverman: We would probably hit these businesses more often in the early times and then we would do like we do others. If they are generally conforming we space our checks out, but if they are not, then we have to go back. We are not talking about hundreds of establishments. We are talking about just 16 businesses, including baths, sex clubs, glory hole places, and reading rooms.

BAR: Several Gay people say that when you met with them on Sunday night you were talking about "safe sex," but on Monday when they stood behind you at the press conference they heard you say there would be no sex. The feeling was that you were saying masturbation was okay on Sunday but were telling a different story to the straight world on Monday.

Silverman: I am talking about it being all right to masturbate, even if it is mutual masturbation. What I was trying to do was not get into the specifics. The city cannot license sex in any form. It cannot do it. We are saying "no sex between individuals" so if we go in there and people are masturbating that is not an issue. We do not have any indication that AIDS is spread through masturbation. However, to get out and talk about that is destructive to the Gay community.

Bobbi Campbell was on TV saying "he didn't say that earlier. He was talking about safe sex." Well, what do you do? Do you separate people to see if a condom is being used? Who knows if that is guaranteed to be safe sex anyway? Is it on right? Is there a break in the condom? How is it handled when it is taken off? Then people could really get upset if we get into that. We are not going to do that.

BAR: But the legislation is going to say "no sex."



"My opinion has changed because of a lot of circumstances coming together, but my position has not changed." Dr. Mervyn Silverman likes nothing better than being consistent. (Photo: Rink)

entertainment. Whatever. Does it have to be the old way? Well, there is a large group

Silverman: No sex — between individuals. I kept saying "between individuals." There is no way that you are going to spread AIDS to yourself. I read that very carefully. I guess you could say that this includes mutual masturbation, but we are not going to make an issue of this. If we are put to the wall on this in order that the law reads right, however, we could be in trouble. That is why I met with the Gay leaders before the press conference and explained this.

BAR: However, several people who were behind you at the press conference say they were startled that you said there would be no sex.

Silverman: They weren't listening. I said "between individuals" — that would lead to the transmission of AIDS.

BAR: You said on one TV show this week "there may be no more doors" in the steam baths. Did you indicate that private cubicles would be eliminated?

Silverman: I guess so. What would two people be doing in a room but having sex if the door was closed? A person could go from room to room for multiple sex contacts. We are trying to not allow the bathhouses to be the facilitator for multiple, anonymous sex. . . . A cartoon in one paper showed a guy looking through a peephole, but we are not going to look through peepholes. We want the baths to serve a different function than a place for multiple, anonymous sex.

BAR: Is it your belief that the steam baths would be able to continue in business with this change?

Silverman: They are certainly not going to be able to exist in the old way. The owners have said that they are socially responsible and that they do not want to do anything to spread AIDS. If that is true, they have to be creative — to make them social clubs, exercise clubs, add education and

out there that would like to close them. I am saying, "I am not closing you down unless you close yourself down." This gives the owners a chance to change-with-the-times or not.

BAR: Will the glory hole clubs and 25-cent arcades with holes be closing?

Silverman: Oh, sure — unless they change. I get a lot of complaints from the Gay community. They have no showers or sanitary facilities. Nothing. That would be part of a requirement of any licensed place — that they have proper facilities.

BAR: If there were sanitary facilities, then the glory holes would be allowed?

Silverman: They would not be allowed as glory holes. You could not have sex between individuals in them. They could not function in the way that they have. These places will not be staying open in the way in which they have operated in the past.

BAR: What caused you to change your attitude toward the baths and sex-related places within a two-week period?

Silverman: One survey of those coming out of bathhouses indicated that 8% of those questioned had enlarged lymph nodes (Note: a possible AIDS symptom). They may not have had AIDS or been pre-AIDS but even if a small percent do, that is scary.

My opinion has changed because of a lot of circumstances coming together but my position has never changed. It is not where you are doing it. It is what you are doing. . . . I believe I have been very consistent about that.

There are a lot of people who just want to close them down. I feel they can serve a social function and hopefully, my ulterior motive is that they can educate.

BAR: Are we not really just closing all these places down anyway?

Silverman: As they presently exist, yes. It depends on their creativity and concern. I cannot speak as to what they should do or should not do. However, a great deal of these places have made a great deal of money off the Gay community and certainly some of that money should come back into the community.

BAR: What do you say to Gay people who have spent many years working toward Gay liberation and sexual freedom?

Silverman: I understand that. However, anything I say has to come from the perspective of a person who is not Gay. From what I have read and from what I have been told, the bathhouses served a real purpose years ago when people could not be seen holding hands on the street and so many were not out of the closet. They could sneak into the old bathhouses unseen. Anonymous sex was a lot safer because so few had come out.

I believe things have changed considerably in San Francisco and that is not the situation now. The fact that 75% in the Examiner poll do not go to bathhouses now told me that it has changed. Now this changed out of fear of AIDS or a general progression that societies go through. I do not know.

There were a lot of things that were symbolic in the overall society fifty years ago that do not exist today. The symbol and purpose that they once served is less than it was then. If there is still a need for people to meet in a protected area — then fine. However, it does not have to be a place where you are going to have sex with a bunch of people.

Some people will live in the past. Some will run into the bushes and do whatever they do. Well, there are people smoking themselves to death, drinking themselves to death. They are the Evel Knievel's of medicine.

(Continued on page 11)

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VOL. XIV NO. 15 APRIL 12, 1984

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## VIEWPOINT

## LETTERS

### The Doctor and the Gay Props

Politics is the art of fixing blame for unsolvable problems.

The decision Monday by Dr. Mervyn Silverman to ban Gay sex in the baths had much to do with politics — and little to do with AIDS. The public health director denied any political intent, but his deeds put the lie to his words. He began his press conference by trotting out 22 Gay "leaders" and announcing that they — and "most Gays" — support his ban on sex. In his remarks, Silverman repeatedly referred to a public opinion poll published the day before in the *Examiner*.

Silverman, in fact, spent more time at the press conference discussing matters political than matters medical. When a doctor makes a decision because 80 percent of the voters favor it, that doctor is a politician.

And he makes a great politician. The manner in which he lined up his 22 Gay collaborators was nothing short of a stroke of shrewdness. It made the perfect three-column picture on the front pages, the perfect seven-second clip on the six o'clock news.

What policy? Has Silverman banned Gay sex in San Francisco? Oh, please. One hopes we're not so naive as to believe that that is possible. Has Silverman closed the baths? No. He's just going to hassle them. If he can figure out how. And if it's legal. And if he can get an ordinance to do so. And if, if, if . . .

Baloney. Monday's press conference had nothing to do with "policy." It was all about assigning blame. If people are dying, somebody must have done something wrong — or so the thinking goes. Monday's sad circus effectively shifted the focus of the AIDS epidemic from the disease to its victims: It gave the message that we — and our behavior — are the cause of AIDS. That if only Gays would quit being so dirty and so nasty, this whole scary epidemic would go away. If only Gays hadn't been so dirty and nasty in the first place, this thing wouldn't have happened.

Sound far-fetched? You should have been at the press conference. As our "Gay leaders" posed impressively behind him, Silverman publicly shamed all of us who have ever participated in the bathhouse scene — and that (even according to the *Examiner* poll) is most of us. "Only five percent of the Gay community even frequents these places — I don't want to give a bad impression," Silverman said, as our "Gay leaders" posed behind him. Those 22 collaborators participated in nothing less than a campaign to discredit their own people. The straights are blaming us for AIDS — and that's nothing new — but what is astonishing is that now some of our "leadership" is helping.

Now that Silverman has outlawed sex, maybe next week he can outlaw death. It would make as much sense.

In the meantime, those Gays who have kept their wits — and that is most of us — will continue to take prudent steps to have sex, but limit risk. We are already doing so, as the 60 percent drop in VD since 1980 makes clear.

And as for the collaborators, the worst thing that can be said for them is that they are hypocrites — and the kindest thing that can be said is that they are fools. They should be ashamed of themselves. They certainly have tried to shame the rest of us. They have stood behind the great straight dandy and pointed their fingers at us.

Brian Jones

### Pride on Closure

★ The *Bay Area Reporter* article on the "Stop Sex Petition" negligently failed to mention that Larry Littlejohn has not been associated with the Pride Foundation for seven years. This omission has caused numerous *B.A.R.* readers to be misled.

The Pride Foundation and its officers do not support the petition and do not support closing the bathhouses.

The Pride Foundation applauds and supports the efforts of Dr. Mervyn Silverman, Director of Public Health, to resist the political pressure for a knee-jerk response to a serious and complicated public health, civil rights, and individual rights issue.

No evidence has been shown that any physical facility causes death or any life-threatening illnesses. Health directives to save lives should be limited to the causative factors such as the transmission of bodily fluids.

The Pride Foundation has spent 11 years fighting governmental restrictions on gay/lesbian sexual conduct and does not want to see these efforts lost. Sexual prohibitions should not be a matter for a public vote.



Victor Galotti  
San Francisco

### Littlejohn Shut Down

★ Perhaps Deputy Littlejohn would also circulate a petition to close down the Defense Department's Germ Warfare Lab in New Jersey, or is it too late for that? Oh well, at least AIDS is less messy than those dreadful ovens the original Nazis used to kill queers. Of course, "it can't happen here;" but it has, Blanche, it has.

Mike Flint  
San Francisco

### Already Exposed

★ Local gay rights advocate, Larry Littlejohn, has launched a campaign to make sexual encounters in a bathhouse illegal. He has until August 8 to get the required 7332 signatures that will put the issue before the voters in November.

Over the last two years, I have been asked by no fewer than half a dozen AIDS researchers whether I thought it would be useful to close the bathhouses. I am always perplexed by this question, particularly when it is asked by thinking people. Closing the bathhouses at this time is like closing the barn door years after the horses have gotten out. To have done any good whatsoever, the bathhouses would have to have been closed in 1978 or 1979 when the putative AIDS virus was first making its rounds.

Physicist Ivan Kramer of the University of Baltimore reckons (using complex mathematical formulae) that any Gay man having ten or more sexual encounters a year during the period 1979 and 1982 has most certainly already been exposed to the putative AIDS virus.

Furthermore, epidemiological studies suggest that acquisition of AIDS depends on a number of factors interacting in complex and, as yet, unpredictable ways. The kind of sex (oral-anal, anal passive, fisting, etc.), the frequency of exposure to the putative AIDS agent, and constitutional factors (overall state of health and mind) have each been implicated as probable factors playing a role in the development of AIDS.

As an example of this let me cite a medical report that appeared in the March 17 *Lancet*, p.633. Dr. Kiyonobu Nakada and his co-researchers at the Okinawa Kyodou Hospital in Japan reported that 60 percent of 166 people with HTLV (one of the viral candidates for AIDS) were also infected with intestinal parasites. This was compared to only 20 percent of 2962 controls who were not — at the time of testing — carrying parasites. The researchers concluded that " . . . parasite infection over a long period of time may promote HTLV infection or growth of the virus in the body." Intestinal parasites in gay men may also predispose to HTLV or other viral infections.

Clearly, the AIDS picture isn't as open and shut as well-meaning gadflies like Mr. Littlejohn make it out to be. The evidence appears to suggest that is the nature of the sex — not its setting — that determines the risk for AIDS. Legislating against sexual encounters of any sort between men is coming unaveringly close to the kind of 1984 Big-Brother Guardianship that so many of us find unacceptable in any form.

Richard B. Pearce, PhD  
San Francisco

### The Struggle Before the Baths

★ Gays who think that the baths should be closed and that they will be allowed to keep their high-paying jobs and live their current fluffy lifestyles are in for a rude awakening if they get their way. Bath closures would set us back 20 years and if you were around 20 years ago you will remember that we did not bring our lovers to office parties or live as open gays. We lived dual lives pretending to be straight with the gay parts expressed only in the underground culture where we were like insects scattering in the wake of police raids and arrests.

Some of us were exposed and lost our jobs and committed suicide; the rest of us moving to a new gathering place, only to be scattered like insects again before another election or convention.

Now we're having a convention here and Dianne wants to be VP. Maybe she has to prove she is not a tool of queers to make it to the top. Why have they not closed baths in NYC with four times the AIDS cases we have here?

If the baths are closed it will be a sign of retreat for

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## LETTERS

### Letter to the Mayor

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

I am aware of your personal thoughts regarding the idea of the closing of San Francisco's bathhouses and private clubs.

My personal sexual activities include visits to a private men's club on upper Market Street. When there, I find as much information about AIDS as I believe is currently available on a mass basis to the general public. I also find a bowl of condoms available free to all who visit the club.

I am aware of, through observation and personal experience, the sexual activities of many who frequent these types of places. My personal response to those who state that the bathhouses and private men's clubs are predominantly sources of "multiple anonymous sex encounters" is that such charges are grossly erroneous.

People frequent such places for a number of reasons, only one of which may be to have sex. Often people go to such places after leaving a late night job to simply relax after a hard day's work by playing pool, conversing with other patrons, or to watch gay video in the video room. My own feelings concerning those who do engage in sex while at these places is that such encounters are not primarily of the "multiple anonymous sex" variety as the present press releases would have their readers believe.

In addition, I wish to express my feelings about what would result in the closing of bathhouses and private clubs. Such closings would eliminate a vital source of information about AIDS which is now available from such businesses. It would also eliminate a free source of condoms for those who will have sexual encounters.

It is my even stronger belief that there is only one main action (an action which you could help institute), that has yet to be seriously implemented on a city, county, state and, most importantly, national level. That is an infusion, immediately, of massive amounts of millions of dollars towards research for a cure to this dreaded disease. No other action will gain the results which we all (all hopefully) dream of on a daily basis!

Robert J. Dern, CPA  
San Francisco

### Is Indiscriminate Sex the Culprit?

★ I am writing regarding the issue of closing the gay bathhouses in the city. Mr. Littlejohn has accomplished his goal of publicizing the need for gay men to be more prudent concerning their sexual activities whether they take place in a bathhouse or at home. You don't have to go to a bathhouse to exchange bodily fluids! But is the exchange of bodily fluids increasing a person's chance of contracting AIDS?

No one knows yet for sure how AIDS is contracted. Most experts believe it is caused by a virus of some kind. A little-known fact that I feel is quite startling — of all the men who have acquired AIDS, none of their lovers has ever been reported as coming down with AIDS! Isn't that strange? And, why isn't this statistic ever reported in the media? If this is in fact true, then how can the experts say that AIDS is contracted by exchanging bodily fluids? Obviously, these lovers were having sex and exchanging bodily fluids. Perhaps assumptions are being made that indiscriminate sex is the culprit.

Much more research is obviously needed before any recommendations can be made regarding our lifestyle. In the meantime, let's stop condemning ourselves and our lifestyle and get on with the job of living life to its fullest.

Rich Demarist

### Positive Action League

★ We at APAL strongly deplore the efforts taken by Deputy Sheriff Larry Littlejohn, Supervisor Harry Britt, and Randy Shilito to close Gay social clubs mainly the steam baths and other sex oriented establishments in order to prevent the spread of AIDS. We feel this is hysterical thinking on their part and that such a decision would be extremely destructive to the Gay Movement in this country. Therefore, we suggest that these born-again former bathhouse patrons like Larry Littlejohn examine their own attitudes pertaining to fears and guilt not only in regards to their lifestyle, but in regards to contracting AIDS. We feel that these self-appointed Messiahs would do well to clean their own house first before attempting to be the arbiters of anyone else's sex conduct.

Richard Esquer and Sonny King  
AIDS Positive Action League  
Pasadena, CA

### Make It a Flyer

★ Salute. Paul Lorch is a real leader. I accuse our MDs and leaders of having a guilt complex, no sense of history and of greed.

Your article is the most important in the sea of self-serving and vacuous rhetoric. Every organization's membership opposes closing. Please consider reprinting it as a flyer — and often again in your paper. These MDs even ration plentiful gamma intereron!

This letter comes to you from one who among your Konstantin Berlandt can attest was a pioneer in Gay Lib, (in fact I named the movement), so I can attest to what it was like then.

May there be more like Paul Lorch.

Beauregard

### Getting Laid

★ Perception of what, and what is, are two different things. I have lived in New York, L.A. and San Francisco. I have lived pre-Stonewall, post-Stonewall and then through the almost excessive Freedom Days. When I first came out, those who went to the tubs were pariahs. As years and perceptions passed, I found the tubs and clubs and decided they were my answer to good health. I didn't have to go out at 12:00-1:00 a.m. and HOPE to meet a congenial "trick" and stay up till all hours of the night, but, since I am most satisfied with "making it" with one good sexual partner, I could go to the tubs, get laid, didn't have to take "heavy" recreational drugs to do so, and be home at a reasonable hour to go to work the next day or to simply enjoy the next day. I'd eat properly, take vitamins, and I GOT LAID. Not everyone at the "tubs" is a "sexually promiscuous animal" who can't get enough. Plus, frankly, I truly wish it was as easy to get laid at the tubs as often as Littlejohn et al. suggest. It isn't.

Name Withheld by Request

### Self-Eradication

★ What is all this stuff about the need for more AIDS education? If there is a Gay in the country now who is uninformed, he can't read or is deaf and dumb.

If people want to commit suicide for a piece of ass, let 'em. And give 'em a private place to do it. Why shouldn't Gay merchants profit from it? It's the American Way.

The only hooker in this free enterprise is that the taxpayer is stuck with all the bills resulting from the sick, and that one lethal ejaculation. He may not want to assume this mounting liability, or its stupidity.

We have long been criticized as being totally sex obsessed, unreliable, and irresponsible. In the face of annihilation by disease, it now appears to be true. Why be concerned with civil rights or the Fundamentalists if we choose to eradicate ourselves?

M. Lucas  
San Francisco

### Solve All Health Care Problems

★ Herewith is my modest proposal to solve all the health care problems in the San Francisco Bay Area: 1. Outlaw the sale of cigarettes and other smoking materials as there is a demonstrated record of cancer caused by these materials.

2. Close all the bars as it would eliminate the leading cause of alcoholism  
3. Convert all the wineries to Condos. This would solve the problem of housing the 7th Street wino population.  
4. Ban automobiles as the traffic accident situation is becoming an intolerable menace to public health.  
5. Outlaw the giving of birth to babies as the suffering endured by mothers giving birth is a disgrace to the mental well being of thousands of women to say nothing of the trauma inflicted daily on innocent children.

If Dr. Silverman, Mayor Feinstein or Mr. Littlejohn were really serious about threats to public health, each of the above would be made law at once!

If the above mentioned merely close the bathhouses and don't do anything about the above mentioned problems, perhaps petitions could be circulated which would put these issues on the November ballot!

Samuel R. Ganczaruk  
San Francisco

### The Naming Editorial

★ I want to tell all those who wrote letters that appeared in the April 5, 1984 issue of the *B.A.R.* opposing the baths closure, that I am proud of you all and proud to be a member of the Gay Community. Everyone said what I've tried to get across to those who oppose our freedom.

Now, I must present a possible course of action all of us may have to take to save our freedom and our lives. Violence. Before you react negatively, think of what each one wrote. Reread it again. Everything you wrote can and will happen if we let it. Do we want what we have accomplished to be taken from us? (Do you want to be arrested for sucking dick?) Is our freedom to choose worth fighting for? It was worth it in 1776, WW I and WW II. Is it worth it now?

Ask yourself one question, and answer honestly — will I go to any lengths to keep my freedom? (If you said no — then shut up!)

MA  
San Francisco

### Get Britt Out

★ Harry Britt first began to show his true colors during the campaign to defeat, by slander and libel, Sen. Milton Marks. Then he showed them again by leading the gang that joined Jerry Falwell's camp by calling, unilaterally for closing the baths.

He calls himself a "Democratic Socialist" — who were all the gay people he consulted? Let's turn this ex-preacher turned petty tyrant out of office.

Reed Vernon  
San Francisco

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**LETTERS**

**In a Reviewer's Defense**

★ Regarding author Joseph Torchia's whining letter of complaint in the March 29 B.A.R.: Torchia seems to be asking for an apology for Paul-Franz Hartmann's negative review of his novel *As If After Sex*. As the editor's note correctly points out, a reviewer's obligation is to a book's potential readers, not to its overly sensitive author. If Torchia can't stand criticism, he should stop publishing and distribute mimeographs of his writing to family and friends.

In this case, Hartmann's pan of this turkey was indeed a public service, although it came too late for this reader. How about a deal: Hartmann apologizes to Torchia, and Torchia sends me a refund check for the twelve bucks I wasted on *As If After Sex*?

If Torchia wants so badly to be "taken seriously," he will have to come up with something better than this book. Sincerity, effort, and a desire to collect money from book buyers are all well and good, but they don't add up to talent. In his letter, Torchia moans, "I die daily at the typewriter." That could explain why *As If After Sex* is about as exciting as rigor mortis.

A Consumer Who Got Taken  
San Francisco

**Editor's Flaws**

★ I read with interest your editorial concerning the recent eviction of AIDS patients from the Sea Captain Motel. As you so expertly pointed out that it is the press's responsibility to make sure that the community interest is served, the problem arises when someone of your journalistic skills, fails to supply all the facts concerning AIDS patients.

