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The Rating Game. Taking a cue from those naughty rascals at the SFPD, men on a Castro Street stoop rate passers-by. Just a few more numbers to watch. (Photo: Rink)

Los Angeles

AIDS Accident Helps Scientists

Evidence Mounts That HTLV-III Is the Cause of Immune Disorder

by Brian Jones

Another piece of the AIDS puzzle is falling into place. Evidence from a tragic accident in Los Angeles has provided scientists with more proof that they have found the virus which causes AIDS. Confirmation of the findings came last month from the federal Centers for Disease Control and from AIDS researchers in France.

Meanwhile, the federal government is moving quickly to mass-produce a blood test for the virus — Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus III (HTLV-III). The Department of Health and Human Services has issued licenses to five pharmaceutical

houses, which are already growing the HTLV-III virus and exploring ways to detect the virus in the human bloodstream.

The likelihood that HTLV-III is the cause of AIDS was greatly boosted by investigation

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Siouxie and the Banshees love their Gay fans — and Gay readers. Peter Keane gets an exclusive interview . . . p. 20

Ron Bluestein says that we're all prostitutes and then explains why in a real hooker of a piece p. 29

Parade Pucker

Kiss Brings Hassle For City's Gay Cop

by Allen White

Gay San Francisco Police officer Paul Seidler has been accused of unofficerlike conduct in a complaint filed with the department's Internal Affairs department. The charges stem from his being videotaped kissing another man at this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. The tape was subsequently aired by KTVU, Channel 2 in Oakland.

Paul Seidler is the liaison to the Gay community in the San Francisco Police Department. He has held that post in the community relations department of the police force since January 1981. Seidler has been a police officer for 17 years.

Officer Seidler said he will protest the charge because he believes it is discriminatory. He said there are laws against discrimination and believes he can win against these charges. The complaint was evidently filed by other officers who believed the television shot was a discredit to the police force.

Seidler said he remembers seeing a front page picture in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about three years ago of a police officer kissing a woman. He reasons, and on possibly solid legal ground, that in San Francisco it is discriminatory to bring action solely on the basis of a kiss.

Seidler has received commendation throughout the United States and Canada for his work at bridging the gap that has existed in the past between the police and the Gay community. In San Francisco there are dozens of Lesbians and Gay policemen. Seidler has been credited with building a strong relationship between police and Gays.



Officer Paul Seidler (Photo: Rink)

He currently works on a project called the Godfather fund, which is providing needed help to many patients at the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital. He has also advised police departments in other cities on how to improve relationships with their Gay constituents.

Should Officer Seidler be found guilty on the charges as they are currently presented, he could be suspended from the San Francisco Police Department.

Where's the Bucks?

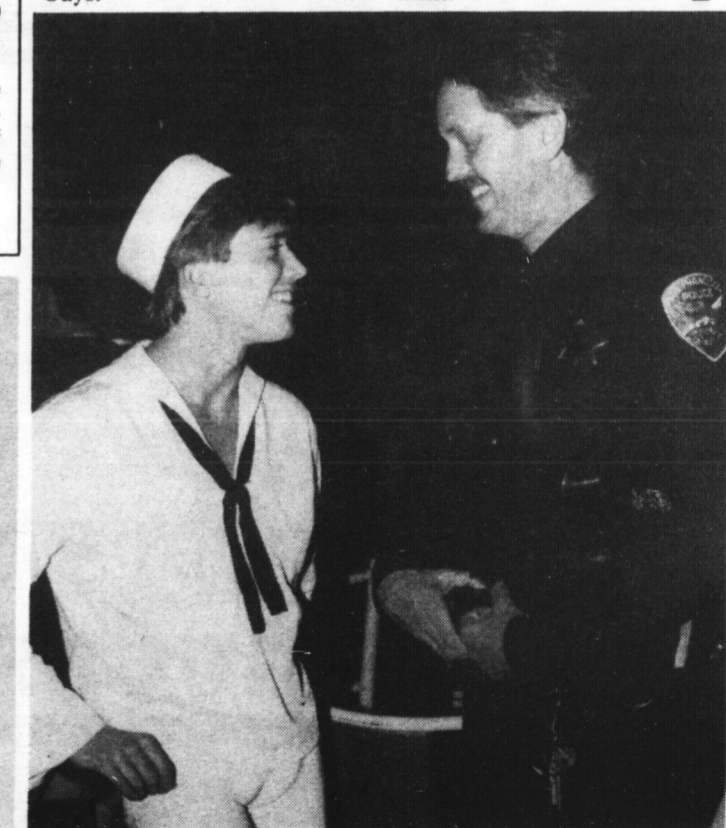
Berkeley Passes Its 'Intent' for Domestic Partner Benefits

But Lack of Funds Means It Will Be Years Before Workers' Partners Get Benefits

by John Wetzl

Would-be domestic partners will probably have to wait at least two years for job benefits from the city of Berkeley. That was the result of a heated city council meeting last week when the council passed 5-1, with 3 abstentions, its "intent" to support domestic partners benefits. But, citing financial reasons, the majority on the council blocked attempts to put its money where its policy is.

(Continued on page 15)



Community Liaison. Officer Paul Seidler (l.) chats with a Sunday sailor at a Gay soiree. Seidler's job is to ease relations between the cops and the Gay community. (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Accident Helps Scientists

(Continued from page 1)

into the Los Angeles case. The case is the only clear-cut human model of AIDS transmission where all of the variables are known.

It began in November 1982 when a woman entered Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles for a hysterectomy. During surgery, she received a transfusion of two units of packed red-blood cells.

Two weeks later, the woman had what one doctor called "a viral incident marked by fever and sweats." Two months later, one of the two people who donated the blood used in the woman's surgery fell ill.

The donor, a 24-year-old Gay man, promptly was diagnosed with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia — one of the opportunistic infections associated with AIDS. Doctors immediately began tracing his blood donation.

When they traced the donation to the woman who had been transfused with the Gay man's blood, tests were done. Although she reported feeling healthy, her white blood cell counts were abnormal and already showed signs of the topsy-turvy disorder that characterizes AIDS.

One year after receiving the blood transfusion, the woman was diagnosed with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. She was treated and today has regained some of her health.

Until last month, the evidence linking the Gay donor and the woman who had received the blood was only circumstantial. She did not fit any of the known risk groups: she was not sexually active and did not use drugs.

Direct evidence was found last month. Samples of the Gay man's blood, stored since the time of the transfusion, were tested. So were samples of the woman's blood.

Both were infected with Lymphadenopathy-associated Virus (LAV), a virus which most researchers believe is the same as HTLV-III. (The difference: LAV was discovered in a French laboratory, independently of the American work which yielded HTLV-III; in the current case,

the test for LAV was used.)

"This lends more weight to the argument that it is the AIDS agent," said Dr. Shirley Fannin, head of the Los Angeles communicable disease program. Said Dr. Dean Echenberg, the head of the San Francisco bureau of communicable disease, "We are becoming more and more certain about the likelihood that LAV is the AIDS agent."

Confirmation of HTLV-III or LAV as the AIDS agent has been stymied by the virus' predisposition for human hosts. To confirm that a virus is the cause of a particular disease, the virus must be introduced into a laboratory animal, and the experimental subject must develop the disease.

So far, despite efforts here and abroad, such a disease transmission has never been successfully accomplished. There are indeed laboratory animals with AIDS, including macaque monkeys at the University of California - Davis. But their case confuses rather than clarifies the AIDS mystery; the virus believed to cause their "Simian AIDS" is similar to — but not the same as — the HTLV-III and LAV viruses.

"I am sure, right now, somebody is trying to infect some type of lab animal with the suspected AIDS agent," Fannin said. "But we cannot accomplish this successfully if the virus is specific to humans."

Human experimentation is out of the question. That is why the Los Angeles accident is both tragic and hopeful. "This is the first case where we have ever been able to follow the transmission almost from the beginning — and we would prefer to never see another one," Fannin said. "But it is something very important, the experiment in nature. The earlier you begin your study, the more you can find out."

"These are the kind of link-ups you are looking for, and this just happens to be the kind of case we can follow," Fannin said. Fannin and Echenberg agreed that the Los Angeles case, and tests on blood samples

of hundreds of Gay men, mutually reinforce each other — and point to HTLV-III as the likely AIDS virus.

Recent studies of Gay men's blood donated for Hepatitis-B studies in 1979 and 1980 showed that most had the antibody for HTLV-III in their blood. (Such a finding does not mean that the subjects of the study were carrying the virus; rather, that they had, at some time, been exposed to the virus. A test has not yet been developed to reliably identify traces of the virus itself in the human bloodstream.)

"The results of that test were very interesting, but really, all they told us was the predictable," Fannin said. "I have long believed that there is a whole lot more to infection out there, but that this isn't necessarily anything to panic about. All of us in infection know of very few infections where everyone who gets the disease dies — there is usually a spectrum of disease."

"Research in to what does this all mean is important, but we have to be very careful not to over-interpret. Maybe we'll find lots of people with the antigen (virus). So what? They may never get AIDS," Fannin said.

Both Fannin and Echenberg said the real research on how to prevent — and possibly reverse — AIDS is just now beginning.

"This is when most of the money is going to be necessary — now that we know where to focus our research. We're just really starting. Now, we are capable of getting better answers, but you get those only through lots of very expensive research," Fannin said. Echenberg said, "It's no time to relax. We need research money more than ever, and we need to continue our campaign on public education and prevention more than ever."

Congress has appropriated about \$48 million this year for AIDS research. Recent developments prompted the assistant secretary of health, Dr. Edward Brandt, Jr., to request another \$20 million immediately for new AIDS research. But Brandt's request, dated May 25, has gone no further than Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler — who has yet to act on the proposal.

B. Jones



Labor and Gays. Tim Twomey (r.), president of local labor council, talks with Gay union activist Howard Wallace (l.) and Sal Rosselli (c.), a union business agent and the chief of the Alice Democrats. (Photo: Rink)

Convention Powwow

National Labor Leaders Endorse Gay Agenda

Gays in Unions are Emerging from the Workplace Closet

by George Mendenhall

"Every day it is a joy to get up and go to work as an up-front Gay labor unionist," Bill Olwell told a group honoring national union leaders last week. He was one of those leaders attending a reception sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance during the Democratic Convention. Olwell is vice president of the 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers.

"I am here with my long-suffering lover of 17 years," the activist joked. "You have no idea what an inspiration it is for me to see a room full of Lesbians and Gay people in the labor movement. It is important that we get inside and then keep the door open for others who are also disenfranchised."

Answering a question about the acceptance of Gay people in unions, Olwell said, "I am accepted as an up-front Gay person. Now the AFL-CIO has spoken out nationally for our rights. There are still the wisecracks sometimes, but those people are increasingly a minority. We have educating to do. You have to convince them that 'Gay' is not just sex and then they will come around."

Bill Lucy, secretary-treasurer of the national American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said his 1.3 million members increasingly recognize the rights of Gay people. He praised Olwell as "one of the most respected legislative representatives in the nation's capital."

A long-time local demonstrator for Gay rights told the crowd at the Department Store Workers union hall, "I like to hear you cheer my presence in your marches and parades because that cheer is for my union and our support of your efforts. Unions are obligated to speak out for all people's concerns." The speaker was Charles Lamb, president of the local Hotel and Restaurant Workers, and vice president of the California Labor Federation.

The national coordinator of the AFL-CIO Coors Beer Boycott, David Sickler, told the assembled he was concerned by financial contributions being offered to the Gay community here and in Los Angeles.

