

BAY AREA REPORTER

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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*,

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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.

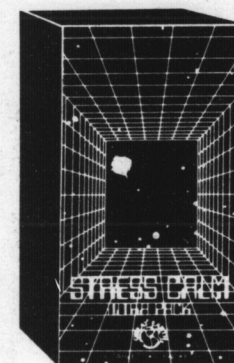
So far, two variants of HTLV have been reported. Dr. Robert C. Gallo, chief of the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, and the man who first isolated HTLV in an AIDS patient, said it is "premature" to comment on

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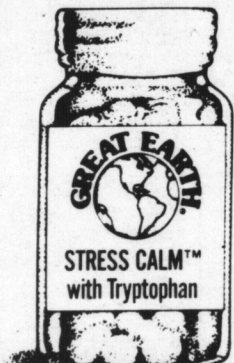
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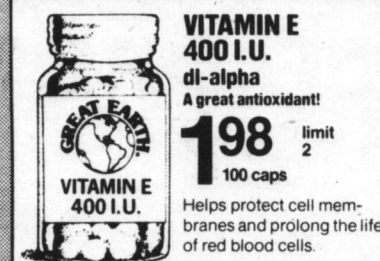
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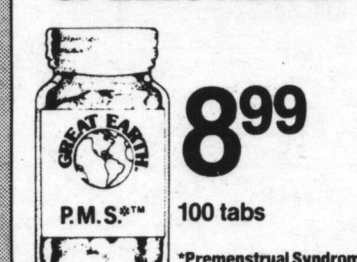
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Doctors Ponder AIDS Failures and Successes

From Herbs to Chemotherapy, All Get a Pitch at Conference on "Alternative Therapies"

by Ken Kessler

The latest information on the status of AIDS research and on unusual methods of supportive care was presented in a conference held during AIDS Prevention Week. The conference was co-sponsored by Planetree Health Resource Center and San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"The medical profession has been assailed for having a closed mind to nontraditional, non-Western approaches to the treatment of AIDS," said Robert Bolan, M.D., Chairman, Board of Directors, San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "Medical science has been remiss in studying non-traditional therapies. A multiplicity of treatments is usually not very good, but I still hate to give up on long-shot, nontraditional approaches."

While there are still many theories on the cause of AIDS, Bolan said that most scientists now accept the cause as an infectious virus, a new virus that just attacks one type of lymphocyte (T-lymphocyte helper cells). The failure of the immune system is irreversible when the PWA, Patient With AIDS, has full-blown AIDS. However, it is unrealistic to assume that all individuals who are exposed to AIDS will develop full-blown AIDS. As is the case with many other infections, the body may resist the infection totally, or may be infected to a lesser degree. There are people with a milder expression of the symptoms, and they are not classified as PWA, but as having ARC, AIDS Related Conditions. Most likely they are showing only lymphadenopathy, which is the enlargement of a group of lymph nodes, and is usually painless. Lymphadenopathy has generally been considered to be a premonitory symptom indicating the onset of AIDS, but often the disease will not progress to the full-blown stage.

Gained as a benefit out of the sad plight of the PWA is new knowledge about cancers, other infections, and the immune system according to Paul Volberding, M.D., the Chief of Oncology and Co-director of the AIDS Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital. He said that the whole range of cancers can often and readily appear in the body. The cellular immune system then recognizes these cancer cells and destroys them. With AIDS, either these beneficial cells aren't there, or else they don't recognize the cancer cells. Volberding said that AIDS is comparable to diabetes because there is a shortage

of hormones in both cases. A diabetic has a shortage in the production of insulin; the AIDS patient is short of hormones manufactured by the T-cells. The T-cell hormones include the interferons and interleukin-2.

Why then, if supplying additional insulin to the diabetic has substantially normalized their lives, can't the same idea be used with AIDS? Volberding said that alpha interferon was tested on PWA, and they had success with 40% of the Kaposi patients in causing remission of the lesions. The remission was temporary, as long as the injections were continuing; there was no improvement to the immune system. They are non-cured, as defined by the CDC, because even though the KS has gone away, the immune system remains the same. Beta interferon has not been tested, but they are now testing gamma interferon and have received a supply of interleukin-2 so that they may begin treating with it in the next two weeks. They will be testing it on about 100 patients, equal numbers with Kaposi's sarcoma and Pneumocystis Carinii pneumonia.

"Research is centering on Kaposi patients," said Volberding, "because the treatments can be evaluated by measuring and photographing the tumors to observe shrinkage." This provides more tangible evaluations than the Pneumocystis patients. "KS is the most common of the cancers in AIDS and is the most easily seen." The purplish skin lesions are readily observable because they are on the surface of the body, unlike interior tumors. Unfortunately, the interferon and interleukin-2 research requires "... repeated in-

jections, several times a week, and is difficult for the patients to participate in." (Volberding did not elaborate on why "difficult," but an earlier report from a patient was that after the injections, he thought he was going to die. He had "raging headaches, severe indigestion, high fevers, shaking chills, and incredible weakness.")

Chemotherapy is used to treat KS, as with other cancers. "Chemotherapy is the most misunderstood of all the treatments we discuss," said Volberding. "It is understood to only break

"Medical science has been remiss in studying nontraditional therapies."

— Robert Bolan, M.D.

down the immune system, which massive doses and combinations can do. But there are 40 different drugs, with different effects. We use small, frequent doses of chemotherapeutics that don't have much effect on the immune system." He indicated that chemos are inadequate and temporary, and will be considered "barbaric" in a few years.

"It's not how long you live, but is your life happy, are you a joy to your friends, or are you better off dead?" is not the morbid quote that it reads like, but

promoted herbal (botanical) medications into world-wide usage." Lee is "currently conducting research on the use of herbs in stimulating the immune system, and reports some success with the American grown herb, echinacea, in rebuilding the immune system." He also likened the herb thyme to the thymus gland, this gland being influential in the development of T-cells, and in this case "T" stands for thymus. Other herbs which were mentioned by Lee were Chinese ginseng, aristolochia, pau d'arco, astragalus, ligustrum, and polk. A reference book that he recommended is

The Herb Book by John Lust as being one of the least expensive and most comprehensive. It has 1,000 pages, and the price is only \$5 or \$6.

Dr. Richard Hamilton, M.D., said he probably has ARC. He said, "My life was saved by Dr. Garson and his referring me to acupuncture. After the first treatment, I was on such a high that I could have walked right into the Bay. And then I found out my car had been towed, but I didn't care!" He has now had two years of treatment with acupuncture and has been a believer in vitamin C ever since he was eight years old and was stewing and freezing rose hips for tea. He is not only a long-term user of C, but said he is now "taking more all the time." He is also putting together data on C and the immune system. He has treated two patients with large doses of C intravenously, of which one is now dead and the other is getting worse. He also has 20 patients on oral C. Hamilton is Director, Buena Vista Medical Group, and Chairman, Board of Directors, CHASTE (Committee to Halt Advancement of Sexually Transmitted Epidemics).

Hamilton's main thrust was on preventive sexual practices. He followed the guidelines published by Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York, and the information from their community forum: 1. fewer partners; 2. no sex in men's rooms or other public places; 3. less oral and anal penetration "and without ejaculation or with condoms;" 4. more mutual masturbation, cuddling, and other low-risk sexual activities, "but that requires that you be in control — keep your wits about you — don't go totally free, get carried away, by using grass, alcohol, speed, or coke.

"Sex with anyone who is ill is risky, especially if your immune system is compromised. Sharing sexual contact when ill without informing your partner of the nature of your illness is denying your partner their right to choice. It is their right for them to have the opportunity for them to keep their risk low. Communication is simple. It may mean no sex, but it may save a life — maybe your own."

Cameron Joins Feinstein Team

On April 11, Mayor Feinstein appointed Barbara M. Cameron Alice B. Toklas officer and community activist, to the Citizens Committee for Community Development (CCCD). The CC CD serves as the primary advisory board to the mayor in the development and evaluation of the San Francisco Community Development Programs which will receive approximately \$20 million in 1984 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Barbara Cameron was elected the 1984 Alice B. Toklas Corresponding Secretary. She is a member of the Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and is on the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Board of Directors. She served as the 1981 Co-Chair of the Parade Committee and the 1983 Board President. Cameron is also the Co-Chair of the Friends of Pat Norman for Supervisor campaign committee.

Ms. Cameron, a Native American, is originally from South Dakota. Cameron has been a San Francisco resident for 10 years, is a parent of three year old Rhys and shares the same birthdate (May 22) with Harvey Milk. Barbara will be joining Eddie Baca and Greg Day on the CCCD.



Barbara Cameron takes seat on Citizens Committee for Community Development. (Photo: B. Cameron)

Cameron works for a small consulting firm, Human Service Management Corp. where she serves as data processing manager. She has been with the firm for five years.

Cameron lives with her lover of three years, Linda Boyd, who is co-chair of the 1984 Parade.

The couple live in the Inner Richmond. Cameron commented to the Bay Area Reporter, "I feel I will be learning a lot about city government, and I intend to work very hard. Hopefully I'll do a good job while I'm there."

CRIR Opposes Sex Restrictions

Members Balk at Candidate Who Favors Duke's Veto

by Bruce Pettit

Addressing simultaneously the twin political issues that have dominated the Gay rights movement in March and April, CRIR president Tom Peretti commented: "We don't need (homophobic State Senator H.L.) Richardson to take us backward. We have the Feinstein administration here in San Francisco."

Peretti, at the club's April meeting, was referring to the city's decision from the Department of Public Health to limit sexual activities in Gay businesses in hopes of containing the high increase of AIDS cases.

Peretti, at the club's April meeting, was referring to the city's decision from the Department of Public Health to limit sexual activities in Gay businesses in hopes of containing the high increase of AIDS cases.

CRIR Monday night labeled the limitations policy "political" in the absence of "compelling medical evidence" that the policy would contain the epidemic. It declared that "the question of whether or not one should go to the bathhouses and sex establishments is a matter of individual choice, not one of governmental edict." The policy passed substantially, though with some scattered dissent.

CRIR also opposed "any effort to place on the ballot any measure which would infringe on the current consenting adult act."

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH?

The meeting's highlight, however, was an appearance of a Republican candidate for State Assembly who, in announcing his opposition to AB-1, forced CRIR to refocus its definition as a club. Often accused by the city's Gay Democrats of being primarily Republican and secondarily Gay, CRIR was jolted



Veteran activist Jim Foster (l.) joins CRIR executives Tom Peretti, Duke Armstrong, and Assembly candidate Bob Bacci. (Photo: Rink)

by an intra-party blast that its priorities may be Gay to the detriment of the party.

CRIR had invited as a potential endorser, Gordon Bloyer, candidate for the 16th Assembly District, who it regarded as far preferable to his June primary opponent, Max Woods. Bloyer and some CRIR members have labeled Woods as blatantly homophobic. The winner of the

Republican primary will, in November, oppose Assemblyman Art Agnos.

But Bloyer was pressed on Agnos' AB-1, the Gay employment rights bill vetoed by Governor Deukmejian last month. Bloyer surprised his audience when he said he opposed it. "The laws are on the books now that protect you. It's a hypothetical law that would point to

you as individuals and say Gays have special rights. They do not have special rights; we all have equal rights."

The demands were swift from the CRIR audience: "Tell us some laws (that protect us now)."

Bloyer answered with an analogy, "In San Francisco, once people know I am a Republican, I am discriminated against — I can be fired. Should we write a law that you can't discriminate against Republicans? It's not necessary for me to be protected. We don't need a law for every type of discrimination that exists in the world today."

T. J. Anthony, a potential CRIR member who said he'd just arrived from Michigan, retorted: "I am very disappointed to come to San Francisco, to this group which is hopefully committed to the right of justice and dignity for all its citizens, and have a potential candidate to be endorsed by a Gay Republican club tell me I don't have my first economic right, the right to keep my job." He walked out of the meeting, though he was later persuaded to return.

Exasperated, Bloyer wondered aloud: "I have a feeling that a number of people in this club really aren't Republicans. If you want to specialize that one interest, then that's your problem. We as Republicans have a lot more issues that are important to the whole of the country and the party than AB-1."

Bloyer left the meeting, and Peretti announced that support of AB-1 should be the litmus test for initial CRIR endorsement consideration. "They used to tell people years ago your rights are in the Constitution. I didn't fall for it, and I hope the rest of you didn't."

Bob Bacci, candidate for the GOP nomination in AD-19 (for the right to oppose Assembly Lou Papan in November) said he is facing opposition in the primary based on homophobia. "I have an obligation to the party, to this club, and the community to be victorious. I'd rather not be running, but it's too late to make that decision."

Nevertheless, Bacci reflected: "Within our own party, the only way in the long term that there will be an awakening of realization that we are real people, that we have real needs that are as good as anyone else's, is to run for political office. It's how we prove we are responsible people who can sit down and talk to the governor and not scare him to death."

Acknowledging the most liberal area of the city, Bacci commented, "If there is any district in San Francisco that should have a Gay Republican as the party nominee, it's the 16th Assembly District. A lot of people in this club have been asleep at the switch."

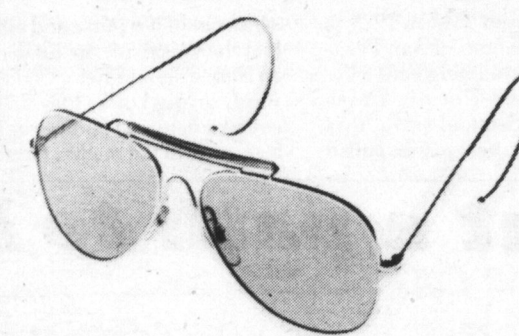
Wharton Picks Campaign Manager

The Dave Wharton for Supervisor Committee announced last week that it has hired a campaign manager to run the 1984 campaign. The new manager is Jon Rubin of Rubin/Kefauver Associates, a firm long active in San Francisco and California politics.

Rubin, who has worked in the campaigns of Mayors Moscone and Feinstein, has also served as Political Director of The California Democratic Party and as California Field Director for the state campaigns of Jimmy Carter in 1976 and 1980.

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Sipple Takes Case to Top State Court

Gay Identification by Straight Press Invades Privacy Says Attorney

by George Mendenhall

The Gay man who stopped a woman from killing President Gerald Ford in 1975 lost another court round in his privacy suit against Herb Caen, *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist last week. However, Oliver Sipple's attorney, John Wahl, told this newspaper that he will appeal a state Court of Appeals decision against his client to the state Supreme Court.



Oliver Sipple's nine-year privacy suit against columnist Herb Caen thrown out by state Court of Appeals. Attorney John Wahl says he is not satisfied and will try to take the invasion of privacy suit to the top court. Some people this week were asking, why. (Photo: Rink)

Sipple moved West in 1975 to enjoy the freedom of San Francisco. While watching Ford leave the St. Francis Hotel in Union Square in September of that year, a woman next to him pulled a gun out of her purse and aimed it at the President. Spontaneously, Sipple shoved her gun downward, saving Ford's life. He was called a hero and widely praised for his act in the media, but then

his troubles began.

Columnist Caen reported that Sipple was Gay, and the national news services picked up the "Gay" angle. What was not known was that Sipple had left his hometown to come to this city and live a relatively private Gay life. He wished to remain closeted to his relatives in the East who are conservative and judgmental about such things.

The tragedy for Sipple was great, according to Wahl. The man, who still lives in San Francisco, has a 100% psychiatric disability from experiences in the Vietnam war. The shock of public disclosure caused him considerable mental anguish. Coupled with this, his family cut off communication with him. He was not even informed of his mother's death some time later.

In the new district court ruling, the three justices agreed unanimously that Sipple was a public Gay person because he had been so identified in the Gay press. Sipple had been a member of the courts of the Gay community's "emperors." However, attorney Wahl claims Gay newspapers do not constitute public disclosure of private facts and charged invasion of privacy.

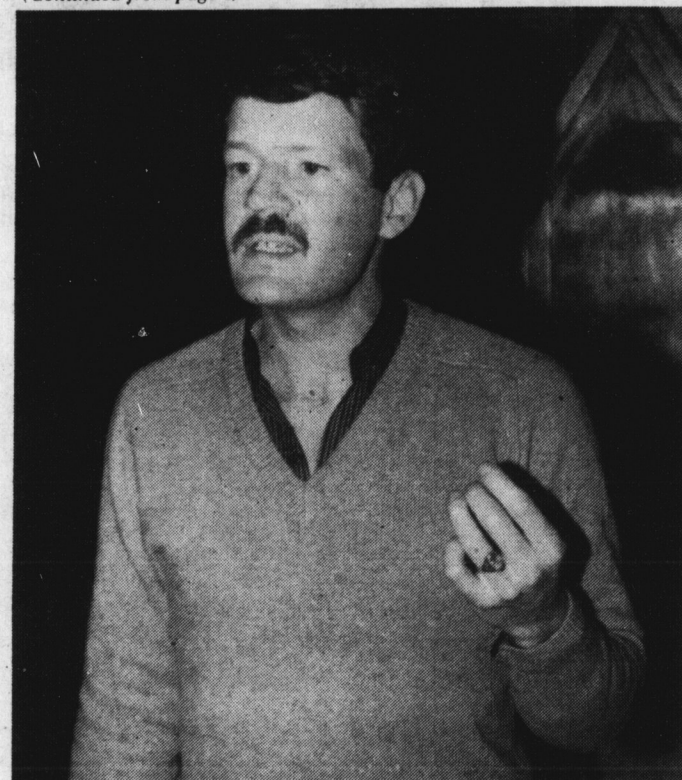
The justices defended Caen and the newspapers, ruling that they are entitled to "satisfy the curiosity of the public as to its heroes, leaders, villains, and victims." Judge Thomas Caldecott stated that the newspapers "were not motivated by a morbid and sensational prying but rather were prompted by legitimate political considerations, i.e. to dispel the false public opinion that Gays were timid, weak, and unheroic figures."

Attorney Wahl states, "While I personally am in favor of people declaring their sexual orientation because it directly confronts the oppressors, that does not mean the oppressors have a right to pull someone kicking and screaming out of the closet when such an act does incalculable damage to the individual."

"While Sipple was involved in the Gay community here, he was thousands of miles from his family. The Gay press did not reach his hometown. He sought to insulate himself here. He was denied that. Caen's revelation was abominable and has damaged Sipple. The district court has made a serious mistake in its ruling."

Toklas Demos

(Continued from page 1)



Ex-Toklas President condemns poor reporting of Randy Shilts and made the motion which passed. (Photo: Rink)

bathhouses had a risk "2 1/2 to 10 times greater" than others for contracting AIDS and that treatment costs per patient now average \$100,000. "We cannot allow activity that promotes the spread of the disease to continue in the face of the cost impending on the taxpayers."

Abrams had no reply when asked for projections of AIDS decline with the new sex regulations. "We won't see any decline for 7 to 17 months" — the suspected range of AIDS incubation.

Brandy Moore, an aide to Supervisor Doris Ward, opposed the Silverman regulations. "One of the things that most disturbs me is that everyone says this is only a medical decision. It was not so long ago that a medical decision determined that you and I were sick beings."

Bob Ross, B.A.R. publisher, agreed: "It's not a medical situation, but a political one. It took us 20 years to get the police off our backs and 20 years to get doctors to stop telling us what we could and couldn't do. Now we open up the door and say, come on in, you can get back on our case."

Toklas member Hank Wilson remarked, "I'm ashamed for my community that the Health Department has to step in and get some of these (sex club) operations to clean up their act in the midst of this crisis," which he hoped still can be resolved largely "quietly, in house." A Wilson motion easily passed for the businesses to voluntarily comply with the changes that would "minimize health risks."

BLANK CHECK FOR HART?

In the debate for President, Toklas was guided by four factors: (1) prospect for defeating Ronald Reagan, (2) apathy because none of the three remaining Democrats is perceived as forthrightly pro-Gay, (3) satisfaction that all three are enough pro-Gay to have club members active in each campaign, and (4) concern that the club not be stuck with a loser after late April and May contests that precede California's primary.

Recording secretary Roberto Esteves observed in urging no endorsement, "I think we have won this primary already. We have representation from our club in all three campaigns."

Even so, polls showing Hart supposedly best positioned to defeat Reagan seemed to fashion

his Toklas plurality. That argument for Hart was advanced by former club presidents Stallings and Connie O'Connor.

Mary Vail, however, in promoting Walter Mondale, said a decision based on popularity polls "is saying we want to take the presidency over at the price of having somebody who has a blank check program on whether the civil rights laws are going to be enforced as a top priority."

After Hart's 77 votes were 47 for Mondale, 22 for Jesse Jackson, and 35 for no endorsement.

Second in endorsement weight was a decision on the State Senate race. CDC official Lia Belli has an easy ride for the Democratic nomination, but the question was whether Gays really should help dispose of Senator Milton Marks in November. Toklas's labor caucus recommended no endorsement. Said its chair Bobby Heacock, "Marks showed up at our caucus. He pointed out his support of AB-1 and labor issues."

But Anne Daley disparaged to resounding applause, "How can anyone wear the label Democrat and ask you to refrain from voting in the Democratic primary?" Belli won endorsement by 76% of those voting.

The endorsement series that may bear most heavily on Toklas's political clout in the city is that for Democratic County Central Committee. President Rosselli earlier this year made overtures to other Democratic clubs for attempts at coalition endorsements — to give all progressive elements some places on the 24-member DCCC.

Toklas's political action committee recommended a full slate of endorsements to enhance such coalition. But 181 Toklas members scattered their votes to such a degree that only seven people — Connie O'Connor, Eddie Baca, Linda Post, Cleve Jones, Louise Minnick, Anne Daley, and Greg Day — received the necessary 60%. The Toklas members rejected the candidacies of top Milk Club brass: Carole Migden, Ron Huberman, Gwenn Craig, Steve Krefting, Stan Criollos (the five comprised the official Milk Club slate). Also rejected were long-time activists Jack Trujillo, Dennis Peron, and George Raya.

Some ethnic groups were angry that none of their priority choices made it.

B. Pettit

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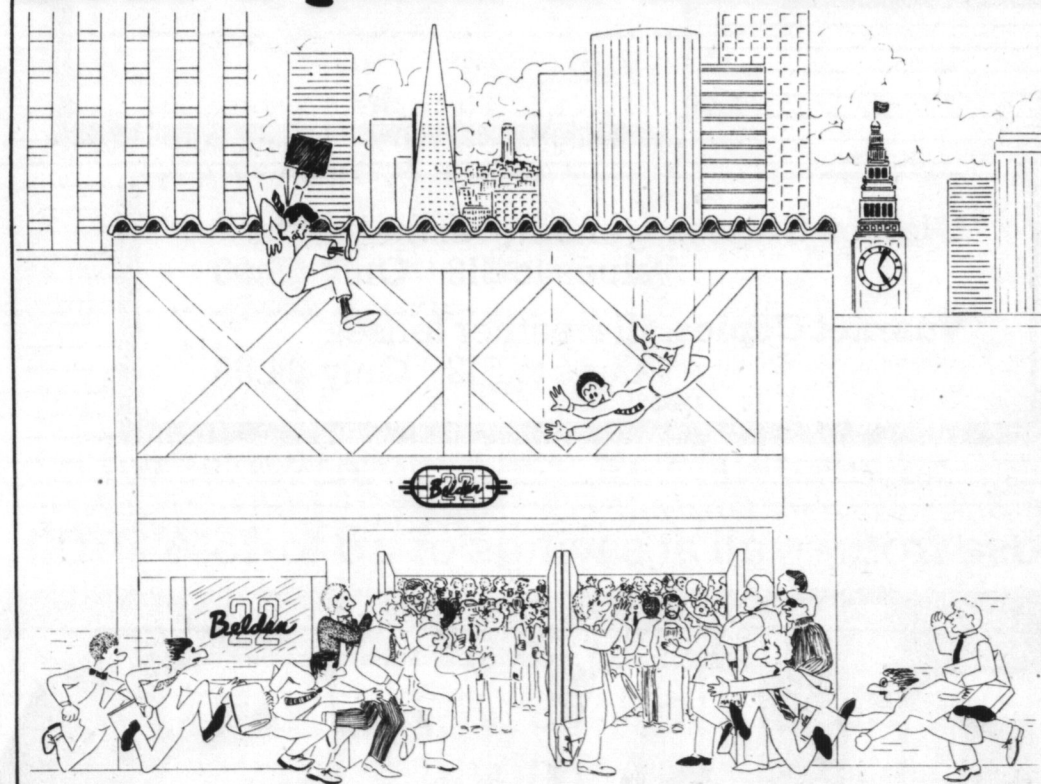
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VOL. XIV NO. 15 APRIL 19, 1984

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

So Long Safe Sex

This past week the invisible ink was barely dry on the un-written *entente cordiale* between the Gay props and the on-the-skids Director of Public Health before the script was being re-revised for broadcast. Or put in less political terms, having snared half a loaf Merv Silverman was out to snatch three-quarters of a loaf.