Many people live by the slogan, "You should never judge until you have walked in the shoes of the person you are judging." It is sad that there are those that believe it is important to bring a little more pain into someone's life by judging that person without all the facts.

There are many reasons why an editorial such as yours would run in the recent issue of your paper. One, apathy, not knowing what is going on, and could care less, as long as you are able to get your two cents in.

Two, senility, it is a known fact that many editors are suffering from this terrible condition. Why else would these editors run off the mouth of the way they do? I believe it should be the duty of every concerned gay individual to make sure that there are rest homes for our lusty gay editors.

Three, jealousy, jealousy of the person who is receiving assistance from public funds because he has AIDS. All I can say, if you are so concerned with what someone is receiving from public funds because of AIDS, then maybe you should acquire the condition so that you might also benefit from the various public funds.

Every person should have the chance to defend themselves before a label of guilt is put upon them, and I challenge you to supply that defense of your view point.

Henry Clingaman  
San Francisco

**Hart Slotting**

★ I enjoyed your coverage of the recent Gary Hart presidential caucus but want to correct the impression left by the article that I was removed from the Hart delegate ticket without my knowledge or consent.

After our successful sweep of the caucus (with special thanks to members of the Harvey Milk Club and Alice B. Toklas) it became obvious to many of us supporting Senator Hart that four white men, three of whom are Gay, would not adequately allow our slate to appeal to the diverse population of the 5th Congressional District here in San Francisco.

Because of this I agreed to defer my position on the slate to Clifford Lee, who will add to the slate as a person of color, with appeal to the large Asian population in our district.

Ron Huberman  
San Francisco

**Buying Tickets**

★ I strongly oppose the "buy-out" by the Sutter's Mill people of about three-fourths of the preferred tickets (Orchestra, 1st and 2nd tiers) for this year's Closet Ball. For the narrow interests of their business, Sutter's Mill, The Mint, et al, have transformed a lovely community function into a private profit-oriented affair. I will not patronize their establishments in the future and hope that, in the years to come, I will not be forced to patronize them should I wish to get good seats for the Closet Ball. They have outraged us all.

Jim Stutz  
Oakland

**Keep Up the Pen Pals**

★ I disagree with Allan Benjamin of L.A. who finds no merit in printing the prisoners' letters. The prison system is vastly in need of reform — are prisoners really being rehabilitated or being taught more about crime? Communication with law-abiding citizens in the gay community can only help those gay prisoners who require more sane frames of reference.

Having corresponded with several prisoners during the last few years, I know a letter can brighten an inmate's day. Prisoners are human beings who have made some big mistakes. Rather than pushing the primitive idea of "punishment," a more civilized idea is transformation — finding ways to unlock the individual's true potential.

Certainly some prisoners may attempt to get money out of a correspondent. All one has to do is make it very clear that simple communication is the love one is willing to offer our gay brothers who are incarcerated.

Michael D. Delaney  
San Francisco

**Placing the Blame**

★ According to Thomas M. Edwards if the Dykes on Bikes had just gotten off their machines and walked as if they had the "refinements one normally attributes to the fair sex," and if Sister Boom (sic) had stopped those "insulting antics," and if Britt and Migden had eliminated "strident harangues," then "religious zealots might not have been afforded some of the ammunition (read that as "bullshit") by which they poisoned the Duke's mind."

Poor "Duke," so easily poisoned. Poor Mr. Thomas, so easily offended.

Poor me, for getting myself into this, but now that I have, what in hell does Mr. Thomas mean by saying "we ourselves must have clean hands?" Only a figure of speech, of course, but a slur nevertheless. (Is the man a closet moralist?)

John D. Dolan  
San Francisco

**Win Some - Lose Some**

★ Sticks and stones and ambush bats may break my bones but names will never hurt me. Yes, I am back in the Gay Softball League and proud to be associated with the fine players who wear the blue and gold uniform of the "mighty" Cafe Sn. Marcos Team! Now when I say "mighty" I don't mean with their bats. They are "mighty" and rich with spirit and sportsmanship on and off the field and that is more important and precious than victories or low-earn run titles. I have been ridiculed by Tom Vindeed for telling Hector, the owner of Cafe Sn. Marcos that the GSL pennant will be hoisted over his bar at the end of the season. Mr. Vindeed seems to believe it will more than likely fly at half-mast. Be that as it may, even if our team does not win a game all season (I firmly believe we will win our fair share and lose a few too!) our ball club will never be ashamed of our record because we know that we gave it all we had.

Jerry Pritikin  
Piche/Sn. Marcos

**Sex Panic**

★ The other day I met a woman on the bus who invited me to her place for a quiche and salad but as soon as we got there she made lusty and profane sexual advances. I freaked out and before I realized it I'd redecorated her apartment and styled her hair, making her speak French to me the whole time.

My lawyer says I can get off if I claim the "heterosexual panic" defense. Think about it.

Jon Sugar  
San Francisco

**We Need Laughs**

★ Yes! What we need is some humor! Don't believe Roz Wyman's story at the Milk Club meeting about two Republicans agreeing to drive her someplace when she couldn't get a cab. Roz is head of the upcoming Democratic convention and she commandeered their car with a .38 pistol requisitioned to her by the Democrats for her San Francisco stay.

Catherine Cusic does work at SF General so she can go around giving sponge baths and then whacks the guys' hard dicks with a steel ruler!

Eddy Rimsex and the Anal Intruders  
San Francisco

**AB-1 Fallout**

★ Did you ever consider the gays also won a victory of sorts by the veto of AB-1?

Consider: There are thousands of gays employed by gay bars, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses. These businesses cannot be sued for discrimination by non-Gays and others they do not wish to employ which would be grounds for legal action under AB-1!

Billy Davis  
San Francisco

**LETTERS**

**Picking on Perkins**

★ Does Perkins pay for his weekly ads in the Letters Section w/pictures, or does B.A.R. offer them free?

Eddie  
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: Mr. Perkins is a constant letter writer who now and again strikes a chord in our comic book sense of humor. On occasion when we don't print a particular mad message, Mr. Perkins has been known to put them in the form of an ad. The pictures he supplies — finding ways to unlock the individual's true potential.

P. Lorch

**Many More Gays in Prison???**

★ The question on my mind and perhaps on the minds of many others is: WHY, indeed, is the city and county of San Francisco and the Sheriff's Department so very, very anxious to attract such a large percentage of Gays in their Department?

Why are not the hospitals, schools, Fire Department, etc. making an equal effort to attract Gays?

One can only conclude that the city and county of San Francisco and the Sheriff's Department are anticipating a much larger influx of Gays in prison!

Sounds like another liberal plot to me.

Name Withheld

**Handballing**

★ My role as educator is not to proscribe or endorse. My job is to stimulate rational personal decision making. I was at the Gaudin to create discussion and answer questions. My statement about handballing was taken out of context for the purpose of your article. I think Brian Jones felt it could stand alone relatively well and serve the purposes of his article.

Consenting individuals should be able to do whatever they choose to do in private if they are aware of the risks and are prepared to accept them or mitigate them in a responsible way. The statement was to provoke thought and not create a rule that people will feel guilty about breaking. The realities that Doctor Casen points out were discussed. Handballing is fraught with risks other than AIDS, and the tears, cracks, scratches and hangnails are possible sites for a potential AIDS agent to enter.

Given this problem and that condoms are "okay," I wouldn't be surprised if the large number of people willing to accept the risks of perforation but not the risk of AIDS have already found an outlet for shoulder length surgical gloves.

Richard Hamilton, M.D.  
San Francisco

**AIDS Plot**

★ Hooray for the letter from Paul Angora in your last issue (3/29) revealing the AIDS "plot." Is it a coincidence that the so-called "disease first" appeared during the Reagan administration? Since when does a "virus" select its victims according to their sexual orientation?

I distrust the current federal administration and would not put any evil-doing past it. What better way to curtail the rights that the gay movement has been achieving since 1969? Looks like genocide to me... Let's hear from others who feel the same as we do.

Robert Villacari  
San Francisco

**Murphy Humor**

★ Re: Eddie Murphy. Mr. White fails to write completely about Rolling Stone's article on Murphy. Murphy also said he had nothing against and knew homosexuals. His explanation suffices.

I saw the HBO special and all except the AIDS segment offended me. Perhaps our brothers with tight asses do feel insecure and they were offended by the "tight ass routine." The truth hurts, guys. Humor should not.

Art Alcantar  
San Francisco

**An Overlooked Bike Club**

★ Karl Stewart has been beating too many of those black lashes again. In his recent series on San Francisco Bike (and other) clubs, he omits the Rainbow M.C., though Tom Rogers devoted a whole column in B.A.R. on our club several months ago. To brush up Karl's memory, he attended a christening of our last year at The Brig, and he must see us at our weekly meeting every Sunday afternoon at The Eagle. We have fourteen members in the Bay Area, as well as three in L.A., one in New York City, and one in Vancouver. We've been active South of Market for more than a dozen years. We were the first truly independent club organized in San Francisco (more on the lines of straight bike clubs than gay ones). We encouraged the organization of both uniform and rubber clubs here the uniform club has since proliferated, though the rubber is defunct and we probably have more bikers than any club except the Warlocks.

Ron Johnson  
Road Captain  
San Francisco

**A Cold Crisp**



1970's that brought on the present crisis. Brave, remarkable and highly individual Quentin is, but from another time.

Richard Ditewig

**Closet Secrets**

★ Concerning the recent death of Jerry Jensen, KGO-TV news anchor: Mr. Jensen had two more secrets other than the one cited in his obituaries (that of being a "nice guy") — he was gay and an alcoholic.

That it should be mentioned that Mr. Jensen was "briefly married" and then "remained single" for the rest of his life is, to my mind, a tragedy as well as being blatantly dishonest.

Jensen was in a strong position to do tremendous good for himself and other gay people by being open about his sexual orientation. Unfortunately, he was either unable or unwilling to come out of his closet. And even in death he is being protected. From what?

At one time KGO was notoriously homophobic. Whether this is still true or not, I don't know, but I do suspect that had Mr. Jensen been able to "come out" many people might have made a reassessment of people who are homosexual or lesbian.

As to what degree Mr. Jensen's alcoholism contributed to his death, we'll never know — but it probably didn't help. I did not know Mr. Jensen personally, but I was aware that he had sought treatment from his alcoholism a number of years ago and didn't stick with it. On occasion I was around Mr. Jensen, though, and must say that while most alcoholics, who aren't drinking, are "nice people" — most alcoholics who are drinking are not nice. Alcoholism affects not only the alcoholic but those who come into contact with him/her. It is an illness that is protected to the point of allowing it to kill those who suffer from it as well as allowing those who suffer from it to kill others (drunk driving, spousal/lover/child abuse, etc.). It is an illness that is protected — especially as people become more affluent and/or hold positions of status, prestige and/or power. The Bohemian Grove is a classic example of rampant alcoholism that goes untreated. Amazing.

Another journalist — print — who died a year ago was recently eulogized in *Time*, *People* and other magazines. He was Thomas Thompson and he, too, was gay, and had started coming out several years prior to his death. Not a whisper, though, by his colleagues. Why not?

It would seem, gang, that we who are gay/lesbian, still have a long road to haul. Or do I mention the obvious?

Don Hiemforth  
San Francisco

**Reply to Jaguar Parking**

★ Thank you Concerned Neighbor for bringing Jaguar's Parking Problem to the attention of the Gay Community.

Originally the Jaguar's Hartford Street parking place was regarded by all as a parking convenience. In the past year or two this has changed into a parking abuse. What began as a ten or fifteen minute stop for transacting business in the Castro, has deteriorated into a situation where cars park in this space as long as three days. When a neighbor was asked to move his car, he replied, "Just because you own the building doesn't mean you own the parking space." When it is a drive, it most certainly does belong to the property owner.

When a woman parking there was asked to move, she replied, "Fuck you," locked her car and walked down 18th Street AWAY from the Castro. That's abusive.

Parking anywhere illegally is taking a chance on a ticket or towing, and the SFPD does not consider the ticketing or towing of vehicles parked in a private driveway as harassment.

The Jaguar

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## Sex Banned in Sex Palaces

(Continued from page 1)

Police Officer Paul Seidler, who said he went only as an observer. Several others, labeled "supporters," told this reporter they were upset, as they did not know that Silverman was going to halt all sex practices. They included Dr. Tim Wolfred, Community College Board president; Rev. James Sandmire, Metropolitan Community Church; Bobbi Campbell, a People With AIDS official; Brandy Moore, The Pride Foundation; and Ralph Paine, chair of the AIDS Foundation educational committee.

Silverman explained that he had told the group on Sunday night that he was not going to discuss sex at the press conference, but he was pressured to do so during the question period. He never mentioned anything about an allowance for "safe sex" during the press conference.

### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Most of the bathhouses have already made some changes on their premises. Brighter lights have been placed in the now-empty "orgy" rooms. Free condoms are being issued. AIDS literature on "safe" sex is being distributed. However, structural changes may be in store. Silverman says the doors on private cubicles will probably have to be taken off. He explains, "What would two people be doing in a room but having sex if the door was closed?"

Glory holes will also dis-

appear. He says they encourage oral sex, and often the sex clubs and arcades which have them are unsanitary because they do not have washing facilities.

The city's seven Gay bathhouses are already licensed by the police department and are periodically checked by the health department. Inspections would increase. New legislation is being drafted that will add sex-related businesses, such as adult bookstores with 25-cent arcades and sex clubs, to the list. Silverman says "we are only talking about 16 businesses, including the bathhouses" — a figure which amused those who know the figure is considerably higher. Numerous "straight" bathhouses and sex-related businesses also have their share of Gay sexual activity.

The new ordinance to include non-bathhouse adult businesses in licensing will eventually go before the city's Board of Supervisors for consideration. There will be public hearings. Some Gays were asking this week, "Will the staid chambers of City Hall hear public discussions about masturbation, glory holes, and anal sex?"

The legal questions about regulating sexual activity are endless and have a long history

in California courts. There are those who claim that sexual activity can only legally be regulated by the state. Some insist that Silverman can only declare a health emergency if he has proof that such businesses directly relate to AIDS. One Gay attorney believes there are legal problems if there is an attempt to designate "Gay" businesses for control but not straight businesses. Others believe that the state's private, consensual sex bill would be violated by Silverman's proposal. Some people insist, however, that a public health director has broad, legally sound discretionary powers in matters of public health and safety.

How will the Board of Supervisors react to legislation restricting possibly two dozen sex-related businesses? One measure, to restrict adult theaters' live entertainment, has had several hearings and never did pass out of committee.

Some supervisors are already outspoken on the subject. Board president Wendy Nelder has expressed dismay that Silverman did not close the bathhouses. Other supervisors have spoken out this week, with Richard Hongisto believing that current sex laws are adequate and Nancy Walker stating that she supports Silverman's decision.

Speculation that Mayor Dianne Feinstein would order the bathhouses closed surfaced, but she could not legally make

out for closure was Dick Pabich, Britt's re-election campaign manager. The allegations were that Britt was maneuvering to close the baths to avoid the placement on the November ballot of a proposition that would have prohibited sexual activity in the baths. The speculation was that Britt feared a latent homophobia might damage his re-election chances if the proposition and his name both appeared on the ballot.

These charges notwithstanding, Britt's aide, Dana Van Gordier, told the paper last week, "Britt and other Gay leaders wanted Dr. Silverman to close the bathhouses before Gay activist Larry Littlejohn began circulating his petition."

### BATH OWNERS RESPOND

The owners of sex clubs and 25-cent arcades have been relatively quiet about the new Silverman proposal. Ron Ernst, owner of the Jaguar Book Store, said he is unaware that there might be sexual activity in his membership club and explains that if changes come he will adjust. Hall Call, Circle J video theater owner, states that he would alter his business if changes come.

Major bathhouse chain operators have operations in other cities and are hopeful that the San Francisco restrictions will not spread to other areas. Willard Williamson, owner of the Bachelor Quarters health club in East Palo Alto, believes the restrictions will spread down the Peninsula. Dr. Bernice Giansiracusa, Santa Clara County public health director,

## Tenderloin Drags Stood Up by Jesse

by Allen White

Over \$400 was refunded to angry customers at a Tenderloin Gay nightclub this weekend at a benefit for presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

It was to be a fundraiser for the financially strapped Jesse Jackson campaign. Over fifty of the Tenderloin's finest had donned their best drag and were out to have a time. Along with the Tenderloin Gays, some person at the Jackson campaign had said there would be another 400 people who they would bring to the club. Somewhere along the way it dropped that the candidate, himself, would also appear.

For Jesse Jackson, Empress Ginger was ready to pull out the stops. The best white fur came out of the closet. Empress Jonni shaved off his mustache. Later it was explained that Empress Jonni doesn't shave off the facial hair unless it's really a big night. Grand Duchess Sable put on her best makeup. Tony Valentine sent his tuxedo out to the cleaners. Desiree pulled out her most seductive outfit since she arrived from Waikiki Beach. Empress Mae and the bartenders spent the day decorating with hundreds of red, white, and blue balloons.

Major bathhouse chain operators have operations in other cities and are hopeful that the San Francisco restrictions will not spread to other areas. Willard Williamson, owner of the Bachelor Quarters health club in East Palo Alto, believes the restrictions will spread down the Peninsula. Dr. Bernice Giansiracusa, Santa Clara County public health director,

At 8 p.m. they gathered together at the smart and chic Roadrunner located directly below the 181 Eddy Club in the middle of the Tenderloin. After about an hour it became obvious

Bar owner Sheila was now out



Tenderloin drag queens gussied up and passed the hat for Jesse Jackson. A no-show, and the girls got their money back.

### Lesbians Over 60 Sought for Study

Who are the "old" women in the Lesbian community? What are the life experiences, the strengths and needs of a group of Lesbians aged 60 and over? What similarities and differences exist in this seemingly invisible group?

To help provide answers to the above questions, a nationwide study of Lesbians over 60 is currently being conducted at the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality (CERES) at San Francisco State University in San Francisco. The newly funded survey, which grew out of Dr. Monika Kehoe's previous study of Lesbians over 65, will extend its coverage to include at

least 100 individuals, in an effort to reach a more representative sample group of older Lesbians.

Lesbians over 60 are needed to answer an anonymous questionnaire. If you qualify or know someone who does, please drop a card to: Dr. Monika Kehoe or Sheryl Goldberg at CERES, Psych Bldg., Rm. 502, S.F. State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132.

"Lesbians Over 60: A National Survey" is sponsored by grants from the Chicago Resource Center and the Golden Gate Business Association.

### Silverman Interview

(Continued from page 5)

They are out to kill themselves and we are not going to be able to do anything for them.

BAR: Are we talking about a lifetime of AIDS? Will there be a solution? Is it a matter of more research money?

Silverman: It is hard to say. There is help on the horizon. We will find the agent that causes it. I am sure of that... Hopefully, we will find a preventative, a cure.

However, that is not the total

for blood. Not only did the fab 400 not show up, but neither had Jesse Jackson. Bobby Pace, another Emperor of San Francisco, simply threw up his hands in disbelief.

There are times if you're going to arrive late, to not arrive at all might be better. Such was the case for Karen Sentina. She is the office manager for the Jesse Jackson for President offices in San Francisco. She and another Jackson staffer, Charles Austin walked in on the whole incident.

Basically trapped, Jackson's man Foote began to refund the money. Charles Austin said he was not capable of guaranteeing a crowd. He said that flyers had been distributed all over town. Sheila countered that the flyers had only been put up in the Gay part of San Francisco and no attempt had been made to reach a straight audience.

Empress Ginger said that "many people had put out a lot of effort to show off the talent in our Gay community and what they did was an insult." DJ Ron Perry said he would "have been proud to have him (Jesse Jackson) here, but Sheila did what she had to do. She stood up for the people."

It would seem that life goes on. This Friday, Ginger, Marlena, Sissy, and Myra salute the bike clubs at the Road Runner. Among those to be honored this week will be the Dykes on Bikes. No presidential candidates will be present.

(Continued from previous page)  
to more questions than answers. In an attempt to propose a compromise, more people are confused than before.

Accardi believes that the Silverman proposal is a major defeat for Gay liberation and points to Supervisor Harry Britt: "He has been playing games on this issue. He has been inarticulate and I am not proud of him as a spokesperson for our community. He should be out there fighting — at the forefront of this civil rights issue. If they can tell us what we can and cannot do in the baths, they are telling us what we have to do with our lives."

The volatile bathhouse spokesperson talked about consultations with attorneys this week as his association contemplates some legal action against the city. Equally concerned is Bill Jones, the owner of one of the largest bathhouses in the city — the bisexual Suro Baths. Jones has captured the media at Health Department meetings as he called the Silverman move "politics." He said, "In effect, this closes us down. The goon squad of the health department will enforce the order. I am going to speak to my attorney, of course." Club San Francisco's manager, Glen Gerber, said Silverman would have trouble enforcing his guidelines.