"Coors continues to try to buy off the Gay community with small sums of money while they give a great deal more to Jerry Falwell and his friends — people who would destroy your life," Sickler said. "Unfortunately,

there are some Gay activists and Gay businessmen who will accept this money — placing the dollar ahead of principle."

The crowd also included two additional labor leaders — Tim Twomey, president of San Francisco Labor Council and vice president of the Service Employees International Union; and David Meggry, an official of the National Football League's AFL-CIO Players Association.

Twomey thanked those present for their support in recent union efforts and said he could not understand the religious fundamentalists' attack on Gay people: "If that is religion, I would rather be a pagan."

Among the guests were several up-front Gay activists who support Labor — Sal Rosselli, president of the Toklas Democrats and a union business agent; Gary Miller, chair of the Sacramento Democratic Central Committee; John Laird, mayor of Santa Cruz; Vic Basile, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Linda Post, chair of the S.F. Democratic Central Committee; Jack Trujillo, Northern California Democratic Party official; and Tom Chorlton, executive director of the national Association of Lesbian/Gay Democratic Clubs.

Labor Alliance Backs Strike at Macy's

The Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance has announced that it supports the striking workers at Macy's in downtown San Francisco and denounces the efforts of Emporium-Capwell to counter the Retail Clerks Union, Local 1100.

The alliance is calling for a boycott of Macy's and the Emporium by the Lesbian and Gay community. Lesbian and Gay consumers are urged to communicate their displeasure to the management of the two large department stores.

Demo Clubs Convene

NOW Chief Cheers Gay Rights Advances

Milk Activist Craig Dumped as Leader of National Group

by George Mendenhall

"Happy days are here again," Judy Goldsmith told 150 cheering Lesbian/Gay activists at a Castro area meeting here during the Democratic Convention. Goldsmith is the president of the National Organization for Women (NOW). She praised the assembled, officials from 46 Gay Democratic clubs and caucuses from across the country, calling their work "extraordinary."

Goldsmith declared, "The Lesbian/Gay rights dialogue cannot be ignored because it is of profound importance in the human rights struggle in this country. It is an issue that addresses a major constituency that cannot be ignored — that must not be ignored."

The noted feminist called the political gains made by Gay people in the past year "really dramatic." She said they include the Democratic presidential candidates accepting Gay rights, the expansion of Lesbian/Gay Democratic clubs, the 1984 Democratic platform on Lesbian/Gay rights — "the strongest we have ever had" — and the mandatory inclusion of Gay people in the party machinery brought about by party Rules changes.

Looking to the future, Goldsmith urged, "We look forward to working with you as we have in the past. This is an alliance that is going to be forged this year — a bond that is based on our mutual understanding that our destinies are inseparable."

of us who care about human rights . . . including Lesbian and Gay rights." Goldsmith said that there is "more to lose than the Supreme Court if the Right Wing takes over for the next four years."

Goldsmith was addressing the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, a Washington, DC-based group involved in educational and lobbying activities. During its business session the association voted to deny membership to politically nonpartisan groups, and to endorse the needs of people with AIDS. Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, spoke of the need to get out the vote.

Tom Chorlton, full-time Executive Director of the associ-

officials over the past year.

The association is currently involved in stimulating voter registration and fundraising advertising on Lesbian and Gay issues. It is urging door-to-door canvassing to "get out the vote" in November and the development of educational materials on the Democrats' position on Lesbian and Gay rights.

ELECTION CONTROVERSY

In a heated election of officers, two new national co-chairs were elected for the 1984-1985 term. They are Lynn Mattingly of Miami and Jack Trujillo, local Democratic Party official. Defeated were the two incumbents, Gwenn Craig, local Milk club activist, and Peter Vogel of New York City.



NOW President Judy Goldsmith gives the thumbs-up as Lesbian and Gay politicians applaud her. (Photo: Rink)



Gwenn Craig (Photo: Rink)

The national spokesperson for the feminist movement expressed her elation that Geraldine Ferraro was chosen as a vice presidential candidate. She said it was essential that candidate Walter Mondale be elected because President Reagan is "an eminent threat to us all — to all

Executive Director Chorlton, who is appointed by a group of trustees, told this reporter and others before the vote was taken that he would not continue in his position if Craig was re-elected. He said, "Gwenn has done nothing to help the organization in the past year." Craig countered

that she has had difficulty reaching Chorlton because "he leaves his answering machine on much of the time." After Craig's defeat, Chorlton said he was pleased and would gladly serve another term if chosen.

Craig and Vogel, defeated in the association election, attended a meeting of the Lesbian/Gay Democratic Delegates Caucus after the association adjourned — and were chosen to serve as its co-chairs.

People With AIDS Form National Group

Twenty-eight people who have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and AIDS-related conditions, have organized the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). Bobbi Campbell, a founding member of NAPWA, made the announcement at the First International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in New York City.

NAPWA will provide peer support, educational materials, referrals, risk reduction materials, health advocacy, and socialization for people with AIDS, by people with AIDS. NAPWA is open to all people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. NAPWA projects include a newsletter, 800 number hotline, and a speaker's bureau.

Noting that the organization was the first of its kind in the country, Campbell said that NAPWA would also work cooperatively with AIDS organizations and government agencies to raise funds and to improve service provision to people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions.

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HEADLINES

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One Juror Short of a Win

Jury Deadlocks 2nd Time in Raines Discrimination Case

Judge Rules City Gay-Rights Ordinance Is Unconstitutional

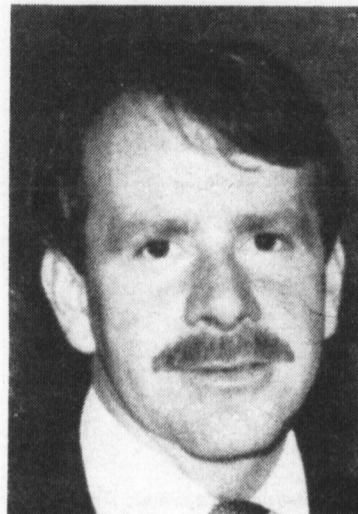
by George Mendenhall

The second attempt of former War Memorial Arts Center director Michael Raines to prove he was discriminated against because he is gay has failed. Raines was fired by the center's board in 1982. He was asking \$1 million in damages. A jury again split 8-4 — in Raines' favor — with 9 votes needed for conviction. Attorney Matt Coles, who with attorney Mary Dunlap represented Raines, said important rulings by Superior Judge William Mullins worked against Raines.

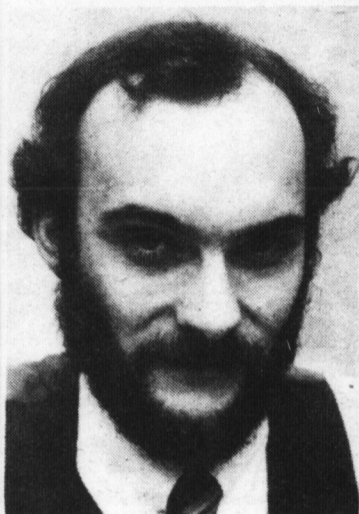
The judge ruled that the city nondiscrimination ordinance is unconstitutional because the state legislature has taken over the entire area of employment discrimination, voiding all local laws on the subject. Due to the veto of AB-1, the state jobs discrimination bill, there is no state law that prohibits discrimination against gay people in employment.

The ruling is not binding on future discrimination cases, unless a general ruling is made to that effect in an appeals court. This is the second Raines trial to have an 8-4 jury with the majority favoring Raines. A third trial will be pressed by Raines' attorneys, Matt Coles and Mary Dunlap.

Mullins told the jury it had to agree that at least 3 of the 11 trustees who fired Raines individually discriminated against him. Considerable evidence was presented to the jury to indicate that the trustees were strongly influenced by one person —



Michael Raines (Photo: Rink) trustee Philip Boone.



Matt Coles, Raines' attorney. (Photo: Rink)



Mary Dunlap, Raines' attorney. (Photo: Rink)

Coles said, "It has always been our position that if Philip Boone was motivated by homophobia and he was the leader of the board and they followed his lead, then Raines was discriminated against by the board." All

11 jurors agreed that Boone had discriminated and eight agreed that one other had discriminated but could not agree on a third person. Evidence in the trial revealed homophobic attitudes by at least four trustees.

Mullins also ruled that Raines would not be permitted to claim invasion of privacy. Raines

Raines' earlier trial one year ago, is that the city ordinance, which Coles wrote, specifically says that discrimination based on sexual orientation is proven if it is "in whole or part" while the state law only vaguely bars all discrimination. If Assemblyman Art Agnos' AB-1 had not been vetoed, there would have been specific state language bar-

ring discrimination against gay people. Both attorneys agree that eventually the matter of constitutionality will have to be resolved by a higher court.

Raines served for 14 months as Arts Center director in 1981-82. The trustees board never criticized Raines until a concert featuring gay entertainer Sylvester appeared at the Opera House. Raines scheduled the performance, as part of his job, and some trustees let him know they were unhappy with the type of entertainment. The facility normally has opera and ballet.

Trustee Philip Boone began to ask questions about Raines' sexual orientation and made negative comments about gay people. He said he wanted a "family man" in the position. Boone was influential in getting a grant of \$30,000 from a foundation to begin a search for a new director of "national stature." Raines was moved aside quickly by an outside search firm and was not seriously considered for the position, which was to be "new" in that the Davies Hall building would be included in the director's duties.

Testimony revealed that knowledge that Raines was gay was discussed — sometimes negatively — by some trustees, although Raines never was public about his sexual orientation. Raines' dismissal in late 1982 startled him, as he had never received any negative evaluation of his work, nor was he criticized by trustees — until the Sylvester concert. Rather than be replaced by a person of "national stature," the new director chosen was George Matson — an assistant theater manager from San Diego. When Matson quit, he was replaced by Thelma Shelley — the widow of the late John Shelley, former mayor of San Francisco.

Raines' attorneys will ask the state Court of Appeals to reverse Judge Mullins' rulings before they ask the Superior Court to schedule a third trial.

Christian Soldiers' Fire

Houston Churches Try to Void New Rights Law

Business Group Gives \$9,000 in Grants

Seven nonprofit community organizations which serve lesbians and gay men have received a total of \$9,000 from The GGBA Foundation in their second quarter granting cycle.

The Foundation, a private philanthropic group founded by the Golden Gate Business Association, awards grants four times annually to those local groups which provide significant services to the lesbian and gay community. Organizations qualifying for support are in the categories of social services, culture, education, and scientific research.

The recent grantees include: \$1000 to "Tools for Change" of the Shanti Project for a visualization health project for people with AIDS; \$1,450 to the West Coast Lesbian Collections, an archives and library preserving lesbian history, for the development and printing of an organizational logo and informational brochure; \$1,500 to Operation Concern as general support for a wide range of mental health counseling services; \$1,500 to WOMAN, Inc., an organization serving the needs of Bay Area battered women, to expand an outreach program and services for lesbians; \$1,050 to Marin AIDS Support Network for staff and volunteer orientation and training; \$1,000 to Theatre Rhinoceros for the production of "Artists Repond to AIDS," an inter-arts education project; and \$1,500 to the Human Rights Foundation for the printing and dissemination of *Demystifying Homosexuality*.

Christian Posse Rides Away

Homos at Home on the Range

Have You Ever Seen A Rodeo Drag Queen Chase Down and Milk a Wild Cow?

by Mike Hippler

Robert and John from Chicago didn't care that the announcer at the Ninth Annual Reno Gay Rodeo didn't remember the names of the contestants some of the time, that few of those contestants could stay on a bull or rope a calf, or that attendance was down somewhat from years past. "This is the greatest thing we've ever seen," they said. "There are people here from all over the country, and everyone is so friendly. We're already making plans to come back next year."

