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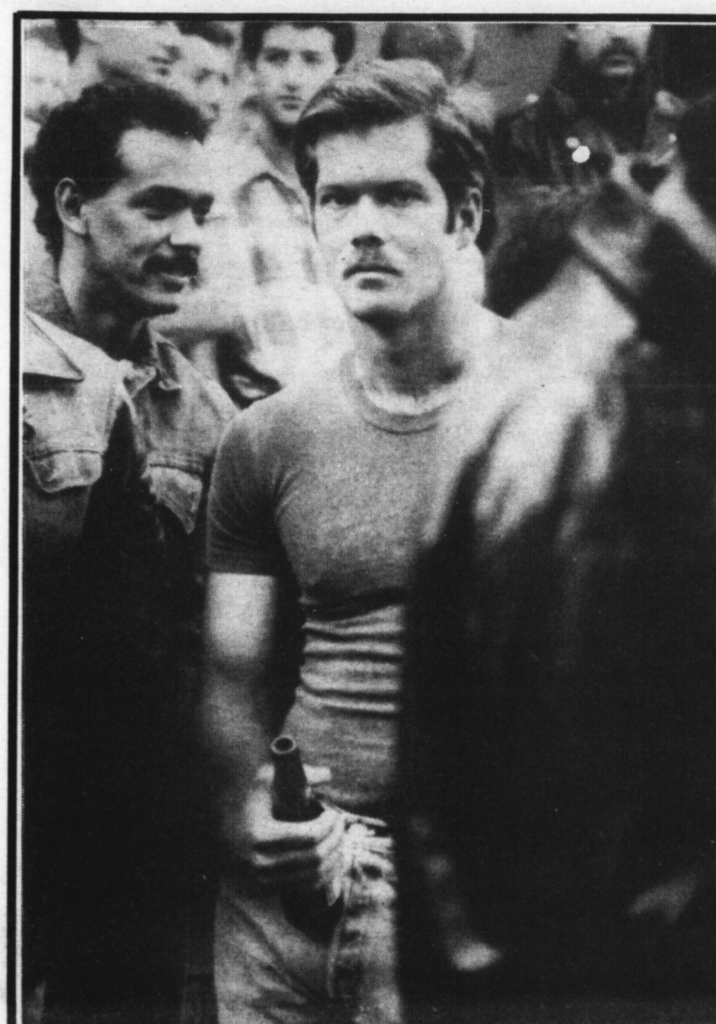
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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XIV NO. 31 AUGUST 2, 1984

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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. A friend of O'Connell's close

to the investigation said the police may not want to release an exact description for fear the assailants — who may not yet be aware their attacks resulted in death — will flee the city.

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.

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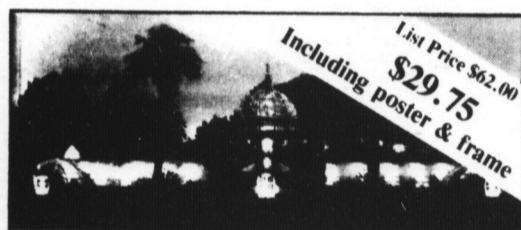
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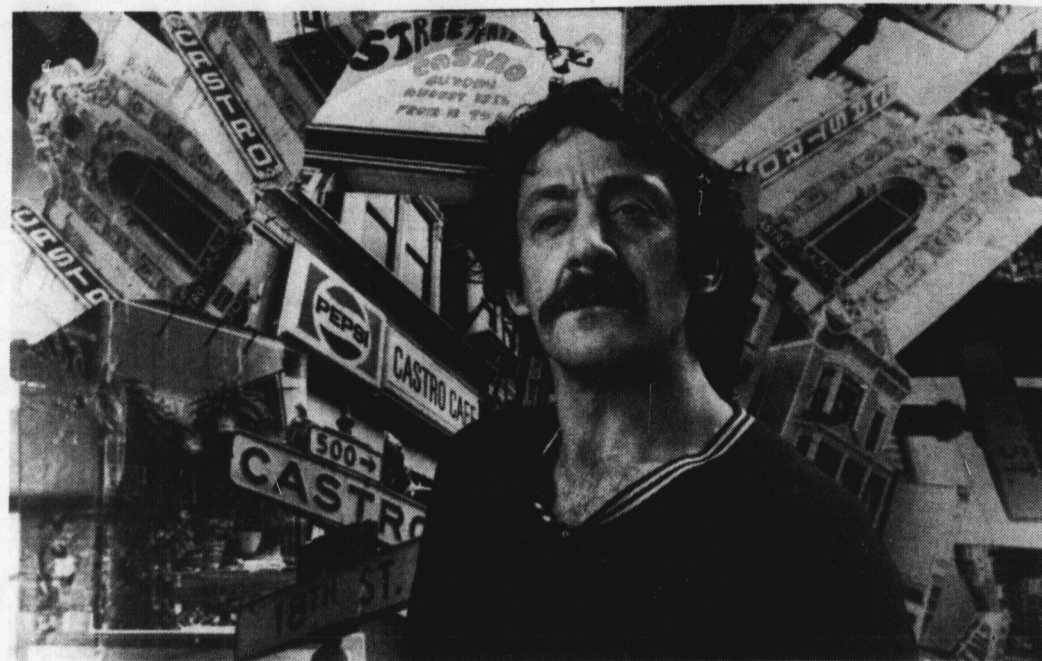
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Where It All Started. Harvey Milk initiated the Castro Street Fair in 1974 out of his camera store (now "Statements") on Castro near 18th Street. Now, merchants are upset.

(Continued from page 1)

Castro Merchants Hit Street Fair

the issuance of a street closure permit for the Castro Street Fair. Without such a permit there could be no street fair.

In the letter, the merchants stated they would retract their objection to this year's Castro Street Fair only if several conditions were met. These included an independent audit of the fair's corporate books each year. Additionally, they demanded all profits be devoted to community development with particular emphasis on AIDS projects.

Castro Street Fair finances would have to be dissociated from projects outside the area. There was also the demand that the Castro Street Fair board of officers appear at least 90 days before the permit application begins.

The designation of the profits would also have to be made 90 days in advance. Since the letter, dated June 29, was written less than 60 days before the fair, there was, of course, no way the Castro Street Fair people could possibly comply.

This was followed by a letter from the Upper Market merchants proposing that all net proceeds be taken from the Castro Street Fair corporation and put into a trust fund administered by the boards of the Eureka Valley merchants and the Upper Market merchants to be used for "community projects."

The merchants also asked for an independent audit before and after the fair, paid for by the Castro Street Fair, Inc. with the accountant to be chosen not by the Fair corporation, but by the two merchant associations.

They also asked for a review of the contract with the beer wholesaler and copies of beer invoices before and after the fair. Finally, they asked for \$5,000 in cash now as a donation from past years' events.

Richard Carn, a director of the street fair, responded to the Eureka Valley Merchants' letter with another letter directed to Supervisor Richard Hongisto. Carn said the fair board allows an independent audit at any time. They countered that as a nonprofit corporation, they reserved the right to administer their resources in the community as their board determines.

The Castro Street Fair stated that state law gives them the right to make decisions regarding how the money is spent and gave the Harvey Milk Birthday Party and the Candlelight March as instances of deficit spending by their board.

The fair group also said they never exclude people from attending their board meetings

and that they had no objection scheduling a meeting 90 days before the permit application procedure begins.

Under the cloud of these letters, 16 people representing the Castro Street Fair corporation, the Eureka Valley Merchants Association, and the Merchants of Upper Market sat down to negotiate a compromise. Without an agreement there would be no Castro Street Fair.

The final decision-making process was the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the Board of Supervisors, which met yesterday afternoon. Going into last Tuesday's meeting the participants knew that if there was no agreement, they would stand a strong chance of not obtaining a street permit.

The meeting had an agenda that covered over a dozen points. This included the location of the portable toilets to the clean-up procedures to the hours of street closing. It also dwelled on money and how it would be split up and who would pay for audits.

Richard Carn countered a charge that the fair was bad for Castro area merchants. He said some merchants claim it is their best business day of the year. Ernie Astin, the owner of Cliff's, said the clean-up by the fair people was so bad that each year he literally has to shovel the debris from his front door.

Frank Fitch, treasurer of the fair corporation and the organizer of the volunteers, explained several positive steps which this year should make for a cleaner street following the event. This will include deposits for vendors and a reorganization of the two dozen volunteers who work on cleaning the area.

Fitch dismissed outright the demand for \$5,000 from the merchants, stating that there currently was only \$3,700 in the bank. The demand was dropped.

Pablo Heising, a producer of the fair, was seething with hidden anger as he repeatedly declared the entire meeting "an outrage." Ernie Astin charged that given the scope of the event it should be making money. If not, he claimed, something was wrong and the fair board needed an audit as a first step to indicate how the event could show a profit.

Heising countered that the fair is not a big business and costs increase each year. "We are not a business, we are not profit motivated," he said.