One thing, however, has not changed from last week, to last month, to six months ago, Silverman lacks the empirical evidence that the putative agent that causes AIDS is housed in sex pens. He admitted three weeks ago he still didn't have the proof, but he did suddenly have a group of Gays who would call upon him to pull off the job he didn't have the equipment for. In whatever bloodbath followed it would be the Gay community's decision that detonated events.

As those who broached the idea of club closure tried to swell their number, a waterspout of resistance counter-swelled with each phone call. By nightfall people of every stripe were running for cover, and Silverman lost his Gay community backdrop.

Assessing the hostile mood, he changed his tune, sold another bill of goods on leaving the baths open but outlawing high-risk sex. He gathered another chorus and scheduled another press conference. This time he wasn't going to be undermined by any slackers and before he opened his press conference he read for all the assembled media his list of Gay supporters, some of whom pushed and elbowed to stand stoutly behind him. Little did a few attendees know but all that was required for becoming a supporter was signing in as just being on hand.

And then the Doctor let fly his up-the-sleeve version: all sex between people (regardless if it was high-risk, middle-risk, or low-risk) would be banned. Now that he had the deal why quibble with niceties. The message: All sex between consenting adults would be banned because all sex was bad, because all sex was dangerous.

None of the props behind the good Doctor uttered a peep... as they heard themselves giving away Poland when they thought they were assembled to give away only the Falklands. So much for leadership and political careers. No, they waited 24 hours and began complaining to the Gay press and pals who they had been hoodwinked.

By Tuesday night at the Alice Toklas forum Dr. Abrams was ready to throw in kissing as a no-no as well. What's one more dangerous interchange more or less. We wait for touching to get its comeuppance in the days to come.

Silverman told his Gay supporters that health inspectors (those who check on the freshness of beef and the sweetness of whipped cream) would be his agents of enforcement. No one argued the absurd inspecting leap from cream puffs to pouffes; after all, an inspector is an inspector.

But not for long. Within 24 hours the S.F. Progress already had police attorney Law Wilson (one of the props and sometime hardball player) talking about drawing up procedures for police participation in the inspection gambol. After all, who knows better how to spear a fucking fairy than the boys who have hunted for decades.

Put the two shifts together and we have a new game. Sex is bad. Sex is punishable. Police are gearing up to enforce and punish.

At the moment we are still talking about specified locations. Logic dictates that the place makes little difference, it's what's going on. Expect that wherever it goes on will be targeted. After all, if one is fumigating, defoliating, insecticiding, fungiciding, delousing, defleaing, one doesn't just hit the Fox Plaza and call it quits.

Is there reason to fear?
Let the Gay props reassure the community there isn't.
Some of the partisans have already concluded that giving

(Continued on page 9)

Entrapment Flourishes

As the Director of Gay Legal Referral Service, it has come to my attention that there have been numerous persons cited with 647A (lewd and disorderly conduct) in the following locations:

In Golden Gate Park at 19th Street and Lincoln (restroom), and in Golden Gate Park at the Soccer Field near Ocean (outside). Also in Petaluma, CA at the Boat Ramp (restroom).

A 647A is a criminal offense. Persons cited must appear in court, resulting in emotional as well as financial expense.

A word to the wise . . .

Michael J. O'Connor, Director
Gay Legal Referral Service
Pride Foundation

Doctors Speak on Closing

Dear Dr. Silverman:

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights is the national organization of gay and lesbian physicians and medical students. We are deeply disturbed by, and must strongly protest the consideration being given to closing the gay bathhouses in San Francisco.

As I'm certain you have heard, there are many other public health issues not being addressed — smoking, alcohol, overeating and cyclists not being required in this state to wear helmets. Why are these other areas not being addressed? Because each of these deals with personal freedom. Unfortunately, the bathhouse issue has become a civil rights issue, as well as a political one, not a medical one.

It is clearly the responsibility of the medical community to educate people against high risk behavior. But in our society it is neither the place nor the responsibility of the medical community to try to force behavioral changes. Further, the San Francisco study shows that such behavior would simply move elsewhere.

The closing of businesses to protect people from themselves cannot be accepted. We must try to educate people there as well as elsewhere (and indeed it may be easier in bathhouses), but ultimately each individual is responsible for himself.

The gay community has finally found places where it is safe to meet other gay people without fear of arrest or harassment. We cannot accept what could be the beginning of the end of that major advance. Why could people not argue next that since "Gay sex causes AIDS," prevent gay people from meeting each other, so close the bars. And finally outlaw sex in the bedroom again.

There should be no misunderstanding. AAPHR strongly discourages sexual contact with multiple anonymous partners. But we can not and will not support any efforts to enforce that viewpoint.

Neil R. Schram, M.D.,
President, AAPHR

Stop People from Sexing

It is with a bit of disbelief that I read some of the letters which appeared in the April 5th B.A.R. concerning the closing of the baths and the continuing spread of AIDS. People seem to be too radical to really focus on the heart of the issue: the spread of disease. No one believes that closing the baths will stop the problem entirely. Nor will keeping them open and "educating" their patrons. If the closing of the baths is successful in saving ten lives, it is worth it. Let's face it — the baths have regular patrons who are residents of this area; other guests are likely to be visitors. There is an ideal vehicle for spreading the agent to other places and bringing in more disease from other cities. Even if our city's residents are well-educated in "safe sex" practices, the out-of-towners may well not be. And if he's hot

enough, no telling what will happen so long as people are running around naked and hanging around outside open, inviting doors. It (the closing of the baths) won't stop people from having sex, but it may stop them from having sex ten times a night with different people. Picking up a trick for the evening dressed in jeans and T-shirt is a bit more difficult (and less bountiful in numbers) than seeking a sex partner among 300 men all clad in towels with hardons.

Albert

A Jangling Jingle

Calling the AIDS Info Center, I verified what I had heard (only once) on TV — normal people can get it too — and also women . . . which prompted this little ode.

Sing a song of dingleberries —
Sing a song of clap
But don't be one of those
Or you'll get a strong wrist slap.

Sing a song of herpes —
Sing a song of syph.
It's okay if you're normal
Or else we'll all get miffed.

Three cheers for hepatitis —
And for crabs we'll lift a cup.
Just run to the clinic
It's part of growing up.

Oh, Wow! We found a new one —
Let's blame it on you know who
And police all their places
'Cause we can't have it too.

We'll send 'em to the bushes —
And get 'em on the run
And while we're smug and clever
We'll catch all the fun.

Charles Kennedy
San Francisco

Villains and Victims

When it comes to babies dying from blood transfusions carrying AIDS, the solution was to ban homosexuals from giving blood. No one would suggest banning transfusions. Now that it has been assumed that bathhouses cause AIDS, the answer is to ban Gay sex. No one is suggesting a ban on heterosexual activity. It is clear to me that we as Gay men are being held responsible for this horrible disease.

May I remind the "authorities" and a few selected persons within the Gay community that it is Gay men who are dying by the hundreds! How is it that we become the villains and the victims at the same time? Every time I get a mosquito bite or a bruise or a cold I think I may be dying. How dare you assume that we are being irresponsible? I haven't touched anyone in almost a year, out of fear. And now on top of everything else you want to make it a matter of public policy that Gay sex is something bad.

You take your statistics and shove them because I don't believe anything anymore.

Gay and Proud Forever
San Francisco

Greater Restrictions

Now that a "compromise" has been reached, and the baths will stay open without sex, then why not bars without alcohol? Or better yet, limit everyone's consumption to two or three drinks so they won't be tempted to go home with the "wrong" person. I'm sure Larry Littlejohn will think of something!

Daniel Boyles
San Francisco

LETTERS

Friend of Littlejohn

Larry Littlejohn has been a friend of mine for nearly twenty years. In the early days of the Society for Individual Rights, he was the best president we had and devoted many hours daily to furtherance of the gay cause in San Francisco. He met with public officials and through his ability was able to encourage political figures to assist us with our just cause.

We picketed the Berkeley police station at the time when Frank Bartley was shot by a policeman and killed for a crime of cruising in Aquatic Park. We also did research work and tried to stop the Oakland police department from continuing its hundreds of arrests annually on phony entrapment charges. This was at a time when Charles Gain was Chief of Police of Oakland and refused to meet with us.

Littlejohn sacrificed much during the early years of the gay movement in San Francisco and never profited nor exploited the gay community in any way. He along with other gay men, did the heavy-duty ground work that was the foundation for gay rights today. Any reader of this paper who can read any Vector or LCE newsletters from any gay archives would see who the real leaders of the gay movement are and not be so quick to criticize.

For you to call Larry Littlejohn a traitor extraordinaire is scurrilous. If it wasn't for Littlejohn the political climate would be quite different today and not as free for gay people across America. Just because a problem has been defined and attempts to correct it have been set forth by means of a proposed initiative is no reason to attack a prominent gay leader whose intentions are genuine and without malice.

Andrew J. Betancourt
San Francisco

Support for the 16

Your editorial of 4/5 lists the people I now respect for having the national and humanistic approach to curbing the self-inflicted spread of the disease of the century.

How dare you accuse these people who have spent so much of their lives fighting for our rights of capriciously turning against us? Thank God everyone in our community isn't ignoring the issue and pretending (a) sex has nothing to do with AIDS; and (b) we can trick along to our gonads' content and the "straight community" won't react.

The fact is the issue has been raised and would win a general election this fall. Do we wait and then have them say the gays did nothing? The bath owners admit that our behavior has NOT changed. One out of 300 is taking the free condoms. And they dare suggest their alternative is one of education? I'm supposed to wait for the one out of 300 who knows how to put a rubber on? Grow up!

Of course, stopping the orgies won't eliminate AIDS. But it will slow the speed and save lives! The highest correlation of CDC statistics differentiating between AIDS patients and non-AIDS control groups is the number of bathhouse partners — twice as many for the AIDS patients. And the bath owners say they'd close if given any evidence that AIDS is spread there. Just like the organization that still thinks the world is flat. Refusing to accept science or logic, these people want me to think they're concerned about my rights?

Tad Dunlap
San Francisco

Cleanliness and the Baths

The baths are now the issue. San Francisco proposes to close its baths, and Gov. Cuomo has pondered doing the same in New York State. Let us consider: Has there been any survey to show that AIDS patients frequented the baths more than healthy gay men? Thus far, science has been unable to reveal the cause of AIDS.

We all have prejudices, and I have mine. One of my prejudices is that before I eat, I like to clean my hands, and I find it sad, and unhealthy, that a gay restaurant-bar could serve food and never provide soap in the bathroom. We know that thousands of women died in childbirth, unnecessarily, before it was required that doctors wash their hands prior to handling the patients.

When the Christians, in their rampage against the civilization of the ancients, closed the baths, they charged the baths with sex and indecency, not with disease. The Muslim Turkish baths were not known as disease centers. Of the alternatives for gay men today, the baths are undoubtedly one of the cleaner — and probably one of the healthier — places to engage in sex.

Do not close the baths. If one is worried about AIDS, then read some of John Lauritsen's provocative pieces on the correlation of drug-usage and AIDS.

Hugh Murray
Jackson Heights, NY

From House to House

With Dr. Silverman's ban on sex at the Gay tubs, now, a Gay man looking for sexual relief is forced out of the bathroom and into the outhouse. . . . And if he is caught, then it's off to the jailhouse. The games some people play.

Eric Wyland
San Francisco

Losing a Lifestyle

The closing and/or the eliminating of sexual activities of the bathhouses disturbs me greatly. However, an

even greater problem exists. No one seems to be considering the re-opening of these establishments. Who is going to have the authority to say, "Okay, the crisis is over. Let's open the baths." Are the baths to be closed forever? If they are to operate again in the future, will there be a court battle to regain sexual activity? I believe, while the discussion is the "here and now," we should be considering the "when and then." If plans at the present are not made for the future, we may be losing not only an era — but a lifestyle.

John Spratt
San Francisco

Conclusions

According to the *Examiner* rectal gonorrhea has dropped 50%. This would indicate that gay men are responsible and have changed their sexual habits. If AIDS symptoms take up to two years to appear, then we should see a drop within months. I'm sure the advocates of the bathhouse sex ban will be around to claim responsibility for what we have already accomplished.

Robert Starkey
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: We use the 61% drop. On the other hand, word is seeping out that the incubation period might be much, much longer.

P. Lorch

Bathhouse/Private Club Closure

It has been said so many times and yet we still refuse to listen. "Those that do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."

Or as Benjamin Franklin put it, "Those that give up some of their Liberty in order to gain some temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Far more dangerous to our community than AIDS is the "Head Up the Ass Syndrome." Educate, don't Legislate. Grow up and assume responsibility for yourself and you'll be safe.

A public service message from someone who would like to see some more "community" from our "community."

Patrick Welch
San Francisco

The Mayor and AIDS

Dianne "The Witch" Feinstein does it again. Nobody wanted to recall her because she was such a "friend" to Gaypeople.

Well, look at our "friend" now. When it was discovered that indigent AIDS victims were staying in a Tenderloin flop-house hotel, she issued a statement saying her office would look for better accommodations. When the SF *Examiner* released a story about AIDS victims touring housing at a quality tourist motel (at only \$18 a night compared to over \$600 a day for SF General Hospital) she was first again to issue a statement that her office would attempt to find accommodations for AIDS victims.

It looks to me as if Feinstein isn't interested in anyone's welfare except her own. She professes concern for people, but she seems concerned only to make speeches to attempt to head off conflict.

AIDS will be with us for a long, long time. It's time we elect city officials who will be concerned with San Francisco residents, including those with AIDS. Feinstein obviously isn't one of them.

David Kaye
San Francisco

Choosing Freedom

Thank you for listing the 16 enemies of gay freedom in your April 5 issue.

The chronology suggests there may be some individuals who still support gay rights and it may be in order to list those as well.

Regardless of what "issues" are raised, there is only one issue in closing the bathhouses: the rights of gays to choose their form of association. It is a simple matter of choosing freedom or rejecting it. We now have a very simple way to judge the commitment of various political activists to real freedom. Britt and his cohorts on the Condemned List failed.

I thoroughly agree with Jim Speck's letter to disseminate the list of traitors and their gay organizational affiliation. Further, I hope that any monetary damages sustained by bathhouse owners will be directly recovered from these same individuals.

Finally, we need a list of those politicians opposing our freedom to associate. The Dianne Feinsteins have too long been able to rely on the short memories of those who forget that the promises made in seeking gay votes is surrendered overnight when the lure of political expedience beckons.

Jerry Jansen
San Francisco

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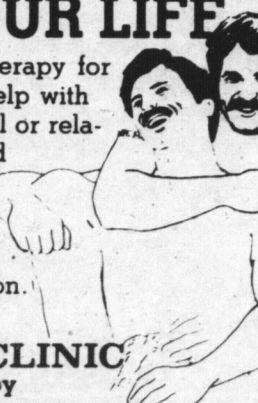
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LETTERS

Britt & Littlejohn

★ Who needs Harry Britt and Larry Littlejohn when we have H. L. Richardson and Jerry Falwell?

There is established no correlation between the continued rise of AIDS and bathhouse sex. When closure of the bathhouses fails to stem the tide and terror of AIDS, what will they close next?

If people choose to be dangerously sexual against the prevailing wisdom, they will continue to do so until we are all segregated, one by one, into glory hole-proof cells.

Harry Britt and Larry Littlejohn, you are monstrous gay brothers. You are doing the work of our most homophobic enemies.

James B. Meyers
San Francisco

Safesex is a Scam

★ In your April 5 issue, you carried a full-page ad calling for "safesex" which was put out by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. Human rights? How nice. Since I'm interested in human rights, I've dug through piles of newspaper to find out about this organization. Dr. Rick Andrews is a "founding member" of BAPHR. Dr. Andrews is on record as being an "advocate of closure" at the crucial meeting with Silverman on March 29. Dr. Robert Bolan, another "advocate of closure" who is the president of the AIDS/KS Foundation, is also on record quoting Dr. Andrews as saying that "the proposal to close the baths was not based on new medical information at all, it was because of political reasons."

Since Dr. Andrews is a member of BPHR, I can only assume that the other members of BPHR find his membership tolerable, and that they consider his recent actions to be within the ethical and professional guidelines of their organization. Considering this, I would like to tell BAPHR that I consider their "safesex" advertising to be extremely dubious and worth nothing but the greatest skepticism. What with the actions of Dr. Andrews and his membership in BAPHR, I have every reason to suspect that this "safesex" advertising is not based upon medical information, but is only being done for political reasons.

Don't forget, guys. The people who tried to close the baths are the same people who are conducting the "safesex" campaign. These people have been terrorizing us with snide accusations against our integrity if we don't have "safesex." Well, recent events have clarified the integrity of these people. If these people would bombard us with ads, posters, meetings and pamphlets repudiating the traitors in their midst, then we might have a reason to consider anything further they might have to say about our sexual activities. If they don't do this, we have every reason to ignore them.

These people tell us that we're being irresponsible if we ignore them. The fact of the matter is that a lot of faggots ignore them because these people are irresponsible. If these people are really concerned about saving lives through "safesex," the traitors are going to have to lose their jobs, their status, their chances for promotion and any other connection they have with the "safesex" campaign. Until then, "safesex" is just another scam.

Tim Speck
San Francisco

Safe Sex Porno

★ It has been suggested that we turn people off to unsafe sex by showing BEFORE and AFTER photos of people with AIDS. That's a good start, but in order to tie it in with the unhealthy sex practices, you need a DURING photo to show an unsafe practice the PWA indulged in. With the wealth of porno material available, one should have no problem coming up with an appropriate photo.

But, having de-erotized those practices, you need to give people something new to eroticize; otherwise, you haven't done the whole job. One means I would suggest would be safe sex porno movies. The formula would be the same as the existing crop, but only safe sex acts would take place.

V. W. "Bugs" Karlis
San Francisco

Bath Factors

★ As a general rule competent adults should have the liberty to expose themselves to any known risk. Society should not and, in fact, cannot properly analyze the risk versus benefit trade-offs for individuals. This is true because decision making in the real world is always partly the product of individual emotional input.

The AIDS problem, however, presents a situation where individual actions significantly affect the interests of other individuals.

1. People who are unaware of the prior promiscuous activities of their partners are exposed to a risk of which they have no knowledge.

2. When AIDS victims become ill or die they expose their lovers and friends to hard responsibilities and grief.

3. And lastly, they impose a substantial economic burden on society, by the high costs of their medical care through the MediCal and private health insurance programs.

These are some of the factors we ought to consider when evaluating the Health Department's policies regarding the baths, etc.

Mike Mason
San Francisco

Who Are the Collaborators?

★ Now is not the time for Gays to cut each other down in public in order to make themselves Queen of the Hill. All of us must hang together against this affront to our freedom. First the baths, then the bars.

By the way, would your publication consider publishing a list of the names of Dr. Silverman's collaborators? Bring them forward that we may know them.

Chris Knepper
San Francisco

The Latest List

★ You were so adamant listing the names of the crowd playing stooge for Dr. Silverman at his first press conference. Why then, when this coup failed and he formed a second group for the second press conference, did you fail to list their names?

The community has a right to know.

Kevin Capozio

ED. NOTE: The list was never any secret like the first fiasco. It was broadcast by Dr. Silverman over local and national media. A roomful of people were on hand including those who pressed to get behind Dr. Silverman.

Dr. Silverman gave some 24 names.



(Photo: Rink)

The names given as his supporters to ban sex were: Don Abrams, Rick Andrews, Mitch Bart, Bob Bolan, Jim Bonko, Bobbi Campbell, Dennis Collins, Michael England, Chuck Forester, Ron Huberman, Dave Matheson, Brandy Moore, Pat Norman, Steve Richter, Jim Sandmire, Tom Waddell, Hank Wilson, Tim Wolfred, Andrew Moss, Ralph Paine, Merle Sanders, Holly Smith, Paul Seidler.

Of this group, I have indicated they were either non-participants, nonsupporters, or felt they were double-crossed or misrepresented or had reservations.

Included in the group of 11 were Bobbi Campbell, Dennis Collins, Brandy Moore, Pat Norman, Jim Sandmire, Ralph Paine, Paul Seidler, Jim Bonko, Tim Wolfred, Ron Huberman, and Hank Wilson.

How one sorts all this out escapes us. But it seems Dr. Silverman got away with a bloodless coup.

P. Lorch

Silverman's Action Almost Irrelevant

★ The Brian Jones editorial of April 12, was both bitter and inaccurate. Dr. Silverman deserves compliments for taking a positive step in an extremely difficult and sensitive area.

The correctness of his action is almost irrelevant. More important, Dr. Silverman's decision effectively buried the innocuous Littlejohn matter.

Herb Levy
San Francisco

Forgetting How Others See Us

★ The public debate about AIDS has become very sad-denning, with every imaginable rationalization trotted out, along with an airing of vast piles of very dirty laundry. Gay San Franciscans often seem to have lost perspective or concern for how they are viewed by others; witness the idiots who appeared at a press conference in bath towels. Saddest of all has been the frequent and loud assertion that if the baths are closed, gays will just rut in the parks, as if that is another of our civil rights. We have no right to try to blackmail other city residents with such a threat. No one with children, for example, is going to look kindly on individuals proclaiming they will appropriate the parks for sexual activity, nor should they. Buena Vista Park is already off limits for many of the neighborhood children.

The commercial reasons for this debate are obvious; they are on every page of B.A.R. Put simply, sex sells. But the self-destructiveness of many gay men has hardly been faced. Using the baths as symbols of liberation and the parks as hostage to them at a time like this can only convince others that we are determined to slaughter ourselves and each other. Let's stop confusing civil rights with license; I don't want to believe that Morley Safer was right about San Francisco.

Gray Brechin
San Francisco

LETTERS

Clean Up

★ It's a real fucking shame that the owners of bathhouses, etc. couldn't have cleaned up their act before Littlejohn, Silverman and a Democratic Convention came along to "help" us all out.

Hopefully, there will be enough legal objections — always time consuming — so that by, say, Christmas, a compromise will have been reached — only in this instance what IS a compromise?