By professional rodeo standards, the Reno Gay Rodeo may fall short, but not to its diehard fans like Robert and John or to contestants like Ron Jessor. "Sure, we take it seriously," said Jessor, 31, a part-time cowboy and full-time banker from Denver. "Most of us are amateurs, but the competition level is getting better every year, for lots of reasons."

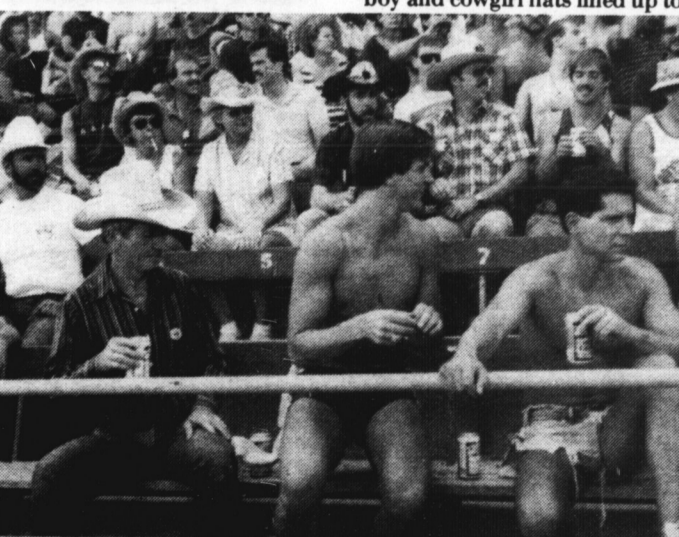
One of these is the increasing number of opportunities for improvement. As rodeo becomes more and more popular in the gay community, rodeos are springing up all over the country. There are now gay rodeos in Denver and Houston as well as Reno, and soon there will be one in Southern California.

"There are lots of gay people who grew up on farms and ranches," said Ron, "and rodeos like this give them the opportunity to do what they've always wanted to do. My family doesn't like it, however. They think I'm embarrassing them by being too public."

Ron's family aren't the only ones. Some Reno residents are tolerant. Hotel desk clerk Susan Komberc, a native of Nevada, said, "It doesn't bother me any. They've got a right to live just like anybody else does." But some are not. Local general contractor Dan Birch, a member of the John Birch Society and the leader of Reno's Pro-Family Christian Coalition, remarked, "I think it's an abomination and a blight upon the community. It's not really the rodeo we're concerned with, it's the celebration of the homosexual community, which is trying to gain legitimacy and justification in a state where this is regarded as a felonious crime."

Said Hansen, "We regard the homosexual community as life-threatening to our freedom as a nation and to the health and safety of our families. They are a drain on the pocketbook of the community, a form of parasite upon any healthy civilization."

Although Hansen and the members of his group left town for the beaches of Lakes Tahoe and Pyramid rather than confront the invading homosexuals, others who are not opposed to gay rights but who are opposed to rodeos turned out in force.



Lots to See at the Rodeo. Some watched the action, some watched the crowd, and some watched the watchers in Reno. (Photo: Michael Kent)



Whoa, There! Bringing calf to heel at the Reno Gay Rodeo. (Photo: Michael Kent)

Said Debra Young, a lesbian from Sacramento who was one of about 20 members of various animal rights groups protesting at the entrance to the Washoe County Fairgrounds, "I feel angry. People who demand rights have to learn to extend them. I don't think you can ignore animals. They're feeling beings, too."

"A lot of people don't know what's involved in rodeo, but my hope is that at least a couple of them will think about it. I didn't really expect anyone not to go in, but hopefully I've helped to plant a few seeds by being here."

Nevertheless, thousands did go in, including Mr., Ms., and Miss National Reno Gay Rodeo — Bobby Conway, Digit, and Miss Nikki of Fresno, Sacramento, and Fresno, respectively. Rose Maddox, the singer who was the first woman ever inducted into Nashville's Country/Western Hall of Fame, was the Grand Marshal.

Deana Kaye, another country/western singer, performed on the fairgrounds outside, along with several square dancing, clogging, and Native Indian dance groups.

At the accompanying Country Festival, vendors sold license plates reading (however inappropriately), "2-Gether 4-Ever, Mike and Debbie," while sunburned men and women in cowboy and cowgirl hats lined up to



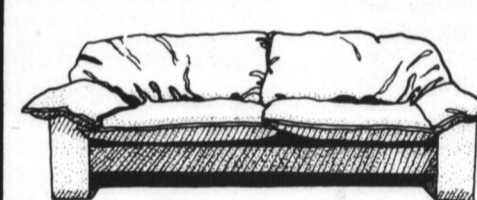
Flying Lasso. A twirling loop of rope flies toward its target. (Photo: Michael Kent)



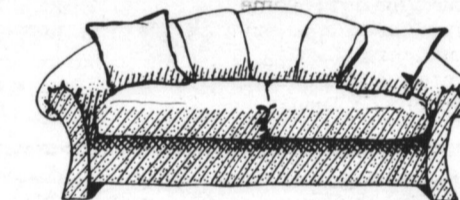
It Was So Hot. All a cowpoke could do was lean back and enjoy the action. (Photo: Michael Kent)

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LETTERS

Sims: Good and Bad

Like all of us, Jon Sims had both good and bad qualities. On the negative side, he often took credit for himself for the work of others, needlessly offended talented colleagues, and was hopelessly Middle-American in his basic tastes and values. Moreover, unresolved questions persist to this day about his handling of the band's finances.

But on the positive side, Jon also provided a public platform for many talented Gay musicians, people who otherwise would never have been heard from and certainly not in a positive Gay context. In addition, his band set an inspiring example that was imitated by Gay communities throughout the U.S. And ultimately as a result of his efforts, many spin-off musical groups were formed that will probably last longer than the band itself.

Yes, Jon had his faults, but he was, after all, part of the family and entitled to his special niche in our memories and in Gay history.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Sensual Symphony

Jerry Falwell would be delighted to hear of the Gay community responding to the AIDS crisis by shutting down all gay sensual and sexual activity. That would be the beginning of our hating ourselves as much as he hates us. And it would diminish our emotional and physical well-being.

We, as human beings, need sensual and sexual stimulation if we want to remain emotionally and physically healthy. We cannot flee from human contact because of AIDS. Yes, we do need to avoid those sexual practices that are the probable primary routes of transmission for the AIDS virus. But that does not mean that we should abandon all sensual or sexual pleasure.

I recently returned from the Unitarian Universalist Association's 1984 General Assembly. At this assembly one program, "Sex for the Health of It," was a thoughtful look at the role of sexuality in health maintenance. The speaker suggested that the Gay community could respond to our current health crisis in a life-enhancing way by learning to utilize more of our body's pleasure potential and adopting sensual and sexual practices which satisfy our need for sensual stimulation and emotional connection, yet do not put our lives at risk.

One of the ways we can learn to appreciate the pleasure potential of our bodies is through massage. A good professional massage gives the entire body a sense of aliveness (while improving muscle tone and blood circulation) and an awareness of the pleasurable possibilities of our largest sensual organ — our skin.

Massagers, such as Mike and Jeff whose ads appear in B.A.R., provide an opportunity to learn much more about our bodies. It seems that, in terms of physical gratification, gay men learned to play only one organ.

Now it is time to orchestrate the sensual/sexual symphony. With Mike and Jeff (and others, undoubtedly!) your whole body becomes an orchestra with which they produce celestial symphonic ecstasy. They really deserve a standing ovation!

I would recommend that all of us in the Gay community respond to Jerry Falwell by creatively expanding our repertoire of sensual delights and continuing to enjoy whole, happy, and fulfilling lives.

I'm hearing far too much about people withdrawing from social contacts due to the AIDS crisis and the taunts of the Jerry Falwell crowd. I am also concerned that Gay people will get the impression that all religions are anti-Gay, which is not the case.

David Fanning
San Francisco

Gay Religious Bias

It may be difficult to perceive Lesbian and Gay religious people as an oppressed minority, though most people know of our struggle to claim our place in religion. Unfortunately, however, we also find ourselves oppressed within our own Lesbian and Gay community. It is true that religion has been the source of great oppression for Lesbians and Gay men throughout history.

The many of us who reject religion because of those wounds have good reason to do so. Just as our community has gone on, though, working for our place in political life which has wounded us, in business, and in so many other areas which have been traditional sources of oppression, Lesbians and Gay men continue to work toward liberation in religion, too.

It seems that we must continually struggle for equal opportunity within our own community. In most years past, our religious groups have been relegated to the end of the Freedom Day Parade almost as a matter of course, a place that seems like the new "back of the bus" for us when it happens over and over. In 1983 we applied some pressure, pointing out that we had served our time at the rear, and to its credit the Parade Committee did move us toward the middle of the line of march. We finally added our voices to the celebration and commitment to justice while there was still a crowd left and they weren't too tired to notice. We were placed dead last in Sunday's National March.

When the Falwell/Schlafly conference was announced we of the Lesbian and Gay religious community claimed responsibility for "our own," if those two

who claim faith can be called that. We planned a positive response to give the lie to their bigoted picture of religion. The people of the All-Family Coalition presented an interfaith service for those of us who are religious. It included lots of our non-Lesbian and Gay religious supporters. It filled Grace Cathedral with people and lit it with the good news of what faith is really about.

That was followed by a march of enthusiasm and positive commitment to freedom, which ought to characterize faith when it isn't left to the frightened and traditional. None of that was covered by the B.A.R. beyond the briefest reference in other coverage.

We insist on the freedom for diversity which our whole movement is demanding. If, as the Lesbian and Gay atheists claim, "religion is the problem," we demand the freedom to move toward solving it, just as many of our people are active in helping solve other issues of oppression. If you're not religious, that's your freedom. But as a community, we ask you not to treat us as if we are a "politically incorrect" dirty secret. We have our needs, goals, and aspirations and we deserve to be heard and accepted.

The Reverend Michael E. England
Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco

The Reverend James E. Sandmire
Pastor, Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church

An Embarrassment

I'm very embarrassed for the Gay community for the presence of Sister Boom Boom and her (or his) other so-called Sisters, especially after their delightful appearance at the Union Square rally Friday, July 13.

I don't like Jerry Falwell, nor do I like Phyllis Schlafly. I don't believe they are true Christians and I can't say that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present any kind of religion either. Instead, they make asses out of themselves and the Gay community.

We are supposed to be trying to get the straight community to accept us as Gay men. Is this the way to get the job done? We wonder why it's so hard for straights to accept us.

Like our mayor said at one time: "It's time to grow up!"

Randy E. Tucker
San Francisco

Violence and Its Result #2(a)

Your response to the man who was attacked by anti-Gay bigots was astonishing. The "disturbing trend to these letters about violence" is not the "message that individual Gay men, if only they are tough enough, can handle those nasty old straight thugs." The author of that letter never even implied that at all. The "disturbing trend" is that attacks on Gays can be made with impunity in the heart of a Gay area or in any area where there are a number of Gays. The point seems to be that if enough Gays began putting some resistance up against these attacks, they could do so easily, and most probably be able to stop an attack without anyone getting injured.

I can ignore any number of non-thinking, ignorant comments in the Letters Column, but you as an editor are in a position too influential to ignore. Perhaps you should do some heavy re-thinking of these situations; start giving some support to those who have been attacked instead of putting them down. And start asking your readers how they can let things like this happen.