Kim Cortright, from Atlas Savings and Loan, hammered away at the need for a professional audit. Heising, in strained

tones, said that anyone can audit the books of the Castro Street Fair. Where Pablo Heising drew the line was at Cortright's insistence that the fair corporation pay for an audit — which Heising didn't think was needed. "You want an audit, you pay for it," Heising angrily demanded of Cortright.

Mark Stevens stated he was "offended" by the attitude of the Castro Street Fair organization. "The Castro Street Fair is a guest on our street," he said. He said he resented what he described as "a capricious attitude on behalf of the Castro Street Fair. This meeting was scheduled as a last chance for you to respond," he said.

An agreement was finally reached which states that 80 percent of the net profits of the Castro Street Fair must remain in the "neighborhood." The agreement also states that the two merchant associations will have a strong voice in how the money is allocated.

It became clear that two places the money will not go are to the Harvey Milk Birthday Party or to the Candlelight Memorial March. Each year since the assassination of Supervisor Harvey Milk, Castro Street has been closed for a party to celebrate his birthday in mid-May. It is a money-loser and profits from the Castro Street Fair are used to make up the deficits.

Jay Johnson, the head of the Eureka Valley Merchants, said there was now very little merchant support for closing the street for a Milk birthday party. Ernie Astin said it was a fine idea the first year. In subsequent years, he said interest has dwindled. Those interested in honoring Harvey Milk "should find another outlet," he said.

There has also been a candlelight march on November 27, the date of the murders of Harvey Milk and the late Mayor George Moscone. The discontinuance of this event could prove a moot point, since march organizers have stated there will not be a candlelight march on November 27 until the tenth anniversary of the slayings in 1988.

Rick Slick, the Executive Director of the Castro Street Fair, worked with Harvey Milk to help organize the first fair a decade ago. As he heard comments from the meeting he was outraged and disgusted. "You know," he said, "we close the street for only one reason, to honor Harvey Milk. It's that simple."

The 1984 Castro Street Fair is scheduled for Sunday, August 19.

A. White

Kelsey, Pure Trash Are Bagging It In

They'll End Where They Began
With Swan Song at New Bell

by Allen White

David Kelsey and Pure Trash are to perform for the last time Sunday, September 16, at the New Bell Saloon on Polk Street. The group, founded by Kelsey in July 1979, is disbanding.

In making the announcement, Kelsey said that he wanted to make several changes in the direction of his performing career. After five years as one of the most popular Gay musical groups on the West Coast, Kelsey said the mid-September performance would be the last. Many of the original members have been contacted and it is expected they will join the current members for the closing night.

In San Francisco, David Kelsey and Pure Trash have become a Sunday night tradition on Polk Street at the New Bell Saloon. With their unique style of Dixieland music and Gay camp, they have also entertained at many events up and down the Pacific Coast.

The group formed at the invitation of Kelsey following the 1979 Fourth of July parade in Redwood City. At a post-parade party for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Band, Kathleen Ortiz-Millard, the only woman in the group, joined two years ago. Kelsey and trumpeter Sid Smith are the only two original members in the group.

Trumpeter Richard Best and clarinetist David Clerici now

live in Los Angeles. Drummer John Orlando now operates his own accounting service, and Stewart Cox is a volunteer at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The list of playing engagements away from the New Bell Saloon seems endless. It ranges from Supervisor Harry Britt's victory party in 1979 to a Christmas boat party in a storm on San

Francisco Bay to being the warm-up act for Divine at the Castro Theatre. The band has toured to Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver to the north and to Los Angeles and San Diego to the south. In 1983, they released a record, "Top o' the Heap."

For David Kelsey, the concept of Pure Trash was the evolution of a performing career for Gay audiences which goes back



Ah-one anna Two . . . David Kelsey, hands high, ready to attack his organ. (Photo: Kink)

to Halloween 1959. At the age of 19, he played the piano for Empress Jose at the infamous Black Cat.

He built a solid reputation playing at many San Francisco Gay establishments including several years at On the Levee. He then moved to Honolulu to work club dates. In 1974, David Kelsey began performing at the New Bell on Polk Street. Recently he celebrated his tenth year at the club.

Kelsey said one of the reasons he is splitting up the group is to give him more time to pursue other endeavors. He is now planning a tour of the East Coast with several concerts scheduled. He is recognized as one of the finest entertainment organists in the country and he will be performing most of his concerts on theatre pipe organs.

David Kelsey and Pure Trash will continue to perform each Sunday night starting at 8:30 p.m. at the New Bell Saloon through their final September 16 performance. ■

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CUAV Needs Help

The Community United Against Violence is looking for survivors of violence, perpetrators of violence, slides or photos of anti-Gay or other violence, and Gay and non-Gay high school youth, for a slide show on anti-Gay violence. Call CUAV at 864-3112 if you can help. ■

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Gay Palimony Case

(Continued from page 1)

career as a struggling artist. Among other things, he played piano for the old Cockettes. And he met Thomas Nieve, an accountant. The two fell in love and began a life together.

Nieve described his view of the 13-year relationship in his "palimony" lawsuit. It stated that he and Mintun became lovers in May, 1971, "and soon thereafter embarked upon a substantive Gay relationship with each other, and became meaningfully committed to each other, the fullest extent permissible under prevailing social mores."

Six months later, Mintun moved into Nieve's apartment, and the pair became "domesticated co-habitants." In his lawsuit, Nieve stated the pair "expressly agreed, and it was understood by each of them, that their relationship was, and was to continue to be, sexually monogamous."

The relationship, said Nieve, was equivalent to a heterosexual marriage and both men knew and agreed their relationship was to be a communal effort. Their incomes, assets, resources and abilities were to be shared

to create a "Gay community."

Nieve was the primary earner in the couple in those early years, he said. He argues that it was his support which allowed Mintun to establish his career.

"At the outset of their cohabitation, Nieve was the primary breadwinner and the economic mainstay of the community, and so remained for several years. During this period of time, Mintun was developing his nascent career as a piano stylist, and relied upon Nieve for support," Nieve's lawsuit stated.

"As Mintun's career developed, he gradually reciprocated financial contributions to the community, and over a period of several years, became the economic mainstay of the relationship."

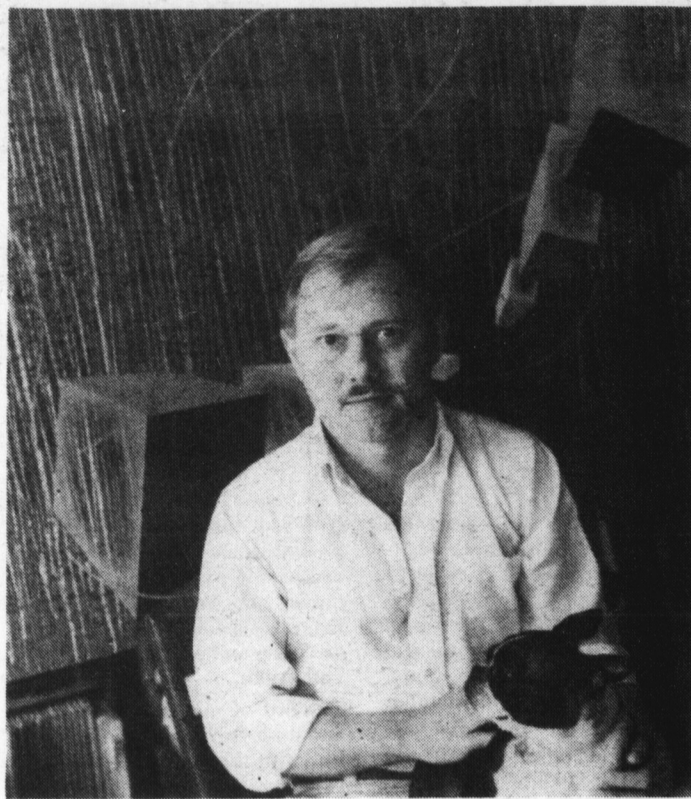
"But for Nieve's early contributions to the community, Mintun could have never achieved his present success as a musician," Nieve states in his lawsuit.

THE 'MARVIN CONTRACT'

The palimony suit set out a long list of arrangements which

seek to establish that Mintun and Nieve had entered into a "Marvin-style" lover relationship. Those arrangements included:

- Living together;
- Purchasing the pair of flats on Pine Street together, "accomplished . . . through the investment of joint funds;"
- Executing a promissory note (mortgage) for \$20,000 with Nieve's credit rating the "principal criterion relied upon by the lender;"
- That both Mintun and Nieve executed wills and life insurance policies, naming the other as principal beneficiary;
- Filing tax returns together regarding their joint investments and expenditures;
- Executing a partnership agreement governing the ownership of the building on Pine Street;
- That Nieve contributed his services to the relationship — companionship, household duties, maintenance and repair of the property, financial advice and assistance in Mintun's contract negotiations, preparation of tax returns and "emotional



Palimony Partner. Thomas Nieve says he shared in making Peter Mintun a star — now he'll get some of the profits. (Photo: Rink)

support and consortium;"

- Co-mingling of separate funds in joint bank accounts; and
- Maintenance of joint charge accounts.