Meanwhile, Dr. Silverman's statement that "The answer is not necessarily more money for research" strongly suggests he's more than "caved in" to political machinations.

Tennis, anyone?

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

Look to the Germs

★ Call me paranoid if you like, but until it is proven otherwise, please add my name to the growing list of those who suspect that AIDS is a political plot to curb promiscuity. What we need is a shrewd investigator who can find out what's going on at the Gern Warfare Lab in New Jersey. A story of that caliber would out-Watergate Watergate.

Bob Hart
San Francisco

Stand Up and Holler

★ We all laughed when the town of Greater Tuna, Texas gave first prize to the high school essay, "Human Rights: Why Bother?" Not so funny when it hits closer to home. Prohibition of bathhouse sex is Health Director Silverman's response to pressure from the likes of Nelder, Boas, Feinstein and the Clean Sixteen (B.A.R. editorial, April 5, 1984) who have come to "represent" the Gay community. A small but self-righteous and powerful band has once again managed to make our choices for us.

That medical justification for the prohibition does not exist, that sex with strangers will find its black market (with a corresponding outbreak of cops-in-the-bushes), and that the action is only a pretense of doing something about AIDS has not deterred this crew.

Statists never tire of subordinating human liberty to their private notions of morality and their voracious appetite for political power. Feinstein's pleasure has been to attempt to outlaw whatever annoys or inconveniences her. Prohibition of handguns, smoking in the workplace and bathhouse sex are cut out of the same cloth, as are the supporters of the bathhouse decision.

Harry Britt (how much longer must we be saddled with him?) swears the Mayor is no homophobe. But isn't Feinstein's "Gay is fine and dandy, as long as you don't do this or that, and you don't do it here, or there," a variation of Anita Bryant's "back into the closet" routine and a repudiation of Gay Liberation? Is granting civil rights while denying us the freedom to be ourselves liberal?

I have never been to the baths, and probably never will, but I reserve the right to go, should such risk-taking please me to fuck the light fanatic.

Cleaning up the bathhouse act, then, has more to do with abuse of political power and the abridgment of liberty than with dreaded AIDS. If it suited their purposes, those who have brought you sexless bathhouses would invent a rationale for prohibiting YOU. I advocate tightening the reins of the officials implicated in the bathhouse decision and casting them out of office at the next possible opportunity. I urge you to serve notice upon Gay "leaders" who have endorsed the Silverman decision that they are no longer worthy of serving the cause of Gay Liberation.

Stand up and holler for your liberties while you can.

Joel Laski
San Francisco

On a Dead Man's Reputation

★ I just read Don Heimforth's letter regarding Jerry Jensen's alleged alcoholism and homosexuality. Mr. Heimforth, your letter puzzles me. What are you trying to say? That employees of KGO are all alcoholics? That Jerry Jensen didn't live up to your standards? Are you a professional alcoholism counselor?

Perhaps, rather than criticizing someone who is dead, you might take a look at someone who is still alive, and I suspect needs some close examination — yourself. A thread of resentment, intolerance and low self-esteem runs through your letter. Take a look at Don and let Jerry go. I didn't know Jerry Jensen, but I heard he had a lot of friends and was loved. Are you?

J. C. Cox
San Francisco

On a Christian Cleric

★ Because of my profound preference for intelligent, witty, reasoning company I generally steer a very wide course around persons whom I perceive to be clerics. Of whatever persuasion. Most of those unfortunates are burdened with the intellectual capacity of lesser kudos, are about as witty as a massive coronary occlusion, and give up any attempt at "reasoning" about the time they wondered why their poor mothers insisted that they not make doodle before first positioning their bottoms — preferable bare — over a toilet bowl.

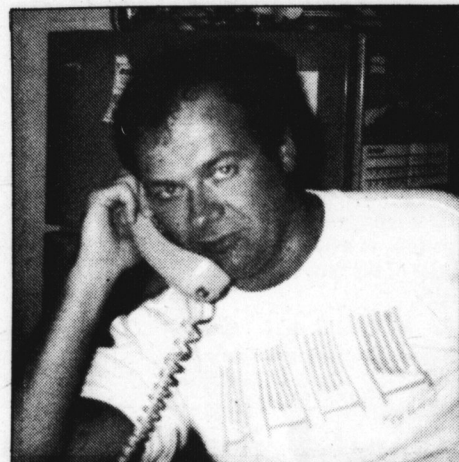
There is, however, one cleric in Our Fair City whose acquaintance I should very much like to make: Father Robert Plasterer of St. Boniface. Father Robert's superiority as a fine human being and as a true Christian has been manifest numbers of times in the past in both his dealings with the Gay Community and his verbal support of our own humanity and of the necessity that we be accorded common respect and courtesy and be treated fairly.

Most recently, the good padre has welcomed the local chapter of Dignity into his parish. He did so in a manner richly befitting his mandated role as a loving and compassionate shepherd. Father Robert clearly took his vows seriously.

There is no question in mind; when the Archbishop has himself chauffeured up to the Pearly Gates, bedecked in his very finest, most jewel-encrusted drag, he's gonna have a helluva lot harder time gaining admission than will Father Robert. Quinn, jockeying for one of those cute little red beanies by emulating the homophobic bigotry of the Superarchbishop in Rome, has chosen to forget that Christ preached — above all other virtues — tolerance and love, particularly for the down trodden, the oppressed, the despised. Father Robert has not forgotten, and he shall have his reward. So, too, I trust shall Quinn.

C. W. Morrison, M.D.
San Francisco

Nikita Speaks



★ "Remembering Nikita" in San Francisco? Of all places!! Reading the March 29 B.A.R., I did come across a few inaccuracies in Mike's article. Foremost being the fact that I have never looked like Nikita Kruschev. Rather, the nickname resulted from my highly volatile temperament. My freshman year in college I was an insecure Yankee put on the defensive when surrounded by "Hotlanta" boys with "Magnolia Mouth" accents. Kruschev banged his shoe on the table at the UN — I irrationally argued the civil war all over again. Fortunately, Mike and I have both outgrown these verbal abuses.

Yes, I have been known to find youths under the age of 18 to be attractive. Who has not? And my beach house is often a haven for surfers. But it is not the sexual free-for-all a reader might infer. This past fall I found myself being the surrogate father to two straight 18 year olds. Sure, I was attracted to them, but I made no attempts to compromise their sexuality. I was there as a respected friend when they needed a place to go.

I do get tired of all the Miss Scarletts; I even tire of blonde surfers occasionally. But I never get tired of Bette Davis or old friends.

Vanity alone makes me enclose the photo. I cannot believe that a 14-year-old photo of me was published with the article.

Nikita
Durham, NC

To the Mole

★ Re: "Spy in Your Midst." I'm astounded to learn that a stranger has walked amongst us; one who has finally exposed our secrets and the subtleties of our evil scheming, our wicked ways. It makes me darn mad.

Peter Norden
San Francisco

A Body to Cry Over

★ Billy dearest,
I've been expecting you to come down and join me like you promised. After viewing your recent photo in the B.A.R., I am safely assured it could be any minute.

We're all just burning to know what you mean by SF BEST???? Your loving sister,

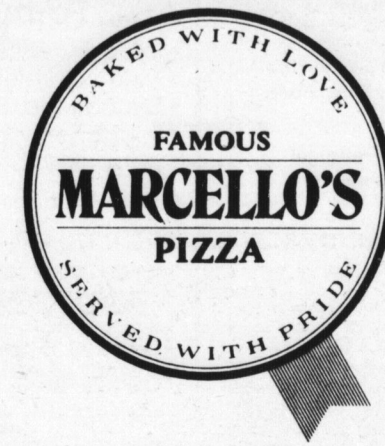
Karen Carpenter

Kitty Litter

★ Acatamy Awards Results: Purrs of Endearment, Tender Mousies, Against All Dogs, and Mion-Miou in Entre Mew.

Signed, A Love Cat

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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 6)

names, phone numbers, addresses, or information to researchers on sex habits, habits, and high points is a high risk activity. After all, the researchers will work for public health as well as the PD. Dr. Robert Bolan has already let the cat out of the coinage bag and referred to those "addicted" to sex.

T'was a time we were just sex perverts.

Next hunting season we'll be "sex addicts."

Leave it to the medical zealots to pick up where the moral zealots left off. They've done it before.

From "evil" the Doctors changed us to "sick." We beat that rap; now if Dr. Bolan sets the tone from his colleagues we'll be people "out of control."

And don't we know where all those kind of people belong.

Paul Lorch

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Gay Funeral Service Gets Green Light from State

by George Mendenhall

Complaints from local funeral directors closed down the nation's first Gay funeral business in late January, but it is open again. Lambda Funeral Service opened with feature newspaper articles early this year, expecting to be automatically chartered to operate at a January 20 state board meeting. The matter was postponed two months, causing Lambda to temporarily shutter its upper Market Street office.

The five-member state Board of Funeral Directors reconsidered the matter on March 28 and re-opened Lambda in a 3-1 decision. The three funeral directors on the board split — against, for, and abstaining. The two consumer members approved. All board members are appointed by the governor.

Mortician Tom Simpson, featured in a February 2 article in this newspaper, explained that the board has a policy of informing all area morticians about any new applications so they can protest if they wish. Simpson does not know who complained, but the objection failed to deter the operation.

Lambda is a low-cost Gay-owned funeral service that offers to help Lesbians and Gay men who wish to pre-pay for their funerals or to make final arrangements — embalming or cremation. It avails itself of the facilities of the Neptune Funeral Society.

The earlier B.A.R. article drew considerable reaction. It urged, "Gay bars. Gay news-

could also be a cremation with the ashes tossed at sea from Lambda's boat while close friends aboard drink martinis.

Simpson, a friendly but somewhat staid person himself, was somewhat startled by B.A.R.'s light treatment. He reflected that one of his major reasons for opening the service was to allow Gay people to decide what they wish to do for themselves, rather than have the body suddenly removed after death by distant relatives.

London newspapers and both *Playboy* and *Cosmopolitan* magazines interviewed Simpson after the B.A.R. article appeared. Local newspaper columnist Herb Caen also ran a campy item about Simpson's unique business.

Some letter writers found the "Gay" funeral irreverent and indecent, others found the possibilities delicious.

papers. Gay clothing stores. Why not a Gay funeral to end it all?" There was speculation in the feature that a pre-planned funeral could include a lavender casket, full leather burial shroud and a recording of Judy Garland's "Over the Rainbow" on the public address system. Or it



Lambda funeral director Tom Simpson is back in business after license hold-up. (Photo: Rink)



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Federal Prison Ban Lifted

(Continued from page 1)



NGRA legal director gets prison warden to adhere to new federal regulations. (Photo: Joe Kose)

said that the swiftness of the officials' reversal — which followed a warning from Graff of legal action if the ban was not lifted — was because "they knew there was no way legally they could justify their censorship. Their policy was a clear violation of First Amendment rights."

Prison officials had objected to the display of "explicit" photographs of Gay men having sex, but raised no similar objections to equally explicit photos of Lesbian and heterosexual erotica in other publications.

In an article published last September, the *Bay Area Reporter* disclosed that new federal guidelines on the distribution of erotic materials in prisons specifically prohibited Gay male erotica on the grounds that such materials "would constitute a threat to the security, good order, and discipline of the institution."

Lesbian erotica was banned from women's prisons for essentially the same reason.

Paul Lorch, editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*, said that "from the very start, I thought it was selective discrimination against a Gay prisoner (Richard Nelson)

especially since it was a prisoner who was outspoken, and apparently he offended somebody in the lower echelons of prison authority." Each time the paper was rejected a form letter would arrive at the newspaper's offices explaining the decision. Each time it contained instructions on how to appeal the decision each time to the warden himself. And each time Lorch would write to the warden informing him that indeed the paper was a newspaper, read by law enforcement officials statewide, and delivered in bulk in the city prison. The charade went on for months.

Finally, Lorch presented to NGRA a letter addressed to him from Nelson that complained about the withholding of the newspaper after receiving it for 18 months. Nelson wrote, "It's odd that now (August 1983), after all that time, somebody decides that it's a threat to the security of the institution."

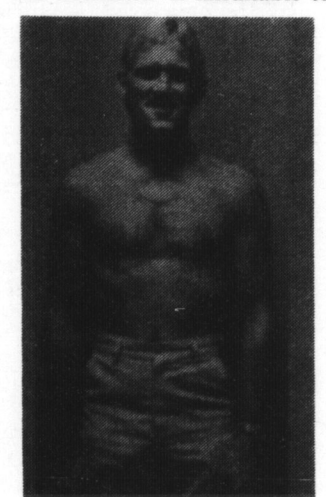
Nelson wrote that he still received the *Gay Community News* of Boston. "I guess because it's generally concerned with females (Lesbian-oriented)."

Nelson, sentenced to Lompoc

for bank robbery, is due to be released in August.

Lorch said he did not know whether other Gay publications were similarly banned from federal prisons, but the Gaycon Press, a San Francisco-based group which publishes a newsletter aimed specifically at Gay prisoners, has also had its run-ins with prison officials. In a letter to William Seabold, warden of the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex in LaGrange, Kentucky, Gaycon's Associate Editor, Robert Morris, objected to that prison's return of its August 1983 edition, which included a nude photo of Gay porn star Jim King.

"We do not understand why our newsletter is unsuitable to



Lompoc prisoner and Bay Area Reporter subscriber Richard Nelson gets back his paper.

your institution, as we mail it to many lonely Gay prisoners in various penal institutions around this country."

Ironically, the newsletter also contained a news item from Los Angeles that the L.A. County Sheriff's Department had begun classifying prisoners on the basis of their sexual orientation, similar to a policy adopted by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department ten years ago, that resulted in a dramatic drop in attacks on Gay inmates.

D.B. Sanders

AIDS Virus

(Continued from page 1)

speculation that researchers at the National Institutes of Health have found a third form more closely linked to AIDS. But other investigators expect an announcement soon.

"I think (HTLV) has to be considered the leading candidate (as a cause of AIDS) at this time," said Dr. Myron Essex, professor of microbiology and chairman of the Department of Cancer Biology of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Essex's research shows that in 17 cases of victims who contracted AIDS, two-thirds of the patients clearly had been exposed to HTLV. And in cases of patients who contracted AIDS as the result of a blood transfusion, nine of the 12 donors demonstrated exposure to HTLV.

"It's quite significant statistically that we wouldn't find that through chance alone," he said, noting that in healthy "control groups," the incidence of such exposure was only 1%.

"All of the epidemiological evidence is that AIDS is caused by a single new agent or an agent that's newly introduced to the Western World within the last four to five years," Dr. Essex said. "The only way you could explain that is through a new virus or a new mutant variation of an existing virus."

All the same, writes Chase, the discovery of a cause for AIDS doesn't mean that a cure for or a means to prevent the disease would be forthcoming. Dr. Paul Volberding, chief of oncology at San Francisco General Hospital and head of the hospital's AIDS clinic, points out that it took 10 years to develop a vaccine to prevent hepatitis B after the virus was isolated.

"The important thing to remember is that finding the virus wouldn't change treatment for at least five years," he said. "But at least it would let us know how the disease is transmitted. That would be useful in targeting potential sources, in screening of blood donors, and in urging behavioral modification in the Gay community."

Local epidemiologist Richard Pearce also has reservations on the "breakthrough." He says that press release accounts from researchers while "rarely inaccurate" are at times "misleading." He commented "it may be the virus that's damaging T-cells, but why do some get it and not others — such as lover pairs?" Pearce added, "The bullet may have been found, but the gun is still out there."

Roberti Measure to Study AIDS Passes Committee

State Senate President David Roberti's measure requiring a statewide study and development of a comprehensive plan to provide treatment for AIDS has been approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

The committee voted 9-0 in favor of the measure, which now moves to the Senate Finance Committee.

The measure provides funding for a statewide study by the state's Health and Welfare Agency and would result in a three year plan for providing AIDS-related treatment, services and preventive health education.

Roberti, (D-Hollywood/Burbank) commented, "Health professionals and community action agencies serving the at-risk population have informed us of the need for coordination of AIDS-related efforts in the state. SB-2242 provides that coordination."

Citing recent statistics which reveal the increase of the spread of disease to nearly 4,000 cases nationwide, Roberti noted:

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

"The availability and accessibility of quality health care for people with AIDS is woefully inadequate to meet the geometrically-increasing case-load of these deadly diseases."

Aides say the study should result in a new or special model of health care delivery developed for persons with AIDS.

The assessment is to take into consideration that at the present time, there are almost no diagnostic or treatment services outside of the very large metropolitan areas.

The study will be done in consultation with the AIDS Advisory Committee, the California Task Force on AIDS, the Department of Mental Health Citizens Advisory Committee, the California Conference of Local Mental Health Directors, local governments, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Mental Health and Community Organizations which are providing patient support services or AIDS related education.



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100 tabs
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Priests Lacking in PA City

Dignity/Philadelphia is having trouble finding priests to celebrate its weekly masses because of pressure from the archdiocese, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Although the local Dignity chapter had a pool of seven priests to choose from in its heyday, "three Sundays ago we didn't get a priest until 20 minutes before mass was scheduled to begin," said Dignity President Michael Flynn. Flynn also said

he knows of two priests recently pressured into leaving Dignity when the archdiocese discovered their involvement. The archdiocese does not recognize Dignity as an organization, "so it doesn't even come up as an issue," said archdiocese spokeswoman Rose Lombardo.

"The church isn't actively harassing us," said Flynn. "But there has been some pressure against us. We just want to be left alone." Flynn said the group, which has 180 dues-paying members, has developed a "para-liturg" that could be celebrated by laypersons if no priests could be obtained.

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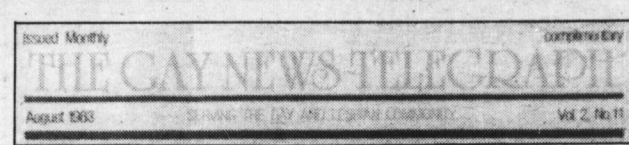
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Lesbian Soldiers Ousted in Leavenworth

Fort Leavenworth, KS - The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against the U.S. Army to block the discharge of ten women on charges of Lesbianism.

The suit stems from an investigation of an incident at a lesbian bar in Kansas City in which a sergeant got involved in a fight with an associate and was slightly injured. When asked about the incident when she returned to work at the base, the sergeant fabricated a story, according to Paul Segal, Missouri director of the ACLU.

Army investigators were skeptical of the sergeant's story and pursued the matter further, discovering that she had been at a Gay bar. Upon that discovery, the investigators harshly interrogated her and obtained the names of nine other women. Of the ten, one is a civilian.

Although several of the women accepted honorable discharges, the remaining women have decided to fight the charges in court.

— St. Louis Gay News-Telegraph

Angels Open in Seattle

The Guardian Angels, the "kids in red berets" who have made a name for themselves from the subways of New York to the streets of Oakland by stepping in to prevent crimes before the cops get there, have appeared in Seattle, Washington, according to the *Seattle Gay News*.

The new group, currently headed by John McKim, the GA's third highest leader in the United States and its national troubleshooter, has not received a warm official reception in Seattle. In fact, McKim was detained by Seattle Police when he used force to restrain a local youth who was beating up a wino.

According to the *Seattle Gay News*, the majority of people who live in Seattle are relieved to see the GA on the street, and that while the organization's members are admittedly "super-macho" in appearance, the GA has done much to aid the Gay and Lesbian community, particularly as monitors for the recent Harvey Milk Memorial March in San Francisco.

The Washington Blade

Mississippi Gay Group Denied Nonprofit Status

Both the Mississippi Gay Alliance and the Mississippi chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays have been denied nonprofit charters by the Mississippi Attorney General's office, according to Gaze, a Gay newspaper in Memphis.

Assistant Attorney General Richard M. Allen cited a Mississippi law that makes "Every person who shall be convicted of the detestable and abominable crime against nature committed with mankind or with a beast" liable to a prison term of up to ten years in his denial of the two charters. Approval of a nonprofit corporate charter would "ostensibly give legal status to an organization dedicated on its face to subverting this criminal statute," Allen wrote in his letter of denial.

Both groups applied for charters in 1983, but refrained from pursuing the applications until after Mississippi's gubernatorial election last November because of allegations of homosexual activity on the part of newly elected Mississippi Governor Bill Allain by supporters of the opposition. Achieving a nonprofit charter is the first step in applying for tax-exempt status that encourages contributors.

Eddie Sandifer, executive director for the MGA, said both groups plan to take the issue to court if their already re-submitted charter applications are once again denied. The MGA has been active in Mississippi for ten years.

SEATTLE GAY NEWS

NYC Bar Must Pay for Door Bias

The New York State Division of Human Rights has awarded four Black Gay men \$1,500 each in a decision against the Ice Palace, a now-defunct New York Gay disco, according to the *New York Native*. The suit brought against the Ice Palace alleged the disco had refused entry to the men because of their race. It is said to be the first decision by the division which knowingly involves the Gay community.

The four men who filed charges against the disco had participated in a test of its door policies sponsored by Black and White Men Together after the organization received repeated complaints of discrimination at the Ice Palace. Each of the four men, who were not accompanied by white men, was asked to produce several pieces of identification and two of the four were turned away. BWMT immediately filed complaints against the Ice Palace, picketed the disco for eight months and called for a community-wide boycott, which lasted until the Ice Palace closed in late 1982.

Nearly a year later the New York human rights division made its decision in the four cases, finding that the doormen at the Ice Palace had acted in a discriminatory fashion by asking for identification and by refusing admission to the Black men.

"The fact that two of the prospective Black patrons were told they could enter the establishment in no way erases the discriminatory practices," Commissioner of Human Rights H. Carl McCall wrote in his decision. "The very fact that they were required to show ID in order to gain admittance (while prospective White patrons were not) was, in itself, discriminatory."

BWMT said it plans to donate the money the four men receive to the Faith Temple Church of Howard University, a predominantly Black and Gay church, but so far the money has not been forthcoming.

Gaysweek

Mayor Boycotts St. Pat's Parade

Denver - Mayor Federico Pena boycotted Denver's St. Patrick's Day Parade in protest of the refusal by parade organizers to allow Gay groups to march in it.

Pena, the city's first Hispanic mayor whose election was partly attributed to overwhelming support from Gay voters, said that the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee violated the spirit of the parade's theme — "St. Patrick's Day is for Everyone" — by refusing to allow a delegation from the Lesbian and Gay Community Center to march.

"I cannot in good conscience participate in this parade," Pena declared after negotiations aimed at reaching a compromise collapsed after the parade unanimously voted to keep the Gays out.

Gay supporters wore lavender shamrocks and the last march contingent carried a banner bearing the parade's theme — with the last word, "Everyone," written in large lavender letters.

— Gay Community News, Boston



Southern California's Gay NEWSpaper

Police Rampage in Houston

Forty-six people were arrested last month in a week-long series of raids on Gay bars and bookstores in Houston, Texas, according to the *Montrose Voice*.

Ironically, a meeting between representatives of nearly all civic organizations in the Montrose area of Houston and the chief of the Houston Police Department had resulted in an agreement for the Houston vice squad to try to "clean up" prostitution in the area. But instead of raiding the many straight "modeling agencies" and massage parlors that operate in Montrose, which is what the civic leaders had

meant, the vice squad proceeded to raid Gay bars and bookstores in Montrose, arresting patrons either for public lewdness or public intoxication. A DJ in one of the bars was beaten so badly he required stitches.

"He was assured that it was in the past and would not happen again," said attorney Cynthia Owens, who was present at the meeting. "As it turns out, he had cause to worry. It looks like his fears were well-founded, and the joke's on us."