Most of the San Francisco bathhouses are not the elaborate and highly profitable businesses

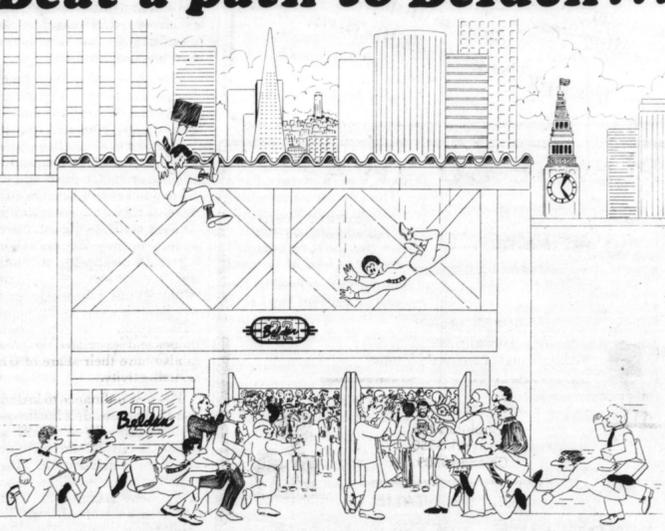
illustrated in a *San Francisco Chronicle* feature article this week. A few have been marginal operations since the AIDS scare began to change some Gay people's lifestyles. The Silverman action could effectively close some businesses simply because they will no longer have many customers.

Forgotten in the Silverman move to change the nature of the baths is Larry Littlejohn. Littlejohn filed an intent to circulate a petition two weeks ago which, if it garnered enough signatures, would have placed a measure on the November ballot. The measure would have done what Silverman did this week — prohibit sexual activity in the steam baths. Silverman's proposal went further, however, by also prohibiting sex in various other businesses.

Littlejohn, who will most likely drop his petitioning effort now, believes that bathhouses could become neighborhood community centers for Gay people. He envisions that there could be theater groups, a Gay library and archives, card games, rap sessions, pool tables, gyms, and movies. His idea was popular in the early 1970's when he was president of The Society for Individual Rights, which operated such a center here. The idea begs the question of whether the Gay community here would support such centers in 1984.

G. Mendenhall

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# VD Rate Drops for Gay Men

(Continued from page 1)

The Bay Area Reporter compiled venereal disease statistics from January 1979 through March of this year to chart the trend in rectal gonorrhea, the trend in total gonorrhea cases, and the relationship between the two.

All three measures show a precipitous drop in venereal disease from mid-1982 through last year, as the epidemic of Ac-

quired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) — and the fear it engendered — spread through the Gay community.

The unprecedented drop in VD rates indicates that most Gay men have made dramatic changes in their sexual behavior as a response to the AIDS epidemic.

From 1979 through the end of 1981, the number of cases of rectal gonorrhea logged every quarter (three months) at the health department averaged 1,822. While some quarters were significantly higher, and some lower, there appeared to be a statistical "plateau" which showed that about 1,800 cases of rectal gonorrhea every quarter was typical.

From mid-1982 — at the onset of the AIDS epidemic — the figures plummeted. There was a marked decline every quarter until the last quarter of 1983, when all three measures of Gay venereal disease — total gonorrhea, rectal gonorrhea, and the ratio between the two — rose slightly.

Time was, such news and such statistics hardly rated front-page attention.

That changed early this year when a slight rise in venereal disease became the centerpiece for a major article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Under the headline "AIDS Expert Says Bathhouses Should Close," Gay reporter Randy Shilts' February 3 story stated, "A new study by the San Francisco Department of Public Health shows that rectal gonorrhea among Gay men is surging again, after slumping dramatically during the AIDS scare last summer — a sign that Gay men are engaging in sexual activity that puts them at high risk for the usually deadly AIDS."

Later, Shilts' article said the rate for rectal gonorrhea "has increased substantially since September." The article included no statistics to demonstrate how "substantial" the VD rates were "surging" — or to compare the relatively modest rise with the much more significant drop

which preceded it.

Questioned by the *Bay Area Reporter* after his article appeared, Shilts said he had not reviewed the statistics. He said he had relied solely on an interview with then-director of the health department's Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Selma Dritz.

Shilts' article — and the slight upturn in VD rates it recorded — are widely regarded as having initiated the latest campaign to close the city's bathhouses, sex clubs, and bookstores. Health Director Silverman, in announcing his campaign against Gay sex in such places, made reference to the upturn in VD rates during the last quarter of 1983.

## From 1980 to 1983 rectal gonorrhea fell 61%

"Unhealthy sexual behavior has been changing. This is documented in the plummeting figures for other sexually transmitted diseases in the Gay community. Unfortunately, over the last few months, these numbers have flattened out," Silverman said.

One AIDS researcher close to Silverman said the "flattening out" of the VD rates in the past six months lent new urgency to the health department's attitude toward the AIDS epidemic.

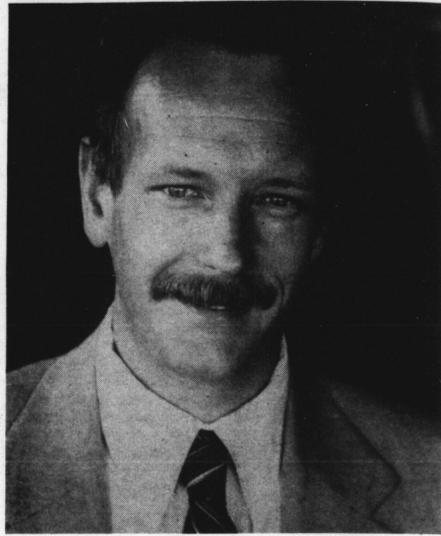
Thus, when Gay sheriff's deputy Larry Littlejohn launched a public initiative to close the bathhouses by a citywide vote in November — and some Gay leaders tried to head him off by urging Silverman to close the baths — the health director was more sympathetic to taking action against Gay sex clubs.

Latest VD figures — those for the first quarter of 1984 — will show a drop from the last quarter of 1983, say two sources within the health department. Those figures will not be officially released until next week. ■

B. Jones

# Gay Candidates Keep Up

Gay Fundraiser for Bacci; Norman to Address Demo Club



Gay State Assembly candidate Bob Bacci. (Photo: Rink)

Duke J. Armstrong and Chuck Morrow, aka "Char," will co-host a special "Pink Elephant Party" Saturday afternoon, April 14, at the Mint, 1942 Market Street, to promote the campaign of Robert R. Bacci, the only upfront Gay seeking election to the State Assembly from Northern California. The festivities will take place between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. A \$10 donation to the Bacci campaign is requested. Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided with no-host cocktails available.

Bacci, a successful businessman and attorney, is seeking the Republican nomination for the Assembly in the 19th District which encompasses the Sunset and portions of northern San Mateo County.

On the local level, supervisory aspirant Pat Norman will address the City Democratic Club of San Francisco on Thursday evening, April 19, 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Press Club (555 Post Street).

The Democratic Club has invited Norman to address its members in the context of a program on "promising non-incumbents," according to club president Peter G. Hanson. Norman has declared her intent to run for supervisor this November and already a campaign committee — Friends of Pat Norman — has been organized to help elect her to that office.

Sharing the podium on April 19 will be supervisory candidates Dave Wharton and Kevin Starr.

Friends of Pat Norman for Supervisor is located at The World Trade Center, Suite 280, in San Francisco. Phone number for the campaign is (415) 398-4605. ■

# POLITICS AND POKER

## Mondale Wins Big in Pennsylvania

Walter Mondale scored a big win in Pennsylvania's important primary Tuesday, and the delegates he picked up in that state put him past the halfway mark in his quest for Democratic convention delegates.

Mondale won 47% of the Pennsylvania vote to decisively defeat Gary Hart, who won 35% of the vote, and Jesse Jackson's poor third place showing with 17%. Although political pundits had called Tuesday's primary "too close to call," Mondale's important support by Pennsylvania's large labor unions once more made the difference and gave the former vice president his fourth big industrial state win.

Some political observers were beginning to say Wednesday morning that the race for the Democratic nomination is beginning to get away from Colorado's Gary Hart and unless he can score a big win soon, the Mondale campaign will be heading to the San Francisco convention with such a lead in delegates that the Hart effort will be unable to overtake the Mondale race. The next big delegate fight is three weeks away in Texas, where 200 delegates will be chosen. Ohio holds its primary the same day as Texas and Hart's people were predicting this week that their candidate "is headed for the West and Midwest — our country" and Hart himself was saying Wednesday that he expects to win in the West, particularly in California in June.

Jackson, claiming that his campaign has finally taken off, carried the city of Philadelphia, where most of that state's Blacks

dentally, a number of Gays have pointed out to me that Milton Marks' recent "Reports from Sacramento" mailed to his district voters mentioned some 30 issues, but noted that "Gay rights" was not among them.

In Detroit, spokespersons for that city's Gay community say they're living in fear after the violent deaths of three male educators. Detroit police say that two of the men frequented Gay bars there and may be victims of hustlers posing as Gays. "It had to happen. Vice president George Bush finally took note this week in a speech of the questionable action of some of Jesse Jackson's supporters, particularly Jackson's refusal to disavow the support of Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who appears regularly at Jackson's side during campaign appearances. Farrakhan is the religious leader who threatened the life of *Washington Post* reporter Milton Coleman, a Black, who originally reported Jackson's infamous "Hymie" remark.

Walter Mondale on the upsurge.

live, despite the endorsement of that city's Black mayor going to Mondale. Jackson won 77% of the total Black vote across the state Tuesday. Mondale, accepting victory Tuesday night in Philadelphia, appeared modest about his big win and predicted that his contest with Hart "is only half over" and said he anticipates "some tough fights ahead," particularly in California, where some are saying Hart is ahead of the former veep. Senator Hart, who watched the Tuesday returns from his home city of Denver, appeared tired and made comparisons to the Democratic delegate race being akin to a football game and claimed "it is only halftime;" some of Hart's advisors were, however, beginning to fear that the fourth quarter would be upon them before their candidate scored again.

After Tuesday's votes were counted in Pennsylvania, the delegate race stood at Mondale with 1,069, Hart trailing with 570, Jackson with 151, and a total of 333 "uncommitted" votes already chosen. Walter

Mondale now stands at past the halfway mark in his fight to obtain the necessary 1,967 needed to win nomination in San Francisco in July.

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Lana will appear for Lia.

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At last Sunday's Toklas Club political action committee meeting, Gary Hart was represented by Joel Paul; George Raya represented Jesse Jackson, and Sal Rosselli and Jack Trujillo spoke for Walter Mondale. • Whatever else Senator Richardson's puppet Deukmejian might be doing in Sacramento, it is a cinch he isn't getting rich. The anti-Gay governor's tax return for last year showed his total earnings to be \$58,000, on which he supports a family of four and paid taxes of a little more than \$13,000.

Comic Robin Williams ("Mork — Mindy"), who calls San Francisco and Marin his home, told NBC's "Morning Show" last week that San Francisco is "a human game preserve — the only place in the world where you can't get 'drag' races." • In Lawrence, MA, last week a judge ruled that up to 1,500 can march in a Gay rights parade on May 12 because the court ruled that a city by-law prohibiting events of more than 200 people on Saturdays is unconstitutional. Lawrence city officials had wanted the Gay rights parade moved to Sunday, May 13, when there would supposedly be less traffic. • Willie Valasquez, whose Southwest Voter Registration Education Project has a goal of augmenting the nation's Hispanic voter rolls by 1 million people, will be keynote speaker at the April 19 benefit dinner of

Well, who said you had to be smart to be in politics? At a debate among the seven candidates to succeed retiring Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas in Boston the other night, two of the would-be senators — Con-



Barbara Boxer joins new group while challenger Bindrup puts her on the "endangered incumbent" list.

gressman Ed Market and former Massachusetts House Speaker David Bartley — admitted they had no idea who the Prime Minister of Israel was. • Remember former Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, once a power in Easy Bay politics? He's now on the speech circuit campaigning for Ronald Reagan, claiming that the race among Mondale, Jackson, and Hart seems to be based on "who would be the first to turn the world over to the communists."

The Harvey Milk Gay Demo Club is announcing that NOW president Judy Goldsmith and NY Congressman Ted Weiss, one of the original sponsors of the national Gay rights bill, will share guest speaking honors at the club's annual dinner on May 30 at the Hall of Flowers. • And fans of Walter Mondale will want to know that their man will be in town Friday for a day of fundraising meetings, although his Market Street headquarters, originally scheduled to have been opened by the candidate tomorrow, has been canceled for at least a week. ■

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NYC Congressman Ted Weiss will grace Milkers.

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## A GAY VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

### House Hearings on Immigration and Security Clearances

by Larry Bush

Congressional committees took up issues of importance to Gays in two other forums last month. A new immigration reform bill, sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, was introduced and sent to a Judiciary subcommittee. The new measure, which seeks to meet civil liberties objections to a pending Simpson-Mazzoli bill, also includes a provision meant to end the current anti-Gay exclusion. That makes the third reform bill to include ending the anti-Gay exclusion as one of its goals.

The new bill, offered by Representative Edward Roybal (D-CA) and supported by most members of the Hispanic and Black caucuses, deals primarily with the amnesty feature that will allow those uncredentialed aliens to normalize their status in this country as part of an overall program to "take control" of the immigration issue. The Simpson-Mazzoli bill, which does not explicitly waive the medical requirements in its amnesty language — although some congressional members believe hearings on the bill laid a "legislative record" for such waivers — has generally been considered to be the most likely bill to pass Congress. Hispanic

boatlift currently are listed in Justice Department computers as excludable because of homosexuality.

Meanwhile, several committees began holding hearings on a new Department of Defense regulation that might subject all civilian employees as well as civilian employees of Defense contractors to random lie detector tests to determine their "suitability."

The Senate Armed Services Committee heard testimony from, among others, representatives of the American Psychological Association on March 7, where privacy rights questions and civil liberties issues were raised. Two scientists, who differed in their view of the acceptability of government use of lie detector screening programs for employees, agreed that lie detectors can sometimes have an error rate as high as 80 percent, and that their accuracy sharply decreases in widespread application such as the Defense Department originally proposed.

"That raises questions about the possibility of adverse actions against truthful persons on whom the polygraph test was incorrect," noted Dr. David Raskin of the University of Utah. Raskin said that "no more

than 11% of persons who fail such tests are actually practicing deception," and warned the negative effects of the Defense Department proposal would include "loss of morale among employees, unnecessary harassment and invasions of privacy, and the loss of services of valuable employees."

Among other concerns, the two researchers noted that the federal government has no program to train employees in how to use and analyze polygraph results, and that no oversight of those programs exist and no protection of employees against abuses.

According to the Senate Armed Services Committee testimony, the Defense Department regulation — which could have affected upwards of five million American workers — would not have allowed questions about private sexual attitudes or "lifestyle," with the possible exception of when potentially criminal offenses were involved.

Hearings will continue in the House of Representatives this month, and it is expected that Congress may pass new laws setting forth guidelines for polygraph uses in government personnel screening. ■



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**Could I Manage If I Became Disabled?**

BURNEY ALLGOOD

With all the sobering news concerning the impact of AIDS on our community, an increasing number of Gay men are reviewing how they could handle a major illness or disability. Within this context, a discussion of the role of an individual disability income policy is in order.

The purpose of any form of insurance is to minimize and manage the negative effects of any given risk or peril that might occur to our person or our property. Hence there is health insurance covering against the costs of medical and hospital bills and there is life insurance which protects individuals and institutions from the loss of another person's earning power. Disability income insurance covers us (the insured) from the effects of the loss of our ability to earn an income. Putting it another way, this form of insurance can protect us against losing our complete financial independence.

Losing our financial independence is a growing concern of increasing numbers of Gays. This is understandable. Few of us relish the thought of being unable to support ourselves because of an incapacity and of being forced to rely on charity and the bureaucracy for our well-being.

If one is employed in California, one presently has some form of disability income protection. All employees are covered under the State Disability Insurance Fund. This fund is paid into through payroll deductions amounting to eight-tenths of one percent of earnings up to \$17,000. However, like its federal counterpart in social security, state disability insurance is not designed to support a basic standard of living should one be unable to work. To get meaningful protection one either has to participate in a group plan offered by the employer or purchase one's own individual policy. Obviously, if one is self-employed, one will need a private policy.

Two kinds of policies exist. There is the "rented" policy and the "owned" policy. Rented policies are usually the group form that employers take out. Under this type the insurance company has the option to change the terms and premiums periodically and to even cancel. This is why some have experienced an employer's switching insurance coverages as part of the benefit package. With an owned policy the insurance company can make no basic changes after they issue the policy. If one purchases his own policy, make sure it is the "owned" kind.

Even though premium and benefit levels fluctuate between insurance companies offering disability coverage, certain industry factors are inherent in all disability policies.

First is the choice of benefit payout period. One can select from a period of 2 years, 5 years, until age 65, or for life. The longer the period, the higher the premium. The 2 and 5 year periods are in the system because the statistics show that most people who become disabled recover within those two periods to resume their careers. Nevertheless, many of the Gay men I advise are selecting the longer periods because of the health uncertainties in their lifestyle.

Another standard feature is the waiting period. This is the

number of days chosen to elapse before the monthly cash benefit starts to be paid. Options are for a 30, 60, 90, or 180 day waiting period. The longer the waiting period, the lower cost for the insurance.

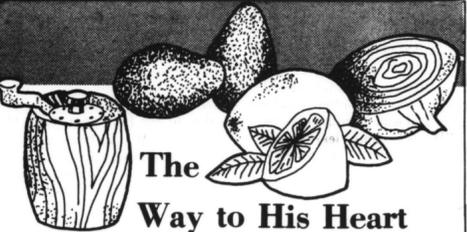
Most people who acquire a disability policy want the maximum benefit they can qualify for. This issue produces sizable variance between insurance companies. It truly pays to "shop" insurance on this matter. In general, maximum benefit is determined by "earned" income. That is the income earned from wages/salary as an employee or taxable profits from self-employment. (Remember, this type of insurance is designed to protect against the loss of income from not being able to work.) There is no consideration given to income from other sources such as interest or rents on determining what is one's monthly maximum benefit.

Another factor that helps to determine this maximum benefit is occupation. The more time one has spent in developing a career and the more one has invested in the perpetuation of that career will, statistically speaking, produce a greater motivation to recover faster from disability. Hence the insurance industry will grant higher maximum benefit percentages to

those who have higher motivational incentives.

As with most insurance, disability income policies have a host of additional options called "riders" that can be incorporated into a basic policy. These riders should be reviewed at the time one considers coverage as to their cost-effectiveness for perceived needs. Those who currently have a policy would be well-advised to shop for basic coverage on an annual basis. There is a revolution in competitiveness going on in the insurance industry. For example, the insurance company that provided the most generous terms for disability coverage that I used for my clients in 1982, I would not use for new policies today, the reason being that they have not revamped their terms and costs to be of advantage to the consumer as compared with other insurance firms. Consequently, I am now using other companies for my clients that are eager to get disability business and have provided more liberal and generous conditions for the consumer.

Lastly, any form of insurance should be carefully analyzed as to its true effect of managing the perceived risks in your life. Most people are either underinsured or overinsured. Either case being to their detriment. Consider disability income protection if one believes that one could not maintain a satisfactory degree of financial independence if disabled and were unable to work in one's chosen career. A policy of this type is to help maintain independence and dignity in the prospect of being disabled. ■



**The Way to His Heart**

**Baking A Potato**

Of course you know how to make a baked potato — and how good they are with a broiled steak. Like most people you probably like them with butter, sour cream, chives, bacon bits. But if you get tired of that route, the baked potato has many more possibilities — limited only by your imagination.

Stuffed baked potatoes are very good — and very easy. After you bake the potatoes, you split them in half lengthwise and scoop the insides into a bowl, trying not to damage the skins. Then add to the bowl some butter, chives, salt, pepper, and a handful of your favorite kind of grated cheese. Mash all this up and put the mixture back into the skins. Put the potato halves on a baking sheet, sprinkle with a little more grated cheese, and return to the oven for a few minutes until lightly browned on top.

Another idea for baked potatoes is to use them as the bed for creamed or other food. You could split a freshly baked potato and top it with your homemade chicken a la king. Or use a baked potato instead of noodles for the base with beef stroganoff. And one way to take some of the fire out of down home chili is to pour it over a baked potato.

And for the ultimate in posh for a baked potato, how about caviar? Many people say they don't like caviar, but that may be because they've never had the real thing. There are some delicious caviar substitutes like lumpfish caviar and salmon roe, some of them colorful, but they often have a somewhat fishy taste and are also often highly artificially colored. The real thing — sturgeon roe caviar — is expensive, but a treat. And it can be served in appropriately small quantities.

For the big splurge dinner get a small container of caviar — beluga, osetra, or sevruga. Those are the three names that designate the size of the eggs, beluga being the largest and most expensive. If you get the best stuff which is "malossal" caviar which has little salt and has not been pressed, it will run you about \$40 for enough for four to six people, so this is definitely in the special treat category. But if you're out to make an impression, this should do it.