"All of these factors, taken together with the mutual understanding of the parties, indicate that the parties were, in fact, living together as a Gay community which they considered to be the equivalent of a heterosexual marriage, and that their conduct implied a Marvin contract that all of their income and expenses were community income and expenses," Nieve's complaint states.

In sum, Nieve argued that he gave up a separate career in business as an accountant to manage Mintun's career. And once Mintun became a success, the benefits of that success were partly owing to Nieve. Mintun and his attorneys didn't see it that way.

A GAY 'DIVORCE'

Mintun sought to unilaterally dissolve his relationship with Nieve in a lawsuit filed last November in Superior Court. The immediate aim of the suit was to win a court order giving the building on Pine Street exclusively to Mintun. Mintun alleged that Nieve had failed to come up with an agreed-upon \$13,500 contribution to the property partnership — an allegation Nieve specifically denied in his cross-complaint.

Mintun's lawsuit went further. It asked the court to declare that any partnership between Mintun and Nieve be declared null and void.

Mintun and his attorney, Stephen V. Scarpulla of Scarpulla & Scarpulla, saw the matter as a simple dispute over a property partnership.

Not so Nieve. He saw Mintun's suit as an attempt to sweep away 13 years of life together, along with related business and financial connections. "Mintun became dissatisfied with the deal he had struck with Nieve, and began efforts to alter their relationship. His efforts amounted to unilateral demands that Nieve give up his rightful share of the property they developed as a Gay community. Naturally, Nieve resisted," states Nieve's lawsuit.

"Mintun . . . seeks to separate the issue of the real property from the other aspects of the relationship between he and Nieve," states Nieve's case. But "the issues of the real property purchase, and the partnership agreement governing the real property, arose out of the larger theories of occurrences and events which together comprise a 13-year, mutually sustaining romantic, emotional, and finan-

(Continued on next page)

Gay Palimony Case

(Continued from previous page)

cial relationship between these partners."

Mintun and attorney Scarpulla expressed disdain at Nieve's claims. In legal papers filed to respond to the Marvin contract claims, Scarpulla — who quoted Charles Dickens' *Bleak House* to set the mood of his answer — rejected Nieve's palimony claims.

"In a garish attempt to sensationalize the case, Nieve then filed a cross-complaint, the various counts of which seek damages for Mintun's alleged breach of some "Marvin-type" agreement defendant (Nieve) claims to have existed between the parties. This so-called palimony cross-complaint requests one-half of what is supposedly community property, and support payments of \$1,000 monthly for a period of three years.

"Nieve (has) managed to transform a simple real property dispute . . . into an unruly pseudo-divorce case qualifying for coverage by the *National Enquirer*," Scarpulla said. Those remarks prompted attorney Hall to characterize Scarpulla's tactics as "homophobia."

LAWYERS' SPAT

Now it was the attorneys' turn to fight. Legal maneuvers in the Mintun-Nieve case hardly reflected the cool deliberation one associates with jurisprudence. Instead, some of the exchanges read like the script for the television show *Divorce Court*.

The fight was over Mintun and Nieve's financial records. These were the key evidence in the dispute over the nature of the couple's financial and business dealings. Those dealings were complex.

There was a partnership formed to manage the property on Pine Street. There were joint efforts and, Nieve argued, joint interests in Mintun's first two record albums. Then, there was Bull Market Industries, Inc. — the corporation formed to manage and promote Mintun's career. Nieve was, and remains, treasurer of the corporation.

"The parties here agreed to be a couple," attorney Hall said. "Not only did they agree on that, but they acted on that throughout their 13-year relationship. It was financial as well as emotional. Their business relationship went through a partnership, a corporation, and joint finances — and it got very complicated."

For five months, Hall sought to compel Mintun and his attorney, Scarpulla, to provide copies of Mintun's and Nieve's financial records. Mintun and Scarpulla resisted.

"I have made numerous phone calls, and written no less than eight letters to Mr. Scarpulla," Hall stated in one legal paper. In another part of the case, Hall called Scarpulla "sanctimonious" and characterized Mintun's resistance to turning over financial records as "tooth and nail opposition to valid discovery requests."

Finally, Nieve and Hall won a court order compelling Mintun and Scarpulla to provide copies of financial records. But the most serious part of the dispute was yet to be.

CALL THE COPS

During the fight over financial records — and after a March 1 story appeared in the *Bay Area Reporter* on the case — Nieve said, "I received

numerous death threats on the telephone, and I think I know who they were from. It put pressure on me to drop the case."

Then, on the night of June 30, the case escalated another step. According to a police report, someone entered Mintun's upper floor flat on Pine Street and rummaged through records in the office for Bull Market Industries — a room adjacent to Mintun's bedroom.

Mintun was at work at the time, about 11 a.m., but his flat was not empty. There was a man asleep in Mintun's bed. The man awoke, he said in the police report, and saw the intruder. The intruder saw the man in the bed and left.

Mintun's friend telephoned Mintun at work, but no action was taken until Mintun arrived home at 2 a.m. Then, according to the police report, Mintun called not the cops — but his attorney, Scarpulla. Then, Mintun called the cops.

The witness identified the intruder as Nieve. Nieve denies having been in Mintun's flat the night of June 30, and says that even if he had been, he had a right to access to the upper-floor office.

In any case, the incident was referred to the District Attorney's office. One count of burglary was drawn up against Nieve and a warrant was put out for his arrest.

The police were too busy to arrest Nieve, however. Nieve spent a week and a half trying to find out where to turn himself in. He was told that the officer handling the charge was busy with the Democratic National Convention — and would Nieve please wait until after the convention to respond to the burglary warrant?

In fact, the warrant wasn't registered until after the convention — on July 25. In the meantime, Mintun and Scarpulla offered Nieve a settlement. The offer came on July 24 — the day before the burglary warrant was formally issued.

On July 25, Nieve presented himself at the Hall of Justice and was taken to jail. He spent about four hours in jail before being released on his own recognizance. "I was afraid I would have to spend the night in jail," Nieve said. "I knew they didn't really have anything on me, but being in jail is a terrible experience anyway."

A preliminary hearing is set for August 7. Nieve said he has witnesses who will testify he was elsewhere at 11 p.m. the night of June 30, and could not have been present at Mintun's flat.

In the meantime, Hall said that Mintun and Nieve have agreed to settle their lawsuits. He wouldn't discuss details of the settlement, but he described it as "quite favorable for both parties — not yet final, but close to fruition. Tom (Nieve) will receive recognition that he owns 50 percent of the property."

Because it will be an out-of-court settlement, there will be no legal precedent set to guide future Gay couples in creating "marriages" — and dissolving them.

But the Mintun-Nieve case can provide some informal guidance for Gay couples in how to construct their finances — and in how rough it may be to break up should they not be careful in doing so.

B. Jones

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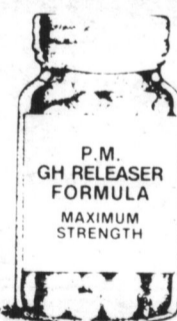
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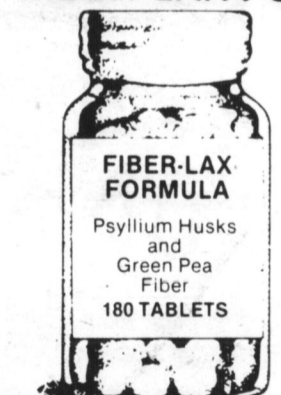
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LETTERS

Man/Boy Love

* The following letter was sent to the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee. It was signed by over 40 members of the Lesbian and Gay community. Many of those who signed did not want their names published, but all of us do want the letter published and our complaint made public.

Ann Williams
Oakland

Dear Committee Members:

We, the undersigned members of the Bay area Lesbian and Gay community, wish to voice our strong objection to the participation of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration.

The idea that NAMBLA is an oppressed sexual group with whom the Lesbian and Gay community should be sympathetic and supportive is ludicrous and harmful. This organization supports the concept that any adult, male or female, homosexual or heterosexual, who so wishes should have the freedom to engage in sexual activity (i.e., anal or vaginal penetration, oral copulation, etc.) with a four-year-old child if the child agrees to the act. The age of the child is actually irrelevant to NAMBLA. A four-year-old child is only used as an example. In fact, one of their recommended readings spoke approvingly of those who are sexually attracted to infants. Their argument that a child can make a responsible decision in this regard insults the intelligence of any reasonable sane adult. Children are known to be easily manipulated and exploited, sometimes with most tragic consequences.