Compiled by Dion B. Sanders

Mondale Beefs Up Pro-Gay Plank on Military

by Larry Bush

Former vice president Walter Mondale, campaigning during the New York primary, told supporters that he now believes that the military's ban on homosexuals ought to be changed. Mondale made the statement at a women's forum in New York City, according to Mondale aide Nikki Heidepriem.

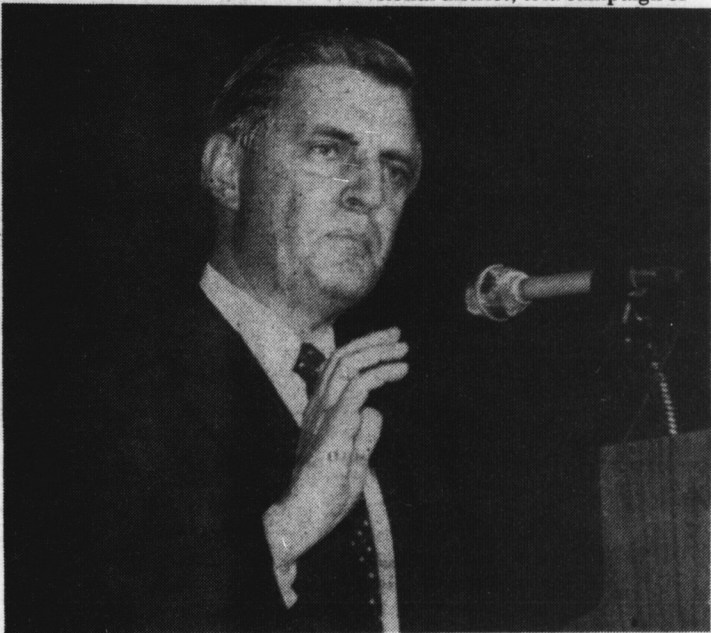
Mondale's statement on the military (which was released officially by the campaign last week) marks his second shift toward a strong Gay rights position since responding to a questionnaire from five national Gay rights groups. In March, Mondale announced his support for the Senate Gay civil rights bill, which would ban discrimination in employment. Mondale's initial responses supported an executive order banning discrimination in most government employment and services, as well as legislation. But he did not specify support for the Senate bill or extend to the

officials he would renounce his support unless Mondale endorsed an end to the military's anti-Gay policies. Pentagon officials said between 1,500 and 2,000 people are discharged annually for suspected homosexual activities.

Meanwhile, Gay Mondale backers in the New York primary sought to exploit Senator Hart's reluctance to endorse and co-sponsor the Senate Gay rights bill. Mondale had already endorsed it. In a full-page ad appearing in the *New York City News* (a Gay newspaper) Gay Mondale backers said that a city council member who refused to co-sponsor Gay civil rights measures would not earn Gay support for a mayoral candidacy, and that a U.S. senator who refused to take that step should not be supported for president.

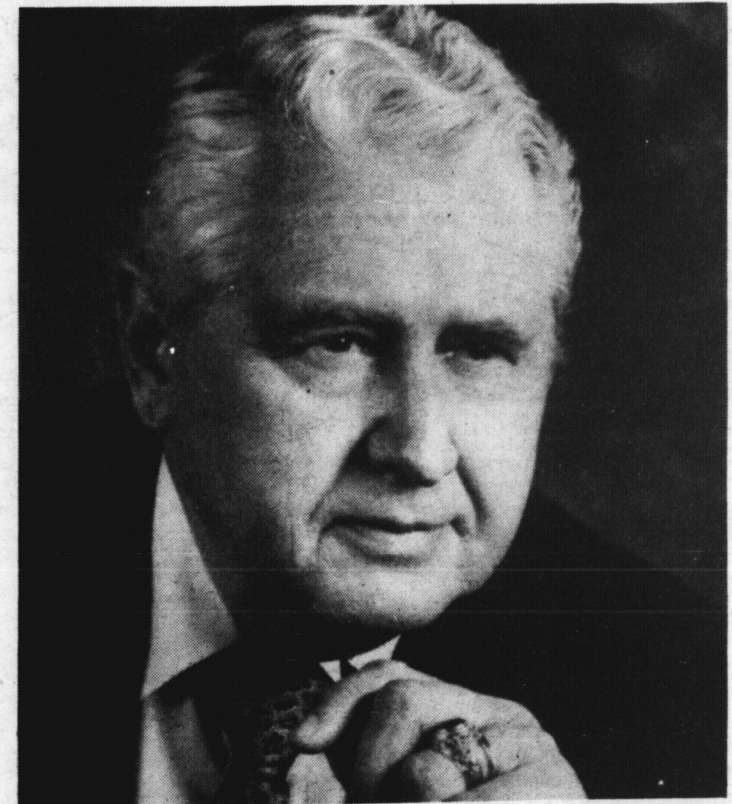
In related campaign developments, Senator Hart reportedly canceled a scheduled appearance at the headquarters of the Gay Men's Health Crisis to demonstrate his concern about the federal response to AIDS. The visit, slated for March 30, was canceled in part due to fears that a campaign to close Gay bathhouses in San Francisco might be endorsed by city officials the same day as Hart's visit, throwing unwanted publicity on what Gay AIDS leaders in New York considered to be a relatively unimportant side issue, and in part because of Hart campaign fears about a backlash from conservative and orthodox Jewish voters who are increasingly strident in their anti-Gay statements. Hart campaign officials did not return calls asking for comment.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose New York campaign was also backed by Lesbians and Gay men, including noted political writer Doug Ireland, paid a Saturday call on the New York City Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Jackson was the only presidential candidate to appear at a Gay community locale during a campaign otherwise notable for stops in ethnic watering holes and community centers.



Mondale strengthens stand on Gays and the military. (Photo: Rink)

Senator Davis Featured at CRIR Dinner



Senator Ed Davis, who voted for AB-1, will be CRIR's guest speaker.

Senator Ed Davis will be the special honored guest and speaker at the Seventh Anniversary dinner of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, scheduled for Thursday, May 10 under the glass dome of the Gift-center Pavilion, 888 Brannan

Street, San Francisco. The evening begins with cocktails at 7 p.m. followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 for sponsors.

Senator Davis, former Police Chief of Los Angeles, is now completing his first term in

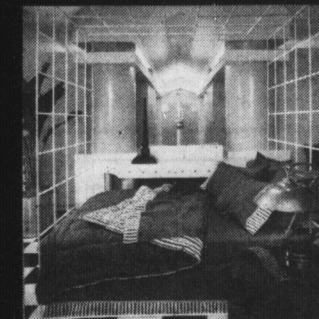
Sacramento, representing the 19th Senatorial District which encompasses Chatsworth and portions of the San Fernando Valley in Ventura County. Davis is one of the four Republicans who voted for AB-1, the Gay employment rights bill, in February when that bill for the first time reached the floor of the Senate. He gave a colorful speech at that time, emphasizing that in a secular society allowing people to have a decent job was the moral thing to do. Senators Bob Beverly, Ken Maddy, and Milton Marks are the other Republicans who supported the legislation, and they too have been invited to the dinner as guests of CRIR. All four will receive awards from the club.

Duke J. Armstrong, CRIR's dinner committee chair, expressed earnest hope that the dinner would have the full backing of all segments of the Gay community. "It is only by a strong show of support for legislators like Davis," said Armstrong, "that the Gay community can hope to encourage other Republicans to stand up and be counted next time around. Unless that happens, Gay rights will remain a partisan political football on the legislative field, and we cannot hope to change the mind of the Governor."

For ticket information contact Duke Armstrong at 543-0910.

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Coffee	\$.75 Tea \$.75 Milk \$.75

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New Orleans Christian Zealots Sink Gay Rights

by George Mendenhall

Extensive lobbying by the Roman Catholic archbishop and Christian fundamentalists frightened a mayoral aspirant in New Orleans into voting NO on a broad Gay rights effort, causing it to go down to defeat in a 3-3 City Council tie vote. Another councilman, who would have voted against the measure, was absent. Councilman Joseph Giarrusso, who was considered the "swing" vote, heard nine hours of debate with 180 speakers before voting NO.

The proposal would have prohibited discrimination against Gay people in housing, employment and use of public facilities. Passage would have made New Orleans the first major Southern city to adopt such an ordinance. The council hearings brought forth some fundamentalists who carried bibles and called homosexuality "an abomination."

Giarrusso, who is sensitive to the religious community in his predicted bid next year to be mayor, said he hoped his Gay supporters would understand his problem. He pleaded, "This proposal could result in reverse discrimination against heterosexuals who are fired from their jobs as they would not have the same right to appeal as a homosexual. I also question that we should support this at the city level when the state has not passed similar legislation."

Council opposition also came from member Wayne Babovich who was the co-sponsor of the measure. However, Gay activists knew that he had changed his mind earlier. He stated that the pressure from his district was just too strong to overcome.

Rev. Linda Bynum, the city's Metropolitan Community Church minister, told this reporter "Giarrusso was just weaseling out of it. He let us down. He was the one who kept it from happening as we knew how the others stood on this. We were surprised when he said, 'I

who recently banned a Gay Catholic outreach group called "New Ways," took an aggressive role in defeating the proposal. He wrote to the council, threatening to immediately start a ballot initiative campaign to kill the ordinance if it was approved. He said he was confident that the use of church resources could remove the measure from the books "in short order."

GAY POLITICS

New Orleans Gay activist Alan Robinson insists, "The battle is not over here. We have been working ten years on this, and we will work another ten years on it if we have to." As chair of the increasingly powerful Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus, he pledged to "defeat each councilman who voted NO — for whatever spurious reasons they gave. They can never come to the Gay community for support again." He will begin a new drive for a Gay rights ordinance.

Mike Early, French Quarter councilman, was openly support-

hope my Gay supporters won't think too harshly of me for doing this."

Rev. Bynum said her disappointment was deep as local Gay people had sent out thousands of post cards and letters mustering support for the defeated ordinance. She said scores of Gay and Straight civil libertarians and ministers testified for the bill — with few opposition speakers.

The major opposition came

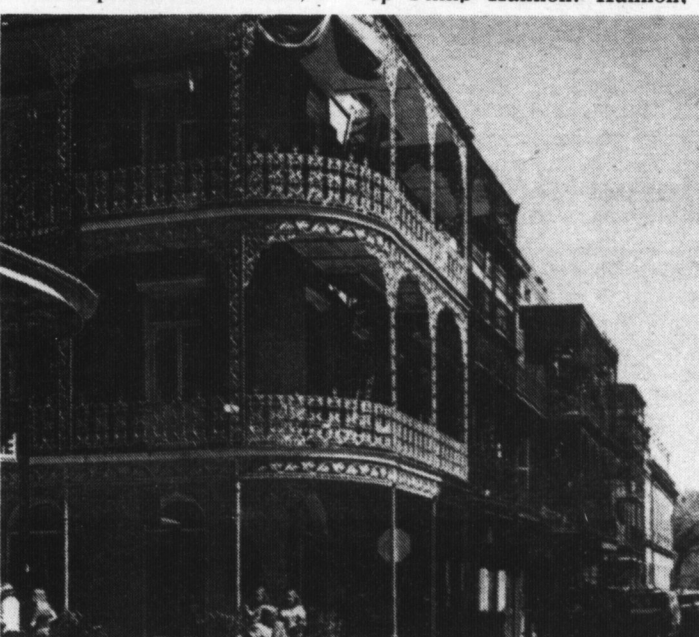


The French Quarter

from Christian fundamentalists and Roman Catholic Archbishop Philip Hannon. Hannon,

of the measure, is equally determined and stresses, "The issue is not one of morality but one of legal rights of individuals."

New Orleans' liberal attitude toward Gay people is to allow Gay businesses to flourish — within the French Quarter. The quarter, which is more Gay than French, is a colorful twenty block area located downtown. It was here that a young man named Tennessee Williams wrote about a streetcar named Desire. There are now over seventy Gay businesses in the quarter — bars, restaurants, discos and bathhouses. The quarter's annual Gay costume competition on Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras is an outrageous mix of drag queens and nudes from around the world. Sexual activity in some Gay bars is not uncommon during Mardi Gras. However, local Gay people and the police play a cat-and-mouse game the rest of the year.



New Orleans Gays say councilpeople deserted them in the crunch.

Gay Men's Therapy Center Announces Workshops

The Gay Men's Therapy Center was formed to offer Gay men high quality psychotherapeutic services by Gay male and Gay-sensitive professionals. The primary focus of the center is to provide individual and couple psychotherapy and educational groups and workshops.

The following workshops are offered by the Gay Men's Therapy Center during 1984:

1. **Being Healthy.** An ongoing group exploring and supporting ways for Gay men to promote health in their lives and

deal with AIDS fear and compulsive sexuality. Group meets on Sundays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$80 per month. Call Stephen Johnson, EdD at 922-7774 or Rodney Karr, PhD at 931-1934.

2. **Assertiveness Training.** Learning skills to help you stand up for your rights and express your needs and feelings with sensitivity to others. Group 1 meets Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting April 14. Fee: \$90. Group 2 meets Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fee: \$40.

Call Ira Rudolph, PhD at 474-7759.

3. **Self-Hypnosis for Stress Reduction and Self-Improvement.** Using your own creative imagination, learn some simple, safe techniques for reducing anxiety and stress. New workshop offered in July. Call Dave Cooperberg, MA at 431-3220.

4. **Man to Man: A Creative Workshop for Gay Couples.** A two-day workshop exploring such issues as sexual boredom, conflict resolution, man to man issues, power dynamics and individuality within the couple. Group meets Sundays, May 6 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: \$80 each or \$160 per couple. Call Rodney Karr, PhD at 931-1934 or Dave Cooperberg, MA at 431-3220.

G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Berkeley

EBL/GDC Makes Primary Endorsements

by John Wetzl

In a business-as-usual assemblage, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC) general membership made endorsements for the June 6 election April 9. The endorsements are being watched more closely than ever by elected-office hopefuls and incumbents who now regard the club as a highly-effective force in East Bay politics.

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MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE - HAYWARD		
Peggy Hora		
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE - OFFICE 9		
Richard Bartalini		
CALIFORNIA SENATE - DISTRICT 7		
Diana Patrick		

Part of the club's effectiveness has come from its major victories in the past, such as its successful lobbying for an Oakland Gay rights ordinance in employment, and its successful local lobbying for AB-1.

The club's success on AB-1 evidenced earlier this month when the EBL/GDC entertained an impressive host of local political brawn. Mayors, state legislators, and other officeholders engaged the Gay group in a powwow of support, despite AB-1's failure and despite, in the words of Senator Bill Lockyer, that "this [AB-1] is part of a larger issue that in my district could cost me my seat."

But much of EBL/GDC's reputation comes from its work in political elections. Said Ramone Sevilla, president of East Bay Political Action Committee, a professional group representing Gay and ethnic minorities, "The EBL/GDC is a really impressive organization in terms of its campaigning effectiveness," which, he says, "has been able to mobilize the Gay community like it's never been able to be mobilized before. The East Bay has a huge Gay community," he said, "that has not been mobilized in past elections." Sevilla is also an EBL/GDC member.

One clear statement in the club's current endorsement choices was a unanimous vote on Diana Patrick, running for state senator against conservative Republican Dan Boatwright in Contra Costa County. Boatwright voted against AB-1, and the club hopes to help debunk the heavily-backed Boatwright campaign by supporting Patrick, a mother of two.

Patrick says she hopes the club would endorse her because of her positions, and not because of Dan Boatwright's vote against AB-1.

The move to support Marge Gibson for Alameda County Board of Supervisors, a vote EBL/GDC Political Action Chair Tom Brougham called "flyaway," also serves as a statement of support for pro-Gay legislators. Gibson sponsored and

carried Oakland's nondiscrimination ordinance through the Oakland City Council last year for the club. The endorsement was characterized as a show of loyalty by the group.

Also endorsed unanimously was Hayward Municipal Court candidate Peggy Hora, a left of center Democrat who has shown support for Gay rights and women's rights. Hora will be the first woman to sit on the Hayward Municipal Court, if elected.

Final endorsement results reflected the club's support for its leadership. Members ran case by case in favor of the recommended endorsements of the club's Political Action Committee.

"The Political Action Committee is pretty representative of the club," said PAC Chair Tom Brougham. He also said most of the candidates in the Democratic Party Central Committee races, for example, were "relatively unknown." The club's Political Action Committee is an open forum for members, Brougham said.

Brougham said of the club's unanimous endorsement of Hora for judge, "It was a clear choice. Peggy Hora has been a real dynamo and is aware of our needs. She helped us a great deal with AB-1; she was generally supportive of AB-1, and she was the key figure in the south county who helped to secure Senator Lockyer's vote."

EBL/GDC funds and campaign power will be especially significant in suburban incumbent Lockyer's campaign. Securing Lockyer's vote for AB-1 was the EBL/GDC's largest accomplishment in its lobbying efforts for that bill. If Lockyer loses his seat as a result of AB-1, EBL/GDC would be dealt a major setback.

"Keep your faith," Lockyer urged the group at the AB-1 powwow reception. Lockyer, whose vote wavered considerably before the final AB-1 roll call, was considered one of the crucial cliff-hanger supporters that got the bill to the governor in the first place.

Women's Health

Conference Speaks to Women's Health Problems in the Last Quarter of the 20th Century

by Louise Woo

Six Bay Area women health professionals talked about the need to effect personal and social changes in order to combat health problems created by cancer, eating disorders, cosmetic breast enlargement, premenstrual syndrome, and bone deterioration at a women's health conference sponsored by the American Cancer Society at Mills College in Oakland last Saturday.

Speaking to some 60 women, the keynote speaker, Tish Sommers — the 69-year-old president and co-founder of the Older Women's League, a national organization working to improve health care and legal rights for older women — summed up the morning's discussions by saying that "the patient is the most important part of a medical team."

Sommers, a breast cancer patient, emphasized the importance of women taking control over their medical care, pointing out that "the doctor treats, but the body heals" and that people shouldn't expect the doctor to "kiss it and make it well," but instead must get more actively involved in their own health care.

"The words doctors say can be gate openers or gate slammers," Sommers said, recounting her own battle with cancer. Learning to perceive her condition as a discomfort rather than a destruction was crucial to helping her fight the disease. "My doctor said it's incurable, but you

can live with it," she said. "It's like diabetes," he said. That, I can cope with."

Learning to perceive health problems and health goals realistically was stressed by most of the panel members as being the key to successfully tackling a myriad of health problems facing women. In particular, they said self-image was a factor that could make the biggest difference in influencing healthy or unhealthy behavior.

Barbara Squires, 40, the chairwoman for the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and an assistant vice

president in marketing for the Bank of America, said the alarming rise in lung cancer rates among women was largely due to the fact that advertising has portrayed smoking as acceptable for women and has promoted the idea that it is sexy, fashionable, and associated with upward mobility and liberation.

"We are accountable for how we see ourselves," Squires said. "Our three long-term goals are to raise awareness of the subliminal nature of these ads, undertake a letter-writing campaign against it, and to get young people to recognize their accountability for their image of themselves."

Distorted self-image, especially among young women, was also to blame for a rise in eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and chronic dieting, according to Sara Samuels, 33, a public health nutritionist with the University of California, San Francisco's Institute for Health Policy Studies.

"Success and weight are tied together in this society," she said, adding that most successful women are seen as "petite, thin, and working hard to maintain their weight."

Samuels said the real problem for most women was not obesity, but a psychological obsession surrounding weight that results in depression, self-hatred, inadequate nutrition, and a "disordered lifestyle."

(Continued on next page)



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BAY AREA REPORTER... APRIL 19, 1984... PAGE 16

From Castro to Christopher

by Nick Blair



Love in the Afternoon. Two men embrace oblivious to others during last year's Gay Pride Day celebration.

New Leaders at AIDS Group in Santa Clara County

Dot James of San Jose has succeeded Dave Steward as the Director of the AIDS Foundation, Santa Clara County. Before starting her work with this non-profit agency, which educates the general public about AIDS, James was in partnership in F.S. Button Manufacturing Company for eight years and was an English teacher at Gilroy High School prior to that.

She has degrees from Southern Methodist University and Stanford University and is currently a candidate for a master of public administration degree, concentration in nonprofit organization management, at the University of San Francisco.

Wiggy Sivertsen of Los Gatos is the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. She is a Professor of Counseling at San Jose State University and is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice at Associated Valley Counselors.

Professor Sivertsen is currently involved in an issue at the university regarding the refusal



Dot James, director of the AIDS Foundation, Santa Clara County.

of the ROTC to allow Gay students to participate fully in its programs. Professor Sivertsen is also a faculty advisor of SJSU's Women's Center and of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) and is the current president of United Professors of California, the AFT local on the campus.

Silicon Valley Gay Outreach

Many corporations in Silicon Valley have adopted policies of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Hewlett-Packard is not one of these companies. Several Gay people at HP are attempting to have a policy of this type established by HP personnel.

If you are interested in this endeavor, or would simply like to meet other Gay people at HP,

WOMEN'S HEALTH

(Continued from previous page)

"We must learn to accept that there are many different body types, and that mild to moderate obesity is not harmful," she said. "It's the extremes of thinness and obesity that experience the greatest risk of health problems."

Greater awareness of one's bodily cycles and changes with age are extremely important in maintaining good health, two of the speakers said.

For premenstrual syndrome, a hormonal imbalance characterized by a wide variety of emotional and physical symptoms occurring regularly at some point during the menstrual cycle, Vivian Feldman, 33, a health education consultant for Planned Parenthood at Kaiser Medical Center and other Bay Area hospitals, said "this is a medical issue, not emotional" and that it should be treated like other illnesses.

Likewise, osteoporosis, a weakening of the bones that commonly occurs in older women, should be anticipated by younger women and prevented through additional exercise, calcium supplements, and avoiding a high protein/high salt diet, said Dr. Sadja Greenwood, 53, a physician at the Min An Health Center in San Francisco and an assistant clinical professor at UCSF.

In the end, the consensus was that many of women's health problems are related to their lifestyles and the stress incurred from their changing roles in society. Thus women need to become more aware of the power they have over their habits and their health care — a bit of advice that can certainly benefit men as well as women.

L. Woo

Color Dan White

The Official Dan White Souvenir Coloring Book by Adrian Dickworthy, a scathing satire about San Francisco's ex-public servant, is now available for retail distribution. See Dan White's rise to power from fireman and soldier to politician, potato salesman, and murderer. Fill in the lines between Dan's nightmares, dreams, and waking fantasies. See Dan briefly pay for his crimes. Watch his parole. Put color in his cheeks as he disguises himself as a female impersonator or bathhouse towel boy. Now that he's in hiding, Dan White could be your Crisis Center counselor. Follow the maze, fill in the dots; help find Dan White in his wacky new book.

The official Dan White Souvenir Coloring Book by Adrian Dickworthy is a timely document about "a nutty kind of guy with a twinkle in his eye."

Rhino Classes Begin

Chuck Solomon, the award-winning director of *Fortune, King of the Crystal Palace, and Delivery*, is beginning his third set of acting classes at Theatre Rhinoceros. Both classes focus on beginner acting monologues, using theatre games, exercises, and other acting techniques to explore learning, character problems and development.

Classes will be Tuesday nights, April 10 through May 15, 7-10 PM and the cost is \$90 (general) and \$75 (subscribers and members). For Saturday afternoons, April 14 through May 19, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM the cost is \$90 (general) and \$75 (subscribers and members). For further information call 552-4100 Monday through Friday, 1-5 PM.