And to serve just bake the potatoes as usual, split them open just before serving, drop in a chunk of butter, top with a dollop of sour cream, and at the very last minute — keeping your caviar very cold until ready to serve — spoon a portion of caviar gently on top of the sour cream, preferably with a silver spoon. That should be enough flair for any meal. ■

Peter Leander Hirsch & John R. Prisco

**G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS S**

U.C. Santa Cruz

**Nancy Shaw Fights Denial of Tenure**

Colleagues Back Lesbian Prof; Administration Overrules Them

by John Wetzel

Ten years into what colleagues regarded as unqualified success, Nancy Shaw's innovative academic approach was all but snuffed out by administrators on the University of California's Santa Cruz campus last spring. As a result, this may be her last year at that university. Because she has been refused tenure following sterling reviews and an above-average publishing record, Shaw considers herself a victim of political discrimination.

"When the governor recently refused to sign AB-1 I felt it was so outrageous because I'm a University employee who has been discriminated against, and I'm sure that part of it is the fact that I'm a Lesbian."

Shaw became uneasy when administrators delayed their decision on her tenure in 1983, despite assurances by faculty members that she would probably get tenure based on her qualifications. Four months before the decision was made to deny her tenure, Shaw received a second hand communique saying acceptance was "likely."

Administrators told her that her review committees had been stacked with friendly supporters. "It has become clear that there is an academic network of 'progressive' social scientists who will fervently support any member of this club. This makes even the interpretation of the outside letters very difficult," wrote the issuing administrator, Chancellor Robert L. Sinsheimer.

In a grievance review, Sinsheimer's statement was criticized for using political motivations in handling Shaw's case. Sinsheimer, who first resisted filing the statement, then denied to the grievance committee that

**Stanford Gay Business Ass'n Forms**

Gay and Lesbian graduates of the Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB) are forming the Stanford Gay and Lesbian Business Association. The Association's objectives include meeting fellow alumni and alumnae for social purposes; interpersonal networking for the exchange of information about employment, investment and academic opportunities; and the undertaking of voluntary projects to benefit Gay and Lesbian students at the GSB as well as projects benefiting the larger Gay and Lesbian business community. As one consequence of working toward these objectives the new organization expects to raise the general public's consciousness of the fact that there are Gay and Lesbian business and community leaders.

According to organizers Greg Williams ('78) and Larry Mesple ('71), the Business Association, still in its early stages of formation, will feature monthly cocktail and/or dinner meetings in San Francisco or on the Peninsula. Noteworthy speakers from the Gay and Lesbian business

relevance to the Gay and Lesbian experience. She also taught a course on revolutionary feminism.

"If they fire Lesbian and Gay faculty, there isn't going to be a debate on new ideas," Shaw said, calling the freedom of academia something of a myth. "Maintenance of a place where discussion on a freeflow of ideas exists is a constant struggle."

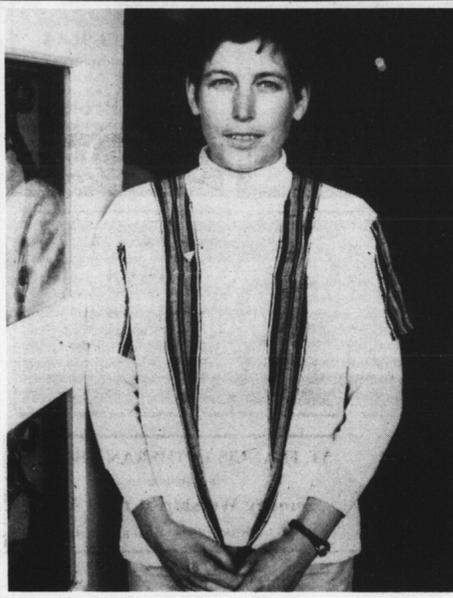
Shaw is preparing a lawsuit that may run into the \$100,000 range. As a result, fundraising is an ongoing concern for her as she mounts a fight against the University similar to the fight feminist activist Merle Woo recently won against the University of California at Berkeley.

She is confident of her chances of raising money because she believes she represents a multiplicity of communities.

"People realize this is not an attack on me, Nancy Shaw, but it is an attack on the values and types of education important to the survival of these communities," Shaw said. Shaw's is a multi-ethnic, Feminist and Gay and Lesbian perspective.

Shaw considers the University decision an example of sexism as well of heterosexism.

"Some of the later appeals on my behalf came from the senior women in the faculty, who thought my work was valuable. But Sinsheimer didn't listen to them. He is said to listen more to the male faculty members."



Nancy Shaw (Photo: Rink)

Shaw saw the unilateral decision to oust her as "an attempt to increase administrative power as much as possible by saying 'we can do whatever we want.'"

Shaw now lives in San Francisco because she found the Santa Cruz environment became "too oppressive."

ple in quantitative research (the natural versus social sciences), but it hasn't been expressed in such a virulent manner."

Shaw indicated there is "something of a bias among qualitative researchers and peo-

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# Big Names On Hand for Gay Fundraiser

## 'Campaign for Equality' Readies War Chest for Area Elections

Most of the East Bay legislative contingent and the mayors of Berkeley and Oakland were on hand April 1 when the Campaign for Equality launched its campaign season with a fundraiser.

The reception in Oakland was held to honor those east Bay legislators who supported AB-1, the Gay Employment Rights bill recently vetoed by Republican Gov. George Deukmejian. The event netted \$1,100 to support pro-Gay politicians.

"We're extremely lucky to have such an outstanding group of legislators representing us, people who are committed to achieving justice for all citizens," said Armand Boulay, president of the campaign, the political

action committee set up by the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

State Senators Bill Lockyer (Hayward), and Nick Petris (Oakland), and Assemblymembers Elihu Harris and Tom Bates were honored. "We'll see if this governor means what he says about law and order, when we proceed this session with AB-848," said Bates, referring to his bill which would extend civil rights protections to victims of anti-Gay violence. Also honored, but unable to attend, were Assemblymembers Robert Campbell and Johan Klehs.

Oakland mayor Lionel Wilson and Berkeley mayor Gus Newport also addressed the group. Wilson equated the struggle for

Lesbian and Gay civil rights with the Black civil rights movement.

Newport pledged support for the idea of domestic-partner benefits for the employees of the city of Berkeley. "We'll see if we can work it out, avoiding the problems encountered in San Francisco," Newport said. Newport was introduced as a long-time supporter of Lesbian and Gay rights, and the only mayor to ever ride in the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Kerry Woodward, Finance Chair of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, urged support for the Campaign for Equality. "Candidates need our financial support, as well as our endorsements and volunteer efforts," Woodward said. "The Campaign for Equality has been set up with the specific purpose of aiding candidates who support our issues."

In addition to holding fundraising events, the campaign has set up a monthly pledge system, in order to insure funds when they are needed. The Campaign for Equality will contribute to candidates who have been endorsed by the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

About 75 supporters attended the reception, including candidates for Alameda County Supervisor, Margaret Tracy (district 1) and Marge Gibson (district 4). Gibson recently sponsored the Oakland Lesbian/Gay Rights ordinance.

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club will be making endorsements for Supervisor, Berkeley Rent Board, Central

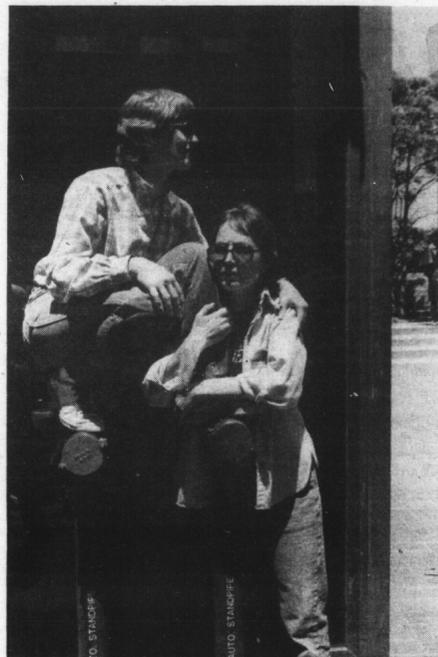
Committee, judgeships, and propositions Sunday at 7 p.m., April 8, at the West Branch of the Berkeley Public Library, 1125 University Avenue.

On Thursday, April 19 at

7:30 p.m., the Political Action Committee of the Club will make recommendations for distribution of funds to endorsed candidates. Call 843-2459 for location and further information.

## From Castro to Christopher

by Nick Blair



Your Pipe or Mine? Two women view the proceedings during last year's Gay Pride Day celebration.



Both women and men went to great lengths to get a good view of last year's Gay Day Parade.

### OAKLAND

## Auctions and More

NEZ PAS

### ROUP PERPETUITY I (A White Elephant Nose?)

Little Mother and Ed Paulson started their Benefit Auction Series off with a tremendous salvo, to say the least! In just a few short hours on Sunday, March 25, at the Bench & Bar, these two consignors managed to raise a grand total of \$4,000 to assist those of our community taken ill with AIDS. Their ultimate aim, as the posters will announce, is to raise a whopping amount of \$20,000!

There will be a bit of competition, if you will. The monies raised at each benefit will be updated on the posters, so all can see just how much their favorite spa(s) participated. Also, once again Ed's "Bushel of Booze" will be offered, and he is having 2,000 tickets printed! . . . and he'll sell them!

Auction items are still needed. They may be brought to the bar on the day of its auction, or call Ed at 538-3913, Little Mother at 430-1343, or Big Mama's at 881-9310. All purchased items must be paid for and collected the day of the auction.

All of the Benefit Auctions are on Sunday, and they begin at 4 P.M. The remaining schedule is: April 29, Spoiled Brat; May 27, Town & Country; July 8, Turf Club; July 29, Lake Lounge; August 26, Big Mama's; September 9, Revol. On this final day, the bushel of booze will be awarded; there will be live entertainment breaks; and an "all-you-can-eat buffet" (donations hopefully to be around \$8-\$10).

Remember, THIS benefit series guarantees 100% return to Alameda County Gays with AIDS!

### ROUP PERPETUITY II (The Nose in the Basket?)

Larry, Grand Duke of All California, has umpteen "Auction Your Basket" events all around this ol' Bay Area! Two here in Oakland will be on Monday, April 21 (Town & Country) and Monday, May 14 (Revol). GD Larry caught me in a weak (drunk?) moment, and "we" devised a wee tad of competition! Whoever's "basket" raises the most money between Town & Country and Revol will have dinner (with date of course!) with the biggest "basket" money raiser between Big Mama's and Turf Club!

Hmmmmmm? Oh, the dinner? It will be a seven-course gourmet feast prepared by yours truly! Yeah, there'll be wine, but they buy their own booze! (Hey — I just thought [no comments, please!] that the GD in front of Larry's name a few lines up COULD have a double meaning, right?)

### CHIFFONNIERE PARTIE CARREE (A "Dragging" Nose?)

Early June (date and location not confirmed yet) will honor us all with the infamous Lady Cha Cha's Closet Ball '84. Along with the "magical" metamorphosis of boy to girl and girl to boy aspect, Cha Cha is planning a fashion show/auction of "previously worn fashions" of Ladies of the Realm, including current and ex-title holders, persons of nobility, and "you know whose" who have been in drag!

Cha Cha will be contacting those "lucky ladies," but it would be nice, and save time, if they would contact her at 261-8404.

Does this auction mean that Fat Faerie will model (and sell) her well-known mini skirt ensemble? Seriously, folks, all proceeds from this function will go to ACIE Coronation '84.

### Nez' Notes:

• Several bars are jumping on the competition band wagon for a series of 5,000 (zap) dice play-offs. Posters and flyers will announce all, and hopefully, soon!

• HOOBOY II! Now what's going to happen? The current reigning (?) Queen Mother of All California (Jean) is breaking up with hubby, King Father of All California (Mikki), and is heading back to reside in Pennsylvania. Huh — did I hear a snicker from the "Lady in Red"?

• HOOBOY III! Just WHO has the nickname, "Out-of-Town" title holder? But then, just WHO has the distinction of the nicknames, "Make-a-date; Be-a-no-show;" "Snubber-of-Visiting-Royalty;" and "He's-NOT-Welcome-in-Our-Town?" And, I understand, they BOTH want to run again!

• The Ladies Cha Cha and Billy had a tremendous success with their High Heel Dance Contest at the Jubilee. Visiting Royalty couldn't believe so much fun was available at a "women's" bar. (It's not just a "women's" bar, you know!) The winner was none other than Lady Rhonda, with runner-up accolades going to residents of Modesto and San Francisco!

• Stan finally has a job again! He is now on the planks of Paradise (nee Et Al and Grandma's House). It's open lunch, Sunday brunch, and dinners.

### EBL/GDC Alert

Do you live in Contra Costa County? Your senator is Dan Boatwright and he voted NO on AG-1, unlike all other East Bay legislators. You are in a unique position to do something! In the June primary he will be chal-

lenged by Martinez city councilwoman Diane Patrick who has indicated her dismay at the homophobic vote of Boatwright and her intention to support AB-1 when it comes up again in the State Senate.

If you are interested in helping our friend, call the No-on-Boatwright Task Force at 849-3983.

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# THIS WEEK

## THURSDAY 12

- **Seeing Red:** Seeing Women — Women and the Communist Movement: panel discussion, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. Presented by the National Lawyers' Guild's Anti-Sexism Committee, discussion with women radicals about their activism in the '30s, '40s, and '50s.
- **Pamela Brooks:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.
- **5th of July:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Call 861-5079 for ticket prices and availability. Written by Lanford Wilson and directed by Joe Cappetta.
- **Bettina:** singing entertainer, 132 Bush, S.F., 6 to 8 PM, \$3.
- **Tuffy Eldredge and Christa Hillhouse:** 12-string originals, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Paul Jones:** with Ken Muir at the piano, music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free.
- **An American Story:** stage performance, Asian American Theater Company, Julian Theater, 953 DeHaro St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7.50.

- **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy written and performed by Lee Strucker and Nadine Caracciolo, Intersection for the Arts, 756 Union St. (between Powell and Mason), S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7.
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 and \$18. Award-winning playwright Jane Chambers' play about Lesbian love and death.
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 441-8822 for ticket prices.

## FRIDAY 13

- **The Yellow Wallpaper and Theater Girls:** S.F. Women's Building Film Series, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3 to \$10, sliding scale. Featured shorts with each movie; informal discussions round out the evening. Call 431-1180 for more information and reservations.
- **Italian Conversation Group:** Italian-speaking Gay men and women, 7:30 PM. Call Paul at 282-4956 or Harry at 552-8416 for details.
- **Tom Ammannio:** comedy, Mame's Palazzo, Bay and Mason Sts., S.F., 7 PM. For more information call 986-4553.
- **Lynda Bergren:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 9:30 and 11 PM, \$5.



John Kass and his All Male Strip Revue will appear Wednesday at Club 181.



New Vaudeville. The Valencia Rose will present Vaudeville Lives this weekend and next. Is it performance art? Is it comedy? You decide.

- **Vaudeville Lives:** somewhere between performance art and comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Features Girls Who Wear Glasses of Santa Cruz.
- **Weslia Whitfield:** music, Buckley's Bistro and Bar, 131 Gough St., S.F., 10 and 11:30 PM, \$5.
- **Danny Williams, Robin Heller and Pam Anton:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.
- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof:** stage performance by the River Repertory Theater, Russian River Theater Center, Guerneville, \$5. Directed by Regan Durrant. Call (707) 865-2147 for more information.
- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Comedy Cabaret:** featuring Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Karrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at the Sansome St. Brasserie, 411 Sansome St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free.
- **Danny Williams:** comedy, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 7 and 8 PM, free.
- **American Gems:** stage performance of two one-act plays, One Act Theatre Company, 430 Mason St., S.F., 8 PM \$10. Eugene O'Neill's *Hughie* and William Saroyan's *Once Around the Block* will be performed.
- **An American Story:** stage performance, \$8.50 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy theater performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Joseph Hansen:** appearance at the Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 1 to 3 PM. On the publication of *Nightwork*, a new David Brandstetter mystery.
- **The New Babylon:** San Francisco Chamber Orchestra to perform original score by Dmitri Shostakovich at two screenings of silent film classic, Castro Theatre, 7 and 9 PM, \$15 and \$20. In conjunction with the 27th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival.
- **Faye Carol and Trio:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 9:30 and 11 PM, \$6.
- **Karolyn Van Putten:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 7 and 8 PM, \$3.
- **Vaudeville Lives:** performance art/comedy (see Friday listing for details).
- **Weslia Whitfield:** music (see Friday listing for details).
- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **American Gems:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **An American Story:** stage performance, \$8.50 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy theater performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 5 PM, \$15 and \$18, 9 PM, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

## SATURDAY 14

- **Gay Comedy Night:** with emcee Tom Ammannio and guests Linda Moakes, Mario Mondelli and Kelly Kittell, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.
- **San Francisco vs. Los Angeles:** basketball, Fairfax High School gymnasium, West Hollywood, 8 PM, \$10. Presented by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence of San Francisco and produced by The Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles. The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and the Hayward Raw Rahs will provide half-time entertainment. A victory party at The Transfer in Los Angeles will follow.
- **VD Testing:** 18th & Castro, S.F., Noon to 3 PM, free. Sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Public Health City Clinic Volunteers. More volunteers are needed. Interested persons should call Marty at 285-1167 for more information.
- **Alcina:** stage performance by the Pocket Opera Company, Julia Morgan Theater, 2840 College Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$12. By Handel; with Francesca Howe, Vicky Van Dewark, Diane Giffather, Baker Peeples, and Kenneth Bass.
- **Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters and Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights:** chamber opera, The Century Club Theatre, 1355 Franklin St., S.F., \$7.50. Performed by Voices/SF as part of its 1984 program of An Evening with Gertrude Stein.

## SUNDAY 15

- **VD Clinic:** by and for Gay men, Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Call 644-0425 or 548-8238 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** fundraiser, Alamo Square Saloon (Hotel Casa Loma), 600 Fillmore at Fell St., S.F., 3 to 8 PM. Raffles will be held.
- **Dr. Robert Cathcart:** talks about Vitamin C therapy in the treatment of AIDS on The Gay Life on KSAN (95 FM) at 6 AM.
- **Beer Bash:** sponsored by the Inter-Club Fund, the patio of the S.F. Eagle, \$5.
- **The Beachhead:** progressive performers/speakers, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4. Formerly the North Beachhead relocated from the Old Spaghetti Factory, this ongoing series of performers/speakers will bring political satirist Paul Krassner, former publisher of *The Realist*, to the Valencia Rose.
- **Bettina:** singing entertainer, Fanny's 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$3.
- **A.J. Holmes:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 2 and 3:30 PM, \$5.
- **Peggy Pierce and Robert Erickson:** music, Plush Room, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 7 PM, \$4. With the Judy Hall Trio.
- **Faith Winthrop and the Vocal Ease:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5 and 6:30 PM, free.
- **Paul Boneberg and Mary Dunlap:** interviewed by David Lamble regarding the planned Lesbian and Gay march on the Democratic Convention, KPFA (94 FM) 4:30 PM. Also, comedy from blues musician Jon Sugar.
- **Avalon Swing Revue:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.
- **John Kass:** all male strip revue, Club 181, 181 Eddy St., S.F., 10 and 11 PM, cover.
- **Jon Sugar and Friends:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. With The Inverted Triangles.
- **Adele Zane:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$3.
- **The Margaret Ghost:** stage performance, opens at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$14. By Carole Braverman.
- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Karrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at the New Orleans Bar and Grill, 2088 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 8 PM to 12 AM, free.
- **Lisa Pawlak:** acoustic rock, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof:** stage performance, 2 PM only (see Friday listing for details).
- **5th of July:** stage performance, 3 and 8:30 PM (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Lady Bianca:** jazz, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 4 PM, free.
- **Karrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at The Griffon, 1700 Shattuck at Virginia, Berkeley, from 7:30 to 11:30 PM, free.
- **American Gems:** stage performance, 3 PM, \$7, 7:30 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **An American Story:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 3 and 7 PM, \$15 and \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, 2 and 8:30 PM (see Thursday listing for details).

## MONDAY 16

- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammannio and Monica Palacios, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2.
- **Maryanne Price and the Millionaires:** boogie-woogie, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Faggot Festival:** celebration of Gay imagery, Diego Rivera Gallery, S.F., through April 27.
- **Social Dance Classes:** Ollie's, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Learn the two-step, waltz, swing, and popular western dances. Drop in any Monday; classes taught by Fay Cuthbertson. For more information call 588-7113 or 731-2527.
- **Suzie Caruze and Lucas:** rock music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4.
- **Chrissy Hicks:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.
- **Ralph Michaels:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$3.

## TUESDAY 17

- **Pacific Center for Human Growth:** drop-in group for Gay men over 40, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM. For more information call the Switchboard at 841-2664.
- **Val Diamond:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.
- **Kynthia:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.
- **Debbie Saunders:** rhythm and blues, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

## WEDNESDAY 18

- **Paul Boneberg and Mary Dunlap:** interviewed by David Lamble regarding the planned Lesbian and Gay march on the Democratic Convention, KPFA (94 FM) 4:30 PM. Also, comedy from blues musician Jon Sugar.
- **Avalon Swing Revue:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.
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- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
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The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

pillows - placemats - glasses - baking dishes - cards  
**Remodeling** - floral arrangements - barware  
- mugs - French cookware  
floor lamps - bamboo tables - pillows - placemats  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## MUSIC

### Symphony

## Organasms of Strawberries

### Inaugural Concert at Davies Hall Has Something For Everyone

by Bernard Spunberg

I love big organs. The sight of mammoth cylinders jammed in close together, sticking up high and proud, makes me draw in my breath as my heart pounds, my palms sweat, and my eyes bug out. Little organs are wonderful, too — it's the music that counts — but the really big ones exert a special fascination on just about everybody.