In addition, we feel that many Lesbians and Gays spend most of their lives trying to combat the damaging myths and stereotypes about our lifestyle held by the heterosexual public, a primary myth being that we are paedophiles and anti-family. The presence of NAMBLA at Lesbian/Gay events only serves to cripple our attempts to educate heterosexuals by reinforcing their homophobia, and ultimately undermines legislative efforts which could insure our civil rights.

Most importantly, we love children, and those of us who are in particular parents and co-parents live in fear for our children's safety and welfare, never knowing if the next child who is raped, molested, kidnapped or murdered will be ours. Some of us are survivors of childhood sexual assault and abuse, learning to overcome the nightmare of our early experiences. All of us are disappointed, offended, and angered by the insensitivity and poor judgement reflected in your decision to include this group of self-avowed child molesters in our celebration.

We believe an apology to us is in order, and we also want to be assured that in the future the North American Man/Boy Love Association will not be included in our Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day festivities. A timely response to this letter will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

ED. NOTE: This "save our children" rhetoric sounds oddly familiar. The child-molestation issue is the biggest red herring regularly dragged across the path to Gay liberation. It is such a vile and smelly red herring that many of us are thrown off the track.

Child abuse — sexual, physical and from neglect — is almost exclusively a straight issue. The vast majority of cases of child sexual abuse occur within the heterosexual family unit. Of those sexual molestations initiated by unknown people upon children, fully 90 percent involve an adult man and a female child, according to a University of Oregon study.

Straights don't want to deal with the horrors of child abuse in the family, so they pin the issue on us. It is letters like yours — not the North American Man/Boy Love Association — which helps the bigots get away with it.

"Sex with a four-year-old child?" Oh, it's just a hypothetical. Making up imagined horrors like that is no way to conduct a serious debate. It is, in fact, sleazy politics — the kind Anita Bryant and her crowd practiced in Dade County. It is, I hope, a kind of sleazy politics this community will reject.

Many of us have concerns about the Man/Boy Love issue. My first wish is that NAMBLA would get honest. We're not talking about love here, were talking about Man/Boy sex. The two are related, probably, but certainly not identical.

Secondly, we're all concerned — I believe — about informed consent. At what point can a human being decide to get sexual with the partner of his or her choice? Many of us in the Gay male community were having sex with older men in our early and mid-teens. For the most part, we initiated or welcomed these contacts. They were the first stage in our coming out, in our coming into some sort of Gay community. For some of us, those relationships — such as they were — helped to save our lives.

The age of informed consent is a valid issue, and not a simple one. To pretend that the numbers 16 or (in other states) 18 — or in Europe, 14 or 12 (Gasp! Those evil Europeans!) — have some magical significance for human development is to oversimplify the issue.

What this community needs to do is talk about the issue, intelligently, and stop the vitriolic rhetoric. The point of letters like this one is to confuse, not illuminate. San Francisco could take a cue from Minneapolis, where Gay leaders recently held a community conference on paedophilia. The Metropolitan Community Church recently had

such a forum here; it could be revived and, if interest truly is great, expanded so more people could examine the important issues.

One issue I haven't heard mentioned is abuse of Gay children. When straight parents promote anti-Gay bigotry in the home; when straight parents take their children to churches which preach anti-Gay hatred; when straight parents make fun of Gay people in front of their children; then those parents are perpetrating a cruel and vicious attack on the soul and emotional well-being of their Gay or Lesbian children. There's a phrase for that — child abuse. Let's talk about child abuse of Gay and Lesbian children, too.

There are several thinly-veiled attacks at us in the July 5 Bay Area Reporter, but the only one I care to respond to regards a featured box headlined "Drummer Publisher Loses His 'Voice'." It is as inaccurate as your prior week's front page headline about the Democrats dumping the Gay Rights plank.

The publication the story refers to was called "Alternate Voice," not "Alternative Voice" and I was listed as co-publisher, not co-partner. Our original "Times" title was just that, never "Alternate Times."

Publishing rumors, many of which seemed to originate at Bay Area Reporter, is an unsafe journalistic practice. Your "rumor that I had put fresh money into California Inc" is just that. And the only conversation I have had with Mr. Van Huesden's attorney concerned his request that the Voice be permitted to publish from our facilities for one more issue, which we granted. We made a similar offer a few years ago to the Sentinel when it was experiencing difficulty. We believe these papers should be kept alive, no matter with whom they compete.

We did offer to co-publish an "Alternate Voice" based on national distribution and considerable upgraded quality, along with a firm agreement and a separate corporation. However, thus far there has been little progress in those directions.

While it is nice to find Bay Area Reporter consistent in its policy to never mention another publisher, unless in a derogatory manner, this publisher never lost his "Voice" because he never had it.

There is one very important factor missing in your story. You never bothered to go to the source. If you want to print something other than rumors, that is often necessary.

John H. Embry
Alternate Publishing
San Francisco

GUEST COLUMN

Dallas Jerks in Red Carpet for Boom Boom

Editor's Note: Joe Baker, the author of the following, is a columnist for the Dallas Voice, a weekly Gay newspaper. Baker suggested we reprint this column, which appeared in the July 20 issue of the Voice. For Mary-Louise's response, see the B.A.R. Bazaar section.

Dear Sister Boom Boom:

Weren't you my 10th grade algebra teacher? She was so ugly that it had to be you. No two nuns could look like that — or act like that.

She wasn't a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, though. I think she was with the Sisters of Endless Agony and Eternal Punishment. She was always beating somebody — sometimes even me — with a pointer or blackboard eraser if they couldn't figure out an algebra problem.

Anyway, I've been reading a lot about you this week. You were one of the main attractions at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco. You've been in all the newspapers. You've also been a big hit on national television. I must have seen you on "Good Morning America," the "Today" show, "CBS Morning News," and dozens of newscasts.

I think your "exorcism" of the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly was hilarious. Really clever. I laughed like crazy when you stripped the man representing Falwell to reveal a black corset and fishnet hose beneath his business suit.

Of course, I've heard about you before. I know that you are the leader of a group of Gay men in San Francisco who dress up in weird nuns' habits and run around making all kinds of spectacles of yourselves. But you do a lot of good, too, from what I've heard. You've raised money for AIDS patients and for various Gay organizations, and you preach a pretty good sermon about honesty, integrity, and

compassion.

I also know that in 1982 you got 23,000 votes as a candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. You nearly got elected. Congratulations!

You are making quite a name for yourself — and for the nation's Gay community.

But now that the Democratic National Convention is all over with, I have a favor to ask you. Please don't come to Dallas for the Republican National Convention in August.

It's not that we don't want you here because you are so ugly. We've seen ugly before.

It's not because Dallas is a Baptist/Methodist town and nuns aren't very popular here. Catholics are nicely tolerated, thank you.

It's not because folks in Dallas may take you seriously. We're pretty bright here, despite our reputation for being all red-necks. We know tongue-in-cheek when we see it.

It's not because we don't have a sense of humor. We do. And we can appreciate the absurd being used to make a point.

But the fact is you are an embarrassment and threat to the Gay movement.

Now, I don't mean to hurt your feelings, but that's the truth. That doesn't mean we Gays in Dallas don't accept the diversity of the Gay community and its peoples. We appreciate the contributions drag queens have made and continue to make. There's room in the Dallas Gay movement for everybody — butch Lesbians, clones, nelly men, minorities. All are

welcomed and appreciated for their contributions and uniqueness.

But we take our Gay rights very seriously in Dallas. You might call us conservative, but we believe in working within the system to get things done.

That doesn't mean we don't get tough and loud when we have to, but we've learned that if we are going to be successful in our city we have to be part of the "establishment" and play by the rules.

We don't shout our Gayness. We don't try to attract attention to ourselves by being outlandish. We make our points like ladies and gentlemen — professionally and businesslike. Our goal is to show people that Gays are just like everybody else.

We've made a lot of gains here. Dallas is a pretty good place for Gays to live and work. It's not perfect, of course. We have a lot of work to do yet. But this is not San Francisco. We do things differently around here. We are different kinds of people. Both Gay and straight.

That's why we prefer you not come here next month. America has seen enough of you. Every time you are on television or your picture is in the newspapers, a false and bizarre stereotype of Gay men and Lesbians is reinforced to people across the country.

The Gay movement does not need that. We've made too much progress to risk losing our gains. Things are tough enough right now with the Moral Majority, the New Right, et al.

We don't need America from Salem, Oregon, to Bangor, Maine, believing that we are like you. We don't need people thinking Gays are weird and outlandish. We don't need the tag that homosexuals have no respect for God and religion.

Yes, your intentions are good. Sister Boom Boom. Humor and silliness sometimes can be used effectively to show the ignorance of our enemies. But if you come to Dallas, please leave your bad "habits" back in San Francisco.

Democrats Censure Kopp for Magazine Statement

The San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee voted unanimously on Wednesday, July 25, to censure Supervisor Quentin Kopp for remarks he made in an interview with the New York Times Magazine.