OAKLAND

Phone Booths and More

NEZ PAS

Sovereignty's Odyssey! (*A Don't Phone Me Nose?*) Taking the old slogan "Reach out and touch someone," a tad too seriously, Empress Cha Cha and entourage (returning to Modesto from Vancouver's Coronation) have a laugh on Ma Bell! It seems, as the story goes, that some how the bumper of their RV became entangled with a telephone booth. In attempting to disengage the two foreign objects, the phone booth — with ALL those numbers on the wall — decided to go along for a ride too!

Unfortunately, they were so delighted to finally get free they forgot (in their haste?) to bring home the pay phone filled with all those coins!

Me thinks, however, that Lord Chamberlain Boid will use that very same booth as his throne when he has his coronation for being elected the latest Empress "99" (as in highway!).

God's Hooks! If there is such a thing as Empress "99" then perhaps Empress of Lodi isn't too far fetched, Daddy David!

Roup Perpetuity (*A Donating Nose?*) Don't forget the first East Bay Auction of "Baskets" to benefit our own ill with AIDS will be held at the Town & Country, Sunday, April 23, starting at 7:30 p.m. Royal Grand Duke Larry has added, for this opener, a "spectacular" show featuring the Ladies Johnny, Nova, and Billy. There will also be a \$2 donation buffet and Schnapps raffle tickets at three for \$1.

From what I heard, there were many unusual, crazy, campy, and provocative "offerings" at this type of auction across the bridge. I firmly believe the East Bay can match if not surpass those "creations." Come on, community, use your imagination and ingenuity on those "Baskets!"

I understand that at one of the San Francisco auctions, someone locked up all the raffle prizes and the key couldn't be located! Poor Larry had to run all over the area(s) asking for bottles of Schnapps. At another one of the

auctions none of the MCs were available due to commitments in Vancouver, so it will have to be rescheduled for a later date.

Nez' Notes:
• Little mother and Ed Paulson need saleable items for AIDS Auctions. The next one will be at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 29, at the Spoiled Brat in Hayward. You may take your items there that day or contact Little Mother or Ed Paulson.

• On the aforementioned Sunday, after the auction, Lady Johnny will have her show, also at the Brat. Remember, the cast is as long as both your arms, so I'd suggest you get there early!

• The Saturday preceding the aforementioned Sunday (that's April 28!), Stan is having a spaghetti feed at the Jubilee. As of this writing, NO public information has been posted, so I can't tell you the time, the cost or the benefit!

• The aforementioned Little Mother may have a bit of a tiff with Chaty Cathy (not mentioned!). Seems in a moment of non-thinking — but not non-talking, mind you — Chaty Cathy blurted out Little Mother's real age! Several bar patrons immediately jotted it down to keep for future reference. No, LM, I didn't jot it down. Would I be THAT tacky? (Hee, hee; I have it memorized!)

• Reservations, anyone? What with the ruling of "no sexual activity" at any of the City's bathhouses, me thinks our two local tubs (Berkeley and 73rd Avenue) just might do a brisk business. Hell, I've never found any sexual activity at the baths — how could I? They all run the other way!

• It's confirmed. Town & Country has bought into Kelly's (across the street between Revol and Ollie's). Don't know the why's and wherefores, but knowing Sam and Marve there must be a damn good reason. Could T&C be moving?

• Aforementioned Ollie's will be the locale of Lady Cha Cha's Closet Ball '84, to be held on Saturday, June 2. Sources tell me

Robert Michael, of S.F. Closet Ball fame, is a bit envious of Cha Cha's posters!

• Congratulations to the ambergris Queen, Alexis, for winning the grand "Oscar" at Revol on Academy Awards night. Congratulations also to Lady Johnny for winning the grand prize for costume at Bench and Bar's recent "Return to Rio."

• There might be an iota of grumbling soon, when it's made public that the Annual Tavern Guild Picnic this year will be held at a locale ten miles outside of Santa Rosa! That's quite a trip from here to there!

• The aforementioned "Club Baths" in Oakland might not require reservations. A source informs me the steamroom has been "out of order" for more than a month; the pool area is not cleaned yet; only one shower (out of six) works; plus . . . attendants frequently "visit" guest rooms, leaving patrons standing at the admit window. Shame, Shame!

• Bravo, May 13 — "Say 'Hey,' Merry May" — Save that date. Deans does his thing again at Revol.

• Stephen finally got his winning chili recipe to me — four months late!

When I feel disillusioned, naturally I look for good illusions! Smile, dear ones. Love.

Nez

The Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco's largest and only weekly Gay newspaper, is available free from newspaper boxes at the following locations:

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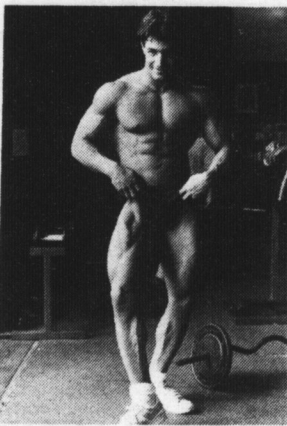
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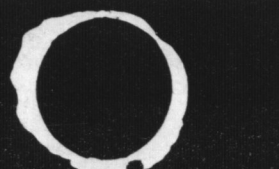
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THIS • WEEK

- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance, featuring *Superstitions* and *Sad Lament of Pecos Bill on the Eve of Killing His Wife*, Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 441-8822 for ticket prices.
- **Nanos Valaritis, Andrei Codescu:** poetry reading, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3, free to S.F. State Poetry Center members.
- **Ed Mock & Dancers:** dance, Footwork Dance Studio, 3221 22nd St., S.F., for ticket prices call 824-5044
- **VD Testing:** sponsored by City Clinic, Rawhide Bar, 280 7th St., S.F., 9 to 11 PM.
- **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.
- **Tuffy Eldredge and Christa Hillhouse:** 12-string originals, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance, One Act Theater Company, 430 Mason St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. Extended run on a limited basis, directed by Simon L. Levy with choreography by Roger Henderson.
- **Heart City:** rock musical, On Broadway Theatre, 435 Broadway, S.F., 8 PM, \$10.50 advance, \$12.50 at the door.
- **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.
- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance by Sansel Productions, People's Theater Coalition, Fort Mason Center, Building B, 8 PM, \$10.
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 441-8822 for ticket prices.



Marga Gomez (L.) and Monica Palacios will bring their miraculous Easter show to Fanny's Cabaret April 21 at 7:30 p.m. With Riteous Raoul at the piano. (Photo: K. James)

- **Vaudeville Lives:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 and 10 PM, \$5. "Entertainment for the Post-TV Generation" — silliness, juggling, comedy, magic, and acrobatics.
- **Here, Doggie:** Entry forms for the Fourth Annual Castro Street Dog Show are available beginning today at Headlines, 549 Castro and 1217 Polk Sts., S.F. Entries limited to 50 dogs per category. The show is Sunday, June 10.
- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Ed Mock & Dancers:** dance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **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.



Meg Christian will play the Great American Music Hall Tuesday.

- **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.
- **Danny Williams:** comedy, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 7 and 8 PM, free.
- **Heart City:** rock musical (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).

- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$11 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Gomez & Palacios:** comedy, with the Riteous Raul at Piano, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 621-5570, 7:30 PM, \$3.50. G & P hunt for Easter eggs and premiere new material.

- **Gomez & Palacios:** comedy — no, this isn't a typo; this act gets around — Marga Gomez emcees Gay Comedy Night at the Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4. Featuring Gomez, Palacios, Suzanne Berger, and Doug Hoisclaw.

- **Medley:** music revue, Marina Music Hall, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5. A wide range of Broadway show music from 1900 to 1983. Benefit for the Shanti Project. For reservations call 585-1617.

- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Vaudeville Lives:** comedy (see Friday listing for details).

- **The Clandestine Marriage:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Heart City:** rock musical (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).

- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$11 (see Thursday listing for details).

- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **The Beachhead:** Formerly the North Beachhead, this ongoing series brings together S.F.'s progressive performers and speakers. Forced to relocate to the Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., with the closing of the Old Spaghetti Factory. Acclaimed jazz guitarist Bruce Forman headlines, 8 PM, \$5.

- **Music Pictures:** multi-media, Mills College Concert Hall, Oakland, 8 PM, free. Is it music as art? Art as music? R. Wood Massi exhibits newly-created instruments such as ripple roofing with leaf rake and acoustical stovepipes, as well as a string quartet playing a score projected onto the wall. The artist also paints music.

- **Gays and the Demo Convention:** broadcast, KSNB radio (95 FM), 6 AM. Rosalind Wyman, chair of the 1984 Democratic Convention, discusses Gays and the convention in a recording of her February 28 talk to the Milk Democratic Club.

- **Esprit in Review:** show music, Club 181, 181 Eddy St., S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$3 advance, \$4 door, call 861-1683 for reservations. Act I, 9 PM show, includes contemporary R & B and comedy. Act 2, 10:30 PM show, includes scenes from Broadway shows such as *The Wiz*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Dreamgirls*.

- **Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day:** meeting, Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St., S.F., 5 PM. Special general membership meeting to discuss budget.

- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage (see Thursday listing for details).

- **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.

- **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.

- **Heart City:** rock musical (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 3 and 7 PM, \$15 and \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, 2 and 8 PM, \$10, (see Thursday listing for details).

- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, 2 and 8:30 PM (see Thursday listing for details).

MONDAY 23

- **Pamela Rose and the Wild Kingdom:** rock music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4. Live Rock and Roll; also appearing, Robin and the Rocks.

- **Basket Auction:** benefit, Revol, 2022 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 7:30 PM, free. More East Bay royalty than you can shake a sceptre at will be on hand for this auction to benefit East Bay people with AIDS. Includes buffet (\$2) and raffle. For more information, call 261-8404.

- **AIDS Workshop:** seminar, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., S.F., 7 PM, free. Sponsored by the SF AIDS Foundation.

- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammiano 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.

- **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.

- **Chris Hicks:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.

- **Meg Christian:** concert, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7 and 9:30 PM, \$7.50. With

Diane Lindsay and Sue Fink.

- **Tom Ammiano:** comedy benefit, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, donation. Benefit for Dennis Peron.

- **Joseph Torchia:** prose reading, Intersection, 756 Union St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. The author of *The Kryptonite Kid* will read from his new book, *As If After Sex*.

- **AIDS Update:** seminar, City College of S.F., TBA, 1 PM, free. An update on AIDS for City College students.

- **Radical Women:** meeting, 523-A Valencia St., 7:30 PM, free. Spring into political action at this open meeting. Dinner at 6:45 PM. Phone 864-1278 or 681-2414 for more information.

- **The Pot Party:** Cannabis Democratic Club, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, free. Have fun and meet new friends while fighting the oppression of cannabis.

- **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.

- **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.



Debbie Saunders, now appearing at Clementina's Baybrick Inn (Photo: Rink)

- **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$9 (see Thursday listing for details).

WEDNESDAY 25

- **DeLaris and Strobel:** comedy — This is Not a Typo, Part II; this act *really* gets around! — Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Yes, D & S are in the middle of a national tour. We said goodbye to them weeks ago. But they have buzzed into town for a one-night-only benefit for the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee. They'll buzz back out again and will not be seen 'til Pride Day — we think.

- **Tom Ammiano:** comedy, Mame's Palazzo, Bay and Mason Sts., S.F., 8:30 PM, phone 986-4553 for reservations.

- **Sam Shepard Double Bill:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Avalon Swing Revue:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5:30 and 7 PM, free.

- **Adelle Zane:** music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$3.

- **5th of July:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Lisa Pawlak:** acoustic rock, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.

- **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$9 (see Thursday listing for details).

- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

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.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

STAGE

Lanford Wilson's '5th of July'

Trying to Pick Up the Pieces

Theatre Rhino Production Has Its Problems

by Bernard Spunberg

Pick up the pieces and move on. Lanford Wilson's *5th of July*, currently onstage at Theatre Rhinoceros, brings eight characters to a house in Lebanon, Missouri, to discuss its sale, but they end up confronting — or not confronting — crises of identity, responsibility, physical handicap, and emotional frustration. Wilson's Midwesterners speak a language deceptively undemonstrative and flat. Their very modesty of utterance, however, conveys all the more powerfully Wilson's idea that the present cannot be lived until the past is accepted in all its disappointment and imperfection. Wilson tells us wholehearted acceptance of life with all its flaws makes heroes of the most unassuming, and a problem overcame is really a summit attained.

5th of July is an ensemble piece. The actors must generate a sense of rhythm, a feeling for the ebb and flow of incident and emotion. Each actor within the ensemble must contribute a multi-dimensional characterization that enables the audience to understand each character's past as well as present. When the ensemble is balanced and tuned and all the strands of character and theme are properly woven together, the emotional impact is unforgettable.

Under Joe Cappetta's direction, Theatre Rhino's production of *5th of July* expresses more than enough content to make it worth seeing. No, it's not perfect. There is one gaping hole in the ensemble, and some thematic counterpoint gets trampled. Still, there is magic here and, as the cast settles into the play, there is undoubtedly be more.

Ken Talley, owner of the ancestral home he's put up for sale, is born to teach. He fought in Vietnam but returned minus his legs and must now rely on

metal braces and crutches. He happens to be Gay. Because of his physical handicap — significantly, not because he's Gay — Ken is convinced of his inadequacy as a teacher. He wants to sell his house to finance flight from his destiny as a teacher. He is deeply troubled.

Steve Dart is disappointing in the role of Ken Talley. Playwright Wilson has written sarcastic lines that mask painful doubt and denial of identity, but Dart wears a weary grin that seems to say, "Sure, I got troubles, but we all love each other, right?" Dart reduces his role to glibly sentimentalized conflict, much less character.

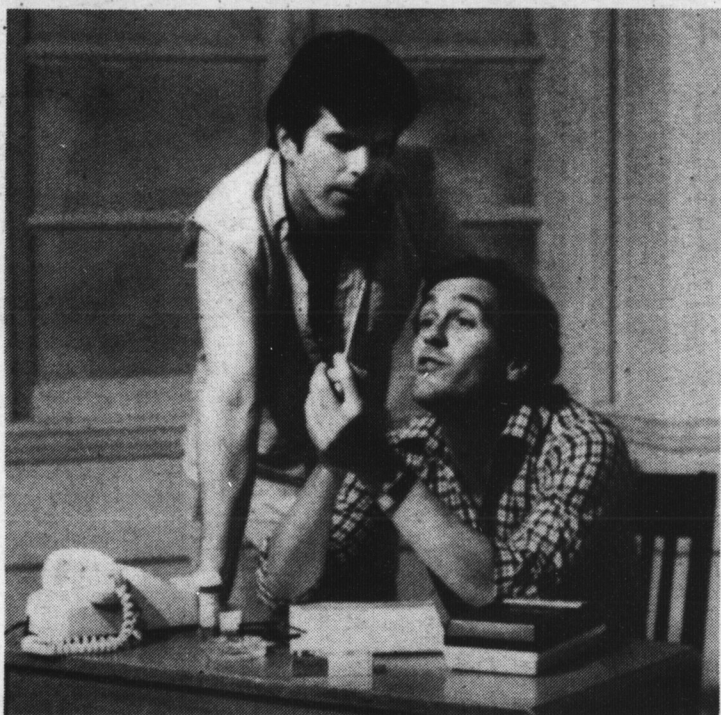
Dart's dependence on his crutches is not believable, either, but his relationship with his lover, played by Chris Toomey, is even less so. The men exchange a kiss that should speak volumes about affection and warmth. It looks as if it were rehearsed over the phone.

Toomey never rises much above the level of the kiss, but

director Cappetta has not given him much help. When Toomey rushes to his lover's defense with pruning shears, awkward blocking makes the move about as threatening as a high-pitched squeal.

Marian Scott is luminous in the role of Dart's elderly aunt. A shallow interpretation could reduce Aunt Sally to either a scatterbrain or a spiritual crackpot, but Scott avoids both traps. She has pet peeves and vanities. She loves trees and flowers. When necessary, she comes through with facts and figures. Marian Scott reveals material and spiritual values that make Aunt Sally the emotional bedrock of her family.

Also fine is Terry Ross in the role of an hysterical, drugged-out industrial heiress about to make it big as a pop singer. Her ranting and raving is well-timed and funny, though director Cappetta allows her superficial high energy to obliterate the interior dramas unfolding around her. The contrast should be an ironic counterpoint, not a total shift of



Chris Toomey (l.) and Steve Dart in Lanford Wilson's *5th of July*, now at Theatre Rhinoceros. (Photo: M. Chester)

emphasis. Joseph Christensen is convincing as Ross's vile toad of an agent-husband determined to whitewash rather than resolve old conflicts.

Durand Garcia is delightful as the space cadet-musician visiting the Talley home with Ross and Christensen. He gets big laughs with a tale about thawing caribou meat with hot farts. Better still, he finds a contemplative voice for chat with Aunt Sally about flying saucers.

In the role of Ken's sister, Valerie Crawford shows signs of growth that give hope for the ultimate success of the entire production. She's stacy and artificial in the first act, but when she confronts her teenaged daughter near the end of the play, she strikes sparks. As Crawford's young daughter, Rae Cardwell convinces with fantasies of stardom and yearning to be grown up. Camping in an-

5th of July
Theatre Rhinoceros
Through May 19; 552-4100

A Calculated Frenzy

High Camp, Low Trash: 'Behind Bars' Sizzles

Gay-Style Trash Talk Goes Mainstream; But Will It Play In The Avenues?

by Michael Lasky

If they ever send you up the river and grant you one final request, ask to see *Women Behind Bars*. If you gotta die, you should die laughing. Tom Eyan's overindulgent show is a parody of every women's prison film ever made. It is a wicked and outrageous but finely-tuned, well-crafted example of ensemble acting.

It's also a comedy whose primary appeal will be for Gay men. We're talking high camp here. This is the Mt. Everest of camp. *Women Behind Bars* takes every cliché and transforms them into a dishy bitch's fantasy delight. This is Gay subculture going mainstream, and as such, is a good barometer of how attuned the audience is to Gay colloquialisms and trash talk. If they are not, they won't find this prison comfy.

At first, the ten women look like take-offs of Wayland Flowers puppets. They even move like them — all staccato leaps and switches and wide gestures. But after a bit it's clear they are just cartoon sendups of the stock characters found in every women's prison film.

And what a cast of TNT talent. It's led by Lu Leonard, a

red hot mamma character actress who brings authenticity — and stupendous weight — to the role of the behemoth bulldyke with the heart of steel. One wonders how this could be the same actress who appeared in such films as *Annie* and *Pete's Dragon*. For her curtain call, the audience hissed and boomed, paying her the finest compliment



Caged. *Women Behind Bars* cast members Leslie Easterbrook (l.), Kate Black, and Roberta Callahan (r.) try to cope with prison life.

an actress can receive. We believed she was totally and tastelessly rotten. We loved her for her badness.

Leslie Easterbrook is the typi-

cal tough cookie sent up for life. If it's something bad, she's done it — and if it feels good, she's done that, too. She wears designer prison uniforms like a hooker

on a slow night. She's filled with hate but that doesn't prevent her from loving the newest inmate, Laurie Walters — the sweet in-

(Continued on next page)

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Interview with Ron Link

Faster, Faster, Harder, Harder

'Women Behind Bars' Director Lives Up to His Credo

by Michael Lasky

Women Behind Bars director Ron Link has two personal credos he lives and works by.

"The first is, 'There is only one sin: to be boring.' And the second is, 'Faster, faster, harder, harder.'"

Watch any performance of *Women Behind Bars* and you'll see those credos in action.

But it wasn't always that way for Link, whom I talked with over a beer at Sutter's Mill the day before his fifth production of *Women Behind Bars* opened. (The others were the original New York company, Washington, Los Angeles, and London.)

Take the year 1973 ("Please take it; it's one I don't want."). Surprising to learn since it was then that he got the big break of his career. Robert Stigwood, the film producer of *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever*, two of the biggest box office successes ever, wanted Link to direct his first Broadway show. At the time it was the most expensive ever — about \$1,000,000. With music and script by Paul Jabara, the show had a cast of relatively unknown talents. And if it had depended on this musical alone, they would still be unknowns.

It was called *Rachel Lily* Rosenbloom and it closed before it opened, the "victim of too many cooks spoiling the broth."

Although it was an astounding flop, many of the people in it went on to form the embryo of *A Chorus Line*. For Link it was *Escape* From New York.

Before he moved to Los Angeles permanently, he directed the now-famous 1979 *Grace Jones* show at Studio 54. "I designed each song of hers like a one-act play. The disco legally held 2,000 people, but for that show, which started at 4:30 in the morning, there were 4,000 people.

"I like theatre that borders on

event," says Link. That's what he accomplished with many of the haut couture fashion shows he has staged for Oscar de la Renta, Basile, and Zandra Rhodes, among others.

Link met Tom Eyan, author of *Women Behind Bars*, in the mid '60s and worked with the playwright on a number of his works including *Women Behind Bars*. Another was *Neon Woman*, with *Divine*.

"It's amazing what people will watch but don't want to hear," Link says about these outrageous plays.

"At *Neon Woman* audiences were loaded, drunk, on drugs, and just about part of the show.

"On opening night, one of the actors, who was known for his drinking, didn't show up. I had to go on in his part and recite from the script. Finally, the actor arrived and continued his lines while I was in mid-sentence. It was totally embarrassing to me, but apparently everyone, including the critics, loved it.

"Lotte Lenya told me after seeing the show that the rowdy audiences were exactly what the ones in the days of German cabaret were like. Not at all like the romanticized image we have of gentlemen in top hats and dignified, evening-dressed ladies."

For the San Francisco production of *Women Behind Bars*, Link auditioned some 500 actresses and cast just one percent of them. "I was looking for a certain energy and comedic sense in each actress while still watching out for the right type for each part.

"The talent pool in San Francisco is so fantastic that it was quite difficult to make the final selection. I think the San Francisco cast is about the best yet for this show."



The cast of *Women Behind Bars*.

If there's one thing the audience doesn't have to yell during *Women Behind Bars* it's "Faster, faster, harder, harder."

These women work their buttocks off during the 90-minute show. As does Scott Utley, the sole male actor, who takes on multiple parts throughout the evening.

"The selection of the man was critical," Link said. "When they auditioned, I had to see if the men had developed bodies, since the first entrance of the man is totally nude. During auditions, we only asked the men to take off their shirts to see if they had some form. But for the actual performance, I asked Scott to fluff himself. If we are going to see cock, we want to see COCK."

For his next project, Link will direct Sally Kellerman in a new Los Angeles production of *Rain* with music by Tom Waits. After that there is *Albert* (Gemini) Inunato's new play, *Wisdom Amuck*, which Link describes as a cruel statement on the Catholic Church.

He keeps on living up to his credo — never being boring — and he keeps pushing... faster, faster, harder, harder. ■

Women Behind Bars

(Continued from previous page)

nocent kid who got framed by her good-for-nothin' boyfriend. She quickly learns the ropes and some new uses for broomsticks. From "Looney Tunes" Susan Barnes she finds out that demons are a girl's best friend. Barnes at first seems to be overacting her craziness. But in a show during which the subtlest moment is Scott Utley (the only man in the production) entering the stage gorgeously and deliciously naked, fluffed for action — there is no such thing as overacting. Virginia hamming, perhaps, but not overacting.