Heavy publicity for the Organ Inaugural Concert of April 7 emphasizes that the San Francisco Symphony's new organ, built by Italy's Ruffatti family, is the largest concert hall organ in North America. But just how big is this monster? Well, it's got 7,373 pipes grouped in 132 ranks controlled from a console consisting of five manuals (keyboards) — and it's not finished yet. Another 549 pipes will be added in 1985, and funds are being raised to realize the organ's full potential of 9,607 pipes in the not too distant future. The big daddy of all the pipes is 36 feet long and weighs 1,200 pounds.

Just for completeness, there is also a rank of teeny weeny pipes constructed especially for performances of the fugue J.S. Bach wrote for his dachshund, Schatzi, should the long-lost manuscript ever be uncovered. Entitled "Der Knochen" ("The Bone"), the piece is composed for pitches beyond the range of human audibility, though it is much savored in canine circles.

But enough of charts and graphs. As I walk down Van Ness I see almost everyone milling around inside Davies Hall is holding something. Can it be? Wait — yes! Free food!

Getting to the goodies proves challenging. First I walk a gauntlet of beady-eyed members of the San Francisco Boys' Chorus selling raffle tickets to raise funds for their organization. Outside Davies Hall, I attempt to verify truth behind rumors of ticket scalpers commanding prices in the hundreds of dollars. My investigative technique yields nothing but one forlorn soul holding up a single ticket. He cheers up noticeably when the ticket finally sells.

Once inside Davies Hall, the magnitude of the event becomes apparent. Fur and diamonds are everywhere — and look! Isn't that Rollin Post? Quick! Over there! Isn't that Cyril Magnin?

Just about everybody is clutching a plastic glass. I elbow my way through a particularly dense group and finally arrive at the champagne. At last! But what are those little napkins for? There must be solid food somewhere.

I allow the current to carry me over to the other side of the room. Just for a moment, the sea parts and I glimpse a table laden with daffodils, birds of paradise, and sweetmeats. What? No chopped liver? But I'm still not within arm's reach and my line of vision is blocked. Certain individuals seemed to have parked their carcasses right next to the table. Politely waiting my turn, I eventually get to the table. My worst suspicions are confirmed: no chopped liver. Resigned, I sip champagne and nibble a characteristically dainty portion of brownies, petit fours, and chocolate-dipped strawberries until the chimes tell me it's time to hear big daddy blow his stack.

Thanks to Walt Disney and his Fantasia, a giggle ripples through Davies Hall when Michael Murray plays the first notes of J.S. Bach's Toccata in D Minor. The Toccata cries out for the blood and thunder approach, but Murray more or less blows his moment of glory with a casual, offhand interpretation.

part returns. Pleasant but disappointingly tame, considering that Cage frequently asks pianists to stick clothespins, paper clips, and pipe cleaners in their instruments before playing his music.

Textures clotted like cream abandoned in the rear of the refrigerator for six months clog the "Final" of Louis Vierne's Symphony No. 1 for Organ. John Fenstermaker makes the most of a French Romantic windbag of a piece. Big, loud, and lots of fun.

Joyce Jones next floats out in a baby blue party frock with puffy sleeves best left to drag queens who want to look silly. I think lots of women's fashions undercut intellectual credibility, but that's a different article. Jones' Bach chorale prelude ripples with wonderfully fleet passage work. For one hilarious moment, her first Brahms piece, "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen," sounds just like "Some Enchanted Evening." I begin to long for a pop medley.

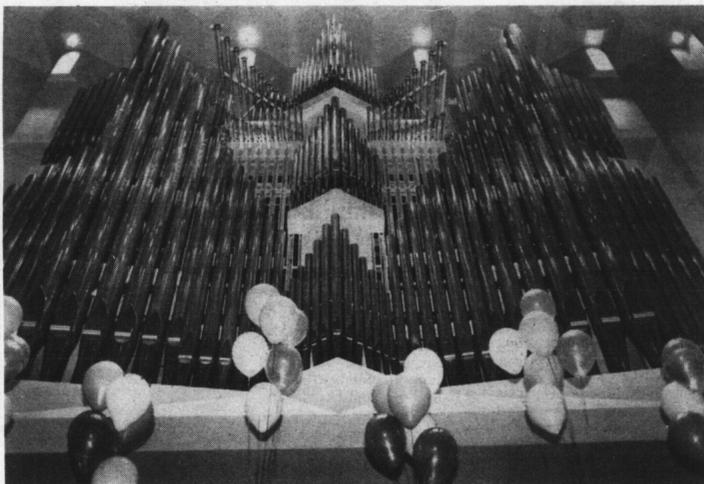
I was high as a kite the first time I heard Liszt's demented Prelude and Fugue on the

Theme B-A-C-H. I was in college, and the performance of Liszt's piano transcription of his organ original was given by a member of our faculty. She was only about four feet tall, but she unleashed tidal waves of tone that made me hallucinate millions of little eighth notes cascading across the stage. I've loved the piece ever since. Frederick Swann is an acknowledged master of the organ. His performance finds not only the high drama, but the structural underpinning that holds the piece together.

Celebs avoid me like crazy during the first intermission — during the second intermission, too, for that matter. A nasty experience with sparkling cider — feh! — posing as champagne is best forgotten. There's still plenty of brownies, but only a couple of petit fours. Apparently, we haven't even made a dent in the strawberries.

Belly laughs emanate from somewhere behind me during Joyce Jones' performance of William Bolcom's Humoresk for Organ and Orchestra. I

(Continued on next page)



The New Organ at Davies Symphony Hall as seen by photographer Tony Plewik. His photographic essay depicting the installation of the Ruffatti organ will appear in the main lobby through June 27. (Photo: T. Plewik)

ence may seem livelier to those of us who remember the Symphony's years in the Opera House, but most will glumly admit the truth in Maestro Bernstein's statement. Adjustments have been and will continue to be made, but problems remain and the Ruffatti Organ only makes them more obvious.

The Inaugural Gala was meant to be an all stops out (pun intended) showcase for this spectacular piece of craftsmanship. The results were enormously diverting even when musical values took a second seat to audience hijinks and unintentional hilarity on stage.

The choice of material was mostly appropriate, if a bit somber, and the performances were perfectly satisfactory. In some instances they were exceptional. Only a musical glutton could have left unsated. This was a smorgasbord and all tastes were catered to.

Until one sees an instrument of this size (the largest in North America) up close and in action it's impossible to appreciate how

heroic the work of an organist really is. Legs and arms akimbo, they must navigate their way through an awesome array of keys, pedals, and stops to produce that gigantic noise. That they make the attempt is admirable. My heartfelt applause is given when they display sensitivity on top of gumption.

Ironically, I like the organ best in its quieter moments. There is a wonderfully reflective quality at those times that explains why the organ is so suited to liturgical music. Some composers use all that power to make the sound of a calliope, but others, such as Bach and Brahms, could create hushed atmospheres that speak evocatively of another world.

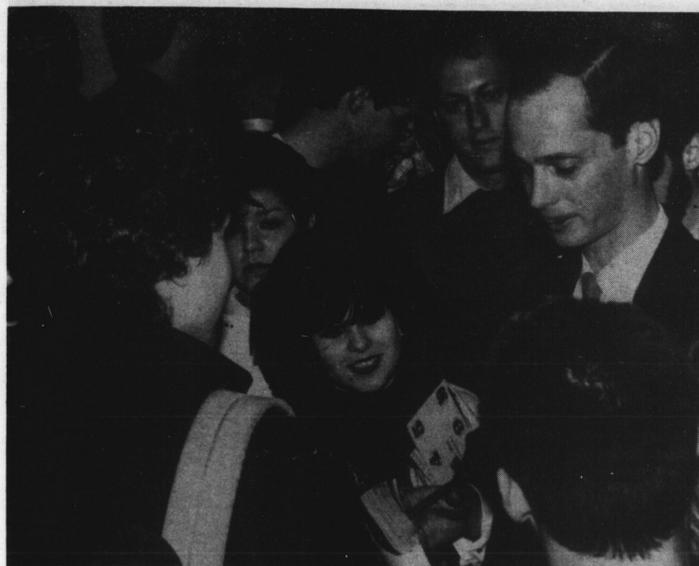
Given the opportunity to present a medley by the aforementioned composers, dimpled and diminutive Joyce Jones proved herself a capable artist and also became the unquestioned darling of the audience with her silver shoes that suggested Red Cross formal wear and a dress that Glinda the Good might

wear to go square dancing. She alone, of all the performers that evening, was permitted the chance to play classical and contemporary pieces. In the one attempt at a light touch that the program offered, Ms. Jones showed that she could get down and get funky with William Bolcom's godawful "Humoresk for Organ and Orchestra." It was the delightful timing of the performer that saved this wretched cross between Leonard Bernstein on a bad day and Quincy Jones on a good one from being a total embarrassment.

John Fenstermaker, known and esteemed for his work at Grace Cathedral, also made a valiant attempt to rise above bad material in his praiseworthy reading of Vierne's windy Symphony No. 1 for Organ. He didn't take a second bow, though he should have, for we were applauding him and not the composer.

Others who distinguished themselves were Frederick Swann and James David Chris-

(Continued on next page)



John Waters came to town last week for the Waters Film Festival at the Castro Theatre. Here he is mobbed by fans seeking autographs. (Photo: Rink)



Naked Branch. The cast and audience applaud one another during the finale of Part 3 of the wacky soap series last weekend at the IBI Club. (Photo: Rink)

## ORGANASMS OF STRAWBERRIES

(Continued from previous page)

think the laughter has the right idea. Bolcom's work echoes jazzy rhythms and Stravinskyish textures. My favorite part is when Joyce, puffy sleeves billowing as she flails away at all five manuals, drowns out the entire Symphony. Go, Joyce!

The second intermission offers nothing but champagne, a couple of brownies, and bushels of those eternal

## BACK TO BATON

(Continued from previous page)

tie in delightful excursions into the sublime world of Handel and lovely soprano Sheri Greenawald who sang that Titan's "But Oh! What Art Can Teach."

Michael Murray opened the concert with Bach's great Toccata in D Minor (arguably the most famous organ piece ever written). He also ended the arduous evening with Jongen's Symphony Concertante, Opus 81. The Jongen sounds like a lot of Debussy and Ravel, but if you're going to crib, it might as well be from the best. Mr. Murray's contributions were satisfying, but more than that, it was these two selections that pointed out what is best and also most disappointing about the Symphony's remarkable new organ.

Without the contrast of organ against orchestra, the fabulous Toccata and Fugue sounded distant and sterile, in spite of its ear-

chocolate-dipped strawberries. Waitpersons carry huge baskets of them — is there no end to this madness?

Jongen's Symphonie Concertante for Organ and Orchestra, performed by Michael Murray, is the last item on the program. It sounds a lot like Miklos Rosza and Erich Korngold — '40s movie music — and neatly summarizes the assets and liabilities of large organs and their repertoire. Yes, the sheer size and weight of tone is thrilling. Yes, the organ adds colors and textures to the ensemble achievable no other way. Yes, there is a substantial body of im-

portant literature that cannot be played without a large organ. My pet favorite is the Berlioz Te Deum, and I can't wait for the Symphony to play it.

But organs, like all instruments, have significant limitations. Particularly among low pitches, the really hard attack necessary to achieve clear-cut rhythms is not possible. Worse, no matter how carefully the organ is tuned, pitch is diffuse. Baroque-style registration is generally pretty clear, but polyphonic Romantic repertoire can easily turn to mush. At least to me.

Completely gluttoned with music, Rik and I dash to his house to catch ourselves on the eleven o'clock news. I can never get too much of myself on TV. But please, no more chocolate-dipped strawberries. Ever. ■

B. Spunberg

Without the contrast of organ against orchestra, the fabulous Toccata and Fugue sounded distant and sterile, in spite of its ear-

P. Campbell

## MUSIC

## Brendel Suffers From Hero Worship

by Bernard Spunberg

Bitch, moan, and complain. Alfred Brendel's frequent live performances and abundant recordings establish him as one of the world's leading exponents of the Classical style. Personally, I've been crazy about him for years. You'd think I'd be falling all over myself searching for superlatives to describe his performances of Mozart's Piano Concerti in F Major and D Minor, K. 459 and 466, with Edo de Waart and the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Hall on April 6. But I'm not. I'm searching for qualifiers.

Giggles echo throughout the carefree first movement of the F Major Concerto. Far from sweet and buoyant, Brendel's tone was surprisingly hard. Brendel gave the phrase endings of the second movement little breaths and diminuendi characteristic of an artist, but he often leaned into the keys as if to force sound out of the piano. The tone was cold and lacked the inherently vocal quality of Mozartian melody. The third movement, a virtuosic romp, revealed the Alfred Brendel of international renown. Brendel's whirlwind tempo conveyed humor and poetry while sustaining the illusion of breathless spontaneity.

Ominous rumblings and demonic contrasts place Mozart's D Minor Concerto among his most dramatic works. Brendel's fiery yet elegant interpretation of the first movement proved that singing tone is possible in loud as well as soft passages. Cold, hard tone marred the outer sections of the second movement, but the agitated central section erupted with passionate brilliance. The third movement — well, it was good by any standard except mine for Alfred Brendel. The movement was underchar-

acterized and refused to ignite. Maybe the Symphony did not support Brendel in some subtle yet critical way. Maybe Brendel and de Waart were somehow at odds.

Stravinsky's Neoclassic music represents the creation of a comprehensible, accessible personal musical language in the middle of the stylistically chaotic twentieth century. Trouble is, style is all this music is about. Scratch the beautifully polished surface and you find — nothing. Listening to this music is a little like looking in a kaleidoscope. Very beautiful — even hypnotic — for a few minutes, but it's no Picasso. There may be a few sensual thrills, but there's no gut level emotional impact.

De Waart and the Symphony played Stravinsky's Symphony in C with glowingly transparent textures and fresh, clear colors. Ridiculously complex rhythms sounded easy. Best of all were burnished, elegantly arched solo trumpet phrases and witty, chattering woodwind episodes. So why do I complain so much about Stravinsky's Neoclassicism? I guess I just find it odd that something so beautiful should affect me so little. ■

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## BACK TO BATON

### Where's the Cha-Cha Button?

PHILIP CAMPBELL

Mozart, the king of composers, called the organ the king of instruments. Is it blasphemy to suggest there are those of us who might prefer the piano, flute or violin? Allow me to coronate the organ as empress rather; very grand, very complex, and more than a little overbearing.

My feelings about this mightiest of musical contraptions are mixed. The Inaugural Concert of the Ruffatti Organ in Davies Hall last Saturday did nothing to alter them, either.

Be honest, if you were banished to a desert island with only one musical instrument, would you want it to be an organ? In the proper context it can be glorious, but heard in solo, a little goes a long way.

Personal prejudices aside, the Ruffatti is a magnificent visual addition to the bland interior of Davies. For months it has stood in mute grandeur, awaiting its debut into San Francisco's richly diverse symphonic society. With a telecast Gala simulcasted in stereo, the entrance could hardly have been more noticeable. Unfortunately, this initial exposure raised more questions than it answered.

A lamentable similarity to the opening of Davies Hall itself was apparent throughout the marathon premiere. All the gadgetry in the auditorium cannot disguise the dry acoustics.

During his recent concerts here, Leonard Bernstein remarked that Davies Hall has a way of "dinkifying" sound. The ambi-

# FILM FEST

## A Night at the Movies '41

Probably one of the most entertaining nights in this year's Film Festival will be the special presentation of rare prints from the UCLA Film Archives. Their presentation makes it possible for us to sample what a typical night at the movies in 1941 was like.

There are six short features including a George Pal Technicolor cartoon, a newsreel, an educational short that by today's spage-aged standards becomes hysterical, and three other period pieces. These are followed by a coming attractions trailer of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde which, for all its camp value, actually makes you want to see the film.

The main attraction is *The Devil and Miss Jones* with Jean Arthur, Robert Cummings, Charles Coburn, Spring Byington, and S.Z. Sakall. Directed by Sam Wood (who did many of the Marx Bros. films), it is considered one of the best screwball comedies ever made.

The entire show will be preceded with a concise and fascinating lecture-demonstration by Bob Gitt, UCLA Film Preservationist, who will screen before-and-after test prints that illustrate just how exactly films are saved — and afford us evenings like this.

(April 23, 7 p.m., Castro) M. Lasky

## Red Monarch

Leave it to the British to come up with this Monty-Python-Meets-Hogan's-Heroes satire of Josef Stalin and the Communist Party. Rarely has political/historical humor been so unerring on target — or as nasty.

Colin Blakely gives a tour de force performance as "Uncle" Joe Stalin, a hopeless barbarian and petulant dictator who can't understand why nobody really likes him.

Director Jack Gold and writer Charles Woods capture in comedy (the type that keeps you smiling, if not laughing out loud) the ways power corrupts. And

who better than the Communists to dish?

If Stalin is pure vinegar, his comrades are all oil; especially Beria, who is played playfully by David Suchet and comes off as the quintessential ass-kisser yes-man. Acid-stained barb are also thrown at Molotov, Malenkov, and Kruschev, and in a delicious and too-short cameo, Carroll Baker as a Texas reporter full of "golly-gees" lays waste to the ugly American as well. This is quirky comedy that will keep you smirking.

(April 15, 9:30 p.m., Ghirardelli) M. Lasky

## Runners

Runners are what runaway children are called in Britain and in this grim drama — all the more relevant with the Kevin Collins case in the news locally — the parents' emotional turmoil of a missing child is unflinchingly examined.

James Fox gives an agonizing portrayal as the father of a missing teenager. Even after his wife gives up hope, Fox still believes two years later that he can find his daughter. After visiting a support group of parents with similar problems, he goes to London to search.

When lost becomes found, the film quickly falls apart as Fox says all the wrong things to a daughter he hasn't seen in two years, and she offers no explanations of why she suddenly left.

A subplot has Fox involved with looking-for-son Jane Asher, which — if not totally convincing — is at least as full of angst as the rest of the film.

(April 20, 7 p.m., Ghirardelli) M. Lasky

## Clementine Tango

The most interesting thing about *Clementine Tango* is Claire Pascal, the young actress with a Jeanne Moreau mouth who plays the title role. Through this innocent who turns out to be



Getting a Man with a Gun - Karen Young and Clayton Day on their first date in *Deep in the Heart*, showing Friday night in San Francisco International Film Festival.

his half-sister, Charles (Francois Helvey) is introduced to the mildly depraved world of a cabaret in Pigalle, Paris' answer to North Beach.

Bland, perennially overdressed and borderline handsome, Charles finds himself attracted to two performers in the show, Arturo, who "always knows people's thoughts," and Josephine. His real love, of course, is Clementine, but his bourgeois value system permits bisexuality before incest.

It sounds vaguely kinky and perhaps it is, but you're likely to grab a few winks between kinks, what with murky photography and intentionally tacky musical numbers.

Writer, director and co-star (as Charles' sister) Caroline Roboh seems to want to be gentle and naughty at the same time, and the result is as wearisome as Clementine herself, who only dances the tango, eventually grows.

There is something interesting about Roboh's obsession with threes. *Clementine* and Charles have an early *tete-a-tete* in a park where they're observed by a third (empty) chair. In a later conversation they are watched by a silent Arturo, who becomes the focal point of the scene. The chorus performs in threes and Charles eventually carries on off-

screen with both Arturo and Josephine.

I wouldn't write off the filmmaker, just the film.

(April 13, 9:30 p.m., April 14, Midnight, Castro) S. Warren

## Deep in the Heart

When guns are outlawed only filmmakers will have guns.

I'm for gun control and against rape, but the anger I felt at *Deep in the Heart* was not all for the right reasons.

Kathleen (Karen Young) moves from Boston to Dallas to get over an unhappy affair. She meets Larry (Clayton Day), a gun freak, on a blind date. A couple of dates later he rapes her at gunpoint. The police are sympathetic but counsel against prosecution, so Kathleen becomes a gun expert and plots her own revenge.

Playing against our expectations, the climax is not as satisfying as it should be. This is supposed to be a more serious version of *Sudden Impact*, but the characters are just as stereotypical and the issues equally black and white, though with a liberal twist. English writer-producer-director Tony Garnett makes Texas symbolize all the evils of machismo.

The revigored heroine is not a cock teaser, but she does play the old game of trying to get as much as she can (expensive dinners, etc.) while giving as little

(sexually) as possible in return. Karen Young is totally convincing but highly unappealing in the role. Clayton Day looks like Jon Voight and sounds like Jack Nicholson, but his laidback naturalism suggests one quailude too many.

*Deep in the Heart*'s in the right place, but it's not strong enough either as politics or entertainment.

(April 13, 7 p.m., Castro) S. Warren

## La Belle Captive

Alain Robbe-Grillet, director of the famous *Last Year at Marienbad*, is back with a film that is just as splendidly stylized and just as enigmatic.