The resolution stated:

Supervisor Quentin Kopp has attacked the Lesbian/Gay community and the Democratic Party in a July 1, 1984, New York Times article, in which Kopp states:

"When people see these elements of the party on television (at the Democratic convention), they'll revolt and vote independent or Republican. The leadership of the Democratic Party is out of touch, catering to special-interest groups like the Gays. The people of this country are more traditional than the party thinks. They'll be shocked by the Gays. My constituency was absolutely astonished by the Gay Freedom Day Parade. A

sizable number expressed revulsion."

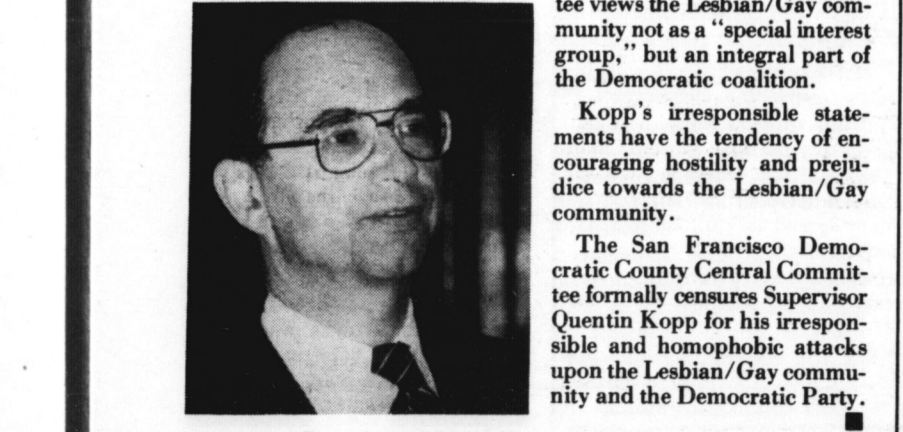
Kopp's statements are at odds with facts in a number of respects, including the following:

- Public opinion polls demonstrate that a majority of Americans, including most Democrats, support adoption of legislation to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation.
- The vast majority of Kopp's constituents support the annual Gay Freedom Day Parade and view the parade positively.

The San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee views the Lesbian/Gay community not as a "special interest group," but an integral part of the Democratic coalition.

Kopp's irresponsible statements have the tendency of encouraging hostility and prejudice towards the Lesbian/Gay community.

The San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee formally censures Supervisor Quentin Kopp for his irresponsible and homophobic attacks upon the Lesbian/Gay community and the Democratic Party.



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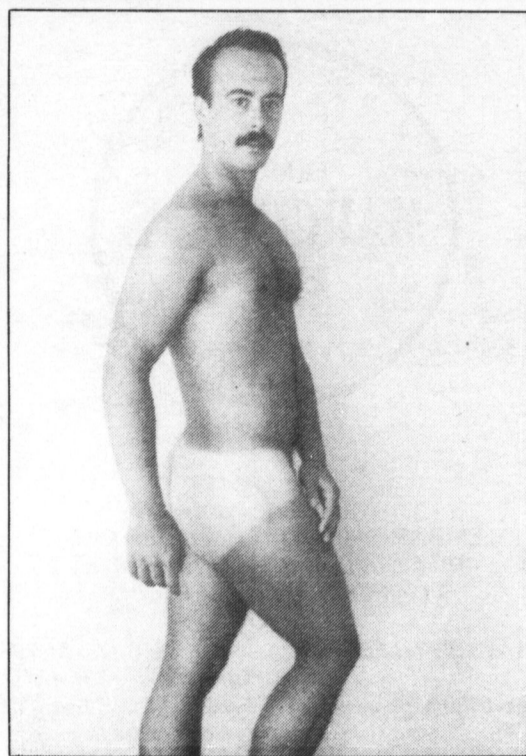
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Straight Business Takes Over Gay Funerals; Fires Mortician

The Gay Funeral Market Becomes Another Problem In Neptune Society's Legal, Financial Woes

by George Mendenhall

John Gordon, who has been financing the Lambda Funeral Guild, announced this week that he has dismissed Gay mortician Tom Simpson. Gordon states he will continue to keep the upper Market Street office open as a branch of his Neptune Society, a widely-known low-cost funeral service specializing in cremations.

Simpson had opened Lambda in January, promising clients that his operation was "fully staffed and managed by Gay people." He hired Carmen Serrano, a Lesbian, as a second mortician.

The two-person office handled only one funeral a week over a 20-week period after receiving some media attention and placement of some Gay newspaper advertisements. Gordon insists this did not merit two employees. Serrano is being retained and is the resident mortician — when she is not on assignment by Neptune.

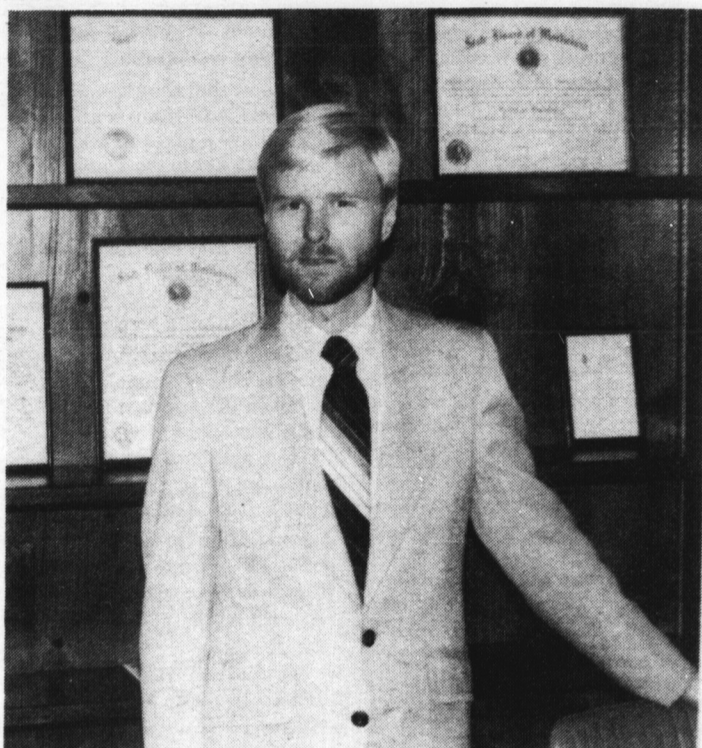
Simpson claims that there was not enough advertising and that he had been assured by Neptune that it would continue to support his operation for two years. Gordon denies this and also denies allegations by Simpson that Neptune has serious financial problems.

Neptune has been in bankruptcy for several years and was recently sued by former clients who asked that cremation remains be scattered from an airplane. Instead, the remains were tossed on a mountain side. Gordon insists that his day-to-day operation is not affected by fiscal or legal problems.

Simpson said that although Gordon initially agreed that Lambda should be a strictly Gay operation, this began to change. He and Serrano were increasingly used elsewhere in the Neptune branch offices as needed, with telephone callers reaching an exchange.

Simpson said he had to constantly fight to maintain his "Gay only" policy in regard to counseling and embalming services. He says this is what primarily caused the split between himself and Gordon.

"This is another example of a Gay person trying to start a Gay business with straight money and then being ousted," says Simpson. He says he is determined to continue his idea at another location. He is now of-



Out in the Cold. Tom Simpson founded Lambda Funeral Guild — now, the sponsoring Neptune Society has fired him. (Photo: Rink)

fering an independent Lesbian and Gay service, using the facilities of the California Funeral Service on Valencia Street.

Serrano is hopeful that "we will eventually get the kind of support we need from the Gay community." Gordon added that the support has not been forthcoming and "although this is a unique operation that I want to continue, it is not possible to fully finance something that is not materializing. Many Gay people, some with AIDS, use the Neptune Society and do not know Lambda exists."

Simpson insists that Lesbians and Gay men are entitled to a more independent Gay-operated funeral service. He says too many deceased Gay people are hurriedly removed from local Gay family associations by relatives.

In other cases, he states, the mortician does not have a

special sensitivity about Gay community and might be disturbed when Gay couples appear at services.

The somewhat staid mortician says he was startled by an earlier *Bay Area Reporter* article about his funeral service. References were made to the possibility of drag or all-leather services and remains being scattered at sea with the strains of Judy Garland singing "Over the Rainbow" in the background.

However, he said this made a good point — that "Just as there are Latino, Jewish and Black funeral services — some people in our community require special arrangements and a sensitivity."

There is one positive result from the Simpson/Gordon split. Now there are two competitive funeral services attempting to meet the needs of the local Gay community. ■

Anti-Violence Bill Faces Action in State Senate

Sacramento - A bill to make violence against Gays a violation of civil rights may come up for a vote in the State Senate as early as August 16, according to Senate President David Roberti.

AB-848, already passed by the Assembly, is an amendment to the state civil code that would add sexual orientation to the existing characteristics of race, color, religion, sex, political beliefs, ancestry, and national origin. "to a person's right to be free from violence."