Bob Faragasso
San Francisco

GUEST COLUMN

Gays, Lesbians and the Roman Catholic Church

by Hugh Murray

The *New York Daily News* headlined "O'Connor Nixes Gay Rights Order" Sunday, June 17, and the story detailed how Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York John O'Connor threatened to close Catholic child care centers rather than sign a pledge not to discriminate against hiring Gays. Near the end of the article, Charles Bell reported: "O'Connor . . . has been studying theories of homosexuality in preparation for making his statement. But he said he was not sure that he understood the subject."

I suggest that O'Connor's ignorance of the subject is revealed in those two sentences. In reality, one requires a theory of sexuality in mankind, not a theory of homosexuality. Man is a social animal; man is a sexual animal.

If one studies some of the many societies that man has developed, one sees heterosexuality and homosexuality practiced and tolerated throughout the globe from native American Indians to various African tribes to ancient Greece and the Roman Empire to the Turkish warriors who conquered the Middle East and a third of Europe in the 17th century.

Tolerance of homosexual activity was widespread and understandable because homosexuality is natural and the preferred form of sexuality in an indeterminate percentage of mankind. It is natural.

What is more difficult to explain is the attitude of the Christians toward sexuality. Here is an interesting sampling of some of the lights of the Church:

- St. Augustine debated whether married couples could enter heaven, as they had engaged in fornication.
- St. Jerome urged young women not to bathe and intentionally spoil their pretty faces so as not to lead young men astray.
- St. Augustine justified the institution of female prostitution so that young men could avoid the temptation of homosexuality.
- St. Jerome endorsed the idea that a man who loved his wife with ardor was engaging in adultery.
- Origen, to avoid the temptations of the flesh, cut his balls off. (He later regretted it.)
- We know that when the Christians finally came to power in the Roman Empire, they made homosexuality a capital offense, and Gays and Lesbians were murdered for centuries thereafter in countries where Christians held sway.

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Suspect Pleads Guilty In Laskey Murder

Charge Reduced to Manslaughter In Thanksgiving Strangulation

by Allen White

Timothy Reeder, 21, has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter of Tom Laskey, a middle-aged San Francisco Gay man. The plea last week appears to indicate a turn away from use of the "homosexual panic" defense. Laskey was murdered in San Francisco last Thanksgiving.

Reeder pleaded guilty to the charge last week and will be sentenced August 23 to six years and eight months in jail. Assistant District Attorney Gene Sweeters told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was satisfied with the results of the court proceedings.

Timothy Reeder could have been tried for first degree murder. The problems in proving the case were substantial. According to Sweeters, the state could prove Reeder had possession of Laskey's car and credit cards. At the same time, there was little evidence that actually placed Reeder at the scene of the crime.

Reeder was arrested in a Southern state where he was

procedure for this defense is that the defending attorney attempts to prove that the act of murder took place because the killer panicked and killed when he discovered his victim was Gay.

The "homosexual panic" defense has been under severe criticism in recent months. In San Francisco, the District Attorney's office has put together a team of attorneys and investigators to quash the use of this legal tactic. The last time the defense was used in San Francisco was by defendant Dana Holley.

Holley was found guilty of killing a bank executive and sentenced to life imprisonment. Holley used the "panic" defense and the District Attorney was able to skillfully tear down the use of the defense.

Dale McCormick, a delegate to the Democratic Convention from Maine, has been conferring with San Francisco attorneys about fighting this type of defense. In her home state there is currently a murder trial in progress where three teenagers threw a Gay man who couldn't swim into a river, and he drowned.

In that state, there is concern that the defense will succeed simply because the victim was Gay.

working as a bagger in a grocery store. He had claimed he had purchased the stolen credit cards and the car so he could get out of San Francisco. Laskey was found dead by strangulation.

Sweeters explained that all the facts are presented in such a case to the judge, then the defense and prosecuting attorneys will attempt to negotiate a fair settlement. In this case, the judge, Judge Edward Stern, worked with the attorneys and was able to work out this settlement of the case. It was ultimately accepted by the client, Timothy Reeder.

This is the third murder case in San Francisco in recent months in which the "homosexual panic" defense was not used by the defense attorneys. The



Cash for AIDS Services. Bob Bradshaw (c.), owner of the Obelisk, handed over more than \$5,000 in cash — that's the money behind him — to Robert Bolan (l.) and James Ferels (r.) of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. (Photo: Rink)

Obelisk Raises \$5,454 for S.F. AIDS Foundation

At the conclusion of a fundraising effort at the Obelisk, a Castro Street gift store owned

by Bob Bradshaw, it was announced that \$5,454 has been turned over to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to assist in continuing and expanding the AIDS educational and social services programs offered by the Foundation.

In a ceremony Monday, July 23, members of the AIDS Foundation Board of Directors were joined by State Senator Milton Marks and Supervisor Harry Britt in publicly recognizing this outstanding and generous fundraising effort orchestrated by Bradshaw and his staff.

The fundraising effort was initiated by Bradshaw to draw attention to the ongoing need for community support of groups involved in the AIDS struggle. The monies donated were raised over a period of four weeks, June 22 through July 23; 15 percent of all sales were deposited daily into a special account administered by Eureka Federal Savings. Customers were able to witness the actual depositing of the 15 percent into a locked, clear lucite box kept on the Obelisk sales counter. Many customers and visitors to the store gave additional amounts in order to be supportive of the Obelisk endeavor.

Bradshaw surprised the gathering by announcing that the donation effort will be continued over the upcoming months. The Obelisk will donate 15 percent of sales which are made on the first Sunday of each month, August through November: August 5, September 2, October 7, and November 4.

Correction

An article in the July 19 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Stars — and Sisters — Forever," included an erroneous statement and a misleading photo caption. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were joined by others who are not members of their group in hanging flags and banners at the Democratic National Convention. The accompanying photo gave the impression that all four people depicted were associated with the Sisters. In fact, only the two persons on the left — Sister Sadie-Sadie and Gilbert Baker — are part of the Sisters' group.

G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Berkeley Passes Domestic Partners

(Continued from page 1)

Two hours of debate, broken by hisses and heckles, brought the city no closer to putting the idea into practice. But the action did establish Berkeley as the first jurisdiction in the United States ever to recognize Gay and Lesbian relationships.

Already, organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association and the National Organization for Women have benefit policies covering unwed domestic partners.

At the heart of the domestic partners issue lie fundamental questions of equality and economics. Benefits, a substantial portion of a worker's overall earnings, usually are awarded on the basis of marital status. Gay activists say these policies are discriminatory, and that Gay workers who pay money into benefit systems deserve equal access to the benefits provided by such systems.

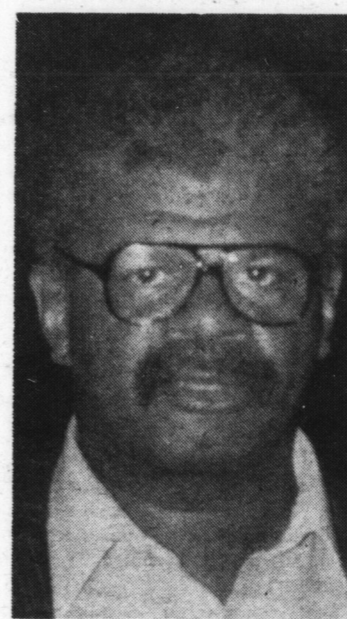
Similar legislation easily passed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last year, but Mayor Dianne Feinstein vetoed the bill.

In the Berkeley debate, there was little argument over the validity of Gay couples and unmarried couples as legitimate households. The debate, instead, revolved around cost. In Berkeley, the city picks up the entire tab for its employees' benefits.

Still, Gays were disappointed by the council's decision, which would put off all discussion of the matter until after March 1986. Proponents had hoped passage in Berkeley would lead to experimentation elsewhere. And East Bay Gay leaders hoped Berkeley would beat San Francisco to the task in what they considered a civil rights issue. The attitude was that the council had, in effect, acknowledged the need but refused the services.

Mary Ann Brownstein, vice president of the East Bay Les-

bian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC), said, "We were very disappointed in many respects with the vote. We had hoped that they would implement the legislation right away. We understand the financial crunch that the city is in. They're very hesitant to do anything that will cost more money. But we feel this is a case of our civil rights and it's just difficult to put price tags on civil rights," Brownstein said.



"If you listened to the struggles of 30 years ago, you'll find a close correlation."

Mayor Gus Newport

"It's an issue that's real, that has to be dealt with — and I'm not saying we can't or shouldn't."

City Manager Daniel Boggan

partnership.

Boggan briefly explained his official position on domestic partners policy to the council. "It's an issue that's real, that has to be dealt with, and I'm not saying that we can't or shouldn't. It's just that when we do, we'd better know what we're getting into."

More conservative council members echoed Boggan's apprehensions. Vice Mayor Gilda Feller spoke out most fervently for the majority view. "I want to know how many dollars are involved in this. If Jarvis passes in November we are in for massive reductions of force in this city which means layoffs and reduction of services," she said.

"You cannot sit here in this hall," Feller said, "and say that you are totally unconcerned about any other matter than the employees of the city of Berkeley. And I don't care whether

they're Gay, Lesbian, married or what. I know this can be done. But I want to know at what cost to the citizens of Berkeley and our programs."

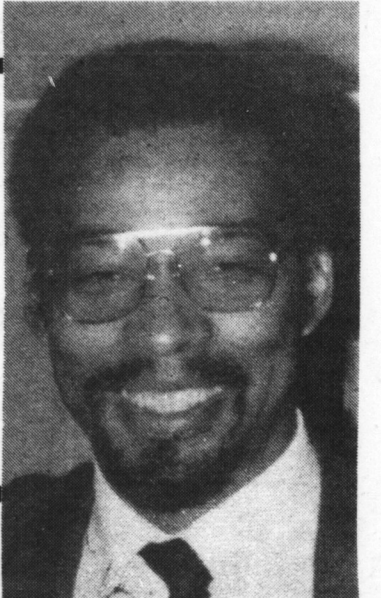
Feller later told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "If a whole new group comes in and claims benefits, the money has to come from somewhere else."

Backers accused the majority of simply putting the issue off. They say Gays and unmarried straights have a right to the benefits. David Cunningham, chair of the Human Relations and Welfare Commission (HRWC), said shortly after the meeting, "In the past week it became very evident that, in fact, members of the 'conser-

that's the way it's always got to be. And the fact that I was born into a world in which they already have a stranglehold doesn't mean I have to sit here and not struggle against it."

"I want to get up in the morning and go to my job and work and take home the same amount of money and I think that we can move forward on that," Brougham said.

The vote last week split evenly along party lines. The minority "no" and abstention votes supported immediate passage of domestic partners benefits and protested the delay in implementing them. The more con-



servative All Berkeley Coalition (ABC) bloc, the majority bloc which voted for the delayed partners measure, sees most of its members facing election in just a few months.

Brownstein indicated that a liberal takeover may be coming in the November election, and that a domestic partners policy could pass through a council dominated by the more liberal Berkeley Citizen's Action bloc. If the election restacks the membership of the council, the council could revisit the domestic partners issue and speed up the benefits timetable.

Earlier this month, the Berkeley Citizen's Action party endorsed domestic partners benefits at its platform convention. ■

J. Wetzel

Klan Plans for March Fizzle; Cops Head Them Off at the Bay

by Allen White

The Ku Klux Klan was unsuccessful in its try to hold an anti-Gay demonstration last week during the Democratic Convention. The *Bay Area Reporter* learned that Imperial Klan Wizard William Alvers and his half-dozen supporters had been followed closely by San Francisco police intelligence officers for almost a month.