*La Belle Captive* is the perfect film for a film festival. It's artsy. It's crafts. And it's completely bewildering to anybody but a Freudian analyst.

Using the surrealist painting by Magritte that gives the film its title as the foundation, the French director tries to translate a dream into a coherent story. There's sex, vampires, a mysterious brunette in black leather on a motorcycle, and lots of "what is real and what is dreamed" symbolism heaped out. With none of it making much sense, Robbe-Grillet should have called this film "My Heart Belongs to Dada."

(April 14, 9:30 p.m., Ghirardelli; repeated April 19 at Pacific Film Archive) M. Lasky

## Filmmaker Seeks Gay Dads for Project

Independent filmmaker Paul A. Sergio is producing a documentary about the problems of Gay fathers and is looking for Gay fathers, their wives, children and lovers who are interested in sharing their stories.

Sergio recently obtained funding for the Gay fathers documentary from several sources, including the Southeast Regional American Film Institute Awards.

Sergio achieved recognition last year for his Gay-themed documentary *Albert Tanzler*, produced for Bruce Geisler & Associates in Los Angeles. The 28-minute film, which told the story of a group of Gay teenagers "coming out" in a small Southern town, won top honors at the Telluride Short Film Search and the Chicago International Film

Festival.

In his upcoming production on *Gay Fathers*, Sergio said he hopes to portray a wide diversity of perspectives — including those of children now being raised by Gay fathers.

Through his presentation, Sergio hopes to challenge the notion that a homosexual household provides a limiting set of role model choices. Sergio will examine the precedent by recent California court decisions on custody rights for Gay fathers and will include interviews with social psychologists and activists attempting to improve the quality of life for Gay fathers.

Persons interested in sharing their views and life situations for the film should contact Sergio at (415) 563-0859.

## Where the Boys Are

But Where Are the Men?

Allan Carr paid for the title *Where the Boys Are* and threw the rest of the 1960 movie away. His new film by that name was no more "inspired by" the original than was last year's *Spring Break*. Both are about today's young heterosexuals spending their spring vacations in Fort Lauderdale.

(*Spring Break* was filmed in that city's main Gay hotel, the Marlin Beach; *Where the Boys Are* is based half a block away. Neither acknowledges the existence of Gays — we're not what they're about.)

Where the *Boys Are* is caught in a generational gap time warp, with production values associated with the films of another era. The script, for instance, is far more structured than most of today's teenploitation fodder; and director Hy Averback, whose work is more polished than most of this genre, probably has grandchildren in college by now.

According to one of the most inaccurate press kits I've ever read, the movie has "the surprise twist of telling the story from the girls' (sic) point of view." The 1960 version did the same thing. Surprise!

Lisa Hartman of "Knots Landing" is the star, and she's an appealing new talent with a wonderful laugh. She could be the new Yvette Mimieux (harking back to 1960), or better; but

## Hard to Hold

This Isn't Spinal Tap

By the time Patti Hansen tells Rick Springfield, "You got the cutest (ass) in the business" in *Hard to Hold*, we've already seen it three times. It is cute. It's also clean, because he's up to it in soap — the kind he used to deal with on "General Hospital."

There don't seem to be many plots available to singers making their film debuts, so Rick uses the same one Luciano Pavarotti did in *Yes, Giorgio* — a love affair in San Francisco with a woman who isn't into his music but learns to like it.

The woman is Janel Eilber, who looks like Faye Dunaway's younger, less talented sister. In fact, she looks more like Dunaway than some of the exterior shots look like San Francisco.

Springfield has about as much charisma as his records, which we see him trying to cut in several angst-ridden studio scenes between the concerts that open and close the film. (And have you ever heard of a major star giving concerts here two weeks apart in the middle of a tour?)

Most of the songs are played as background to dramatic scenes as the stars make love through the first half of the picture and Eilber cries through the second half while Springfield throws an occasional tantrum to prove he's still breathing.

The romantic chemistry doesn't work, the "inside look" at the creative process is silly and Rick Springfield is real short on star quality. When the word gets out, *Hard to Hold* is going to be hard to hold over.

(Royal, Serramonte) S. Warren

## Moscow on the Hudson

Robin's Bobbin' Along

Obviously written to the talents of Robin Williams, *Moscow on the Hudson* is a likable film, if not a totally successful one.

Directed by Paul Mazursky (*An Unmarried Woman*) the film builds to a dramatic climax in the middle, then coasts along on residual energy to the predictable ending.

Williams is a circus saxophonist

who, while his company is on tour in New York, defects at Bloomingdale's. He meets an Italian sales clerk (Maria Conchita Alonso) who supplies the romance, and a Black security guard (Cleavon Derricks) who supplies the street smarts that Williams needs as a refugee in a big, bad city.

The first 20 minutes are spent in bleak *Moscow*, complete with subtitles. Then it's to New York to escape, then it's learning how to survive, and live happily. Williams' characterization is alive and three-dimensional and it is his interactions with others that supplies the humor — and only then. There is genuine human warmth here, but mixed in with it are the unfortunate

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Robin Williams (r.) and Cleavon Derricks in *Moscow on the Hudson*.

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## One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzry

Monday, April 16: (Strand) *To Forget Venice* is a "must see" film. A man and

his handsome young lover visit his ailing sister. She lives with a Lesbian couple. A beautiful film about life, growing old, and death. Ernesto: In early twentieth century Italy, a young man has his first Gay experiences with a lusty laborer. Slow at times but a lot of fun.

Wednesday-Thursday, April 18-19: (Roxie) *Pixote* is 10 years old and lives on the streets in Brazil. He deals with — and in — drugs, gang rape, transvestites, and whores. Abuse is about a man making a documentary about child abuse who falls in love with the boy in his film. Special and hard-hitting.

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**FROM FIFTH POSITION**  
**Black Dance at the New  
 Performance Gallery**

KEITH WHITE

Dimensions Dance Theater of Oakland is a highly regarded Black dance company that, until recently, did not give performances in San Francisco. After seeing last weekend's program at the New Performance Gallery, I hope regular San Francisco engagements become firmly established.

There are limitless directions in which a Black dance company can work, from classical ballet (as in Dance Theatre of Harlem), to classic modern and jazz dance (in which the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre specializes) to more esoteric, "pure" ethnic forms, such as Afro-Caribbean and traditional African dance. Contemporary Black dance usually draws from all these sources with some distinguishing Black American cultural references: the choreography is more often than not

thematic rather than abstract, and there is in Black dance a propensity to set dances not only to popular music, but popular songs. With the sole exception of classical ballet, Dimensions' program includes all these styles.

Two works choreographed by members of Dimensions' staff opened the program on a decidedly positive note. Deborah Vaughan's *This Day* (to the music of Rodney Franklin, Ramsey Lewis, and Con Funk Shun) is a jazzy, up-beat curtain-raiser for the full company. An extremely talented dancer/choreographer, Cheryl Becks, made a sensitive duet for herself and another woman (Matema Hadi) on themes of sisterhood and natural awareness.

From New York, choreographer Fred Benjamin's *Left Over Wine* explores, in turn, solidarity, personal isolation, and sex-

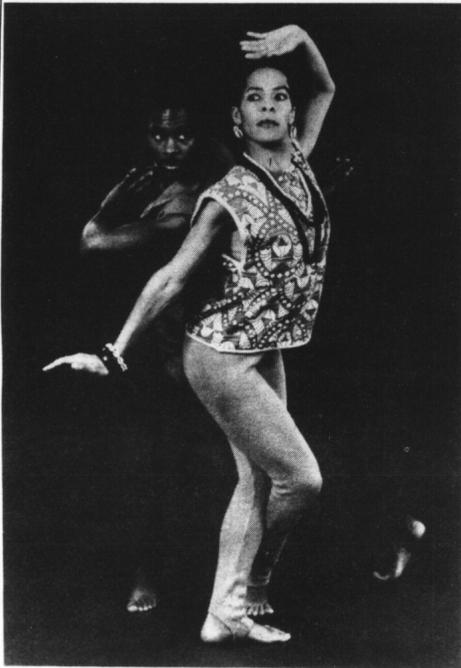
ual aliveness in a rich and dramatic modern dance idiom, to songs of Ashford & Simpson, Dionne Warwick, and Labelle.

An interlude by the company percussionists, in authentic costumes, momentarily stole the show. I have read that African slaves were brought to America were forbidden to bring drums with them because the noise of the drums disturbed staid plantation households. A theater performance of African drummers is indeed an irresistibly kinetic energy, as well as a powerful demonstration of a cultural heritage reclaimed. This dynamic energy permeates Dimensions, and watching the company became an experience of progressive awakening to an exuberant, heightened state of involvement.

Guest choreographer Garth Fagan's *Yesterday/Yesternow* was an ambitious premiere which probably suffered from its staging (in isolated sections, rather than being continuous or in overlapping movements as Benjamin's *Left Over Wine* is arranged) and by the cloudiness of its thematic development. The new dance begins with typical symbols of "urban survival;" dancers rushing across the stage like nervous automatons, glancing at their watches and mumbling through rush hour. The theme of urban survival was gradually displaced by another musical selection (Abdula Ibrahim) and pure dance elements, including a hit solo for Ulysses Cooperwood. But the beginning and end of the dance look as though they might belong to two different works. The lack of continuity loses the focus established at the beginning.

A traditional West African dance, *Kakilambe*, closed the program. A celebration of the art of healing, according to the program notes, the dance action centers around a young girl who is placed under a spell by a mischievous forest spirit and subsequently healed by the "kakilambe." The young girl freed from the spell, the villagers celebrate by dancing Mandiani. The dancing is accompanied by the five company drummers and the singing of the drummers and the dancers themselves.

*Kakilambe* woke me up from a few too many ballet performances, and I would recommend it to any reader who feels he is now, or may become, under a spell. For energy and vitality, for the rare, exotic experience of traditional African dance in addition to some very good contemporary Black dance, see Dimensions Dance Theater during one of its future San Francisco engagements.



Cheryl Becks and Anthony King in the Dimensions Dance Theatre's *Yesterday/Yesternow* choreographed by Garth Fagan. (Photo: H. Wade)

**FILM CLIPS**

**Romancing the Stone**

Raiders of the Lost Ark

How often have you dreamed of a tall, gallant stranger saving you from some ruthless marauder and then sweeping you off your feet and taking you off into the sunset? For romance novelist Kathleen Turner, whose purple prose is as excessive as her imagination, it's a dream that happily concludes each of her bestselling paperbacks. But when her sister is kidnapped in Columbia, South America, she is forced to live out one of her far-fetched plots to ransom her sister to safety.

*Romancing the Stone* takes this what-if premise — what if a romance novelist lived one of her fantasy plots for real — and turns it into a high adventure-comedy romp through the dense jungles, mudslides, waterfalls, and alligator pits of South America. Saved from a cutthroat policeman by bounty hunter Michael Douglas, Turner then is forced to face the slimy American antiquity thieves who have abducted her sister. All they want is the map she possesses that will lead them to a fortune — not a lost ark but a

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN



Michael Douglas (r.) and Kathleen Turner in *Romancing the Stone*.

buried treasure, a gargantuan gemstone.

The dialogue is crisp and the action is nonstop. Turner is perfect as the damsel in distress and Douglas fits in just right as the foul-mouthed bounty hunter. Resoundingly entertaining.

*Romancing the Stone* is a movie-movie that is as much fun as the film it will be most compared to, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Like that one, *Romancing the Stone* will make pots of money and lots of people happy.  
 (Galaxy) M. Lasky

**TALES OF TESSI TURA**

**Classics Illustrated**

GEORGE HEYMONT

Capturing the essence of an operatic work is a bit like trying to nail down a will-o'-the-wisp. Various subtleties and nuances in the text and music are subject to the personal whims and subjective viewpoints of the interpreter (ideas which often stray from any thought processes that may have gone through the composer's mind during the initial creative process). In most cases the composer is no longer alive, leaving one with grave doubts that any single interpreter can ever be sure of hitting a bull's-eye.

Various efforts to distill the great works of literature and then package and deliver their essence to the masses have proven to be quite mystifying. As a child I always wondered how a 500-page text could be boiled down to the size of a Classics Illustrated comic book. In college I stood in awe of those students who swore by the publishers of Cliff Notes and never felt it necessary to read the author's original as assigned to them. Later, however, when I started to develop an interest in opera, I discovered the handy joys of the operatic plot synopsis. Quickly realizing that many libretti ranged between the mechanical and the ridiculous, I decided to let the music speak directly to my soul instead.

**WORKING A NEW CORNER**

A subject of fairly heated controversy in New York this season has been the Peter Brook production of *La Tragedie de Carmen* (adapted from Bizet's opera and camped out on the thrust stage of the Vivian Beaumont Theatre in Lincoln Center). Predictably enough, the operatic musicologists unanimously loathed the production. Those coming into the auditorium and looking at Brook's concept (conceit?) from a theatrical perspective, however, embraced the director's manipulation of the music and text with open and eager arms.

Having sat through enough boring productions of *Carmen* in past years I had no trouble at all responding to Brook's interpretation of the work. Given the basic understanding that this production represented one man's attempt to condense a four-hour opera into a 90-minute scenario, the evening in question was obviously not the occasion to quibble about such details as reduced orchestrations or changes in plot structure. Instead, I chose to approach Brook's interpretation as if he had pulled the handle on a Las Vegas slot machine named *Carmen*. In a brief enough period of time, some oranges, bells, and cherries went whizzing by with a clackety-clack that sounded something like Bizet's music. The end product was a diversion which entranced and excited me, forcing me to give more serious thought to underlying layers of the *Carmen* legend than I had for quite some time. As with many a Chinese dinner,

however, I was hungry again the next morning.

Although some moments were less successful than others, there was much in this production worth applauding. Peter Puzo's impassioned Don Jose and Cynthia Clary's feisty gypsy steered clear of the standard operatic posturings. Certainly, Alain Maratrat's earthy Lillas Pastia proved strong, comic relief. Alas, Jake Gardner's Escamillo sounded strained and looked like a pudgy bar-mitzvah boy with a very pinchable tush who had been crammed into his cousin's tereador costume from the previous Halloween.

The novelty for many in the audience (especially those sitting on cushions) was their immediacy to the stage and the singers. Perhaps this is new to New Yorkers but it's been happening in regional theatres, particularly at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, for many years. Mr. Brook's production is fascinating when judged on its own set of strengths and weaknesses. But my guess is that Bizet will outlast him.

**UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE**

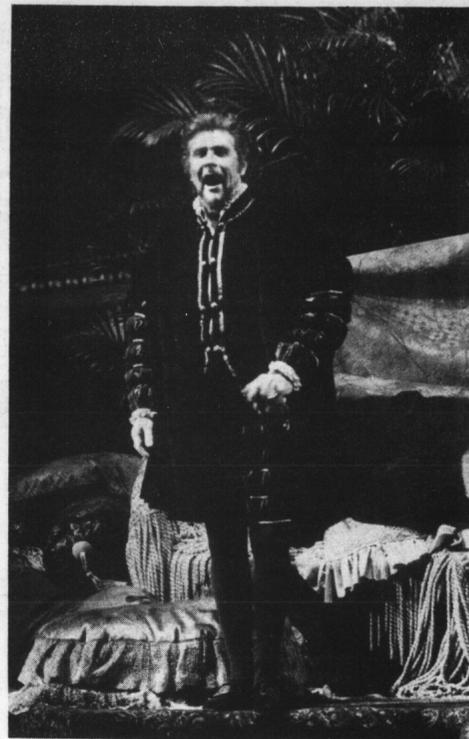
Rather than break new ground, the Metropolitan Opera chose to whiplash its artistic way back into the past with Pier Luigi Samaritani's new production of *Ernani*. Clinging to the Met's posture as an operatic museum, the creative forces in the house seemed hell-bent on adding dust to existing skeletons rather than displaying them with any new nuances or perceptions. Although James Levine's conducting pumped a great deal of fire into Verdi's score, one

had to accept the monstrous sets and laughable entrances as they were and settle for a night of stand-and-clutch singing.

There were some ludicrous moments, to be sure. Elvira's Act II apartment was decorated just a tad more subtly than the Madonna Inn and looked about as intimate as Shea Stadium. During Act III, as the chorus draped itself around the massive curved staircase which leads to Charlemagne's tomb, my friend Ed expressed some severe doubts that, back in the good old days, a cardinal would have been left standing in the back of the crowd for very long. But opera, particularly in some of Verdi's earlier works, demands a suspension of belief. How frightfully on target Anna Russell was when she quipped, "That's the wonderful thing about grand opera. You can get away with absolutely anything as long as you sing about it!"

That leaves us with the singing which, on the night I attended, slowly improved from frighteningly mediocre to honestly commendable. The first act started poorly, with both Luciano Pavarotti and Leona Mitchell sounding strained. As a result, Sherrill Milnes and Ruggero Raimondi walked off with the show. Milnes, in particular, sounded magnificent, his awesome baritone filling the house with its rich, masculine tones. By the end of the evening the tenor had pulled it together and was singing well. Showing few reserves on which she can fall back, I fear Miss Mitchell is in way over her head. The soprano's once creamy and luscious voice is beginning to sound frayed at an early age.

During intermission I bumped into an apprentice who had been in my master class at the Santa Fe Opera this past summer. Unemployed, and



Verdi with Potted Palms. Don Carlo (Sherrill Milnes) bellows for room service in Elvira's suite in the Met's new production of *Ernani*.

smoking cigarettes like a house on fire, the young man snickered, "God, isn't it awful? Even I could sing that music better than Raimondi." We talked for a while about money and career problems and then, gently, I reminded him of the wisdom behind Bette Midler's sassy retort

to audience hecklers: "Shut your hole, honey. Mine's making money!"

It's a philosophy which seems to lie at the core of producing certain museum pieces — like the Met's *Ernani*.

G. Heymont

The Inter-Club Fund Of San Francisco  
**PRESENTS**

**CASUALTY CAPERS 1984**



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# BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

## FITNESS EIGHTIES

### It's Time to Shape Up, So We Size-Up the Gyms

*Intrepid Reporter Works It On Out in Four of City's Pump Rooms*

by Paul Trefzger

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Fitness columnist Paul Trefzger is sizing up the gyms. In his first foray into the pump rooms, Paul examined programs — and worked through routines — at four gyms: The Central YMCA, Pacific Heights Health Club, the Club San Francisco, and the City Athletic Club. His examination of the Y and Pacific Heights follows. His look at the Club San Francisco and the City Athletic Club will appear next issue. Also appearing next issue will be a chart comparing services and equipment offered at the four gyms.

Stay tuned to the Sports and Fitness page — in the coming months, Paul will be visiting other Bay Area gyms.

This may indeed be the Fitness Eighties, but quite a few people are still — in a closeted sort of way — turned off when they hear friends or acquaintances talk about "sets" and "reps" and "lats" and "deltoids." Bor-ring, you say?

Interested in losing weight, cardiovascular exercise (aerobics, running, swimming, bicycling) and proper diet beats the hell out of weightlifting. Also I was told that "spot reducing" — for example, sit-ups for the stomach — is a myth. To quote Jamie, "Cardiovascular exercise burns fat. Bodybuilding strengthens and/or builds the muscle underneath." His nutritional advice will probably come as no sur-

prised at the ambience of the Central YMCA. In the early 1970's it might have best been described as "primitive." Now, with well-lit workout areas, wall-to-wall modern carpeting, lowered ceilings, recessed lighting, expanded shower and locker room space, it rivals "trendy" spas.

are after a clean-looking, toned physique. Also, they're becoming aware that it's just good health and they're getting enjoyment out of it. It's also social. I'm glad to see health clubs are replacing less healthy environments. Gyms are the social places of the Eighties.

"A common misconception or rather, problem is that people try to do too much too fast. There is a danger of injury. Also some people work too hard and wind up hating it and quit. Some won't bother asking for help and then, with no direction, don't know what to do. They flounder and become disenchanted. Some don't take the time to learn the exercise right and then don't get results. All they have to do is ask one of us."

Of seasoned members who may be using bad form Jamie said, "Everybody gets into bad habits. Some people who have been exercising for years might not be open to advice and may be doing something wrong. You should check with an instructor at many points. What really gives me satisfaction is to design a program and see it work. The person understands it, can see results and appreciate the fact that they know what they're doing and why. That's a satisfied customer, and I get my benefits and rewards. The Y is starting a class for beginners called 'Y's Way to Fitness' at 12:05 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday."

I think that most readers might be surprised at the ambience of the Central YMCA. In the early 1970's it might have best been described as "primitive." Now, with well-lit workout areas, wall-to-wall modern carpeting, lowered ceilings, recessed lighting, expanded shower and locker room space, it rivals "trendy" spas.

## Pacific Heights Health Club

Craig Enyart, 28, is the manager of Pacific Heights Health Club, 2356 Pine Street. He's from Dayton, Ohio, attended Florida State University, and was a swimmer in high school and college. His main fitness trainer is Tom Hanson, who attended the University of Wisconsin, where he ran track, played tennis, and had a degree in Psychology and Business. He has been in California three years.