The amendment would also add age and disability to the list of characteristics.

Roberti, a Senate sponsor of

the recently-vetoed AB-1, said he was asked to carry the bill by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and Assembly members Tom Bates (D-Oakland) and Mike Roos (D-Los Angeles), the bill's chief sponsors.

By including age and disability as well as sexual orientation, the bill would be difficult politically for the governor to veto. Although Gay Republicans have said that Governor Deukmejian has agreed to sign it, Roberti told reporters that he has received no word from the governor on his position. ■

— Southern California Update

Gay GOP'ers Give \$100 Each To AB-1 Friends

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, the oldest and largest Gay Republican organization in the country, announced last week that it is contributing \$100 each to the election campaigns of the five Republican state legislators who supported AB-1 during that bill's long journey through the California Legislature in this last session. Those legislators are Assemblyman William Filante and Senators Milton Marks, Ed Davis, Ken Maddy, and Bob Beverly.

The Gay club honored Senators Milton Marks and Ed Davis for their votes at a well-attended anniversary banquet earlier this year. ■

POLITICS AND POKER

California: A Big Write-Off?

WAYNE FRIDAY

As the campaign to win the White House gets underway, many feel that the strategy of the Democrats is to win in November without California. Indeed, one of the most convinced believers of this theory is California's Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Brown resisted endorsing any of the three presidential candidates prior to the convention and is reportedly out of grace with the Mondale organization. Frankly, Brown doesn't seem to be worried about it.

Speaker Brown is, however, worried about what the Mondale campaign and the national Democratic Party intends to do — or not do — in California between now and November. Apparently Walter Mondale and Company feel that Ronald Reagan is so damned popular in this state that it would be pouring good money after bad to invest in an all-out campaign here.

The theory goes that the Democrats can win without California and that is apparently how the national campaign is being planned. One only has to look at how President Reagan was received by the 90,000-plus at the L.A. Coliseum last Saturday, at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, to see how immensely popular the Republican incumbent is in California. His popularity in the state is enough to make even the most optimistic Democrat shudder.

Speaker Brown's dilemma is that if, as he suspects, Mondale's people have written off California and its 47 electoral votes, that means no (or at best very little) national Democratic monies will be spent here. If that happens, the Republicans could carry this state by an even bigger margin than in 1980, when Reagan battered Carter by a million and a half votes.

Willie Brown is rightfully worried that if a scenario develops in which the national party decides to allocate its big money to only those states where it has a chance of winning, then the California party suffers — all the way down the line.

The Democrats now control the Assembly by a 48-32 majority and it is not likely — even in a Reagan landslide — that they would lose control of that body. But it is certainly possible; a gain of only nine Assembly seats would mean that Willie Brown would be out as Speaker.

A gain of only six state seats would give control of the Senate to the Republicans. You can bet that George Deukmejian will be stumping this state to make that a possibility.

The Mondale organization has assured Willie and other leading California Democrats that they will most certainly wage a strong anti-Reagan campaign in California. But most political observers with whom I have spoken doubt it.

"California is still Reagan country, and Manatt and Mondale both know that," commented one well-known state Democrat last week. "They (the Democrats) would be fools to waste the big money here," he continued.

Even in the event that the Democrats retain control of the state legislature in the face of a Reagan landslide, the Republican scheme of reapportioning the state also is on the November ballot. Given that Reagan's name appears on the same ballot, it will probably win, and the Democrats can then look forward to losing their gerrymandering advantage — an advantage that they have enjoyed for years. Willie Brown is plenty worried these days and he can look to little help from Walter

homophobic attacks upon the Lesbian/Gay community and the Democratic Party." A number of the committee members who voted last Wednesday were suggesting aloud that Kopp "might want to explore the possibility of becoming a Republican." • John Sasso, the Massachusetts political consultant who Geraldine Ferraro named to be her campaign manager, was the campaign director for Gay Rep. Gerry Studds in numerous campaigns and served as Studds' chief aide for several years. • In Rockville, Maryland, a petition to put an anti-Gay rights referendum on the November ballot was invalidated by county election officials last week. The attempt to defeat a law prohibiting discrimination against Gays was headed by Rev. Robert Crowley. • During the recent Debbie Saunders concert at the Great American Music Hall, supervisorial candidate Pat Norman was called to the stage and given a \$500 donation to her campaign by Kimbyl Edwards, the president of Step-by-Step Records who also is Saunders' manager.

Friends of Congresswoman Sala Burton are throwing a "pre-victory Democratic Celebration" for the popular lawmaker August 23, 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Green Room in the War Memorial Veterans Building. All are invited (donor's choice: \$5 to \$100 per person requested). • Syndicated columnist Evans & Novak claimed this week that the reason why the mayor was not chosen as Mondale's running mate: "One of the secondary reasons San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was not selected — even though she was Mondale's personal favorite — may have been her height. Mondale aides noticed that the statuesque mayor, in high heels, stood taller than the presidential nominee." Well, at least she's not as tall as Deukmejian, and



Too Tall for Fritz? Say it's not so. One Washington rumor: DiFi passed by because, in heels, she's taller than Walter. (Photo: Rink)

would probably be a better governor. • Supervisor Harry Britt and College Board President Tim Wolfred, both running for re-election this year, will open a joint campaign headquarters at 2185 Market next month.

Supervisors Dick Hongisto and Louise Renne will co-host a "South of the Border, South of Market" brunch with Remy Martin and Rich Carle as well as Beverly; in announcing the contributions, former CRIR president Duke Armstrong said, "While our contributions this year are only modest, we think they will be noted by Sacramento politicians. They symbolize our club's firm commitment to support those who support us. When AB-1 comes up for a vote next year, we hope it will receive at least twice as many Republican votes." ■

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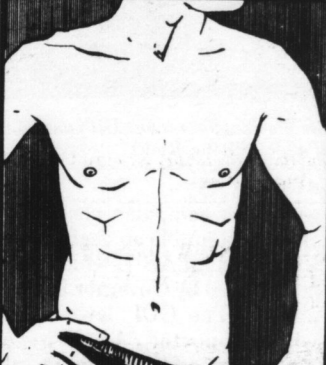
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Saying Goodbye. Well-wishers for the Gay Men's Chorus at the send-off for the national tour, which Gerald Pearson organized. (Photo: Rink)

From the Silence: Pearson's Poetry Lives

Memorial at Pride Center for Organizer of Chorus Tour

by Allen White

Friends of Gerald Pearson gathered last Thursday night at the Pride Center to acknowledge his contributions to their lives. Pearson, who died two weeks ago of AIDS, was the co-chair of the 1981 national tour of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Before his death, he had suggested that there be no major funeral in his honor. Pearson probably would have loved and appreciated the simplicity of the evening. The evening began with the informal of a cocktail party. People talked about Pearson, remembering special times when the chorus was on tour. As the numbers grew to over a hundred, Bill Graham began to read poetry. With incense burning and one candle lit, there was a sense of peace as the sunset changed the mood of colors in the Pride Center auditorium.

Several people in the room rose to share personal memories about Pearson and his family. Pearson had been intensely proud of his four children. The evening accentuated his merging of Gay pride and family pride.

Brian Vouglas read several poems written by Gerald Pearson. Pearson's poems were described as his legacy. For the thousands who have heard the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in concert, a standard selection in many concerts was "From the Silence." The words were written by Pearson and put to the music of Jean Sibelius.

Gerald Pearson will be remembered by most people for his work in organizing the tour of the United States in 1981 by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The tour began with a sold-out house at the Warfield Theatre in San Francisco. The 125 singers traveled to Dallas; Detroit; Minneapolis; New York; Seattle; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Washington, D.C. In 1981, KRON-TV chose to broadcast portions of the chorus concert "live" in the evening news from Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. They chose to again assign a camera crew to capture this tribute to Gerald Pearson.

At the time of the tour, Dick Kramer was the director of the chorus. He talked about the moments they shared at Pearson's Tropicana Peaks apartment. Kramer marveled at the vision of Pearson in wanting to make the tour work.

devoted a full year of his life to the vision of the Gay Men's Chorus touring America.

As a result of that tour, there are now a number of choruses performing across the country. The tour was a milestone in the Gay movement and Gerald Pearson was being remembered for his key role.

There was no program for the Pride Center gathering. What each person did receive was the four-part sheet music to "From the Silence." The evening ended with a poem by Pearson and with Dick Kramer directing, as he had done many times during the tour, Gerald Pearson's "From the Silence."

A final poem by Gerald Pearson was read that concluded with the words, "A world of lovers cannot fail."