Alvers, who claims to be the Imperial Wizard of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, announced plans several weeks ago to come to San Francisco to demonstrate against Gays. From the first announcement, there were concerns about violence if they came to San Francisco. Contrary to early reports, the group never obtained a police permit, though it had been sought.

Alvers is based in Modesto, California. This is the same Central Valley town where Jerry Falwell began his campaign of anti-Gay rhetoric just prior to the beginning of the convention here.

From intelligence reports, police were aware that the Klan

members would arrive last Thursday morning at about noon. When they crossed the Bay Bridge they were met by police and escorted first to Southern Station, located in the Hall of Justice.

Under heavy security, they were moved to the office of San Francisco Police Chief Con Murphy. Hallways leading to Murphy's office were sealed by police.

Once inside the office, Police Chief Murphy told the half-dozen men that the city did not have enough police officers to give the men protection to demonstrate. Chief Murphy also told the men they were not welcome in San Francisco. ■

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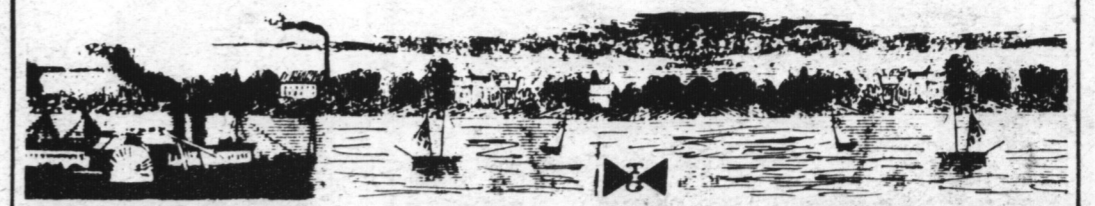


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B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Siouxsie and the Banshees

Gay Fans Appreciate Originality in an Era of MTV-Homogenized Rock

by Peter Keane

Some performers who have large Gay followings either skirt the issue or avoid it altogether, preferring not to alienate their mainstream (read heterosexual) fans. Not Siouxsie and the Banshees. This, the only print interview the band gave while in town recently, was given because I was from a Gay newspaper.

Siouxsie and the Banshees. Imagine Louise Brooks on acid, as painted by Gustav Klimt, and you get a good idea of what Siouxsie looks and dresses like. Dark and beautiful, she accentuates the contrast between her dark hair and eyes, and her pale porcelain-white skin. She's been around since the day of the London punk scene — that's 1976, in case you're a recent arrival from Mars — but is surprisingly young and enthusiastic. Great beauties never reveal their age, but I'd guess her to be 27.

The Banshees never achieved the notoriety of the Sex Pistols, or the commercial success of the Clash, to name two of their early contemporaries, but unlike the aforementioned, the group has remained true to its initial thrust. Their sound is thick and evocative, and heavy on the atmosphere. From the start they had artistic intentions, the kiss of death in punk. But that found them a loyal cult following, kept them fed, and brought them, as a four-piece touring unit, all too infrequently to American shores.

But wait — all that is about to change. The P.T. Barnum of the music industry, David Geffen, just signed the group to his label, and the star-making ma-

chinery is even now being cranked up full-tilt. In another year Siouxsie may be as big a household name as Ty-de-bowl. She takes it in stride. "We're still pumping out the same old garbage," she laughs heartily. "Maybe the macho dude with the guitar is loath to (discuss Gay fans), but we've never shied away from that," Siouxsie says. "We've got lots of Gay fans. And they turn up in large numbers in the weirdest places. Like Texas."

"You mean there are Gays in Texas?" I josh.

"Yes, silly," she says.

"Hordes of them. In Houston, it was outrageous, this club we played in. It wasn't where we'd been scheduled to play, the stan-

dard rock club, because that had flooded or some such. We ended up playing in a disco palace that turned out to be the Gay truckers' hangout. It was really wild. They're a minority, the Gays in Texas, but they're alive and kicking.

"We seem to be quite popular with Gays in Italy, too," Siouxsie continued. "The last concert we played there was in Milan, in a huge circus tent. The promoters were pissed because they'd never seen so many boys at the front of the stage. It was a great atmosphere — more enjoyable than playing to a football crowd."

Now that the Banshees are playing to bigger audiences, the group still hasn't forgotten the



Siouxsie of Siouxsie and the Banshees

clubs, and club patrons, who helped them get there. Three years ago, the Banshees played the I-Beam, when it was still predominantly a Gay club.

"We enjoyed that show," Siouxsie says. "We were in a cocoon and were probably the only ones who did."

(Continued on page 23)

On the Job: Gay People at Work

A Gay Pianist Flourishes in the Freedom of the SF Symphony

by Arthur S. Lazere

On a recent Sunday evening at Herbst Theatre, arrayed across the stage were a series of candelabra from which the soft light of long tapers flickered. Even before the artists performing that evening appeared, a special mood and atmosphere had been established. It wasn't a "big deal," the concept of a candlelight recital; it was a small, enhancing touch. I couldn't help but wonder if that something extra was the product of the sensibilities of the two artists who were performing, pianist Robin Sutherland and flutist Ransom Wilson. Both musicians are upstart Gays with national reputations.

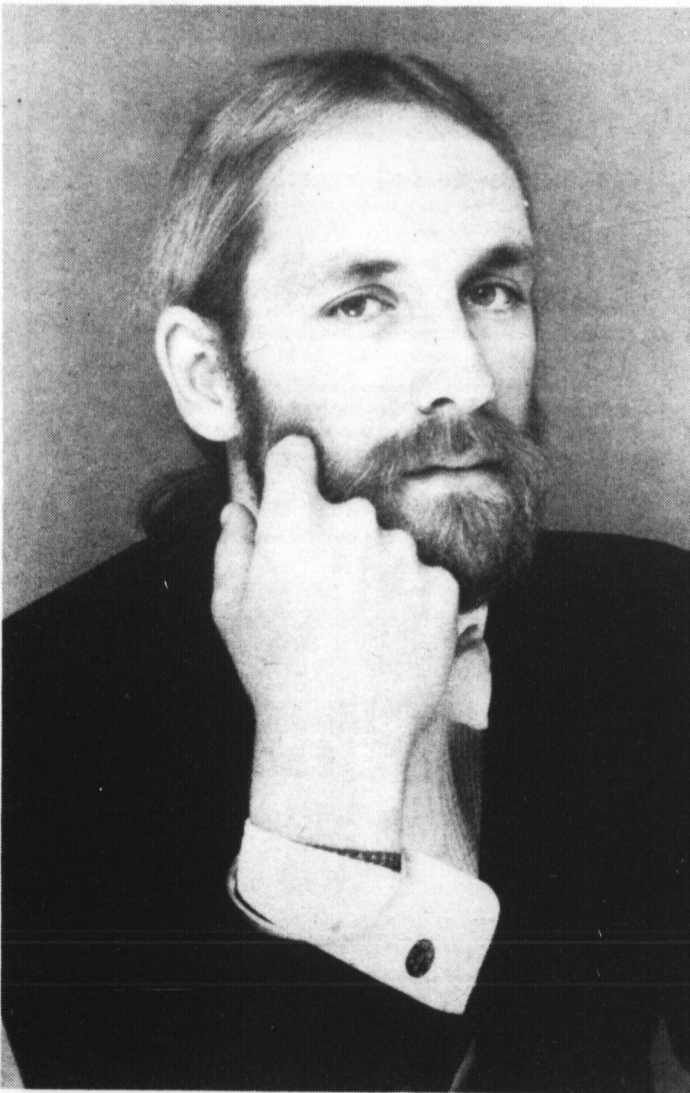
Some part of me has always questioned the idea that floats around in both Gay and non-Gay circles that Gays have a special touch in interiors or with dinner parties or costumes. Is that not, surely, a bit of reverse bias stereotyping? To set the record straight, at least in this particular case, I asked Sutherland if the idea had been either his or Wilson's. "No," he said, "but next year we are planning a track-lighting recital."

Robin Sutherland was a member of that special subspecies, the child prodigy. His earliest tinklings at the keyboard were brought to the attention of Dr. Rita Hutcherson, then Chair of the piano department at the University of North Colorado. For fourteen years, starting at the age of four, Sutherland studied with Hutcherson. When he was twelve, his grandmother presented him with a shiny black Chickering grand piano. At that point things got serious indeed.

Born in Denver, Sutherland was adopted at birth and brought up in Greeley, a Colorado university town fifty miles to the north. Greeley, with a

population during Robin's childhood of some 20,000, is the county seat of a rich agricultural area. Sutherland remembers the pungent aroma of cow pats wafting on the summer breeze. "It smells like money to me!" he remembers his dad, always a Greeley booster, remarking. The family business, a commercial laundry and linens operation, dates back to Sutherland's maternal grandfather and accounts for his financially comfortable upbringing.

In 1960 teacher Hutcherson entered Robin, age nine, in his first piano competition. He won, but it proved to be the start of an intense dislike for competitions. "I loathe the competition," he says. "I felt lousy when I won. I felt lousy when I lost. I'd win and I'd think, 'Well, somebody else just had a bad day; they could really outplay me.' The minute I came to my senses I stopped entering competitions. Unfortunately, it is damn near the only way of building a career as a pianist." Sutherland's peak in the competitive arena was as a finalist in the International Bach Competition in 1969. He has performed



Robin Sutherland

the entire keyboard works of Bach.

In 1969, too, that Sutherland left Greeley to enter the Julliard School in New York as a student of Rosina Lhevinne. Lhevinne, then 89 years old, was a world renowned teacher and, for Robin, a connection with the

her the best studio on the corner of the fifth floor. My lessons were at her apartment on Claremont Avenue in Morningside Heights. Julliard frightened me. Maybe that's where I started to loathe the competitive aspect. When you see people with their ears pressed up to practice room doors to find out what others were doing... What good does that do? It's cancerous, absolutely cancerous. I had very little to do with the school. I met the academic requirements, took my lessons at Morningside Heights, and stayed home and practiced."

After two years of this, Sutherland dropped out and escaped to Hawaii. Hawaii became the second great passion in his life, after the piano. He kept up his piano playing and even entered some competitions for food money. ("It was a poor time, the Monmartre segment of my life.") He has become fluent in the native Hawaiian language, has taken courses, and has studied Hawaiian language and culture with an emeritus professor from the University of Hawaii. He returns there often.

Sutherland next studied and taught at a junior college in Glenwood Springs, near Aspen, Colorado. (He returns to Glenwood Springs each summer and plays two recitals there.) Then, in 1972, he entered the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. While still an undergraduate at the Conservatory, at age 22, he was appointed principal pianist of the San Francisco Symphony by Seiji Ozawa. He completed his degree at the Conservatory in 1975.

With all this success and recognition, did he not want to be out on the major concert circuit? "I didn't want it. It's a loathsome life, flitting about required, even though they saved

(Continued on page 23)

STAGE

Simon Does It Again

by Bernard Spunberg

Lib, mechanical, conventional — so easy to dismiss Neil Simon's vast output with a few belittling adjectives. But there's a reason why Simon is so successful: Within his own modest parameters, Simon tells the emotional truth. So what if he's no stylistic trailblazer? So what if his themes don't change the course of history? Neil Simon writes with insight, humor, and love about feelings

everyone knows.

Simon's latest, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, currently on stage at the Curran in a touring production, is a memory play. Set in the Brighton Beach district of New York City in 1937, the action depicts personal growth and change among seven disparate family members. Simon's own persona is present in the form of a fifteen-year-old

boy who both participates in and comments on the action. The success of the current production is largely due to the charm of Jonathan Silverman, who plays that role.