Perhaps the best caricature done is Katie La Bourdette, who has frighteningly real Marilyn Monroe mannerisms and speech patterns that make you giddy. She is the jailhouse glamor doll and her dead-on accuracy alone keeps you gasping for air between the laughs she stirs up. Carolyn Taylor, as the token Black, comes closest to being a live version of Wayland Flowers' puppet, Jiffy. What she has over Jiffy is that she is funnier.

And what ladies' institution would be right without a Puerto Rican cha-cha number? As played by Diane Rodriguez, she

is wonderfully convincing.

Director Ron Link, who has been with the show from its inception ten years ago, cast it impeccably and then whipped these girls into an ordered and calculated frenzy. The timing is razor-sharp. But it's Eyan's dialogue that keeps what is essentially a one-joke play really sizzling:

"I'm a lady."
"Yeah, she don't go down on Sundays."
Or how about:
"Hollywood will like me... they understand trash!"

Straight reviewers in San Francisco have not taken kindly to *Women Behind Bars* because they cannot (or perhaps don't want to) understand its strict Gay sensibility. This is not so much theatre as it is an event, a brassy, vulgar, unexpurgated romp in the realm of absurd tastelessness. It's a show that is not for any delicate china in the closet, but for all you bitches out there who like to DISH! ■

M. Lasky

Women Behind Bars
Alcazar Theatre
775-7100

On Blowing It

by Woolly

In a moment of gay abandon, did you ever find yourself telling the truth when you had no intention of doing so? Do you remember the well-meant remark that went with the conversational flow... unfortunately to the point of excessive honesty? And you know how excessive honesty can guarantee that one will flow home alone. For example:

- You're really looking good. I guess you're not into... drinking so much anymore.
- It's great how long you and your lover have been together considering... how attractive he is.
- You come across quite normal. No one would know you were... Gay unless you told them.
- Let me get this round. I guess your work is... kind of minimum wage.
- You should have seen your ex last night. Did he... look tremendous!
- My fingernails get just like yours whenever I... work in the garden.
- I hope I have as nice a place as yours when... I get to be your age.

In personal conversations there ought to be a way to Stop, Rewind, Erase Tape, and start all over again. Until then, there ought to be a way to keep the big mouth shut after joints and four scotch-rocks. ■

Susan Sullivan, Nora Hellin

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POP MUSIC

CONCERT BRIEFS

by Peter Keane

March was Anglo month on the concert scene. Of the three bands I saw, two were British, one Scottish. With the likes of Joe Jackson, the Eurhythmics, Elvis Costello, and Thomas Dolby all coming to town in the next two months, it seems the Brits are invading our shores. Again.

• **Re-Flex** (3/10, Kabuki): Paul Young, hot-shot English soul/new-wave singer, was originally slated to open this show. Too bad he didn't. It wasn't so much bad as soporific. I mean, who are these guys? With one minor Bowie-esque dance hit (everybody's had one of them lately!), Re-Flex headlined a show at the Kabuki devoid of anything engaging. Including their music. It's a good sign when the audience is as interesting as the band. It's a bad sign when they're more interesting. Give them a C-

• **Echo & The Bunnymen** (3/17, Warfield): This is more like it. Great show by a great band. With every new release, they make a quantum improvement over the last, and their new single, "The Killing Moon," is the best yet. Some criticize Echo for being too somber; I can see that, but the music suits my tastes perfectly. In concert the band is loud (of course), energetic, and dynamic. The only drawback is a tendency to indulge in extended, amphetamine, psychedelic rave-ups, in which band members throw in everything but the kitchen sink. Fortunately, Echo saves those for the end. So when you hear the opening bars of "Do It Clean," beat it to the lobby and do it quick. A.

• **Big Country** (4/3, Warfield): The big, phlegmatic sound of Big Country is better suited to a larger hall than a nightclub — the music and lyrics are not what one would call intimate. So the Warfield was perfect (I've dubbed it the Whore-field — it'll accommodate anyone). The band performed all of its first lp, *The Crossing*, along with a few new songs that didn't sound noticeably different from the older ones. An exception is "Wonderland," a wonderful four-minute summation of the band's virtues. Much better than its previous Wolfgang's shows. B+



Bruce Watson
of
Big Country

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Pierce to Grace Venetian Room

Charles Pierce has been booked to play the prestigious Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel from July 3 through 9.

Pierce, who has been one of the most respected and enduring entertainers in San Francisco's Gay community, will appear at the hotel the week before the Democratic convention and over the 4th of July weekend.

The entertainer had been rumored to be appearing at the Plush Room during the Democratic convention. The Venetian Room engagement could mark the beginning of a new performing home for Charles Pierce.

For many San Franciscans, Charles Pierce is remembered most for his appearances over half a decade at the Gilded Cage in the '60s. Following his leaving the Cage, he appeared for several years at Gold Street and The City in North Beach. In 1980, the Plush Room at the Hotel York became his performing home.

Pierce has chosen the phrase "male actress" rather than "female impersonator" to describe his presentations. He has become famous for his unique portrayals of personalities such as Bette Davis, Tallulah Bankhead, Mae West, and the Queen of England.

Unlike other performers, Charles Pierce has never tried to hide or push his Gayness into a closet. To the contrary, he is one of the few entertainers who has been successful in molding the unique Gay heritage with solid entertainment value.



Charles Pierce

MARCEAU

(Continued from page 22)

Speaking of an early influence, he acknowledges, "If movies had not existed, Charlie Chaplain would have been the Marcel Marceau of his time." But Chaplain had the screen, so no one in this century was bringing pure mime to live audiences. When Marceau began his first U.S. tour in 1955, he says, New York critics "immediately accepted what I do as the essence of the theater."

Perhaps his greatest popularity came with the young people of the "hippie movement" of the late '60s, a movement he feels had a lot to teach the world but was ruined by: a) commercialism and b) hard drugs.

"I'm not talking about hash," he says with a twinkle in speaking of his attitude toward drugs in his own life. It's part of an answer to the larger question of where he gets the energy, at the age of 60, to perform his often strenuous material virtually unassisted for two hours a night, plus matinees.

"Age is not a problem for me," he says. "I have not changed in ten years. I could be 35 on stage." It runs in his family, he adds. His mother, who died at the age of 94, was "extraordinary" until she was 90.

Besides heredity, he credits "faith and a good metabolism" with his health and energy, citing a Chinese theory that with a good metabolism "you can be as good at 60 as at 25." He also cites "good food, good discipline... no liquor problems and no drug problems" as positive health factors.

Speaking of his nonreliance on substances which alter reality, he says, "It takes great courage to face life without illusions. You have to create your own illusions (using) the 'god' within you... Energy has to come out of our lucid spirituality."

Another kind of illusion is that which Marceau creates in

his act, the kind that makes you almost see the imaginary objects he deals with. This kind of illusion is "not a trick," he cautions. "It's real — stylized unreality. A trick becomes shallow because there is no soul in it."

While Marceau's costumes emphasize his maleness, there is an androgynous quality to much mime. "I have understood through mime that you have to be double," he says. "Sometimes you have to be feminine, but not effeminate — effeminate. Effeminate would be softness."

Explaining from his non-Gay perspective, he speaks of problems he's had in teaching effeminate male students to let their masculine sides show. He admits in response to a question that it's also difficult to get non-Gay men to release their feminine aspects. "The tenderness I have in Bip is feminine," he says, "but not effeminate... The child has this quality because it has not yet chosen."

"I feel I have matured," he says of his recent work. "The early classics were childlike — not childish, but childlike... If I had died 20 years ago I wouldn't have said what I wanted to say." He has now, he

feels, but only as a solo performer. The next stop, therefore, is to form a company that will present, preserve, and carry on his statements about life and art.

"For the third period of my life I'm directing a company again!" he announces. His last company disbanded in 1964 after 14 years of performing because, he says, "Bip overshadowed the rest of our work" and had to go out on his own. The new company, starting in 1986, will grow out of Marceau's International School of Mime, which is subsidized by the city of Paris.

Although he doesn't mention it in this context, the company will again give him an edge on his teacher. "Decroux was only a teaching master. He could never be the director of a mime company."

And so the man who claims to have done everything from "creating an art form" to inspiring break dancing ("my 'Walking Against the Wind' in reverse") continues his crusade to turn a word-weary world onto other forms of communication.

S. Warren

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week
by Michael Benary

Friday, April 20: (York) Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars is David Bowie at his most pansexual. With Pink Floyd and The Wall.

Friday-Saturday, April 20-21: (Strand) Great boy/girl confusion musicals. Yentl is more than Tootsie with a twist. A girl becomes a boy to do a man's job. In Cabaret, divine decadence is more than green nail polish as Germany goes Nazi.

Monday, April 23: (Strand) Heavy Equipment is an inventive fantasy. A

man uses magic to transform himself into porn stars. 3-D pours buckets of cum over the audience. With so-so Oil Rig #99.

Wednesday-Thursday, April 25-26: (Roxie) Meryl Streep as Woody Allen's Lesbian ex-wife in Manhattan. With Bananas and Zelig.

Thursday, April 26: (Strand) All types of sex and boredom. Beneath The Valley of the Dolls is Gore Vidal's Myra Breckinridge where you can SEE Raquel Welch rape a young man's ass, SEE her make it with Farrah Fawcett, SEE Mae West in an orgy, SEE the low point in the careers of John Huston and Andy Devine.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

BOOK RACK

Witchery

Iris
by Janine Veto
Allyson Publications, Inc.; \$6.95, paper

by Dianne Gregory

I keep thinking the name of this book is Isis, and with good reason. Veto manages to cram so much Greek mythology and mysticism into 247 pages that when the two main characters meet back up on the isle of Lesbos a third of the way through the book it has the feel of inevitability. Two obligatory villainous male characters make this novel more of an adventure story than a romance — sort of a Nancy Drew mystery grown up.

It's about Iris, a beautiful, somewhat psychic young woman, and Dee, her therapist turned friend and lover. It's also about Iris and one Harold Upton, a psychopathically misogynistic rapist, whom Iris is forced to murder when he attacks Dee, and how Iris is forced to flee to Greece (of course) so Dee can take the rap. When Dionysos

Panagakis, Iris' psychopathically chauvinistic-macho brother-in-law, appears on the scene we are off to the races.

Veto weaves the story artfully and makes me understand why Harold Upton and eventually Dionysos Panagakis had to be killed. She makes me believe that these men were evil and that there is a moral as well as physical imperative in their murders. But the murder of Panagakis' son by his mother (Iris' sister) went a bit too far. The mythology and mysticism in the book seem to be well-placed, but it becomes heavy-handed at times.

If you enjoyed Nancy Drew mysteries as a kid and want to see her grown into a woman-witch who takes the law into her own hands, this is for you.



IRIS
Janine Veto

'50s Revisited

The Price of Salt
by Claire Morgan
Naiad Press; \$7.95, paper

by Dianne Gregory

When *The Price of Salt* was first published in 1952 it was said to be the first modern Gay novel with a happy ending, which may or may not be true, or so its author says in an afterward. She said the book got "serious and respectable" reviews. I believe it. She also said she received many letters from mostly young and painfully shy Gay people thanking her for writing a book about "two people of the same sex in love, who actually came out alive at the end." I believe that too.

It's about Carol, a woman in her early thirties in the middle of a divorce with an attendant custody battle, and Therese, a 19-year-old budding stage designer. They meet (in a New York department store), fall in love and take a trip out West together where patriarchal soci-

ety rears its ugly head in the form of a detective hired by Carol's husband. From there the book sets out to be a tragedy, but jerks itself up in the last few pages into a happy-ever-after ending, maybe.

It's a beautifully-written book, and it was well worth Naiad's efforts to republish it. It creates pathos out of the realities of what it was like to be a woman in love with another woman in 1952. Some of the prose tended too much toward the mystical, such as when "The arrow seemed to cross an impossibly wide abyss with ease, seemed to arc on and on in space, and not quite to stop" is used to describe Carol and Therese's first lovemaking. It is a much more "serious" work than Ann Bannon's series of books about Beebo and Laura, written about the same time, which have a much more earthy tone.

But taken all together, Morgan creates two believable women who are strong enough to weather scandal and separation and come out on top — and in the end, together.

Rule at Her Best

Against the Season
by Jane Rule
Naiad Press, Inc.; \$7.95, paper

by Dianne Gregory

The people at Naiad Press chose to reprint *Against the Season*, originally published in 1971, and I'm glad they did. Otherwise I might have missed reading it. It is not the usual girl meets girl romance, but rather a tale of the cycles that make up life, birth, and death.

rather than concentrating on just Amelia and her short-term housekeepers. Kind of like Hill Street Blues rather than Laverne and Shirley.

And it works. All of the characters are round, firm and fully-packed, and they intertwine and



Jane Rule

Amazingly, this is one of Rule's earlier novels, and shows the great promise that came to fruition in her later works. It's about Amelia Larson, a kind, elderly spinster, coming to terms with her dead sister and her own eventual death. And it's about two in a long line of pregnant housekeepers Amelia has taken in from the local unwed mothers' home, and how they come to terms with the life stirring inside them. In between there are many other characters who come to grips with their own lives. The book employs an ensemble cast

intermingle in such a natural way that the story moves and develops almost effortlessly. It's a beautiful story of life, death, birth and rebirth.

There are four or five Lesbian characters in the book, and two of them fulfill a romance within its pages, but it is only a part of the great tapestry Rule weaves of these people's lives. There are no villains or heroines, just people.

Go out and buy it, borrow it from a friend. It is one of the few books I have read this year that I would recommend unreservedly.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus announces the kick-off of its Spring '84 Fundraising Drive with a \$10,000 Drawing. A cash prize of \$10,000 will be awarded at the Sixth Annual Gay Musical Celebration at Nourse Auditorium on Friday, June 22. Any person or group of people, except chorus members and their households, may purchase a ticket for \$100. As opposed to most drawings where the odds to win are in the thousands, here the odds to win will be very high because only 200 tickets will be sold on each \$10,000 Drawing. Due to an early heavy response, it appears likely that two or more prizes of \$10,000 will be awarded to brighten up Gay Pride Weekend for several lucky people. The ticket price is tax-deductible as allowable by law.

The Chorus is also looking into numerous other areas of fundraising, including an ongoing newspaper collection drive. As with almost any nonprofit organization, The Gay Men's Chorus depends mainly on contributions from supporters. In order to continue to make music for the community and the Bay Area, the Chorus must have support. Any contributions or ideas for fundraising will be gratefully accepted by Golden Gate Performing Arts. Contact Robert Hawk, Director of Fundraising at 863-6190 or 566-1015. Tickets for the \$10,000 Drawing are available from Chorus members or from the office of Golden Gate Performing Arts at the Pride Center, 890 Hayes Street, SF, CA 94117; phone 864-0326.

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FITNESS EIGHTIES

Is There Life After Brunch?

Battle of the Bulge: Hit the Bench!

Our Intrepid Reporter Continues
His Tour of Local Gyms

by Paul Trefzger

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is the second part of Paul Trefzger's look at four local gyms. In this issue, Paul samples the equipment at Club San Francisco and works the program at City Athletic Club.

Stay tuned to the Sports and Fitness page. In coming months, Paul will visit other Bay Area gyms and offer readers tips on keeping fit.

Club San Francisco

Yes, Club San Francisco, at 330 Ritch Street, cares for your health and has a well-equipped fitness center. There are also knowledgeable instructors. One is 25-year-old Tom Basch. He's from West Virginia, majored in Phys. Ed. in college and competed in the 1982 Gay Games' swimming and diving events.

He has been physical fitness director for three years, and seeing what the program needed, proceeded to implement same. He and the other instructors are well-versed in the machines (Dyna-Cam, a variation on Nautilus), free weights, and on nutrition. In addition, Tom leads the aerobics classes three times per week. "If we're lucky (weather permitting) we can have them up on the roof," which is a sundeck.

Tom told me, "When a person first comes in I ask them what they want and/or need. And I also size them up to see what I think they need. We try to make it as friendly as possible. There's no intimidation. I give everybody a card (a 5 x 7 progress chart) and take their measurements. People get excited when they see the numbers go up."

The card lists each piece of equipment, appropriate weight,

number of repetitions, goals, etc. "Once you have a card, you can come in anytime and either work alone or ask me for assistance. There's always an instructor available. There are three workout programs — 1) chest; 2) shoulders and arms; and 3) legs and back. The basic program, to start, takes three weeks. It's a 'sign-up' because I want people who are dedicated.

"Most guys want titties, big arms and shoulders. I'll suggest the best way to achieve these goals, and not overwork any one muscle area. If someone wants to be left alone, that's fine too," Tom said.

Tom Basch is big on nutrition too, although he can eat about anything. He tells of how he helped a 300-pounder get into shape. Along with diet, however, he encourages aerobics to accompany the machines and free weights — but will not pressure anyone not so inclined.

A popular misconception involves the person who comes to him and says, "What can you do for me?" Be prepared. He'll tell you, "Nothing. You have to do for yourself." He told me, "I'm like a carpenter. The tools are there. I teach you how to use them. I can show a person how

to achieve what he wants, but I can't give him 'effort.'"

I noticed as we walked about that he was frequently stopped by people going through their workouts. He said, "There's a camaraderie, a 'club' feeling." But he wants people who are serious. He asks them to wear gym shorts. "If a guy comes in in a towel, it's a good indication he's not serious — 99% of those guys don't come back.

"A lot of guys who work in town come for our special price (\$2.50) between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. It's a great chance to work out on your lunch hour.

"Members can enjoy the jacuzzi, hot sauna, steam room, refreshment bar and," he added with a laugh, "hanky panky." Tom said, though, that "the Club San Francisco is the most unique bathhouse in the city, since it is health-oriented. There are plans right now to expand, particularly the health facilities and, most significantly, the addition of a pool."

City Athletic Club

Located at the intersection — Castro and Market — is Doug Stevens' City Athletic Club. The first Castro health club, started six years ago, is in a building that has been a garage, a candy factory, a restaurant, a club, and a bar (with little success until now).

If you enter the premises with fitness in mind you will likely be taken under the (muscular) wing of John Durack. John is 39 which, he said, makes those past their twenties realize "there's hope." He's from New York City and was a psychology major at the University of Houston. Swimming was his sport, but he's also been working out since he was twenty.

Durack had only been in San Francisco a few weeks when his friend opened the CAC and put him to work. He loves his job and as he explains use of the equipment it becomes apparent. One also gets the impression that he would bend over backward to keep a new member from feeling intimidated. (Continued on page 31)



Busby Berkeley? No, it's an aerobics class at Club San Francisco. (Photo: Rink)

CORNER POCKET

GENE MILLER

8 Ball Championship Saturday

by Gene Miller

Chaps, one of the brighter new spots in the South of Market scene, will host the San Francisco Pool Association's Annual 8 Ball Championship this Saturday, when the 16-player field sets its sights on the \$795 purse and four trophies.

Funding for the tournament is again provided by Golden Brands, local distributor of Miller, Miller Lite, Orelia, and numerous other refreshments. The corporation has backed SFFA tournaments since '82. This is the first of five individual tournaments on the league's calendar between now and July 3. For this one, finalists earned their spots in eight preliminaries — "the tour," which began March 15 at the Arena. A total of 44 members entered during the eight-bar journey, 21% of the 203-player league. At The Bear last Saturday, Dave Timko defeated Frank McGuire to win the final slot; McGuire (18-9/.666) will be the first alternate, and he's almost certain to play — E.Z. left the city March 21 with plans to vacation until the last week in April. (E.Z., currently in the top 16, must play at least

two more games this season to retain that status and a chance for the San Diego trip in July.) Here's the lineup for Saturday's event, set for noon at Chaps (275 11th between Harrison & Folsom):

Ray Peterson	20-3 .869
Carl Arguello	17-4 .809
E.Z.	16-4 .800
Peter Fleury	21-9 .700
Owen Bubar	16-7 .695
Bill Kazee	16-7 .695
Dave Timko	22-10 .687
Don Henderson	15-7 .681
Sonny Abramo	21-10 .677
Rick Mariani	14-7 .666
Lisa Duncan	19-10 .655
Walter Moreira	16-9 .640
Jim Cattran	17-10 .629
Charles Dosssett	17-10 .629
Toni Macante	16-13 .551
Barry Middleton	12-15 .444

Come and watch! There'll be hot dogs for sale, and Chaps' owner, Chuck Slaton, is donating 25 cents to the league for every drink sold during the tournament.

KITTY AGAIN

There were ten SFFA members among the 128 participants

in the Lucky Strikes California State tournament held recently at the San Franciscan hotel, and it was Kitty Stephens who got the furthest. Though she finished a considerable distance from the top, Kitty managed to take home \$150.

PLAYOFF HEAT

A brief perusal of the standings tells the story — the 1st place battle is on in Division 1. At this point — three weeks of play remain — a single game is worth about .007 points. Maud's looks pretty secure in 3rd, and Rikki Streicher should have her first playoff team. Barbara Steel, a persistent competitor, has been Maud's team captain for several seasons. "This could be the first time the league has seen three women's teams in the playoffs," commented Head Referee Lauren Ward, and it will be, providing Maud's can hang in there and Peg's Promises can survive its final 32 games (their bye is April 24). The Brig Guards should win big against the last place Daly City Rough Riders. The Rough Riders, however, were the biggest winners at the recent interdivisional night, so there may be a surprise in store for the Guards.

First place in Division II isn't locked up either, as the Rainbow certainly has the talent to win big in its final two matches, while Febe's faces tough teams.

For complete league standings, see next week's issue of the Bay Area Reporter. ■

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS
(League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE
(Week 20 of 24 - as of 4/8/84)

1. King & Her Queens	25	7
2. Battery Point	21	11
3. Fish and Dicks	17	15
4. Japantown Bombers	13	19
5. All Stars	10 1/2	21 1/2
6. Two Plus Two	9 1/2	22 1/2

MONDAY LEAGUE
(Week 23 of 28 - as of 4/9/84)

1. Play With It, Ltd.	30	6
2. Vagabond Tramps	26	10
3. Porky's (1st)	26	10
4. 22nd St. Gang (4th)	22	14
5. Village Sluts	22	14
6. Deluxe	21	15
7. Phoenix Phirebirds	21	15
8. Ramrod	20	16
9. Harlepins	20	16
10. Number 16 (2nd)	19	17
11. PJ and the Bears	18	18
12. Rick's Gold Room	18	18
13. Dynasty (3rd)	17	19
14. Knotters	17	19
15. Phoenix Phantoms	16	20
16. Gay Sports	16	20
17. Bad Boys	15	21
18. Obelisk-Crystal Ball	15	21
19. Easy Pickups	15	21
20. Sounds Incredible	15	21
21. Rawhide Rawkettes	11	25
22. Fever	10	26
23. The Raw Hides	9	27
24. Lucky Strikes	8	28

WEDNESDAY LEAGUE
(Week 27 of 30 - as of 4/4/84)

1. High Gear	34	14
2. Stud City	34	14
3. Brunswick Beauties	34	14
4. Chiquita's Bananas	32	16
5. Golden Gate MCC	31 1/2	16 1/2
6. Mike's Ice Crm (1st)	31	17
7. Image Leather (3rd)	28	20
8. Ballers	28	20
9. Thing	27	21
10. Pin Heads (2nd)	23 1/2	24 1/2
11. S R A (4th)	19	29
12. Warlocks	19	29
13. Mirage	19	29
14. GGMCC II	18	30
15. Station Masters	15	33

TUESDAY LEAGUE
(Week 31 of 34 - as of 4/10/84)

1. EZY Pick-Ups (1st)	39	17
2. Ethel	38	14
3. Half & Half-C of C	36	20
4. Deadwood	34	22
5. Late Night Rollers	32 1/2	23 1/2
6. The Extremes	32	20
7. Doris Daze	30	26

16. Jugs Liquors 14 34
17. Gutter Girls 13 35
18. P.A.F.A. 8 40

THURSDAY LEAGUE

(Week 28 of 32 - as of 3/29/84)

1. Pendulum	37	11
2. Chief (3rd)	34	14
3. Vagabond Tramps	33	15
4. Pilsner Kingpins	31	17
5. Spare Parts	28 1/2	19 1/2
6. Twin Peaks #2	26	22
7. Gold Room	25	23
8. Ball-Busters	23 1/2	24 1/2
9. Pendulum III	22 1/2	25 1/2
10. Answer (1st)	22	26
11. Transfer #1	22	26
12. Twin Peaks #1 (2nd)	19	29
13. Pendulum #1	18	30
14. Alleycats	17 1/2	30 1/2
15. Perfect Job	17	31
16. Number 15	0	48

FRIDAY LEAGUE

(Week 17 of 22 - as of 4/6/84)

1. Team 08	40 1/2	27 1/2
2. Team 03	38	30
3. Where's the Beef	36 1/2	31 1/2
4. Team 02	34 1/2	33 1/2
5. LC & LB's Bees	33	35
6. Team 06	31 1/2	36 1/2
7. Team 01	29 1/2	38 1/2
8. Team 07	28 1/2	39 1/2

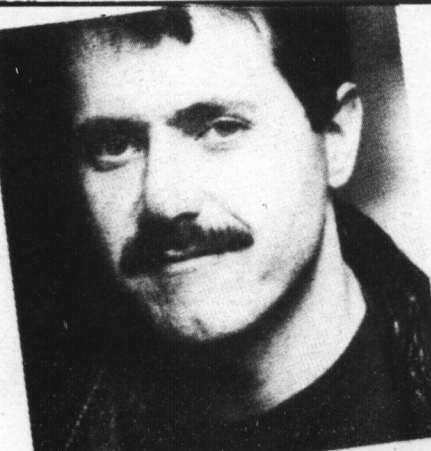
Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

Frontrunners

San Francisco Frontrunners will sponsor a Sunday Scenic Run April 22. Meet at 10 a.m. at the corner of Palace of Legion of Honor Drive and Clement Street.