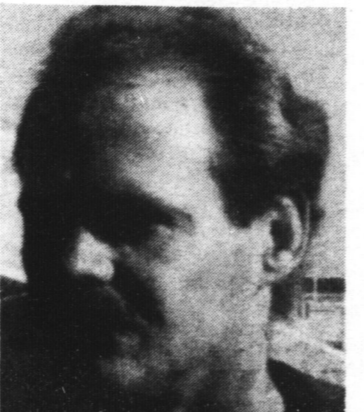
A. White



Gerald Pearson. Friends memorialize him at Pride Center. (Photo: David Lamm)

FLOYD F. FELFE

I will always love you, baby.
John, his lover



Floyd Felte Felte, born January 28, 1951, died July 6, 1984, at San Francisco General Hospital of AIDS. Floyd's battle was brief — only three weeks. During that time he believed he would return home, but he never did. Yet in a way, he did make the trip home. He is at home with me as well as all his friends. For as long as we remember him, he is alive in all of us.

To the friends who stood by then and my new friends now, I thank you all for your support and great love shown during this time. Only the vaguest emotion remains, a single scarlet rose — a present from the one you had no choice but to love.

1 in 5 Men Assaulted

New Study Documents Anti-Gay Violence

2,100 Lesbians, Gay Men Report on Violence in 8 Cities

Violence against Lesbians and Gay men is widespread in America, according to a survey by the National Gay Task Force (NGTF). The study was conducted in cooperation with local Gay and Lesbian organizations in eight U.S. cities in June and July 1983. It shows that of nearly 2,100 Lesbian and Gay people surveyed, more than 90 percent said they experienced some type of victimization because of their sexual orientation.

"This study confirms in plain numbers what many in our community have long understood," said NGTF Executive Director Virginia M. Apuzzo. "To be Gay or Lesbian in America is to live in the shadow of violence."

Among the highlights of the NGTF report were:

- Greater than one in five males and nearly one in ten females said they had been hit, punched, kicked, or beaten because they are Gay or Lesbian, and approximately the same ratios reported suffering some form of police abuse.

- Approximately one-third of respondents stated they had been verbally abused by relatives because of their sexual orientation, and more than seven percent reported having been physically abused as well.

- One-fifth of the females and nearly half of the males surveyed said they had been harassed, threatened, or physically attacked in high school or junior high school because they were perceived to be Lesbian or Gay.

- Almost half the males surveyed and more than one-third of the females had been threatened with physical violence because of their sexual orientation.

- Almost one-quarter of respondents said they had objects thrown at them because they are Lesbian or Gay, and more than a third said they had been chased or followed.

- More than 90 percent of males and 75 percent of females had been verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation.

Violence against Lesbians and Gays affects the attitudes and behavior of those surveyed: more than four in five respondents said they believe they might be victimized at some time in the future because of their sexual orientation. Most (64 percent) agreed that violence against Gays and Lesbians is prevalent enough to cause them to fear for their safety. Forty-eight percent said that they have modified their behavior because of violence.

There were consistent sex differences in rates of Gay and Lesbian victimization. Males in the study reported higher rates of verbal harassment (except at home), threats, and most types of physical assaults.

Females, on the other hand, reported that they experienced significantly more sexual harassment or assault, verbal abuse by family members, and fear of violence. They were also more likely to say they modified their behavior to avoid violence. Males and females showed comparable rates of physical abuse by family members.

Commented Kevin Berrill, NGTF Violence Project Coordi-

- Inclusion of Lesbian and Gay people in laws aimed at deterring crimes motivated by bigotry, and more vigorous prosecution of assailants.

- Official monitoring of anti-Gay/Lesbian incidents and other bias crimes.

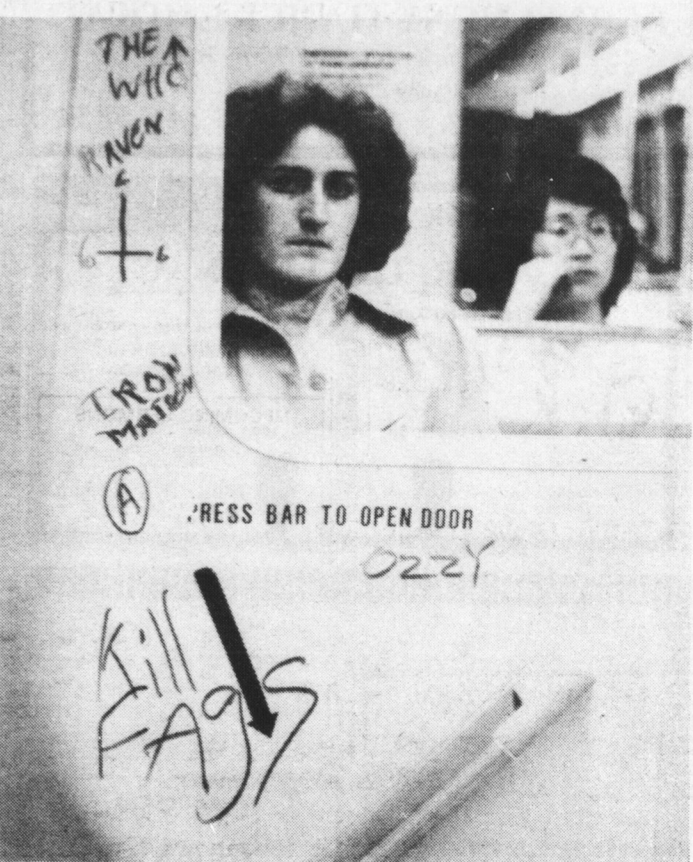
- Improved police-Gay relations.

- The establishment of programs by victim service agencies and other community-based organizations to respond to the particular needs of Lesbian and Gay crime victims.

- Educational forums in the schools, churches, and the wider community to reduce the homophobia that breeds violence.

The following organizations participated in the study. In alphabetical order by city, they are: (Atlanta) The Atlanta Gay Center, (Boston) Watchline, (Dallas) The Dallas Gay Alliance, (Denver) The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, (Los Angeles) The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, (New York) The New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, (St. Louis) The Celebration Committee, and (Seattle) The Dorian Group.

The NGTF report was made possible by grants from the



Anti-Gay Violence. That's the idea — and that's the reality for most Gay men and Lesbians, says task force report. (Photo: Rink)

Chicago Resource Center and the Fund for Human Dignity. Copies can be obtained from NGTF for \$4. Write NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

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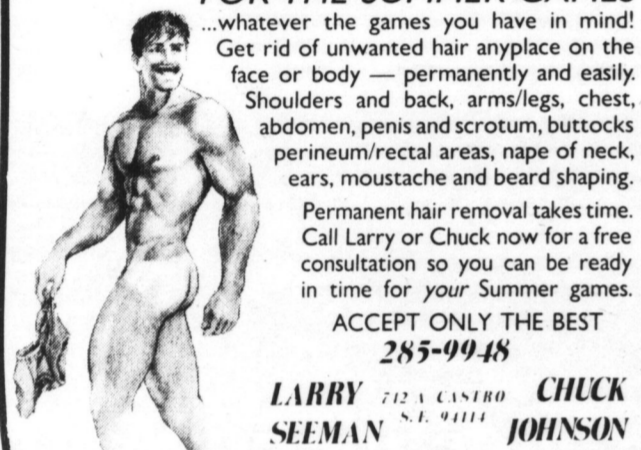
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NATIONAL NEWS

**Murder in Maine
Prompts Public Outrage**

**Judge Frees Three Teenagers
Who Confessed to Killing Gay Man**

by Dion B. Sanders

Three teenagers who confessed to the murder of a Gay man in Bangor, Maine, are free while they await a decision by the local district attorney's office on whether they will be tried as adults or as juveniles.

James Francis Baines, 15, Shawn Mabry, 16, and Daniel Ness, 17, all of Bangor, are accused of murder in the death of Charles Howard, who was beaten and kicked by three youths on a footbridge in Downtown Bangor and then thrown into the Kenduskeag River and drowned. Howard was 23.

Although murder is not a bailable offense in Maine, the suspects were released in the custody of their parents because of their age.

Baines, Mabry and Ness all pleaded innocent of murder in Third District Court on July 17, although a police affidavit filed with the court said that the three had confessed to the killing, which took place ten days earlier, and that they killed Howard because he was a homosexual.

According to witnesses, Howard and a companion, Roy Ogden, were walking across the bridge at about 10:30 p.m. on June 7 when a car with five teenagers in it pulled over.

Baines, who later told police that Howard had made sexual comments to him "a few weeks" prior to the murder, stepped out of the car, yelling, "Hey, you faggots!" and approached Howard, accompanied by Ness and Mabry.

A scuffle ensued, with the teenagers repeatedly shouting anti-Gay epithets at Howard. Ogden fled the scene and pulled a fire alarm near the bridge, witnesses said.

Howard also tried to flee, but tripped on a curb and fell to the pavement, and thereafter the youths kicked him repeatedly in the face, chest, buttocks and groin. "You fuckin' faggot!" they shouted, while Howard screamed.

At this point, the witnesses said, the youths picked up Howard and carried him to the railing, with Howard screaming, "Noooo! Don't! I can't swim! I can't swim!"