Silverman expresses all the snide sarcasm and unbridled lust of your typical horny adolescent boy. His comic timing is that of a seasoned veteran. His superficial projection of emo-

tional vulnerability, however, betrays his inexperience.

Mark Nelson can give me masturbation lessons anytime. As the big brother of the family, Nelson conveys worldly sophistication when he advises little brother on the solitary compensations of male adolescence, and little-boy panic in confrontations with Pop.

Joan Copeland and Barbara Caruso are fine as the mother for whom every silver lining has a cloud, and her luckless, helpless, widowed sister, Wendy Gazelle is efficient as the sexy teenaged cousin, and Erin Lee Peck is eminently strangleable as her baby sister.

Charles Cioffi, as the over-worked man of the house, is tired to his marrow, but his characterization underlines the only thing out of focus in Gene Saks' direction, and perhaps in the play itself as well: Is this family Jewish or not? Now, you don't have to be Jewish to play a Jewish character, and you do not have to be Gay to play a Gay character. But when ethnicity is fundamental to a play's setting, a certain consistency becomes

important.

The mother of *Brighton Beach* despises her neighbor's Irishness. But when her sister makes a date with the man, the rest of the family is unconcerned. Little fragments of Jewishness surface throughout the play, only to quickly sink out of sight without being dealt with. Varying responses to Jewish culture within the same family are common, and Simon's family members are hardly implausible for their disparity. Still, there's something about *Brighton Beach* that feels white-washed, sterilized, a little bit turned down for the sake, perhaps, of Middle American sensibilities.

Jewishness notwithstanding, I really loved *Brighton Beach*. Neil Simon applies his art out of love for his characters, not for the gratification of his own ego. That love transcends cultural boundaries effortlessly. Now, could we please see the masturbation scene one more time? ■

Brighton Beach Memoirs
The Curran
Through August 5; 673-4400

City Needs Volunteers

City Guides, the volunteer ambassadors sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, is recruiting new members. City Guides give weekly tours of historic San Francisco sites such as Coit Tower, City Hall, Market Street, Pacific Heights, the Gold Rush Era around Portsmouth Square, and Moscone Center. They also staff the Fire Department and Presidio Museums. Prospective City Guides must

go on five tours before the training period. Each guide must be committed to give six to eight hours of tours or other activities per month for two years.

Call Sue Haas, Volunteer Coordinator, 558-3770, for an application and appointment for an interview.

Training starts on Saturday, September 8, and runs through eight Saturday sessions on an irregular schedule until January 1985.

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For Love or Money

Cycle of Oppression

by Adele Prandini

In 1778 thousands of women were imprisoned in England on petty theft charges. The women were starving, and many, many of these women were then shipped to Australia and "doled out to men like supplies." In the beginning the women and the Aboriginal people shared the same lot — those who were not killed were forced to become slaves to the White man.

For Love or Money, a film which took five years to make, is publicized as the first Australian women's labor history film. Australia's history is hauntingly similar to our own. Both the Aborigine and Native American peoples suffered near genocide at the hands of European invaders. And, the plight of the women in Australia over the past two hundred years is nearly identical to the historical experience of American women.

Much like the film *Rosie the Riveter*, *For Love or Money* exposes the way women workers have been exploited by society. In the beginning it is brutality that enslaves both women and the Aboriginal people. Later, as technology advances, more sophisticated techniques become the acceptable form of incarceration. In a film clip we hear the dashing young gentleman ask

his pretty but unhappy wife, "What? Would you upset the fundamental law between a man and a woman, that a husband's life is her life?" While men and women are discussing fundamental law, the Aboriginal people are being herded onto a reservation. Families are being broken up in an effort to destroy the culture of the native people, a tactic employed in America with the Native American people.

The film successfully holds our attention because it avoids heavy rhetoric. We are presented with images and are left alone to draw our own conclusions.

For Love or Money is at times funny, at times painful, and definitely thought-provoking. As Gay and Lesbian people we have much in common with women and people of color. We are brutalized by society. When we learn our place, we are offered the carrot of assimilation. The cycle is undisturbed. Currently there are lots of carrots being dangled, which makes *For Love or Money* a very timely film.

There is something about the film that made me terribly uncomfortable. Though the history of women's oppression is very



The women responsible for *For Love or Money*: (l. to r.) Margo Nash, Megan McMurchy, Jeni Thornley, and Margot Oliver.

detailed, the history of the Aborigine is sketchy. By omission, the film makes a statement about division, one that we can learn from.

Go see *For Love or Money*, for it offers emotional nourishment, and a great excuse for sitting down in between all the

demonstrations.

York Theater, July 23, 9 p.m.

STAGE

Companion Pieces

by John F. Karr

No, they're not together for the first time. But James Whitmore's impersonation of Will Rogers, and Ruth Hastings' recital of Jacques Brel are swell companion pieces. They share a compassionate, yet frequently pointed and mordant, vision of simple people.

James Whitmore's Will Rogers' U.S.A. is a quiet *tour de force*. Quiet because Rogers himself was quiet. Of wildly mixed ancestry, he forged a uniquely American performing identity in the melting pot of turn of the century vaudeville. His Oklahoma drawl and front-porch-chat approach were a far cry from the prevailing dialect comedians. His iconoclastic comments marked him as the progenitor of the school of comedy as social criticism which included Lenny Bruce and Dick Gregory.

Whitmore's acting is so natural you'll believe Will himself is here. The script covers ground, presenting Will as the original bead reader — politics, motherhood, slogans, commercialism, and the rich are all knocked with deadpan glee. This quaintly nos-

talgie show would be merely pleasant if the satire wasn't still all too timely. At the Geary Theatre through August 5.

In one of Brel's moving comments on contemporary life, Ruth Hastings sings, "We forget how to cry, we save photographs instead." While Ruth was gone all we had were her photos. Now



Ruth Hastings

Robin Sutherland, Gay Pianist

(Continued from previous page) has never felt threatened or experienced homophobia from any quarter. "It is Edo's personal directive that sexual orientation not be taken into account in hir-

ing. It is not to be a consideration." excellence supercedes the petty things that divide people." All emphasized that the only thing that matters is how well the musician plays the music.

There are eight or nine up-front Gay members of the Symphony and, it is not unreasonable to assume, a few closeted members. In an organization of 105 musicians, that would appear to be a reasonable propor-

tion. While recognizing the remarkable attitude of acceptance that prevails there, nonetheless, a nondiscrimination clause on sexual orientation in the Symphony's union contract is awaited.

Shelton summed up his thoughts about Sutherland: "His is an incredible natural talent. It is so easy to take the perfection of his playing for granted, because he is so consistent. There is nothing musical that he can't do."

It is a tribute to the music director, the musicians, the Symphony organization, and the city of San Francisco that gifted people like Robin Sutherland can flourish here in freedom.

A.S. Lazere

One of a continuing series of profiles of successful, up-front Lesbians and Gays.

Volcano

Mount St. Malcolm

Do writers live more interesting lives than anybody else, or do they just make life sound more interesting? *Volcano: An Inquiry into the Life of Malcolm Lowry* makes that writer's life sound interesting. It also whets our appetites for *Under the Volcano*, John Huston's film of his celebrated novel, much as *Burden of Dreams* built anticipation for *Fitzcarraldo*.

Malcolm Lowry was born near Liverpool in 1909 and died in 1957 of an overdose of sleeping pills. The inquest ruled it "death by misadventure," and it is said that "he was known to have had a compulsion to stuff things in his mouth indiscriminately," but many still suspect suicide.

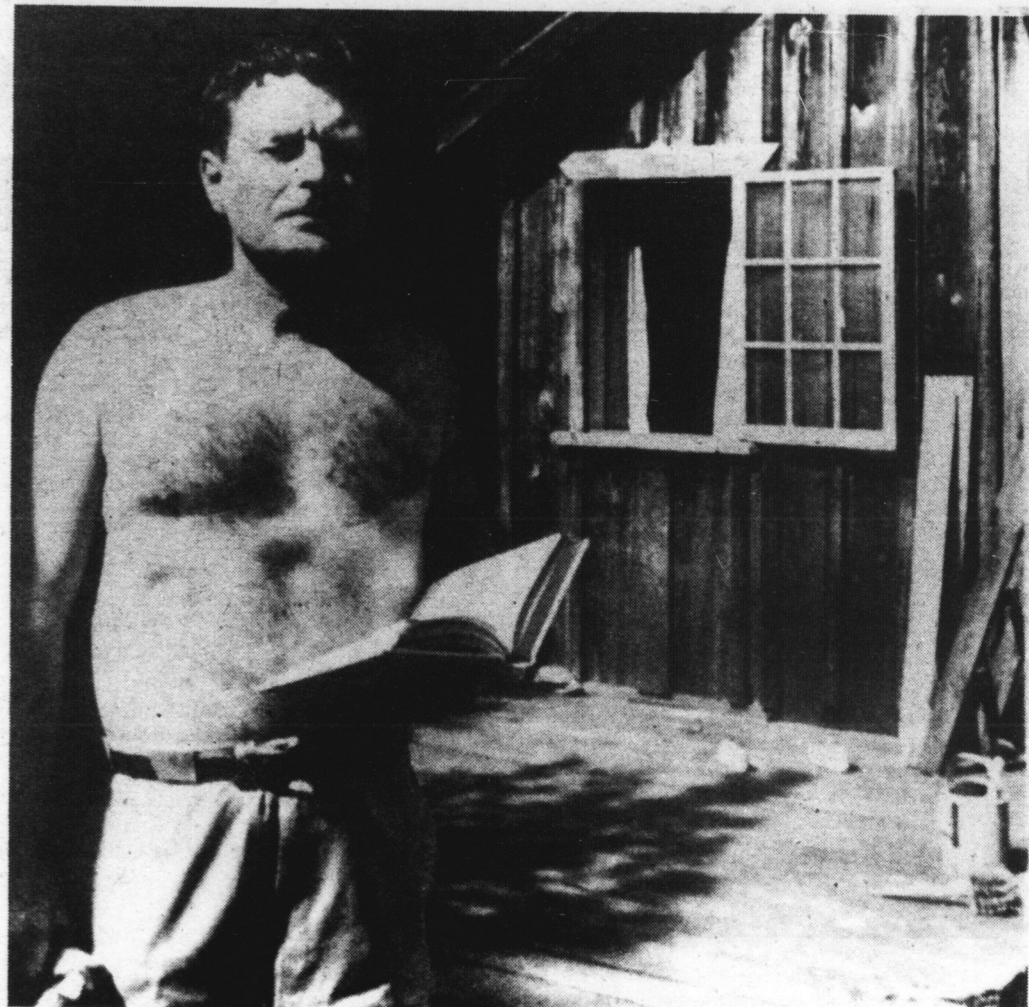
Lowry's life in England, New York, Canada, and Mexico is suggested in staged scenes and stock footage, while his words are read by Richard Burton and writer/director/narrator Donald Brittain. These episodes keep the "talking heads" format down to about half the running

time. The Mexican segments illustrate episodes from *Under the Volcano*, while adding biographical insight, as Lowry was known to have based the main character, the alcoholic Consul, on himself.

Lowry's father was "a compulsive bodybuilder . . . the best developed man in England." An old schoolmaster informs us, "All the Lowry boys were very good looking," and we can draw our own conclusions about him. Malcolm had a talent for farting on cue, and was, in school, "a figure of fun on bath nights . . . because of his tiny penis." A fellow student at Cambridge killed himself after Lowry rejected his advances.

His homosexual encounters in New York, where he went with his first wife in the early '30s, are discussed briefly, but it's suggested that he may have been either impotent or too drunk to perform. He worked nearly a decade on *Under the Volcano*, but after it was published his impotence spread to his writing, and he never turned out another book of consequence.