Frontrunners also sponsors Thursday Fun Runs (meet at

6 p.m. at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park); Saturday Fun Runs (meet at 10 a.m. at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park); and Saturday Long Distance Training Runs (10 a.m., call for location). For more information call 821-7300. ■

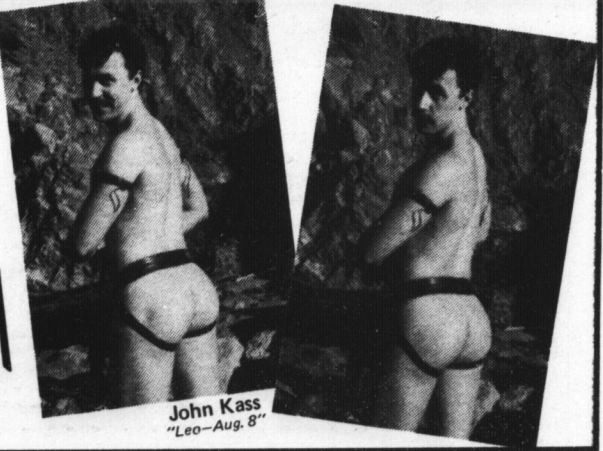


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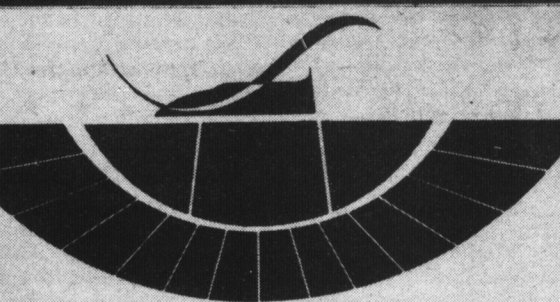
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BLACK LASHES

Contests and Celebrations

KARL STEWART

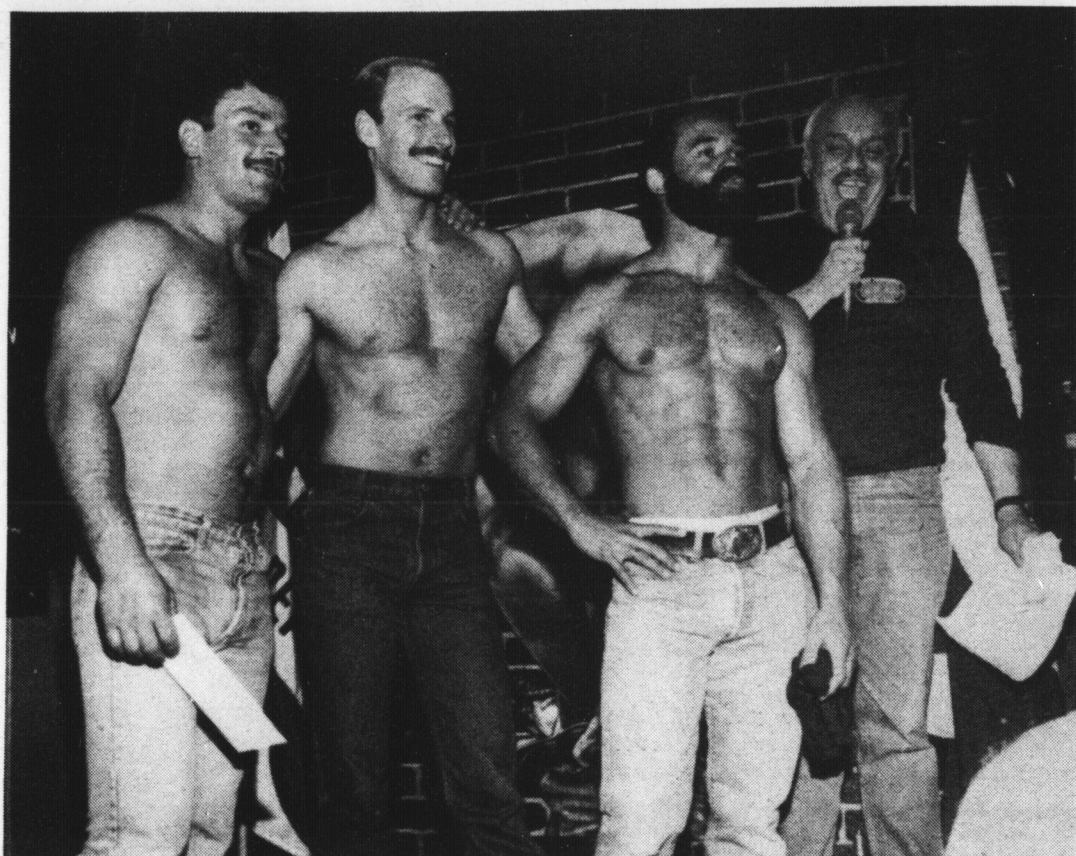
Most of the bars in this metropolis have promotions, say, twice a month, or so. There is one which chooses to be different: the Men's Room is a tiny gathering place for Castro-types and motorcycle club members alike. The 18th Street haunt was the scene of a series of marathon parties last week. Dorothy Duster, one of the joint's bartenders, celebrated his birthday a week ago beginning at 6 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m. when he was poured into a cab; no mean trick when you've been drinking all that time.

Not to be outdone, Teddy and Danny threw a little birthday of their own Thursday: the Men's Room's 8th Anniversary. The occasion was marked by a contin-

uous buffet from 4 p.m. to nearly 2 a.m. supplied by Carry and Jeff. Good stuff, Maynard.

Airforce Rick was seen there early in the afternoon. Seems things have changed in Reno and he's back in the City for good. Remi, too, stopped by in the warm glow of the evening, just before a two-week hiatus to the Empress's native Hawaii.

Around the corner: Castro Station is host to a great manager, Jim, who also happens to manage the Four Skins (a fifties, male, lipsync specialty act). The group will be one of the featured acts at The Woods' Mr. Northern California Drummer Contest next weekend. Mark A.



Winners of the Arena's Bare Chest Contest: (from left to right) Patrick, 2nd runner-up; Kerry, 1st runner-up; and Danny, the winner. (Photo: Rink)

has abandoned all reason and gone back to supervise the event again this year.

It seems to me that these contests are getting better: the Bare Chest Contest last week at the Arena was studded with men with burly tits and wry attitude. I've been to each of the monthly heats, which brings the winner a hundred bucks and a position on the Arena's '85 calendar. The announcer asked the same probing questions into the contestant's sex life. This time Danny of the Detour (no shabby looker, himself) took the bull by the horns and lead the MC around the block. It seems Danny is into chicken: the kind with feathers. He disclosed courting techniques as well as advanced foreplay. When the final round of the contest came up, Marcus (not one to be down too long) let him have it. Danny won anyway. In the meantime, Alan Selby

auctioned off more goodies for the AIDS Fund in conjunction with his Mr. South of Market benefit, raising his contribution from \$9,250 to nearly 9,600 bucks.

EAGLES HAVE LANDED

The Eagle's third anniversary party stretched into a nearly week-long orgy of riotous cocktail parties and gifts and greetings for JC and his well-worn staff.

Sunday kicked it off with the ICF's beer bash beginning a set of fund raising functions which helped that organization grant funds to motorcycle club members in need. The good looking crowd at the Eagle on Sundays guarantees success for a beer bust. The club members scurried about with food, helping the staff bus bottles. Gary Kenyon, one of the ICF's long-time

leaders, arrived with 60 lbs. of raw hamburger for delicious pita tacos. He had two (too) small pans with him. Chuck E (BC Prez) asked what he planned to cook the mean on. Shrug. Minutes later Chuck is frying up burgers down the street at the Castle Grand. It seems Kenyon never cooks at home. Now we know he doesn't cook at the Eagle either!

JC hosted a rowdy (as in screaming) b'day for himself late Sunday eve. He was joined by staffers from the LA Compass as well as Mamacita. Frank Benoit formed a bucket brigade with ten mini tin vessels to be consumed with cakes and dish. Fox/Castle Grand/Atherton owner Read Gilmore set us up with a libation. He's opening his newly-rededicated Fickle Fox tomorrow with an American menu (traditional and nouveau) and

(Continued on next page)



Mari (second from left) was the guest of honor at a bridal shower given by her brother Jim (third from left). Fun was had by all. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

will feature a special Easter Brunch. JC chose the Castle Grand as the b'day dining spot.

Monday we went off to pin night. The Eagle sported a full house among Ed Burns and Dick Wheeler's art works on the walls. It was less rowdy, but as much fun as Christmas, as there seemed to be something special, perhaps a glow, surrounding the Eagle that night. Nasty Nan from LA joined us, as did leaders from all the Bike Community, other local bar owners and community leaders such as Bob Bacci.

Tuesday and Wednesday held much party too, but more next week.

PHOTOG HITS BIG TIME

Well, perhaps Hayes St. isn't the biggest of times but, Nina Glazer has mounted a new showing of her powerful photoart at Nathan Hart Gallery (437 Hayes, near Gough). Miss Glazer's works are nearly narrative as she presents ideas, feelings and thoughts on a primeval, visceral level. Liebestod (love-death) is a series of 13 images dealing with that struggle, desolately, devastatingly. Joie McDonald and Leslie Crockett are Nina's models.

Death Transition has much less impact with its six frames, but Joie is joined by Jack (Boom

Boom) Engis for a bit of the living dead. Birth, a series of five, has the tradition of metamorphosis which all Design 2B art students are assigned. Nina deals with this classic problem with force as we watch Leslie emerge from her crystal.

The elegant Friday evening reception for this show found Producer Peter Hartman in town for the weekend. Peter moved to the Russian River area after closing the 544 Natoma Gallery last year. He tells me he's digging the great American pond, among other artistic pursuits. Robert Chesley was also in attendance; this talented writer is opening his play Night Sweat (a romantic comedy) in New York City at Meridian (Gay) Theatre, May 24.

Stop and view Keith Laverder's "Modern Myths" now at the Ambush (through April 11). The huge griffin in the middle of the lower floor is sexual demony, and is worth the trip

The Drummer management and staff welcomed English cartoonist Bill Ward last week in a set of star studded receptions. Bill is the creator of Drum, which appears in Drummer each month. Art Director David Markham attacked when he saw this author: "The name of the Brutus audio tape is The Inter-

rogation" This word is Dizzy (for myself).

Bill Wood (Forum Prez) has formed "The Task Force On AIDS Funding Education." He and his friends became curious about just what the major funded AIDS organizations are accomplishing with the moneys you and I are always asked to donate, here and there and everywhere. There was a very high quality meeting a month or so ago, which helped to raise the air (as well as raising some eyebrows at some highly paid employees). Bill and the gang would like to know if you're interested in creating a sort of watch dog organization, which would also provide direction in finding broader funding bases for these charities. Sounds good!!! Join them: at Chez Mollet, Tuesday 4/24, 8 p.m.

Cheaters Memorial Weekend Run is set for a site just south of Modesto this year. The theme is Dogpatch USA and the three days of fun will cost only 70 clams.

Keep in touch: if you know how to get hold of Tony Romero, or have seen him recently, please contact Randy Schell at Community United Against Violence (864-3112).

Be a good egg and hug a bunny; see ya' in the skins! ■

K. Stewart



Members of the Cal Eagles, a new motorcycle club in town, just back from a run to Sacramento. (Photo: Rink)



J.C. (r.), manager of the S.F. Eagle, celebrates his birthday at the ICF Beer Bust. (Photo: Rink)

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, April 19: Grand Opening, Kimo's Disco, 8 p.m., ribbon cutting by Rick & Remi (R&R).

Friday, April 20: Good Friday, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery, extended food service, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., drawing. Salute to the Imperial Family, Roadrunner Disco, 8 p.m., entertainment.

Dennis Yount Memorial Service, First Unitarian Church, 1157 Franklin (at Geary), 7 to 9 p.m. Wake at S.F. Eagle follows at 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 21: Casualty Capers, ICF's camp variety show/fundraiser, California Hall, 7 p.m., \$8.

Safe Sex, SF Bondage Club Party, arrive 9 to 10 p.m., \$10 plus six pack; shaving demo at 10 p.m.; write to SFBC, 1800 Market St., #107, SF 94102 (for future events).

Easter Sunday, April 22: Warlocks

Easter Run (In Town), kickoff: Feb's 10 p.m., \$6, includes hike, buddy, people (Easter Bonnet Contest) events. Eagle beer bust 3 to 6 p.m. and other drink specials.

Lily Street Party III, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., contest and egg hunts (invitation and donation).

Tessie's Easter Dinner, Rathskeller, noon, volunteer to feed the Seniors. End Up Jock Strap Contest, 7 p.m., MC Randy Johnson.

Mr. Chaps Contest, Chaps (1st heat), 8 p.m.; 1st prize \$100.

Tuesday, April 24: Thank You Kokpit Party, 6 to 9 p.m. presented by Al, Host Mr. Bunny '84 Leonard.

Task Force on AIDS Funding Education, Chez Mollet, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25: Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco Kickoff, Ramrod, 8 p.m. — now under the auspices of R & R Productions.

Mr. San Francisco Leather Contest, Brig, (2nd heat), 11 p.m.

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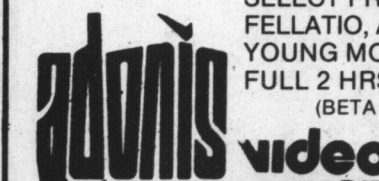


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Burying a PWA Brother

And Complaints About Hospital Care

by James Andrew Nicholas

A dear friend died of AIDS near the end of last year. The experience of watching the decline in his health over a period of weeks, and participation in his burial, deeply affected me. He encountered homophobic health care workers, and died before his formal complaint was resolved. I want to share these events in the hope that the knowledge may be helpful to other people with AIDS and their loved ones.

Larry was 25, had copper-blond hair, and a blinding smile. His warmth and quick wit added greatly to my life. When I met him two years ago, his eyes drew me to him. Those eyes were sometimes blue, sometimes green, always big and dazzling. There was a strong bond between us from our first meeting.

Sometimes I would lose contact with Larry, as friends do. His last re-entry into my life came as a result of a phone call from a Shanti counselor. Jan and Larry discovered that they had me in common, and Larry asked her to call me.

Eventually, Larry got frustrated by the "I don't know" responses he got to his questions about his KS and other AIDS-related conditions. He heard of a doctor who had "cured" another person with AIDS, and made an appointment to see him.

The new doctor put Larry in Marshall Hale Memorial Hospital. I felt anxious about his staying there after some of the

problems he had at SF General Hospital (more on those later). There is hardly a better educated staff, on the subject of AIDS, than the staff at SF General. How would he be treated here? The staff had to be less informed, must see far fewer people with AIDS.

I was greatly moved and thankful when I saw how kind the staff was to Larry. They were professional, seemed genuinely caring, and wore protective devices such as masks or gloves — only on the rare occasions when it made sense to do so.

After settling in, Larry called his roommate and best friend Jackie. He told her, "This place is great, I'm moving in!" Larry spent very little time away from that hospital in the next few weeks.

His last week began with a dry, painful cough on Sunday. He had a difficult time carrying on a conversation. Monday, Larry used an oxygen mask part-time, and had been scheduled for a bronchoscopy. That proce-

he became too ill to care for himself at home.

Larry's father was a wonderful surprise. He had not seen him since his teens. When he arrived from Florida, Larry somehow found the strength to shout "Papa!" through the oxygen mask, sit up, and hug his father. At first glance I thought of him as the archetype of the six-pack and football redneck. I learned to love him as I watched those beefy truck driver hands, gently stroking Larry's head or brow. He would pat him lightly on the shoulder and whisper reassurance when Larry let out a whimper of pain. He treated Larry's friends as family.

I had my own Shanti counselor, Gary, who was helping me deal with Larry's situation. The two of us arrived at the hospital on Sunday around 2:30. Larry was much worse, getting larger and more frequent doses of morphine, and his breath was more labored. After an hour and a half, I decided to extend my visit. I just wanted to stay a bit longer this time.

About 4:30 his breathing pattern changed. There were pauses of a second or two between breaths. We all wondered "is this his last breath?" He kept fighting, and I remembered how strong and stubborn Larry was. I had said my goodbye to him, and as I watched I thought at him, "Larry, enough; you can let go now."

He was fighting his last battle surrounded with love. We all took turns holding his hand, stroking his brow, saying in little whispers who was there, that we loved him. His parents,

gen tubes, and just as Jackie had removed the mask, we could remove the tubing. As he reached for the tubes, I lifted the back of the head. Going by training and experience, I pressed the backs of my hands into the pillow (so Larry would not have to do any lifting). After very gently lifting the head, I had the heart-stabbing realization that there was no need to be gentle any more.

As I looked at the paling face, some of the blue still visible below half open eyelids, I spoke to Larry. I said, "I know I should be looking toward the ceiling to talk to you, and looking into your face makes it easier for me." I told him that I loved him, that he would always be alive in my thoughts, and wished him a wonderful journey. I would swear on any "truth-verifying book" from the Koran to the Bible that I felt a loving touch. My right shoulder twisted with a pleasant and intense warmth, and there was a feeling of stroking on the back of my head, with that same pleasant and intense warmth. I'll always believe that it was Larry letting me know that he heard me, and comforting me.

I went to Jackie's apartment with Paul and Gary accompanying us with Larry's personal possessions. After toasting Larry, I set out for home. I knew that I had to "keep it together" at least until the key was out of the ignition. As I walked the two blocks from where I parked, I felt dizzy and exhausted, it seemed like the sidewalk was swaying.

My roommate fed me, listened

PWA BROTHER

(Continued from previous page)

its big brothers, went in last.

Larry's friend Rick read a beautiful passage on love. Jackie read "The Velvetten Rabbit," a story special to Larry, and very appropriate for the burial. It is about love, illness, caring, loyalty, apparent destruction, and a magical new life. The rabbit's new life was made possible by the love it had received, and in part with the help of a woodland fairy.

Crouching down and stroking the little tree's branches, I said, "Merry meet and merry part 'til merry meet again. Blessed be, dear friend."

POSTHUMOUS PROBLEM SOLVING

The kind and competent care Larry received at Marshall Hale made me furious that his format complaint at General had not been acknowledged after three weeks. I had written a letter of my own, stating in part that I felt their policy was "wait long enough and you won't have to deal with it." I was not content to forget about it just because Larry was no longer around to pursue it himself. I had seen too many people endure homophobic abuse outside of General's AIDS ward.

I had been very relieved when that unit opened, specifically designed for the care of people with AIDS. I found it to be an "oasis" of consistently top-notch care. It is staffed by professionals who treat their patients with compassion and respect. What it was like for people with AIDS in General was illustrated by some of the problems Larry encountered on a nearby ward. It was a matter of "Russian roulette" inconsistency of care — one never knew what to expect when the door to the hallway opened.

One nurse went to the effort of donning every piece of protective clothing available, every time she entered Larry's room. Once there, she made it amply clear that she was not happy having to care for "one of those." There was roughness when taking blood pressure, and extreme rudeness to visitors. She touched his bedding only with fingertips — as if handling something dirty and truly disgusting. After a long period of dangerously high fevers, Larry had to get out of bed, drag along his IV stand, and fetch his food tray from the floor outside his room — dietary staff would not bring it in.

One of the most bizarre incidents involved a person with housekeeping. As Larry was on the phone with Jackie, the man asked Larry, "How are you do-

ing?" After answering, "I'm doing okay," Larry went back to his conversation. To Larry's amazement, the housekeeper parroted, "You're okay; you're okay, all right," as he lifted the front of Larry's hospital gown. After he had his peek at Larry's genitals and the main mass of KS lesions, he left the room.

When space became available, Larry was moved to the AIDS ward, and I helped him formulate his complaint.

An initial inquiry had gone to the Director of Nurses. I received a four-line response which did not address Larry's problems, two weeks and two days after I sent my letter. After speaking with the Director on the phone, I could only remember that she sounded nice and gave a plausible sounding reason for the delay.

After that experience, I decided that the actual complaint should go to someone "higher up the ladder." I made an appointment with Geoffrey Lang, Executive Administrator of General. It had been three weeks since the highly detailed complaint had been submitted, with no response.

I had a fleeting temptation to take along the shovel used at Larry's burial. I gave up that temptation for drama, to seek results. Wearing my "going to see someone who's supposed to be important clothes," I met a man who is highly skilled in the genteel act of soothing the angry citizen.

After reviewing the complaint, I let Mr. Lang know that I did not accept fear of AIDS as an excuse for homophobic abuse. My personal theory is that what fear exists, is a catalyst for justifying the expression of homophobia. The staff at General is too well educated on AIDS for fear as great as the abuse to exist. He didn't "buy that," speaking proudly of hiring a Nurse Educator, opening the AIDS ward before funds were actually in hand, and spoke philosophically of the existence of truly bigoted people both in life and in hospitals. When I questioned what could be done to discipline offending staff members, Mr. Lang said that attitudes might not be able to be changed; however, behavior could (adding that the Civil Service system's process is "Byzantine"). After six years as a federal employee, I know how much of a deterrent the paper disciplinary procedures can be to a supervisor. After mentioning future plans to mandate subjective objectives for measuring patient satisfaction, he got to a "bottom line" recommendation on what the offending patient should do. In addition to speaking to the attending

physicians and the ward's head nurse, the Patient Advocate Program should be utilized to "nip problems in the bud."