Immediately upon entering the PHHC one is impressed with its modern and tasteful luxury. Wood, stainless steel, mirrors — the plants, the furnishings, and the wall-coverings look as if they came from the pages of *Architectural Digest*. There is a large, retractable ceiling, and the outside air on a nice day adds to the feeling of being at a resort spa. Make no mistake, though. This is Pacific Heights — and with the yearly fee and limited membership, you may consider yourself a part of something unique. Tom Hanson told me, "We're the Wilkes-Bashford of fitness centers, not K-Mart."

He went on, "The whole point behind a health club is service. We have a personal approach. We know everybody's name. No one's a number. We want to be a unique facility in offering individual attention. Anyone can get an instructor to go through (the use of the machines) with



Jamie Starmer runs the indoor track at the YMCA. (Photo: Rink).

you at all times."

Enyart added, "We specialize in physical fitness programming which incorporates aerobic conditioning and muscle conditioning. A person can lift weights without working the heart. Our 'life cycle (stationary adjustable bicycles) program' is truly aerobic. Aerobics literally means 'air.' We look at it as working your heart at its maximum training zone — so many beats per minute for a sustained period of time. The general public doesn't know about this."

Harmon went on to what he would do if he saw a "regular" member using incorrect form on a machine. "I might say, 'How are you doing tonight? You know, you might get better results if . . . or I might say, 'I have a recommendation . . . Communication is important. If you put your hips back, you are less likely to hurt yourself. And then there are people who want to be left alone."

Again, I was informed that the most common misconception is that a person expects "that they can get it done really quick. They expect bulging biceps in a week."

"We offer nutritional counseling, too. You have to combine diet and exercise. We also let them know that it's fun." Harmon said that at the onset, measurements are taken and then taken again later. "I can remember all my clients and I know what, in particular, they are working on. This one particular guy works on his legs. Well, I'll ask him how his legs are doing and comment on his suntan (PHHC has a 'state of the art suntan solarium'). It's great to see people coming in after a while, in shape, wearing different kinds of clothes, talking more, a different attitude. Companies should sponsor memberships for their employees." Indeed, Tom.

Enyart and Harmon were especially proud of their "free towel service." A friendly man named "Riko" will keep you supplied.

Castro vs. Boystown

## First Inter-City Gay Basketball Game

*Gay Bands Will Perform at Half-Time*

The San Francisco Gay Men's Basketball Team and the Los Angeles Gay Men's Basketball Team will meet in the nation's first inter-city Gay basketball game at Fairfax High School Gymnasium on April 14. The action will begin at 8 PM with a pre-game show.

The event is being produced by the Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles and sponsored by San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

The two teams first met in the '82 Gay Games in San Francisco. The rematch will establish the game as an annual event.

The SF team will travel to LA with their cheerleaders, the Hayward Raw Rabs, and the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps. The Sisters will also be on hand to help with the cheers and to provide appropriate blessings.

The Campers will serve as cheerleaders for the LA team, with performances by the Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles and The Rebels flag corps. The Los

Angeles team will be outfitted in regulation basketball uniforms bought by the LA Gay Band. Along with marching entertainment by the two bands, the half-time will feature the crowning of a homecoming queen and king. Candidates for king will be sponsored by local bars and gyms. Aspiring queens will be promoted by the Courts of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Security at the game will be handled by the Los Angeles Gay Wrestling Team.

A post-game victory party (no matter who wins) will be held at the Transfer in West LA.

Fans are encouraged to come in their high school or college sweaters and jackets.

Tickets are on sale at A Different Light bookstore in Silverlake and at the West Hollywood Mail and Message Service in the French Market Place. For phone orders, call (213) 656-0258, extension 58.

Admission is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Proceeds from the game will go to support the participating organizations. ■



The San Francisco Gay Olympic Basketball team travels to L.A. this weekend for the Big Game. (Photo: Rink)

## G.T.F. TEAM TENNIS

### It's 'One Love' — Tennis — As Fourth Season Opens

by Les Balmain

The fourth season of Gay tennis begins this weekend. Shawn Kelly, president of the San Francisco Gay Tennis Federation, said, "Although tennis is an individual sport, we have successfully maintained an interest in the team concept by having all teams formed with players of comparable ability, so that each team may compete on an equal basis." This has been accomplished by having each team composed of six players with two "A" players, two "B" players, and two "C" players.

There are nine teams lined up for the 1984 season. Five returning sponsors this year are: Ivy's, the 1983 Champion (Captain Bill Fisher); Community Rentals, the 1982 Champion (Captain Tom Kelly); The Bear (Captain German Arias); The Pilsner Inn (Captain Dan Hartuff); and Gay Sports (Captain David Lewis). The four new sponsors are: Atlas Savings & Loan (Captain Neil Johnson); Nella/Schmidt Insurance (Captain Joe McDonald); Roto Rooter (Captain Jay Moore); and The White Swallow (Captain Bobby Do-

cena). A round-robin among the nine teams is scheduled every other weekend, to be played on the courts at 15th Street and Lower Buena Vista Terrace. The top four teams will play off for the Championship in August. The schedule for this week:

Saturday, 9 a.m.: Pilsner Inn vs. Ivy's; 11:30 a.m.: Atlas vs. Community Rentals.

Sunday, 9 a.m.: Gay Sports vs. Nella/Schmidt; 11:30 a.m.: Roto Rooter vs. White Swallow; Bye, The Bear.

A kick-off party for "Team Tennis 1984" will be held at the Mint, 1942 Market Street, at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15, to introduce the team tennis sponsors and team players to the membership. All GTF members and their guests are invited.

For information and membership application, contact Ken Wells, Secretary, 221-0458; or write The Gay Tennis Federation, 2215-R Market Street, Suite 109, San Francisco, CA 94114. ■

## SCOREBOARD

### TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES TEAM STANDINGS

S.F. WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE (SUNDAY)  
(Week 23 of 28 - as of 3/25/84)  
League Average: 692

1. Peg's	26	10
2. Mable's of S.F.	25	11
3. Cole Valley Graphics	24 1/2	11 1/2
4. Artemis II	24	12
5. Rub a Dub Scrub	21	15
6. Mona Tong Realty	20	16
7. No Money Down	19	13
8. Artemis I	16	20
9. Maud's Squad	13 1/2	18 1/2
10. Amelia's	9	27
11. You See Flowers	8	27
12. Natural Snacks	5	31

League Average: 708

1. Renegade Dance Bar 59 1/2 28 1/2

2. Grand Central Sta. 59 29

3. Park Bowl 56 32

4. Men's Room 55 33

5. Twin Peaks 54 34

6. Pendulum #1 50 38

7. 4 Aces & a Spade 49 39

8. Pilsner Pick-Ups 48 40

9. Stables Also 46 42

10. New Image 44 44

11. Body Center 44 44

12. The Sus-spencers 43 45

13. S.F. Gym 43 45

14. The Deluxe 41 47

15. Eagle Creek Saloon 40 1/2 47 1/2

16. Perfect Pats 40 1/2 47 1/2

17. Cryst Spring-glators 38 50

18. Stables 35 53

19. Ethel Mertz Memri 34 1/2 53 1/2

20. The Galleon 34 54

21. Pilsner I 31 57

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# BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

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## BLACK LASHES

### Give Me a Break

KARL STEWART

Sunday CMC led the crazies in a complicated, but frolicsome day of games and drinking during its annual Tax Break Run. The kickoff took place at Febe's with cocktails and a list of stops with a tax form to fill out as we traveled along. The price was \$3.99, which Matt Brown redeemed in pennies, much to Choix's consternation.

Next stop was the Arena for another drink with Stella and a W2 form disclosing one's income. (I wish it were true.) Found out there that hunky dark Mark is now strutting the boards at Castro Station.

Bike and Buddy events took place under the freeway near Third St. The bitter chill wind was slightly disadvantageous, but Jonni Valle (Prez-SFGDI's) still won top laurel for Buddy Rider, as Warlock chieftain Jim Holtham was hailed best rider of the day.

Chaps next took the cold away

and gave us a tax exemption or addition as Mr. Gay Michael Bowman dodged darts. Each drink purchase cost a buck or less and brought another \$100 tax exemption; obviously a cast iron constitution helps on these intown runs.

A sunny Eagle beer bust was the last stop where the guys opened a set of people events (matching baby CMC's with adult photos). David Shawood was best at this.

All this activity was computed by four tax auditors. Picture Bruce Ann kneeling before Marcus and Greg O'Shell gesticulating at Jim Cvitanich. Enough said. The day ended with a soup kitchen of fragrant Chillimac and an auction of Steven Smith's handywork, a leather hood. Matt Brown purchased it for Remy so she can muscle Rich at court meetings. Highest taxes of the day were paid by Jack Smith, who received a pot to piss in and

a window to throw it out of. Frank Harper paid the least, which garnered a stereo cassette player and a big hug from David S. (he probably would have got the hug anyway ???). If all this sounds like fun, The Warlocks will offer an Easter Run next week. Perhaps we'll see Marlena on the back of a bike again?

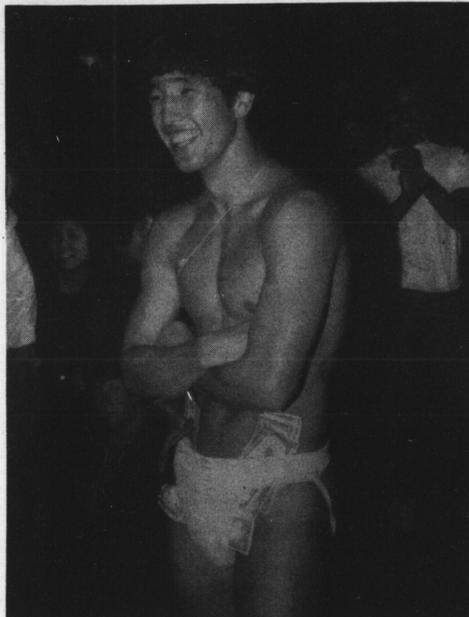
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Last week Skip and Randy of Febe's hosted a showing of Men Behind Bars, Jim Cvitanich's incredible live variety show which gave birth to such popular entertainment specialty acts as the Four Skins of Castro Station and the Ambush Belly Dancers. The showing was to further benefit Shanti, as did the original production. Between the festive crowd and the late arriving SFGDI's, the evening raised more than \$600, putting the grand total close to \$11,000. What made this evening special was a performance by the Golden Gate Dixieland Band with Skip at the helm. Ken, Wes, Skip, Jim, Steve and Rich gave their all for our brothers afflicted with AIDS. Febe's manager, Jack Frost, while being an unassuming gent, has brought a great deal of stability to the oldest leather bar on the track.

\*\*\*

The Eagle will celebrate its third anniversary this week. JC will offer a variety of well-planned events for you leather connoisseurs. Tonight Dick Wheeler and Ed Burns will be receiving at an art opening of oils and photos (respectively, in the early eve. Friday and Saturday are just for fun. Sunday the ICF (Inter Club Fund) will host a "Brunch Beer Bust" for a thin fin. Time is 3 to 6 p.m. and if you haven't experienced an Eagle Sunday, the men are not to be believed. This is a pre-Casualty Capers event — an MC variety show mounted April 21 at Cal/Hall to raise funds for grants to members of the motorcycle community who are in need.

Sunday also happens to be JC's 50th birthday and we'll see



Al, winner of the End-Up Jock Strap Contest, is a swimmer and a lifeguard. (Photo: Rink)

guests from all over the land including the Oedipus MC of LA and the LA "press corps" from Compass.

Monday will be Eagle pin night, and if you happen to possess all Eagle pins and wear them Tuesday, you will receive a special 4th pin. Wednesday at precisely 5:18 p.m. (earthquake time) we will view Jeanette in San Francisco on the new big screen.

## CRYSTAL LASHES

Real sweethearts are hard to come by, but the MC/court folks honored one of 'em last week. Trixie Trash, otherwise known as Scot Langley of the SFGDI's celebrated his 38th birthday (seems to be a popular age to be this year) at the Men's Room

with a riotous party. Hosted ably by his vicious stepsister Parkay (I spelled it right this time) and Tom Way. The kids were roasting and tossing those cocktails down. This was Chuck E's first event as manager of the Little Castro humidor. His star bartender, Jeff Jackson, who's known for his fan club T-shirts and smooth style, was assisted by none other than Empress Remy. Ms. Remy (also in a Jeff T) barbacked earnestly the entire evening; raising the suspicion that we may have the first "working" Empress in years. Aiding in the roast was Dorothy Duster (also a Men's Room plunker) and Gran Duck Edie, who reminded us of Trixie's little tent (with the big wigs), which rocked violently during the early AM's

(Continued on next page)



Let's Dance. Contestants of the End Up's Jock Strap Contest last weekend strut their stuff. From left to right: Notorious George; Devon, 2nd place; Michael, 3rd place; Al, 1st place and Danny, 4th place. (Photo: Rink)

## RIVETS

### In the Key of Love, Maestro

TOM ROGERS

A theme that I often make reference to in this space is the brotherhood that binds leathermen together. It's always been very real to me, if for no other reason than the recognition one leatherman accords another when they pass on the street. I've discussed this brotherhood as it's practiced between members of our clubs as a primary illustration — both within each club and between the clubs themselves. We've all experienced it to one degree or another when we collect to party at our favorite bars.

But something is happening So/M that is exceeding the levels of brotherhood as I've described it in earlier reports. The energy level has intensified — our shoulders seem to be closer together. Without sacrificing our lust for one another or our general lust for fun, and in fact building this new intensity with those categories of lust intact, we have really begun to love one another. It's not just the kind of love built of temporary sympathy for victims of a calamity such as the Folsom Street Fire, or the longer-lasting medical crisis of AIDS — although both have served as catalysts for the kind of teamwork that illustrates how much a community we are. This is not to deny that the omnipresence of AIDS among us hasn't guided us in the direction I see us headed. It is, in fact, the widening realization among us of every leatherman's vulnerability to that disease that has caused us to transcend dilettante compassion for those among us who've already fallen victim. It's not merely fear that moves us to love, but a greater regard for the value of ourselves and one another. We've begun to regard one another with far greater respect and care than merely *simpatico* Saturday night partners. We see far fewer leathermen standing in our bars throwing out "macho" attitude and more of them willing to include a smile and a handshake as part of their display of leather-clad masculine beauty.

Another manifestation of my point is the way leathermen have been willing to spend and/or donate their hard-earned bucks at charity fundraising events. A few weeks ago, when 350 of San Francisco's most generous leathermen sacrificed an evening with Joan Collins *et al* on the Dynasty cast to attend the Mr. South of Market Contest — paying \$10 a head to do so — I was impressed: That sacrifice itself would normally be news — real headliner material, considering the popularity of that TV series. The real news of that evening, already well-documented in this and other publications, was that more than \$9,000 was collected for donation to the S.F. AIDS Fund and the Ward 5B Patients' Fund; and that Michael Merriott, popular fundraiser and contest winner, will represent the Arena in Chicago next month with yet another title under his belt: that of Mr. South of Market.

For the benefit of those who haven't been counting, this fundraiser is the fourth in a series of ever-expanding events sponsored by Interchain (under the local leadership of Alan Selby) and a host bar. In this case, Chaps stepped in as co-host, with Chuck Slaton at the helm. Many, many more people and businesses participated to, in some way, make this event the fantastic success it was. Like-

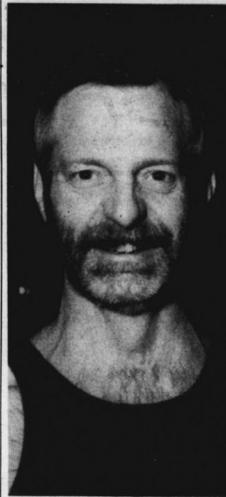
wise, many people and businesses were responsible for helping Tony Trivizio, CMC Road Captain, pull together the successful fundraiser at the SF Eagle the week previous to the Mr. South of Market Contest. The temptation to name even some of them to accord public recognition they all deserve is very strong. Space limitations and fairness remind me, however, that my original point is that we're all beginning to love on a level that transcends desire for publicity as a motive for openly showing that love. Besides, that list would have to include all those beautiful men who attended as donor/guests.

To those in the community who've donated money and/or merchandise to the various AIDS-oriented charities on the blind faith that those charities are worthy and useful, I'm in a unique position to be able to reassure you. My position as a reporter and donor looking at AIDS efforts from the outside was reversed in February when I was diagnosed as having AIDS and some related diseases. Besides providing counseling and seminars of hope, the SF AIDS Fund has provided a comfortable environment at the AIDS Clinic for outpatient visitors. It's a veritable oasis of beauty and comfort in a building that houses other clinics decorated in early Mission High School scrawl. In spite of the fact that I have a lover to live for, when I was told I had AIDS, a shroud of hopelessness of certain and possibly imminent death descended over my psyche. Enter duty Shanti counselor, who virtually carried me through the process of checking into the hospital, all the while giving me safe space to experience and express my fears. Through subsequent counseling from him and Shanti counselors on duty on Ward 5B, in combination with medical information from doctors and the highly competent and empathetic RN's who work on the ward, I began to realize I had a fighting chance to live through this disease in spite of the grim statistics that the loss of many of our friends have created. There have been other sources of strength as well. There's been Marty Cox, himself a KS victim, who refuses to just lie down and die. He delivers the *Chronicle* and the *Sunday Examiner* every day of the week to each patient on the ward and to the outpatients living in quarters set up by the Health Crisis Support System of which he is the last surviving founding Board member. There is the AIDS/KS Foundation of SF whose hotline, pamphlets, and lobbying efforts have helped secure the attention necessary in government to launch research and treatment programs. All these organizations and the people who have committed their time and energy to make them work, give me and many like me the support system so important to our goals of turning those grim statistics around.

One final reason (again, aside from the fact that I have a lover to live for) that I feel the brotherhood we all share has intensified is the report that more and more leathermen are coming to the ward to visit friends. I know the cards, flowers, candies, fruit baskets, and visitors I've had fill my room while hospitalized have made me feel enveloped in love in much the same way that I see all of us enveloping one another. We'll never find a better way to be strong.

## Eagle Bartender Loses AIDS Battle

by Karl Stewart



Dennis Yount (Photo: Karl)

South of Market lost one of its trojans last Saturday when Dennis Yount succumbed to tuberculosis complicated by AIDS, KS, and anemia about 3 p.m. His friend/roommate Ron, also an SF Eagle bartender, was at his side, as he was throughout Dennis's long struggle with the costly disease.

Yount was born in North Carolina and attended North Carolina University at Columbia before entering the Marines. He achieved distinction when he was named to the Presidential Honor Guard during the Kennedy years. Dennis stood guard at the JFK bier in the Capitol rotunda.

Dennis moved about in the late '60s, but settled in New York City in 1970. He became one of the Big Apple's favorite bartenders and worked at Trilogy in The Village for a very long time. Yount's original reason for choosing NYC was to pursue an acting/singing career, which eluded him most of the time. He also did some modeling there.

Mr. Yount moved to San Francisco in 1980 where he achieved popularity in the Eagle, not only as a fine bartender, but as a refined and sensitive man who gave his compassion freely to those around him. He pursued his acting here by holding roles in two world premieres, *Delivery and Sunsets*. It was in *Sunsets*, where he starred opposite John Ponyman (also dead of AIDS, last month), that Dennis achieved critical acclaim. John and Dennis's powerful nude wrestling scene at the end of the play had So/M aroused for months.

Dennis had many friends on both coasts. Those who knew him well were enriched by his loving and bright gifts. Safe journey home, Dennis.

## LASHES

(Continued from previous page)

at the BC's run last year. The outpouring of affection in love, flowers (bouquet upon bouquet) and gifts was an offering by the community and was well deserved. But it didn't stop there. The gang migrated to the Village where Forum Prez Bill Wood and a Mr. Gay bidder, Bruce Herrelson, ended the evening with a friendly wrestling match on the floor.

\*\*\*

The End Up is a favorite haunt for 6 a.m. gallivants and Jerry Semas' famous Jock Strap Contest, but little more. It made a splendid setting for the Grand Duck Ken and his Sable to fulfill one of their royal obligations; the Bunny Contest. Mr. 'N' Miss Bunny is a long-standing function which is a vehicle for the royal couple to raise money for charity, in this case \$1,300 for guide dogs for the deaf. To bring this home, Ralph (SPCA) and Penny (dog) demonstrated the skills of such a companion.

The show, which accompanied the contest, brought two special acts: Including the return of Sister Woman, who has been on tour in such exotic stops as Winnitka. (On this particular sunny Saturday she brought us "Disco Down" complete with a break dancing bridge, white woman style.) And the King and Queen of Hearts (SF), Bucky and Crystal, were also there, dressed in red and white space gear. The contest was preceded by a week or so of candidates offering tickets/votes for sale, with the proceeds going towards the charity. Celebrities were asked to contribute Easter baskets for a raffle, the most clever of which was Miss Piggy's. It offered pork and beans, pork shake 'n bake, pork rind and other Easter favorites. Miss Piggy is the protest politician of the court system and revealed for the first time that it was the Easter Pig that first dropped the Easter Egg witnessed by her hat. The winners and top ticket salespeople were: Mr. Bunny, Leonard (who has switched from Mr. Gay to Grand Duke Candidate), and Miss Bunny, the Alexis of Jones St., Darlene. In another raffle, Queen of Hearts (No/Cal) Chris, rode away on a pink moped that matched her floor length ball gown.