(Castro, July 26-27) S. Warren



Volcano — Described by his sister-in-law as "studiedly picturesque," author Malcolm Lowry is the subject of *Volcano*, paired with *Burroughs* for two days at the Castro.

Electric Dreams

Viewer-Friendly

Electric Dreams brings new meaning to the idea of computer dating. This silly little movie is easy to fall in

love with, and should be this summer's sleeper. Last year it was *WarGames*, this year it's *LoveGames* — which would have been a better title.

First-feature director Steve Barron cut his teeth on music videos, including Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," so he



Two Out of Three Ain't Bad Looking — Virginia Madsen (l.) and Lenny von Dohlen are involved with a computer that gets too personal in *Electric Dreams*.

has a tendency to be visually manic. His relentless search for new ideas and angles makes him overload *Electric Dreams* with visual gimmicks the way *Top Secret!* is overloaded with gags. He scores with enough of them to keep things energized.

The basic plot is a romantic triangle — boy, girl, and computer. Lenny von Dohlen, who rivals Tom Hanks for New Comic Actor of the Year, buys a personal computer (voiced by Bud Cort) at about the same time Virginia Madsen moves in upstairs in his San Francisco duplex. The computer, overloaded with input, goes haywire in the tradition of the great screen computers of 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, *Demon Seed*, and *Colossus* — The Forbin Project.

Lenny explains love to the computer so it can write Virginia a song, which comes out played by Culture Club. How do you explain Boy George to a computer? But the machine falls in love with Virginia itself, precipitating a comic climax and a sentimental resolution.

Electric Dreams is a viewer-friendly movie for people who don't know too much about computers. Those who do may find it hard to accept the inconsistencies of Rusty Lemorande's script, even though it's labeled a "fairy tale for computers." The high tech theme, the soft rock score, and the dominant role of the woman in a male-female relationship make it very much a movie of today, one to put in a time capsule to remember 1984 by.

(Galaxy) S. Warren

The Neverending Story

Fantasy Island

When *The Neverending Story* emerged on the adult bestseller lists around the world, it indicated that all of us were quite hungry for some innocent fantasyworld fiction, even if it was directed to kids.

Wolfgang Petersen (*Das Boot*) has directed the film version, about a young boy who escaped the reality of schoolyard bullies and distant fathers by climbing into the pages of a special book titled *The Neverending Story*.

Filled with wondrous sets and costumes inspired by the illustrations of children's books, a pulsating synthesizer score by Giorgio Moroder and Klaus Doldinger, and a completely simplistic but involving script, the film transports our hero and us, via Magic

Dragon, Stone Eaters, Gnomes, and other benign creatures, into the land of Fantasia. Apparently, the land is being overtaken by a great Nothingness that consumes everything into a vacuum void. The only way it can be stopped is for a human child to give the childlike Empress of Fantasia a new name. And so the boy reading the book enters the book and saves the day for fantasy and imagination.

Heavyhanded imagery, and a certain amount of patronizing see-what-we-mean explanatory dialogue, are there for the children. Lots of Jungian symbols and existential prattle are thrown in for the adults. And while the film is quite fascinating, it's never magical.

The *Neverending Story* is a head trip, not an affair of the heart. It has body, but no soul. It is entertaining, but not, alas, enchanting. So if the film doesn't fulfill completely our hunger for rich fantasy, it at least whets our appetite.

(Alexandria) M. Lasky

Irezumi

Patterns of Sexism

The tattoo artist in *Irezumi* paints dragons as phallic as the needles he uses; but since symbolism is too subtle for some people, he also fucks the women as he's tattooing them. He apparently doesn't work on men.

We meet him at the time of his last tattoo. He lets his apprentice/son assist by sticking the client in the front while daddy needles her in back. "When it hurts, cling to him," the old man instructs. If that eases the pain, Masaki Kyomoto, the actor who plays his son, can give me a local anesthetic anytime.

The tattooee is the mistress of a man with a strange fetish. He can't resist a woman with beautiful skin, but he views her skin as an artist does a fresh canvas, and sends her out to be tattooed. Compounding what may be the

(Continued on next page)

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VIDEO wave

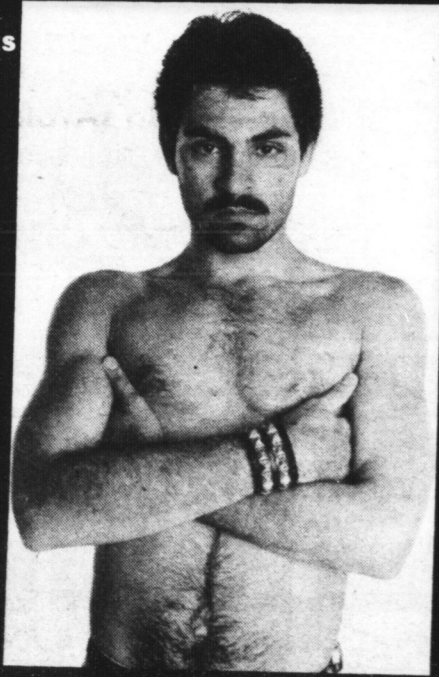


Photo by Jim Warren

BLACK LASHES

We Know Reno

KARL STEWART

Phil Ragsdale and his National Reno Gay Rodeo were the subject of a boycott and protest last weekend. As one approached the Reno Fairgrounds, one was met by pickets who heckled cars as they entered. The people were upset about something regarding cruelty to animals and professed an anti-capitalist sentiment.

The crowd of Rodeo goers were down by about half, too. A change of date that put the event in direct conflict with the opening of the Olympics in LA may have had much to do with it. Nevertheless, the San Franciscans poured into the hotels and casinos.

The Coits were host to 80 or so revelers who tramped to the high desert community in two slick Hyway Tours buses. It was difficult to imagine 100 screamers carrying on in as sedate a middle-class establishment as the Pioneer Hotel. But they did, and no one even looked sideways. Saturday evening was centered firmly around the Coits' cocktail party, which saw CMC navigator David Sarahain holding court buck naked in the hot tub located directly in the center of the host suite. Tommy Turner and the Coit leadership awarded Connie Cadaver and several others

birthday dolls. Of course the Coits' hospitality always includes food, in this case a huge buffet.

The Sands acted as host hotel and was the site of a party with Rose Maddox as the featured performer. Linda Lane and Western Electric provided good country two-steppin' music, and Harrah's Bottom Revue created an illusion with drag queens doing celebs.

Did you know that our own Ron Brewer, bartender extraordinaire of the Pilsner Inn was the co-ordinator of this year's Reno Rodeo Country Dance Fest?

The Ex-baby trooper Dennis Case has roped a Texan by the name of Dennis who commuted between Houston and The City, and has some "Big charms."

It was the GG Trooper out there on the Eagle Patio celebrating another anniversary with a feast that even dazzled the most skeptical guest. John Clifton is a fine restaurateur.

La's Rowdy MC, Satyrs, held sway on the Patio the next day. The Barbary Coasters will lead the week end outside of Sonora. Tara Tara Tara will be a form of respite for the GrandDucal candidates. For 60 bucks you



The Satyrs holding a bull session at the Eagle Patio Beer Bust last Sunday in honor of its bike run, Badger Flats. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

can bask in the sun, eat three square meals, and drink from a 24-hour open bar. The BC's run site is one of the loveliest on the circuit.

The Empire City MC of The Big Apple is celebrating 20 years this year. If you happen to be headed for the east in mid August, join its Tour from August 22 through September 5. It's a two-week tour of the East Coast, with major stops in Washington, D.C. where the club will meet up with Spartan MC for its run. Write for details to 20th Anniversary Committee, EC MC, P.O. Box 2543, G.P.O., NYC, NY 10116.

Another East Coast club, Leathermen/Atlanta is mounting Kudzu 1 over the labor day weekend August 31 through September 3 for a nice round \$85. Write for reservations to L/A Kudzu 1, P.O. Box 8595, Atlanta, GA 30306, Attn: RAC, (or call (404) 624-3664.

Well, well, Mr. J. C. Corbett has landed on the rack at The Ramrod. He began yesterday, hosting the Ramrod's All Candidates Night for the Grand Ducks. He's serving up your favorites Thursday through Sunday in the PMs.

Friday, another So/M institution will be moving into new quarters. The Watering Hole is headed, lock, stock, and beer barrel to The Globe Hotel on Folsom, between Seventh and Eighth Streets on Friday, July 27. Bob Marrel and Bryan Todd will host a private party for friends of the Watering Hole. Saturday and Sunday will open the new place officially. It's about a third again bigger and very western. We'll miss the fireplace, though. Did you know that Bryan Todd is the longest surviving manager to work continuously in one establishment?

The AUA's Bay Area Brigade will host Sunday's beer bust at the Eagle. Six dollars will bring beer, soda, and food. Uniform Men at Work is the theme, and uniforms are encouraged.

Looking forward to Chap's First Anniversary Wednesday, August 8, which will be surrounded by parties from Monday, August 6 right through the weekend. Stay tuned.

GRAND DUCALS

The Grand Ducal race brings a frenzy of partying and campaigning. Sandra Sorrels kicked things off at The 222 Club.

and Leonard used that facility as well as the Black Rose. Michael Bowman kicked off Saturday at noon with open draft and BBQ at the Village, and The Men's Room was the venue for Trixie Trash's party later that day. Voting will be August 11 at Hibernia Beach and at Kimo's.

Sunday, July 29, you can help send the Kokfighters to a Labor Day weekend softball tourney in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Begins at 4 p.m. with an auction and raffle at 7 p.m. as well as the buffet, all at the Kokpit. Also Sunday, if you happen to be in Pomona, CA, the Mr. Gay CA Pageant will be held at Robbie's, 390 College Plaza. Call (714) 662-9511 for more info.

The Gay Softball League is offering big prizes to the winners of this year's Switch Hitters Ball, August 4 at 7 p.m. at the Cal Club. Admission is \$10 at the door, and Mark and the men are offering no host libation.

Be sure and stop by the photography of Joe Altman at Moby Dick. Joe is an incredible talent. He manages to capture the best in all his subjects. See ya' in the skins.

Hookers' Convention

(Continued from previous page)

answered pithily: "The economic coercion." She was echoing an older writer, Rose Schneiderman, who wrote in *The Industrial Woman's Need of the Vote* that "These same men who tell us we are angels send vice commissioners to investigate why girls go wrong. I should think a glance at the payroll would give them the answer." Delores French had the last word.

"Working," she said, "was interfering with my making money."

One man took the mike and asked if it weren't true that the panelists were guilty of glamorizing a degrading means of employment. Delores Jean, an ex-traffic cop from L.A. who "decided to go into an honest profession," answered that if having sex, doing a nurturing and caring job for another person, was degrading, then the world is upside down. I thought of the great psychiatrist Wilhelm Stekel who, bemoaning the biases and naivete of his fellow physicians, wrote that "in sexual matters to this day unprejudiced lay persons and experienced prostitutes are capable of properly instructing many a

young disciple of Esculapius." The victimization of prostitutes is not a function of the trade, but of the laws that criminalize a prostitute. Prostitution,

'Working was interfering with my making money.'

— Delores French

Margo pointed out to me, is the only offense that requires mandatory time on the first arrest with no complaining witnesses other than the arresting officer.

Other crimes are defined by the presence of a victim. Rosen points out that when the brothels were closed by the red light abatement law, the power and money of the sex business changed hands from women to men.