When I mentioned this recommendation to a General staff member I know, he grimaced. He told me that the Patient Advocates don't care about Gays and won't have anything to do with AIDS. He told me to take his word for it — go talk to them and see what kind of reception you get.

I spoke with Ms. Westbrook, Director of the four-person staff. She mentioned an incident last March when two persons with AIDS came to them for assistance, and that it occurred at a time when the media was firing up people's fears. She said that things were better now that more is known. When I pressed her on the specifics of my friend's problems, she mentioned one particular ethnic group as being often mentioned in complaints. She called the Office of the Director of Nurses, and asked for the Director herself — Mary Ann McGuire. As she was not available, I soon found myself in the extremely courteous presence of a Ms. Sabalvaro. I knew that my efforts at getting honest reactions were for naught when she said, "You're talking about Larry, aren't you?" I had not followed the advice of a friend to confront the Patient Advocates with something as direct as "I hear you're homophobic — are you?"

During my conversation with her, she told me that an investigation had narrowed the offending nurse's identity down to an RN and an LVN. Another nurse mentioned in the same complaint had been "counseled and was to be disciplined." When I compared the care Larry had received at Marshall Hale to the problems he encountered at General, she quickly brought the conversation back to the investigation in progress.

I asked for specific recommendations on how to make a complaint effective. Her bottom line was, speak to the ward's head nurse, and put the specifics in writing.

I can only imagine how a person with AIDS feels when he encounters a homophobe at his bedside. I remember my experience of having a kidney stone removed at General years ago (a far less serious matter indeed than AIDS). I was far too busy dealing with the pain and worries about surgery to have the time and energy to write anything.

When I told a person with AIDS about the thoughts of the administrative folk, he replied, "They're not lying down here on the wards." When I mentioned

some of Larry's problems, he said, "I was on that ward a long time ago, and they're still as homophobic."

MY ADVICE

All of the talking with officials and "ordinary folks," I felt confused and frustrated, and want to leave you with something more useful.

I and my brothers deserve the same quality of health care anyone else rightfully expects. Resolve to play whatever part you can in assuring professional, compassionate, and respectful health care for those you care about.

A person with AIDS has plenty to deal with, without having to fight for decent care. An "ally" can do some of the "leg-work" in utilizing the system (as cumbersome and slow to respond as it is). A lover, trusted friend, Shanti counselor can carry out the patient's wishes. If a conversation with the head nurse, with specifics in a note, doesn't bring a satisfactory change, head "up the ladder."

Whether you choose to go up "rung by rung" or directly to the top, pursue your complaint! Don't just take some bigot's idea of what "ones like you" deserve.

The ideal, of course, is to have

the name of the offending staff member. Descriptions and times of events can work on staff members who wear masks, cover their nametags with disposable medical gowns, or "forget" to wear them.

While it takes quite a lot to get a "civil servant" fired, there is fear of being "written up." Enough complaints in a personnel file endanger promotion, make for bad references if a job elsewhere is desired, and bring unwelcome attention from supervisors. Ms. Sabalvaro recently told me during a follow-up call I made that one of the nurses involved in Larry's complaint was fired (there had been numerous previous complaints).

After speaking with the head nurse, you have a number of choices. The "ally" can take a note to the Patient Advocate (or call 821-5176 or 821-5309). The Director of Nurses (at 821-8750) or Executive Director Geoffrey Lang (at 821-8100) are further up the ladder. Don't forget that Mayor Feinstein has put a lot of energy into supporting quality City services for people with AIDS. If you feel you're not getting anywhere, Chuck Forester is the "unofficial Gay liaison" in her office (Room 200, City Hall, SF 94102 - 558-3994).

J.A. Nicholas

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writing, giving his trusted friend Jackie power of attorney, making a living will — and he would not hear anything that might relate to getting worse. He wanted to deny any possibility of his illness resulting in death. So, my last conversation with him was about ordinary things like the rain and Christmas.

Wednesday he was on oxygen all of the time, both with mask and nasal tubes. Larry rarely spoke, except to make needs known — "bathroom," "hurts," "sleep." He stayed in a fetal position, always had his eyes half open, and was taking 60 shallow breaths a minute.

As the week went on, I could see that breathing was more and more of an effort. His neck and facial muscles worked to get more oxygen in. His face was reddening.

Larry's mother, who had not seen him in years, flew in from the Midwest. This was her last chance to see her son. She did not get along well with Jackie, the person who had cared for Larry over the many weeks since

Jackie, my Shanti counselor Gary, Larry's good friend Rick, and I were joined by a former roommate and dear friend, Paul. A very few moments later, the pause between Larry's breaths went on and on. I was holding him from behind. Jackie held his hand and looked into those still half open eyes.

After a while, I pressed the call button for the nurse. When she came walking into the room full of crying people, she said nothing. After gently wrapping the blood pressure cuff around his limp arm, checking for pulse and heartbeat, she confirmed what we already knew.

For about an hour we would group and re-group, some going into the hall to sit, others in group hugs — crying and comforting each other. We would cover the shoulders which no longer felt the chill, touch hair, stroke an ear, grasp a still warm hand.

At one point, I found myself alone in the room with Larry's father. I observed that there was no more need for the nasal oxy-

gen tubes, and just as Jackie had removed the mask, we could remove the tubing. As he reached for the tubes, I lifted the back of the head. Going by training and experience, I pressed the backs of my hands into the pillow (so Larry would not have to do any lifting). After very gently lifting the head, I had the heart-stabbing realization that there was no need to be gentle any more.

Tuesday night we gathered to see a home movie Jackie and Larry had made. His father had never seen him as a healthy adult. Seeing Larry playing with the cats, laughing, pouring canned soup (lid and all) into a pan, all brought back a lot of memories.

Friday night, anticipating the Saturday morning burial, I was a "walking disaster area," furious at everyone and no one.

Saturday morning, with our breaths visible in the cool air, we buried his ashes. We took turns with the shovel, digging with great care. The six-by-six inch, gold colored box surprised me. Just that little bit of what looked like very coarse gray sand, followed by a covered Chinese basket, went into the ground. In the basket were cedar sprigs and Larry's crystals. A tree, seeming to huddle under the protection of

me trying to talk through the tears, and saw me off to bed. That night I slept soundly, unlike the following few, leading up to the burial of Larry's ashes.

At one point, I found myself alone in the room with Larry's father. I observed that there was no more need for the nasal oxy-

(Continued on next page)

FITNESS 80'S

(Continued from page 26)

With large windows on three sides of the structure, the City has to be one of the brightest gyms around. For the number of Nautilus machines it's unsurpassed. John stresses that Nautilus is less intimidating than free weights because the amount of weight you're using is barely noticeable to anyone near. He'll assure you of the safety of the machines and the simplicity of operating them.

There are 12 basic Nautilus machines but CAC has 25, so rarely is there a time when you have to wait to use a piece of equipment. There is a large area of free weights and other free-standing equipment so there is plenty to do even on Monday night, the busiest time.

"We've been criticized for being a 'social club' and while we definitely aren't, I don't mind that. For some people this is the center of their social life. Worse things could happen," John said.

I asked what he thought held people back from becoming involved in fitness. "The biggest fear, I think, is that they're not going to be able to do it. Well, they can. It doesn't take strength or skill. Once someone gets started they're no longer timid. We play down intimidation. We even insist on shirts for that reason. In general, once we've taught someone, they know how to do what they want to do to accomplish an end, so we leave them alone. There's always someone available if they have a question or want help. If someone sneers at you, you leave them alone. I don't often correct someone. They like to get me. They love to correct the teacher."

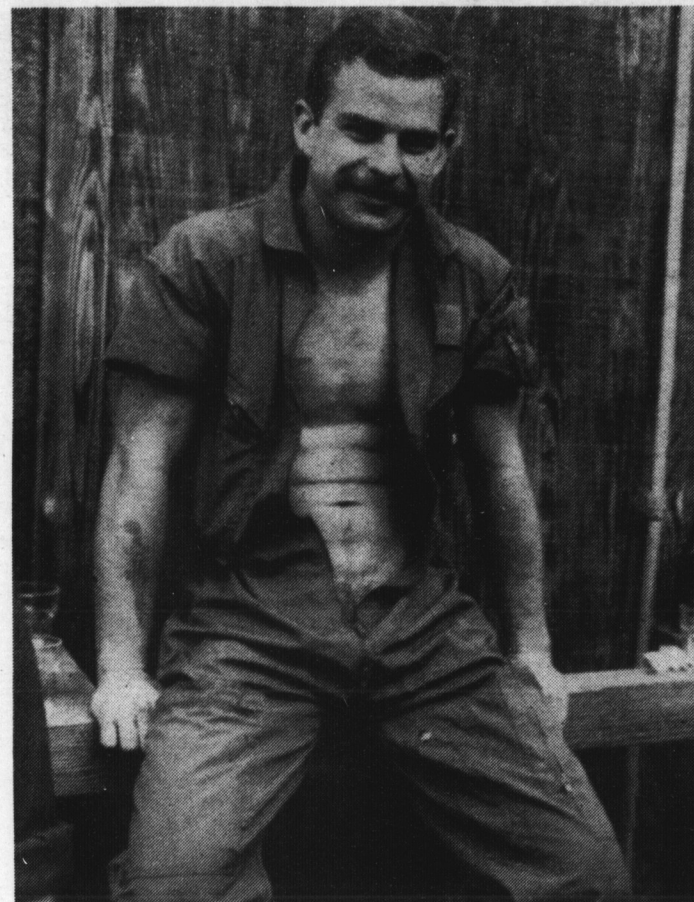
There are aerobics classes on weekends but Durack insists Nautilus workouts, done correctly, are aerobic. "A good cardiovascular workout would be to use each machine to 'muscle failure' with a 30-second rest between each." As to nutrition, "Just common sense things. We're not practicing medicine

here." The staff agreed that when AIDS was first making headlines, business really fell off but has now recovered. John said, "People are becoming more health-conscious. That certainly can't hurt." Summing it up, he said, "I feel we're a service to the community. We're good at getting people started. I feel we're less intimidating than most gyms."

Obviously, there's no one "right" gym. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. For example, the YMCA has more programs than any one person could — or would — want to use. Each does seem to have somewhat of a personality. Your gym should be one where you'll feel comfortable. It's also important to select one that is convenient because the main thing is to go. In future issues I'll be "sizing up" other fitness centers. ■

P. Trefzger

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Sonny will represent Santa Rosa's Pit Stop in the Mr. Northern California Drummer Contest, to be held next weekend at The Woods in Guerneville. (Photo: Rink)

SWEETLIPS SEZ

Easter Doings

Well, Kimo has done it again... opening TONIGHT... "Kimo's Disco"... the second floor of the popular bar on the corner of Pine and Polk... he has completely refurbished the room and it will prove to be one of the finest dance bars in the city... so don't miss the opening this evening... great sounds and a great view of Polk Street from the windows.

Yes, tomorrow, the 20th, is Good Friday and the moon is in Capricorn.

Google's is having a birthday party for the personable Art York... Saturday, April 21, from 3 'til 6 p.m. ... so come on down and help him celebrate... then from 7 p.m. on, the popular Ginger's bar at Eddy and Mason will be continuing the celebration with Big Bird as the "hostess."

This will be the 22nd year that Ray Piccinini will be doing his trips to the children's wards of the hospitals as the Easter Bunny, dispersing candies and other

goodies. He is in need of a new bunny costume, as the old one is 22 years old and a little tattered. So if you can help him in any way, with a contribution for the bunny suit or for candies for the kiddies, contact him at either 981-3570 or 986-8050... this is a great thing that he does each year.

What do you mean, David of the Giraffe... All talk and NO action... watch out, it might be more than you can handle, you gorgeous hunk.

The Mayor of Geary Street, Bob Dunn is having an Easter at the Hob Nob Party on Sunday, April 22, from 6 a.m. 'til Noon with an egg hunt, hat parade, prizes, and Bill Ward on the piano... so why not drop in and join in the festivities.

Dear Doug of Polk Gulch fame: We have to stop meeting at the Arena, as Tommy will find out and put a contract out on both of us... only kidding, Tommy; but Dolly, Joe, Doug, and yours truly joined Nick and

Chuckles at the Arena for the Bare Chest Contest last Thursday evening and it was a blast... you really are cruel in your questions, Mr. Marcus.

The Rawhide 2 is having its First Anniversary Party Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22, with all kinds of surprises for the two days, including a Grand Prize drawing for the Reno Rodeo Weekend for TWO. So don't miss this event at the Rawhide at 280 7th Street.

Don't forget this Saturday is the Casualty Capers of 1984 at California Hall. Tickets are \$8 and the doors open at 7 p.m. This is always one of the fun events that is put on by the Inter-Club Fund of San Francisco, so make your plans now and call for tickets and info at 888-3115... don't miss it!

This Easter Sunday from 4 'til 8 the El Rio is featuring music by the Conjunto Cespedes... Afro-Cuban music that is really a great turn-on, so you can drop by and listen and enjoy a drink in the great outdoor patio.

Google's lost to Moby Dick and Rennis was not the losing pitcher... it was Nooch, finally.

DICK WALTERS

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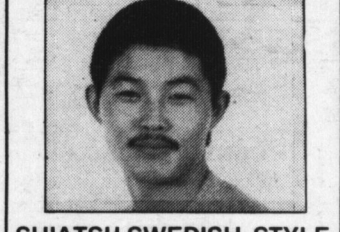
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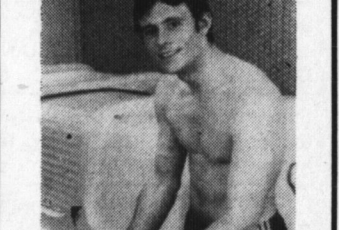
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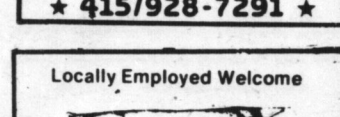
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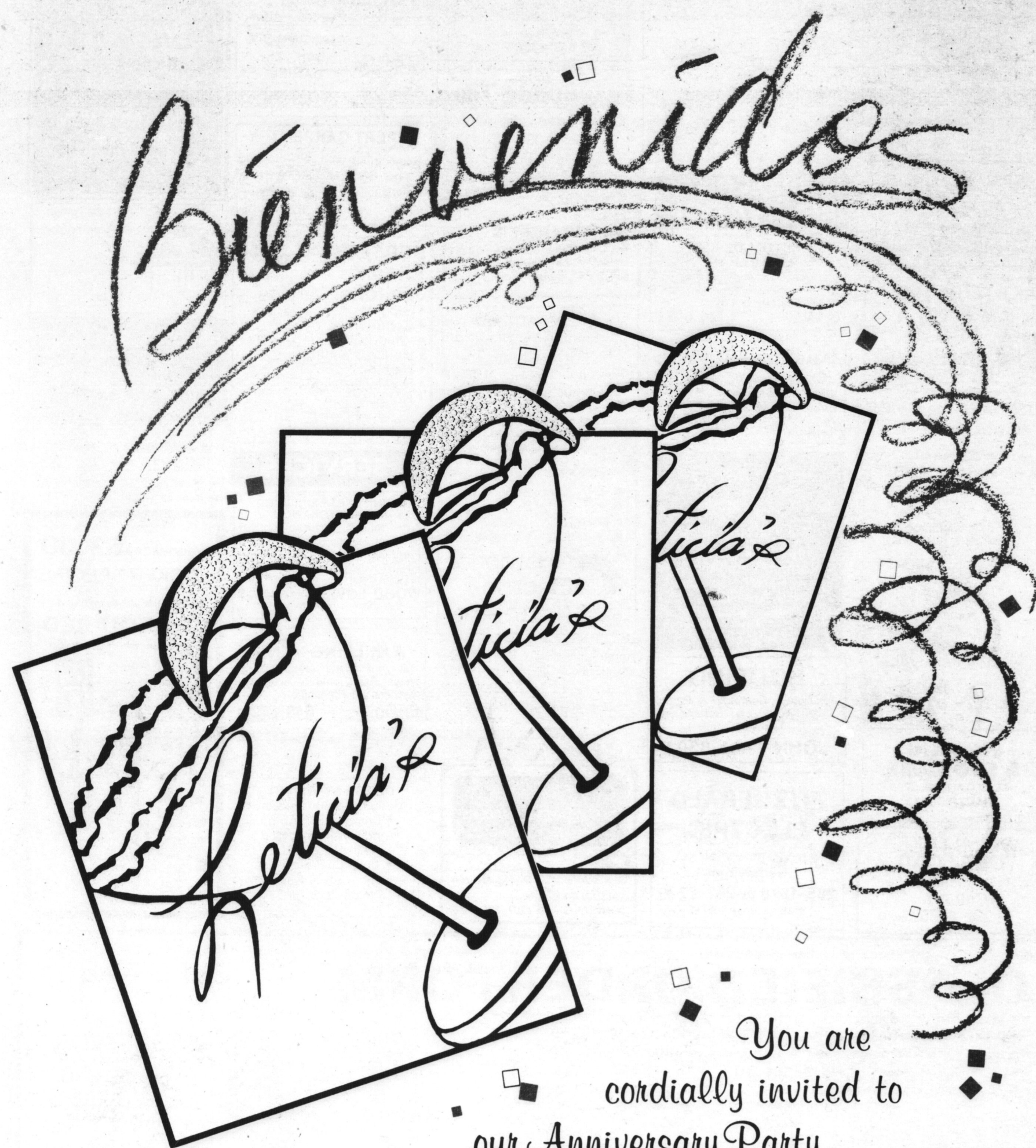
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IN THIS ISSUE



Easter brings spring flowers for spring hats, and Castro Gays weren't about to let 5th Avenue walk off with all the prizes. (Photo: Rink)

Meeting with Gays using Vitamin C therapy and seeking help p. 2

The end of Castro Street's Western Community Money Center p. 3

The Milk Club backs leaders on bathhouse closure . . . p. 4

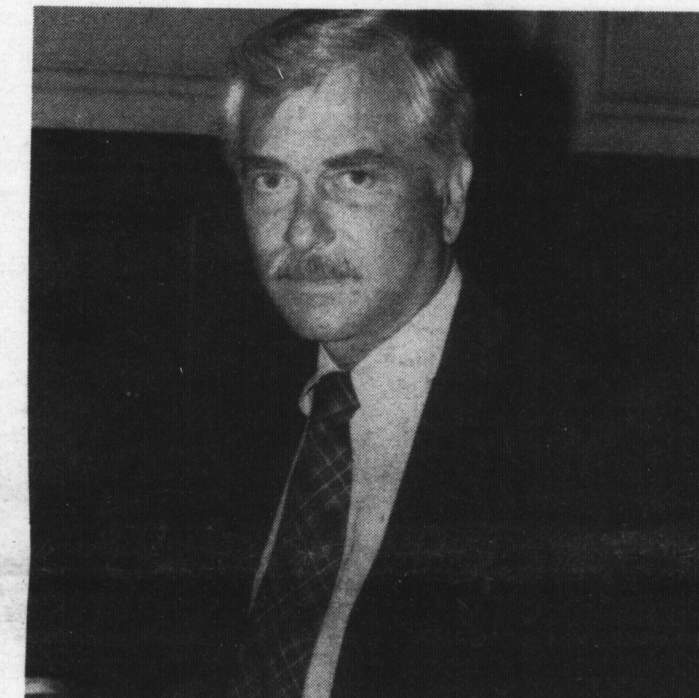
Club Owners Ready for No-Sex Rules Coming May 7

3 Sex Spas Close Down; Anger Mounts

by George Mendenhall

City Attorney George Agnost expects to complete a "rough draft" of the new regulations for the bathhouses and sex-related businesses by May 7. There will then be a public hearing before the final rules are adopted. Meanwhile, reaction to city Health Director Mervyn Silverman's April 9 decision to eliminate sexual activity in the bathhouses and sex-related businesses continues to percolate.

Bathhouse business, according to owners, which had been ailing over the AIDS scare, has taken a new dive. Sutro Baths owner Bill Jones has announced that his business will be shuttered on June 3. Liberty Baths and the Catacombs have closed. Jones joined several other bath owners last weekend to discuss their business crisis and what might be done about it.



Sutro Baths owner Bill Jones announced his bisexual club was closing June 3. (Photo: Rink)

SAFE VS. UNSAFE

Bathhouse owners and friends expressed anger and frustration on Easter Sunday as they met at Valencia Rose. Sal Accardi, Northern California Bathhouse Owners Association, said he had met with Silverman recently and that the health director "has now

discarded 'safe' sex." The position adopted by the AIDS Foundation and the national Gay physicians association had been that "safe" sex — touching, massage, masturbation, and the use of condoms for anal sex —

were to be encouraged as an alternative to other sex practices that would possibly spread AIDS.

Silverman has indicated that he cannot be in the position of

(Continued on page 14)

Jeanette MacDonald or Tony Bennett

City's Song — Which One Will It Be?

Gay Life's "San Francisco" Holds as Local Favorite

by Allen White

Straight journalists and politicians have again come to suck on a fruit of the city's Gay subculture as they eagerly jump on the "San Francisco" song bandwagon. The hoopla began last week when *San Francisco Chronicle* camp columnist Warren Hinckle challenged the city to dump "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" as the official city song in favor of "San Francisco."

The latter song was originally sung by Jeanette MacDonald in the MGM classic 1936 film of the same name. She co-starred with Clark Gable in this Frisco Quake melodrama. For decades, the tune has been an anthem of San Francisco's Gay community.

In the early '60s, Gays bought thousands of copies of records of a Judy Garland rendition done at Carnegie Hall. Later, on tour, she sang the song at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium as thousands of Gay men screamed

in ecstatic delight. In those years a Gay bar was not considered complete without the song on the juke box. Whenever it was played, bartenders would sway the chandeliers.

Male actress Charles Pierce personified the legend in the city as he swung out over the Gilded Cage nightclub dressed to kill as the lovely Jeanette. Pierce's characterization of Jeanette was always his finale.

Contacted in his North Hollywood home, the entertainer ex-

pressed his fondness for the song. "The other song might as well have been 'I Left My Heart in Cleveland, Ohio.'" While at the Tenderloin's Gilded Cage and later at the Financial District's Gold Street and Broadway's "The City," Pierce gave the song a fresh character and spirit. The swing routine was a show-stopper every time.

In the late '70s the song became a standard of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Their treatment inspired stand-

(Continued on page 15)

Gaylord Gets Nod for Arts Commission

by Paul Lorch

Interior Designer and Pacific Heights socialite, Billy Gaylord joined the Feinstein administration last week.

Gaylord, 38, was appointed to a four-year term on the San Francisco Arts Commission. The 12 member commission meets once a month and has several objectives. The Arts Commission deals with the Neighborhood Arts Program as well as Children's Arts Program. The group involves itself with any public art project as well as approving designs for public buildings or renovation of them. The group also sponsors art shows, including the yearly outdoor show in the Civic Center.

The commission, according to Gaylord, "has a very big budget." It occasionally gets itself involved in controversy. In 1982 with the unveiling of Moscone Center, the commission found itself part of the storm center over the Arneson pop art, larger-than-life, bust of assassinated Mayor George Moscone. Last year the proposed George Segal Holocaust memorial sculpture scheduled for Lincoln Park also embroiled the commission in a public debate.

Prominent members of the commission include radio personality Ray Taliaferro and sculptress Ruth Azawa.

Gaylord comes to the commis-

(Continued on page 3)



Designer Billy Gaylord at his Feinstein cocktail party. (Photo: Rink)