Until next time, I'll see you at the Eagle.

K. Stewart

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# PRISON PEN-PALS:

## The Men Who Write the Prisoners

by Mike Hippler

"Now you listen to me, damnit," I said, hard and low. "You're gonna do exactly what I say, aintcha?" I twisted his tits again.

"A-ah," he groaned. "Oh . . . yes."

"Say 'sir' to me," I said savagely, stepping on his hand hard enough to crack a bone.

A sharp yelp. "Ow-u," he said. "Yes, sir!"

I took my foot off his hand. He picked it up and shook it and looked at it. His eyes were wet. "That hurt," he said.

I backhanded him across the cheek. Five months of the drudgery of prison were in the blow. "Just the beginning," I said happily. "You gonna behave?"

"Oh yes, Sir," he added hastily as I raised my arm. He started to get up. I pushed him. He was off balance and sprawled back on the cement. I swung my leg to stand over him, straddling his body. Then I reached for my belt and started pulling it out of the loops. His eyes opened wide.

"Can't do a helluva lot in here," I said, snapping the belt-end out. "But we can manage a little. It's the thought that counts."

Ed McMillan, who has never been in jail himself, is one of many Gay men who have had fantasies like this, and he candidly admits that those prison fantasies were one of the main reasons he decided to respond to a letter in the B.A.R. from an inmate asking for a pen pal. "Truthfully," he says, "there is a drama, a romanticism, a mystery about writing to someone who is incarcerated. Besides, physically I'm into beards, and the description of this particular prisoner in his ad attracted me."

Very soon after he started corresponding, however, Ed's interest in his pen pal changed. "Oh, at first there was a lot of fantasy involved, but that got less and less. I liked the idea of helping someone, and I felt I was helping him." The fantasy element soon disappeared altogether,

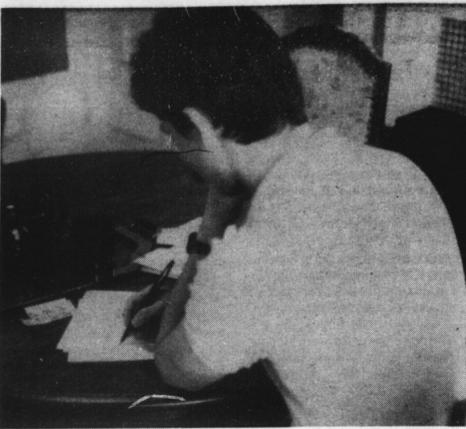
and Ed found himself genuinely concerned about and involved with a flesh-and-blood human being, not an idealized fantasy figure from an improbable porn story.

Ed has been writing to his friend, a 24-year-old named Doug who is an inmate at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, for over six months now and has learned a great deal about him through their letters. He trusts Doug completely and believes that Doug's desire for a pen pal is a genuine one and not part of some self-serving scam. (He realizes, of course, that not all prisoner requests for pen pals are legitimate.) One reason for this trust is that Doug has been open with Ed. "Whatever questions you'd like to ask, please feel free," Doug wrote to Ed, and Ed asked many. He found out that

Doug was put in jail for insurance fraud and has been in for two years. He was once married but separated from his wife long ago. He has only recently come out and now has a lover in prison, a man named Regi. His mother is the only one besides Ed who cares enough to write.

"Although I've asked him what he needs, he never asks for anything," Ed continues. "He only wants friendship, correspondence, and information." Consequently, Ed has sent him clippings from the paper about Gay life, most of it positive. He has also sent him books for Christmas. In return, Doug has sent Ed a picture of him and his lover. Mainly, however, their relationship is built not upon gifts but upon the thoughts and feelings which they share with one another. Occasionally Doug will ask Ed for advice about his relationship with Regi, and Ed, who likes to think that he knows something about relationships, is glad that he can help.

What's in it for Ed? "It's helped me a lot to write to Doug," he says. "It's helped me to look at the advantages I have and at the things I can do. It's also helped me to think about where I am in the Gay community and what I'm doing. I really look forward to his letters." Ed notes that although they have never met, he would like to visit Doug in prison soon. He is also willing to help Doug once he gets out of prison in November, al-



Reading a letter behind bars. (Photo: Rink)

though he may not be able to help much, for Doug will probably not be paroled to San Francisco. In the meantime, he will continue to write, grateful to have established a correspondence that has clearly enriched the lives of both men.

Unlike Ed, George Buchanan says that the fantasy aspect of prison life wasn't part of the reason he initially answered a B.A.R. ad. "Oh, I was a bulldog freak once upon a time — they had cells, remember — but I had worked my way through that." Instead, George recounts being touched by a letter from a prisoner who wrote about the loneliness of prison life. "If you have a friend or an ex-trick in jail, drop him a line," the prisoner wrote. Curiously enough, George found an ad which he thought was placed by an ex-trick who had been busted in a drug raid, so he acted upon the prisoner's advice and wrote the man a letter. It wasn't his ex-trick, he soon learned, but it was someone with whom he had a lot in common, so he decided to continue writing anyway.

George's correspondent, a prisoner at Lompoc named Richard "Hans" Nelson (whose life at Lompoc was described in an article in the January 19 issue of the Bay Area Reporter) proved to be a prolific letter writer. He writes to George about six times a month, and these letters are often fifteen pages long. Sometimes he writes what George calls "jack-off letters," but George says, "I don't answer them that way. That's

not my fantasy." In addition, Hans has made sexual overtures to George, but George says, "Please, he's hundreds of miles and years away. Besides, he's trying as best he can to be promiscuous in jail, and he's made it clear that when he gets out he's going to make up for four years behind bars. I'm not interested in that."

Nevertheless, the letters between the two continue because each is willing to make allowances for the other's personality. They also help each other in various ways. George has sent money to Hans when Hans has asked for it, but not much and only after a year of correspondence. In return, Hans has sent a scarf to George, one that he made in prison and the only thing that he had to offer. George has also offered Hans a place to live when he gets out as well as the use of a phone to job-hunt, but Hans said no. He has got something else set up already.

Will the two meet when Hans gets out in July? George doubts it. Because he works on cruise ships much of the time, he may not be around when Hans gets out. Consequently, the relationship may come to an end. "I'm 40," says George, "and under no illusions. I know the limits of this relationship." Nevertheless, he says the relationship has been nice for both of them. "For me it's like going to a psychiatrist's office. When you write letters, it's a self-describing trip. There's a lack of danger in a letter. You can say things you wouldn't say to the guy downstairs. I like that."

Dick Rea, a chef in the Polk Street area, has been writing to prisoners a good deal longer than Ed or George, and he has written to a greater number of them as well. Over the last ten years, he says, he has written to ten or eleven different individuals. He first became interested in writing to prisoners when he lived near Attica in New York State. After the famous riots there, he volunteered to do "civilian work" in the prison — visiting on holidays, acting as a go-between between the prisoners and the warden, helping prisoners on the outside, etc. — and this involvement led to the letter writing. Sexual fantasies were never a part of it, he insists. "That's never entered my mind. I have no interest in that aspect of it. Besides, I've had a lover for over sixteen years."

Because he has written to prisoners for a longer time than Ed or George, Dick has had the opportunity to do more for them. When two of the prisoners to whom he was writing in Vacaville were released, he drove to the prison to pick them up. Due to his connections in the restaurant business, he was able to get them room-and-board hotel

(Continued on next page)



Writing a letter behind bars. (Photo: Rink)

### SWEETLIPS SEZ

## Eighty-Six Those Goofs

DICK WALTERS

It seems as if I goofed in my column of March 22 . . . Atlas Savings and Loan is now with assets of more than \$100 million — and that is really an accomplishment. Also, did you know that Atlas' new downtown branch in the Financial District, scheduled to open this summer, is just a cocktail away from the area's two most popular watering holes, Sutter's Mill and 132 Bush . . . great now with three locations in the city.

When bartender Mark Friese bent over to pick up something at the New Bell Saloon the other night, some queen at the bar remarked, "Look at that! I haven't seen a spread like that since the Last Supper" . . . needless to say, the queen was 86'd.

Budd Levy, it was nice to meet

your friend Phillip Spears from Honolulu the other day and am looking forward to seeing him again for the night of La Cage aux Folles that he is coming over for on the 29th of May. You older women can still get them, can't you?

Don't forget to vote "Bruce" for Mr. Gay San Francisco; right, Emperor Rich Carle . . . hope you did well on your Academy Awards benefit for the Genesis Resource Foundation.

Bill Ward will be playing the piano in the afternoons at Sutter's Mill and then in the evenings at the popular Mint . . . isn't that going to cut into your drinking time, Bill?

Had a note from John Psyca in Michigan and he wishes he was back here, as it was a cold,

cold winter . . . you'll be back someday, John.

The Kokpit has its own Coney Island. Jim Coney has a stained-glass plaque display that is fabulous . . . exquisite. It is about the Robert Michael Productions' presentation of the Closet Ball on the 28th of this month. Jim is also open to creating anything you want in stained glass. Who was the pretty new young one, Bob?

Tacky Hacky of local cab fame is having a good friend from Los Angeles for a visit next week . . . we haven't seen you in years . . . hope you did well on your Academy Awards benefit for the Genesis Resource Foundation.

Supper is Served . . . Monday through Thursday evenings from 6 'til 10 at the popular Elephant Walk and it is delicious . . . besides, you can get a view table and enjoy the scenery outside while you dine.

Thank you, Vi of the Viking Hair Salon, for your kind offer . . . I don't care what Helen

he got adjusted). One black dude made it quite clear that all he liked was blonde broads and a poke (as he put it) at a queer's asshole.

"And so, my fellow readers of Bay Area Reporter and those that feel like writing to guys in jail . . . Don't stop, because I'm sure there are some good apples in that barrel that do need us on the outside. Just beware of the phony and the non-Gay that want to prey on us even from within the walls of Folsom, Pendleton, Michigan City, Travis, Lucasville, or wherever."

Even Hans, a prisoner himself, agrees. According to George Buchanan, his correspondent, Hans says that the object of most pen pal letters is to set people up for money scams of one sort or another. The men who write these letters are often heterosexuals who want to take advantage of anyone naive or stupid enough to become a victim. George's roommate can validate Hans' claim. He wrote to a prisoner, and the man responded by asking him to cash money orders which had obviously been altered — from \$2 to \$752!

Randy Brooks, a lawyer in New Orleans, is another who has reason to be suspicious of prisoners seeking pen pals. "Some time ago," he writes, "I received an envelope full of clippings from a friend in the Bay Area which included a letter from a prisoner in the Louisiana State Pen to the effect that he, the prisoner, was a youth from San Francisco who had been busted here for making a porn film, that he now languished behind bars without friends, money, or anything to read, and could the publication send him some of its future issues, etc., etc."

"Something in this pathetic plea moved me to write the erstwhile porn star to suggest that, were he able to receive them, I would send him some old skin mags. There ensued a passionate reply, to which I responded, and then another, and so forth. He called me at home twice, and we continued the correspondence. I bought him a subscription to the Advocate, sent him sunglasses and a ball cap. After much of this, and a certain vagueness on his part as to the details of his arrest and trial, I called the Record Room at the pen to inquire about the boy. He is, in fact, doing two life sentences plus 99 years for first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping (i.e. with a weapon), and armed robbery. My dear, I swooned."

"Some time later my associate was telling me about a new client of his, a high school boy, who wanted to sue a local sheriff for permitting two convicted felons



Queen for a Year. The ever-blonde, ever-lovely Miss Trisxie Trash, seen here after being crowned Empress de South Shore (Taboo, that is). Top: copping a feel is her Aide-de-Trash, His Most Obese Majesty Monte Red-dick. King I. II. III. IV.

to escape from the parish jailhouse, from whence they proceeded to the nearby fried chicken but where the high school boy was working and closing up for the night. They forced him at gunpoint to drive them through rural Alabama and Mississippi, finally releasing him in the middle of nowhere after bragging all the way about how one of them had already killed a man for crossing him. As you may have guessed, my "porn star" pen pal was one of the escapees/kidnappers. He is, as we say, not our kind, and I've stopped writing to him. Beware of pen pals behind bars."

Is there any way to avoid this sort of thing happening? Is it possible to insure that a pen pal relationship with a prisoner be a safe, rewarding one like those of Ed and Doug, George and Hans, and Dick and his correspondents? Unfortunately, this kind of relationship will always involve a certain amount of risk, but there are precautions that can be taken. Reading the inmate's ad carefully is one of them. "The ads in the Bay Area Reporter are pretty much transparent," writes David Proctor of Oakland. "Cock size is of little interest to a man who would just like to share his thoughts and ex-

### Karl's Calendar

Thursday, 4/12: The Movies, Chaps' week-long festival. Call for schedule (through Saturday).  
Whisky A Go Go, De'ja Vu, 335 Jones, 8 p.m., beer and well. \$1 admission; 5 cents per wait line inch. Hosts: K & Q of N/N.Cal. Jim and Lady Chris.  
Wheeler/Burns Art Show. Oils and photography, SF Eagle, 8 p.m. reception.  
Bare Chest Contest, Arena, 10 p.m. Calendar-Mr. May, cash prizes.  
Friday 4/13: Jerry Semas' 2nd Annual Titanic Party, 8 p.m. (Invitation only; see him).  
Saturday 4/14: Bridal Shower, Men's Room, 2 p.m. Host: Jim Christakes for his (real) sister; dresses and veils optional.  
Pink Elephant Party (Queer Republicans) for Bob Bacci (candidate

Trent says about you, you are a wonderful friend.

The great Maggie Jiggs from NYC and P'town is now living here and looking for work as a bartender . . . contact Paul Ruelh at Gilmore's for refer-

ences.  
for 16th Assembly District. The Mint, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. \$10 donation; Hosts: Empress Char & CRIR's Duke Armstrong.

Basket Auction, De'ja Vu, 9 p.m. Proceeds to Empress Trisxie's Senior Easter Day Dinner (Rathskeller, noon 4/22). Basket donations gratefully accepted.

Kick Off Party, Cal Eagles Run to Sacramento, Feb's Noon to 2 p.m.

Sunday 4/15: ICF Beer Bust, Eagle Patio, 3 to 6 p.m., \$5. Includes beer, wine, soft drinks and food (also J.C.'s birthday).

Monday 4/16: Gary Schneider Plays. The Ramrod, 8 p.m. (also Tuesday). 3rd Anniversary, Eagle, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Pin night (new T-shirt on sale).

Tuesday, 4/17: ICF Meeting, Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant, 8 p.m.  
Wednesday 4/18: Peter Dixon Plays. The Ramrod, 9 p.m. (also Thursday & Sunday).

### CATACOMBS 861-0513



CATACOMBS is closing its doors after 9 years. To the members of a great club, it is very hard to close because you have been more like a family to us, but the time has come to close with pride. Now let's make this one hell of a week!

FRIDAY, APRIL 14  
FAREWELL TO THE CATACOMBS MEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 17  
TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY  
FRIDAY, APRIL 20  
FAREWELL TO THE MIXED PARTIES  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21  
SPECIAL EASTER EGG HUNT GOODYBY PARTY  
APRIL 28 AND 29  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

VOL. XIV NO. 16 APRIL 19, 1984

## Toklas Demos Reject Baths Sex Ban

Club Denounces Chronicle's Randy Shilts

Hart Takes Most Votes While Members Reject Milk Candidates for Central Committee

by Bruce Pettit

Upset that it had been portrayed on national news wires as supportive of sex limitations in Gay business, the Alice-B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club re-asserted precisely the opposite stance last week and denounced *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Randy Shilts who it thought responsible for the wrong message.

Toklas also joined a growing list of Democratic elements in San Francisco having trouble recommending for their party's presidential nomination. Colorado Senator Gary Hart led balloting with 77 votes (43%) of 181 cast, but 60% was needed.

Club president Sal Rosselli is a Mondale national-convention delegate candidate on the June 5 primary ballot. Nevertheless, reflecting on the surprise turns in the Democratic race this year, he noted: "I'm not going to predict what is going to happen in the next couple of months, and I agree that Alice has nothing to lose by putting this endorsement over until May."



Alice Demos' forum on Sex Ban gets the bright lights of TV coverage. (Photo: Rink)

### SHILTS CALLED 'HOMOPHOBIC'

Randy Shilts, the openly Gay reporter who has provided the *Chronicle's* primary AIDS coverage for two years, was called "the most homophobic press person in the Bay Area" by former Toklas president Randy Stallings.

"I am sick to death that he continues to victimize the Gay community in the name of objectivity," decried Stallings as he moved to denounce Shilts for "continuing blasts and inaccuracies written against our community." His motion passed on a voice vote with some scattered dissent from members who thought AIDS anger is misplaced by festering internal community fighting.

But other Toklas members said they detected a bias in Shilts' writing in favor of bathhouse closure. Claude Wynne complained that Shilts wrote of "overwhelming Gay community

support" for closure when subsequent events indicated the opposite.

### 'TOTAL BAN' CONFUSION

Confusion surfaced last week about the extent to which Dr. Mervyn Silverman, the city's director of public health, was banning sexual activity in Gay businesses. Silverman stressed he was limiting "sexual activity between individuals" where the transmission of AIDS is likely to occur. But some of the major media picked that up as a total sex ban.

Toklas, consequently, shouted approval of a Dick Gayer motion opposing a "total ban of sexual activity between individuals" in the business establishments.

Gary Titus, the health department's director of AIDS activity, bore the brunt of explaining Silverman's action in a Toklas panel discussion: "As a health department, we cannot legislate this type of sex, but you can't do

that type of sex. . . . But when we come around informally to the Gay community, we say we are not going to be looking at masturbation. Kissing is probably okay, we don't know for sure, but it is not high on our worry list."

Why were heterosexual establishments exempt from regulations? Toklasites demanded. Titus answered, "The data show there is no likelihood of transmission of AIDS in heterosexual settings."

Dr. Donald Abrams of the S.F. General Hospital AIDS Clinic noted that political authorities higher than Silverman had demanded outright bathhouse closure, an action Silverman finally rejected. "I would just hate to think what may have happened if someone other than Dr. Silverman had made this decision," Abrams commented. His statistics showed that people who attended

(Continued on page 4)

## Federal Prison Lifts Ban on Gay Paper Subscriptions

But X-Rated Gay Photos Still a No-No at Lompoc

by Dion B. Sanders

Authorities at the federal prison in Lompoc, who last summer banned copies of the *Bay Area Reporter* from being received by a subscribing inmate, have reversed themselves and are allowing the inmate to receive the newspaper, it was announced this week. The reversal was made — not willingly — but under pressure.

Leonard Graff, legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates, made public a letter he received from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons this week that stated that "after conversation with Warden (Robert) Christiansen, we have agreed to allow circulation of said publication at Lompoc on a regular basis."

The letter, sent by Bureau of Prisons regional counsel John Shaw, warned, however, that the Bureau retains "the right to review and restrain from circulation any particular issue which contains unacceptable matter, which, in fact, depicts explicit homosexual activity."

In other words, any future issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* which contains photos of explicit Gay sexual activity would be withheld. Such photos the paper rarely if ever carries.

Graff, who had agreed to represent the *Bay Area Reporter*,

(Continued on page 10)

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Larry Bush from Washington . . .	p. 13
This Week's Calendar . . .	pp. 18-19
Theatre Rhino's Production of "5th of July" — Bernard Spunberg . . .	p. 20

## Cancer Virus Latest AIDS Suspect

Word Expected on Link between Leukemia Virus and AIDS

by Paul Lorch

AIDS rumors are at it again. This week word buzzed about that a putative agent that caused AIDS had been isolated by CDC scientists.

Monday's *Wall Street Journal* carried the report in greater detail. Staffer Marilyn Chase wrote that researchers were about to announce discovery of a new variation of a human cancer virus that may cause AIDS.

The named virus was Human T-cell Leukemia Virus, or HTLV. HTLV has been suspected of causing AIDS since it was isolated in an AIDS patient last year. Sceptics, who include Dr. James Curran of the Center for Disease Control, note it still isn't clear whether HTLV causes AIDS or is a result of AIDS. It could be, he said, "simply another opportunistic infection." Still Curran admitted that HTLV is "a good lead."

HTLV is linked with cancer in Japan and in the Black population of the Caribbean. It also is known to attack certain of the body's most critical immunological defenses, called Human T-lymphocytes. The absence of the T-cells in people with AIDS is one of the disease's most striking immunological disturbances. Or as Vitamin C doctor Cathcart puts it, the PWA's are walking bubble babies.

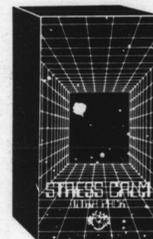
So far, two variants of HTLV have been reported. Dr. Robert C. Gallo, chief of the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, and the man who first isolated HTLV in an AIDS patient, said it is "premature" to comment on

(Continued on page 11)

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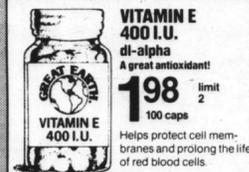
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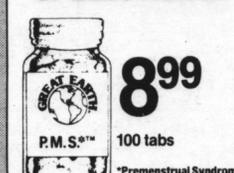
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