On the street, the prostitute ping-pongs between the pimp and the police. It is Black and minority women who pay the price: more of them go to jail on prostitution charges than other groups of women, even though,

SWEET LIPS SEZ

Switch and Bait

DICK WALTERS

It's here again, the very popular Switch Hitters Ball, on Saturday, August 4, at the California Club at Clay and Polk Streets. It starts promptly at 7 p.m., and tickets are only available at the door for \$10, with half of the evening's proceeds being donated to the Shanti Project. No-host bar. Don't miss this hilarious event, as the one and only John David, if sober, will be in drag to entertain you.

Memo to DeDe of Ginger's: Did Woody hide your makeup so you couldn't meet Don Rogers and Big Bird at the Tavern Guild meeting at the Pendulum?

At long last, Bonnie is back from Sacramento and is now cutting hair at Stan's (formerly Sally's) at Polk and Sacramento Streets. For an appointment call 441-1414. Nice to have you back in the neighborhood, Sally.

Paul Ruehl of Gilmore's claims I am so gay that I lip when I walk. I'll get you for that one, girl.

On Sunday, August 12, Little Mother and Ed Paulson are presenting an Auction for AIDS and KS at the Renegade Dance Bar at 1548 Polk Street starting at 4 p.m. If you have any items that you want to donate, take them to the Renegade. Remember, this is a most worthwhile auction, so don't miss it.

Our favorite Yellow Cab dispatcher, Bob Plummer, passed away last week and will be missed by a lot of friends, especially those at Ginger's.

This Sunday at 4 p.m. The Kokpit at 301 Turk Street is having a special auction to send The Kokfighters softball team to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Labor Day weekend. There will be a buffet, if Bubbles shows up to make it, and a cash raffle drawing at 7 p.m., so get out and enjoy this event; right, Kenny Allison and Helen Trent?

Well, they have extended the run of La Cage aux Folles and have the great Gene Barry doing his original award-winning role as he did it on Broadway. Don't miss this fabulous show.

One more weekend of softball and then the playoffs to see who will be the city champs. I must say you did a good job with the Googie's team, Cha Cha. They are a nice bunch of guys, even Paul Ruehl.

The Galleon on 14th Street now has a Friday and Saturday night Sing-Along with Vivian Grant on the keyboard. If you haven't had dinner there lately, do try it, as the menu is very diversified and extremely delicious. Hi, John.

The White Swallow has a bus available for the trip to the Tavern Guild Picnic. If you are interested, contact them at 775-4152. It is a pleasant way to go, and you don't have to worry about driving. This promises to be a great 20th Anniversary TG Picnic.

Mark Friese's Bar Wars event on Polk Street raised \$2,300 for the Godfather Fund of Ward 5B. You all did a great job on this event, especially the New Bell's customers.



Rink on Parade

Harvey Milk commissioned Rink, through the 1974 Parade Committee, to display contact prints of the Gay Day parade and celebration in the window of

his Castro Street camera store. Now, a decade later, Rink is exhibiting 1984 Parade contact prints in the windows of Orphan Andy's Restaurant, 3991 17th

St., at Market and Castro. Blow-ups of some of the most exciting moments of the event are on display inside Orphan Andy's.



Screamers. Naked Brunchers Sylvana Nova (L), Miss X, Tommy Pace, and Cricket, at the moment they find out they are all really JFK's sisters. Naked Brunch IV - The Final Episode will be at the 181 Club through this weekend. (Photo: Rink)

Scenes from the Planet Mary



(Photo: Rink)



(Photo: Rink)

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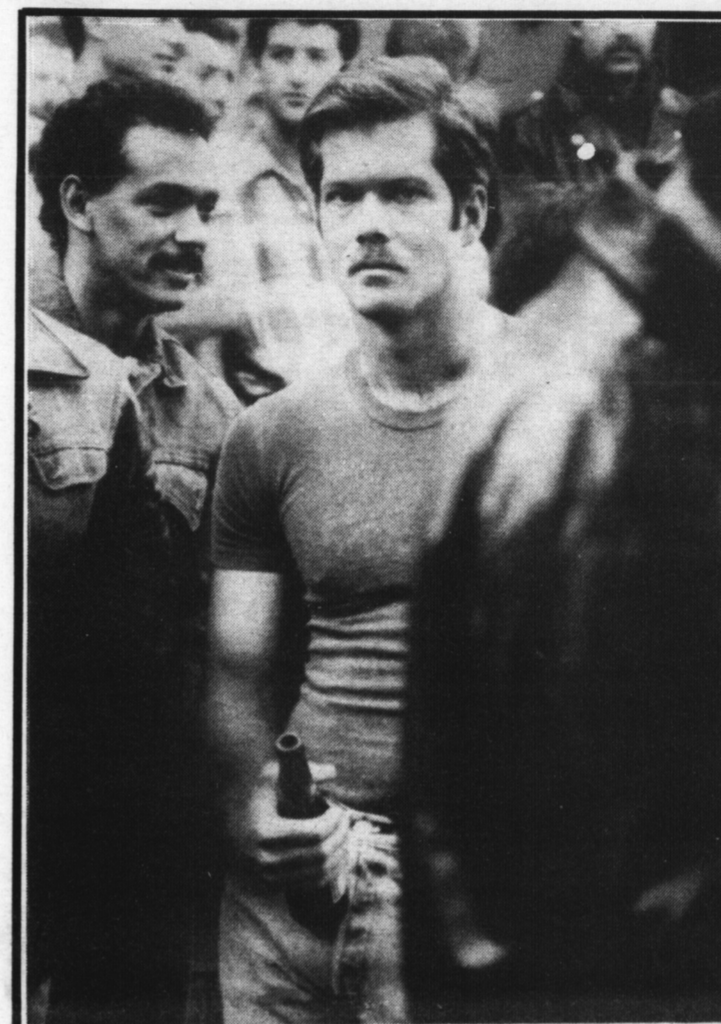
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From Out of the Crowd. A haunting and handsome stare parts the crowd at a recent fete for the Satyrs M.C. on the patio at the Eagle. (Photo: Robert Pruzan)

Settlement Near

A Gay Day in Divorce Court: Pacific Heights Palimony Case

Peter Mintun-Thomas Nizee Court Battle Illustrates
Legal Problems of Creating a Gay 'Marriage'

by Brian Jones

Cafe society pianist Peter Mintun and his lover of 13 years, Thomas Nizee, have agreed to settle their lawsuits against each other. Mintun sued Nizee last year to dissolve the legal and financial relationships which had grown between the men during their years together. Nizee responded in February with a Lee Marvin-style "palimony" lawsuit.

As in all drama, the most action came in the last act. A warrant against Nizee for burglary was filed the day before the latest settlement was offered. Nizee says he has received death threats since the case was first publicized in March in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The case is interesting beyond the titillation afforded by a Pacific Heights "divorce" case with a Gay twist. At issue was what constitutes a Gay "marriage" — and how one may properly dissolve such a relationship. In the Mintun-Nizee case, what was at issue was nothing less than how, legally, to define a Gay divorce.

"I have mixed feelings about the settlement," said Gay activist attorney Michael Hall of Wotman and Hall. "On the one hand, I am glad the parties are able to reach an agreement. But on the other hand, I was really looking forward to resolving some of these issues in court."

What the case illustrated, said Nizee, was, "If you're Gay and you're going to get 'married,' here's how to behave financially so you don't get in trouble further down the stream."

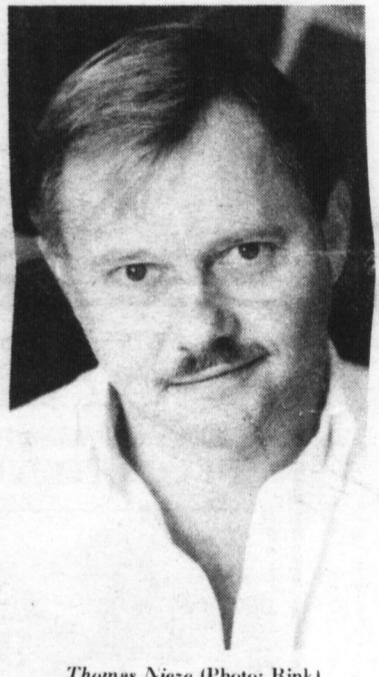
Loose strings remain. Nizee

faces an August 7 preliminary hearing on one count of burglarizing Mintun's upper-floor flat in the building they share at 2647-49 Pine Street. Nizee denies having been in Mintun's upstairs flat the night of June 30.

And even if he had, said attorney Hall, "How is it possible to burglarize your own home? It's our position that he had every right to be there. The property is owned by both Nizee and Mintun, as tenants in common." There's a further wrinkle to the burglary charge: nothing was reported stolen.

A GAY "MARRIAGE"

The case had all the makings of a classic "palimony" case a la Lee Marvin. Peter Mintun, pianist at the chic L'Etoile restaurant and frequent entertainer at some of the city's most exclusive parties, began his



Thomas Nizee (Photo: Rink)

(Continued on page 4)

Castro Merchants Hit Street Fair

They Want Fair Proceeds
'To Stay in the Neighborhood'

by Allen White

Castro Street and Upper Market Street merchants slammed away at board members of the Castro Street Fair in an emotional meeting Tuesday night. Immediate results of the meeting will be the diversion of fair profits, virtually assuring the discontinuance of the annual Harvey Milk Birthday Party on Castro Street, the discontinuance of the Candlelight March in memory of Milk and Mayor George Moscone, and imperiling the Valencia Street Women's Fair.

This came as the Castro Street Fair board agreed that 80 percent of the profits of the fair must be returned to the immediate Castro neighborhood. The

fair board, practically speaking, is bound by the Eureka Valley Merchants Association and the Merchants of Upper Market to accede to their wishes on how profits are spent.

In past years, the profits of the street fair corporation have gone for such projects as the Harvey Milk Archives and Art in the Park — as well as the Milk birthday party and the expense of the candlelight march.

Last year the Castro Street Fair sponsored the Valencia Street Women's Fair. It was this move which blew the lid off a pot that had been simmering for years between the Castro Street merchants and the people who present the Castro Street Fair.

The confrontation began with a letter from the Eureka Valley Merchants Association to Supervisor Bill Maher protesting



Rick Stick (Photo: Rink)

(Continued on page 2)

Teens' Attack Near Polk St. Leads to Death of Gay Man

by Wayne Friday and Brian Jones

A Gay man was attacked by a group of teenagers near the corner of Polk and California Streets at 9:30 Sunday evening, then died in the early hours Wednesday from his injuries.

John O'Connell, 40, who lived on Sutter Street, was beaten by about six men described as White and "about 17 to 20 years old," said Inspector Ed Erdelatz of the San Francisco Police Department.

"There may have been people who witnessed the attack but didn't realize how serious it was," Erdelatz said. "We need anybody who thinks they witnessed this incident to step forward."

O'Connell was walking with a friend, Andy Woodward, on California Street from Polk Street toward Van Ness when the pair was set upon by the half-dozen teenagers. O'Connell was beaten up, then knocked to the ground. He struck his head on the pavement. It was that injury, Erdelatz said, which apparently resulted in his death.

Tavern owners along the Polk Street strip reported at least one other attack on Gay men the evening of Sunday, July 29, also at the hands of a group of young men. "There were a number of incidents that happened that night, but so far, we have not been able to establish a link," Erdelatz said.

So far, police have interviewed two witnesses. From that, Erdelatz said, investigators have come up with "a general description" — but some details between the two witnesses' descriptions are contradictory.

Police have little doubt there were more witnesses. "The streets were busy that night. We know many more people probably saw what happened," Erdelatz said. People who think they may have information about the group of men who attacked O'Connell should call the Police Homicide Bureau at 553-1145 days, or 553-1071 evenings.