But the attackers ignored Howard's cries and threw him over the railing. The three later told police that they saw Howard hit the water and then they fled in their car. The car was found disabled in the town of Dedham, ten miles from Bangor, police said.

Michael Clary, a 19-year-old friend of the suspects, told police that they told him two days after the incident that they had "jumped a fag, kicked the shit out of him and threw him into the river."

Two of the three witnesses were the female companions of the suspects — Jennifer Vafades, 17, and her sister Shawna, 15, both of Bangor. They stayed in the car while Howard was attacked. The two were not charged as accomplices. The third witness is a 73-year-old man who was sitting at a bus stop a few yards away from the bridge. His identity was not disclosed.

Ogden, Howard's companion, reported that only hours after the suspects were released by Judge David Cox on July 9, he and a friend were verbally harassed by Baines less than a block from the site of the murder. "Hey, you faggot!" Ogden quoted Baines as having shouted.

Police records show that Ogden had reported being harassed by "unidentified persons" several weeks prior to the murder, but Ogden was unable to provide police with full descriptions of his harassers.

If tried as juveniles, they would face a maximum penalty of detention in a juvenile facility until they turn 21.

STATEWIDE OUTRAGE

The killing and the apparent motive for it — anti-Gay bigotry — has sparked unprecedented outrage throughout the state, with some comparing Howard's murder with that of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978, and others comparing it with the lynchings of Blacks in the pre-1960s Deep South.

On July 9, more than 250 people — friends of Howard — his fellow parishoners, businesspeople and a cross-section of non-Gay Bangor residents, held

a memorial service at the Bangor Unitarian Church.

Howard, who had an effeminate personality, was eulogized as one who refused to be closeted. "Charlie didn't hide himself and he insisted that we not be invisible, in all our diversity — in our leather, in our makeup, in our bluejeans. Charlie insisted on this. Let us not ever be invisible again. Never again in Bangor, Maine," one speaker said.

Many in the assemblage took the occasion to come out of the closet. Yet one speaker said, "I am a mother. I am a Lesbian. I've been out in this community for ten years, but for the first time in my life, I'm afraid to be known (as a Lesbian)."

Another speaker vented anger at fundamentalists. As if she were a prosecutor, the speaker said, "You fundamentalists teaching (anti-Gay) hatred — Charles' blood is on your hands! You macho dudes and teenagers yelling 'Faggot!' — Charles' blood is on your hands!" She said that Howard was murdered for only one reason: "Because he was Gay and swishy."

Following the service, a candlelight procession marched past Bangor police headquarters to protest the accused killers' release. An even larger candlelight protest marched through downtown Portland, Maine's largest city, two nights later. The 500 Gay men, Lesbian women and heterosexuals wore pink ribbons in memory of Howard. It was the first public demonstration by Gays in the city's history. About 50 people staged a march and rally in Lewiston, Maine that same night.

Newspapers throughout New England gave the murder and accompanying protests the Page One treatment, with the *Portland Press Herald* reporting incidents of Gay-bashing in the town of West Bath in April and in Portland's Deering Oaks Park.

The conservative *Bangor Daily News* published a series of sensitive news articles, a blitz of letters to the editor, an editorial and a column condemning both the murder and the homophobia that apparently led to it.

Similar editorials condemning the murder have appeared in newspapers as far away as Boston. News of the murder spread nationwide through the Associated Press.

Maureen Williams and Sue Hyde of Boston's Gay Community News contributed to this report.

**Florida Gov. Vetoes Funds
for AIDS Research**

Tallahassee, FL - A bill approved by the Legislature that would appropriate \$250,000 for AIDS research at the University of Miami was vetoed last week by Gov. Bob Graham, touching off a firestorm of protest by Gay and Haitian community leaders.

The bill would have financed testing the results of experimental treatments with AIDS patients in a study group headed by Dr. Mary Ann Fletcher, a University of Miami researcher.

Graham, in his veto message, said that the bill was unnecessary because the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta was conducting research with federal funding "that benefits all

states;" that there was no documentation of the need for state-supported research (a sensitive issue, as this is a statewide election year in Florida); and that the appropriation was not included in the original legislative budget request for health.

Bill Kipp, chairman of the Health Crisis Network, could not restrain his anger. "It's absolutely incredible that this could happen in the state of Florida," he said. "I still can't believe it." State Rep. Steve Pajcic (D-Jacksonville) called the veto "a slap to the Haitian community as well as to the Gay community."

D.B. Sanders

**International Affairs
Set at U.N., Border**

New York, NY - An International March for Lesbian and Gay Freedom is being planned for September 30 at the United Nations. The march will highlight a several-day conference on global Lesbian and Gay liberation.

In a related event, the International Gay Association will hold a "Kiss Across the Border" event on August 15, in which Gay and Lesbian people will kiss each other at the U.S.-Canadian border from New Brunswick to Niagara Falls — without each other crossing the border.

The Lesbian/Gay International Organizing Committee can be reached at P.O. Box 1498, New York, NY 10009.

— New York Native

**BAY AREA REPORTER
GREATER BAY NEWS**

**The Baton is Passed
For San Jose Chorus**

Liedermann, the San Jose Gay Men's Chorus, is now under new direction. Bob Welton, who has led the chorus since its formation, passed the baton to Jim Clark after the chorus's performance at the Casa de San Jose Coronation ceremonies on Saturday, July 14.

Welton has assured everyone that this change is the result of nothing other than a natural process of growth for the chorus. "When I agreed to take on the direction of the chorus last summer," Welton said, "I told Larry (Marcus) that it would just be on a temporary basis until a permanent director could be found. Now that I've had it a year and we have had our first major concert, it just seemed to be a natural time to turn it over to Jim. He has a lot of experience in choral direction and I think he will do a fantastic job."

Jim Clark is very complimentary of Welton's performance as the chorus's first director.

"He has done an excellent job of taking a few voices, adding more to their number, then working them into a cohesive and harmonious sound," said Clark. "The work of a beginning director is very difficult, and Bob has done it tirelessly, competently, and cheerfully. I am very grateful that the foundation of work of melding the chorus together into its own sound has been done by someone as experienced in this as Bob is. That means my work as interim director is immeasurably easier. All I have to do is fine tuning, rather than major construction."

Clark's reference to himself as the interim conductor reflects his personal philosophy that all directors are holding the position only until their successor takes over, but that while they hold the baton it is their job to do their part in helping the organization grow and improve so that an even better, more experienced successor will be needed.

"When we were forming the chorus last June," commented Larry Marcus, the founder and

general manager of Liedermann, "there were a number of very qualified people suggested as possible directors, but none of them had the experience with beginning choirs that Bob does. Every school year he had to almost start all over again creating a feeling of musical unity among people who had never been together before. That's what he had to do with Liedermann, and he has really done a super job. I'm kind of sad to see him step down so soon, but I can understand why he wants to with all the other things he is involved with. I'm just glad that he will still at least be singing with us."

A look at Welton's background seems to substantiate Marcus's confidence in him. He was graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in French and a minor in Applied Music. He then taught music in Kampala, Uganda; Madrid, Spain; and, until four years ago, in the Cupertino School System. He has sung with the Master Singers of the San Antonio Opera Festival, the Schola Cantorum of DeAnza College and the Saratoga Drama Group. He has been with the San Jose Dance Theater for 11 seasons. In addition, he is the leader of Pacific Ventures, a Gay men's social group, and very active in South Bay Gay Fathers.

Clark's credentials are also impressive. He was graduated from Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky, with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Choral Music. He later continued at the University of Louisville where he received his masters and educational specialist degrees in Administration. While in Louisville, he served two years as organist of the Cathedral of the Assumption and eight years as organist and



San Jose Singers. Chorus shown here at the 1984 Freedom Day Parade. (Photo: Rink)

choir master at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

A founding member of Carousels, Inc., a semiprofessional mixed chorus, Clark was accompanist to the group for two years, and director for eight. In San Francisco, he served in Dignity as the organist for one year, and a choir member for five. Here, in San Jose, he has been in the baritone section of Liedermann since January, is

chairperson of Dignity/San Jose and is an active member of South Bay Gay Fathers and High Tech Gays.

As far as the performance schedule of Liedermann, Marcus, Welton, and Clark agree it will remain fairly close to the present theme of short and seasonal performances featuring a variety of musical genre. One possible addition may be joint concerts with other choruses or

musical groups, but the culmination of the year will definitely be a major concert as part of the San Jose Gay Pride Week activities.

Clark says that the chorus now numbers about twenty voices, but he hopes to double that by summer of '85. He also said part of his near term plans are to identify an appropriate theme song for the chorus, and to develop the chorus's own unique sound.



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Follow the Nose

"NOBILITY" DECAMPS!
(A Moving Nose?)

A truly unique personage hereabouts has finally received the "word" and will be departing the Oakland scene to take up residence in a brand new city being developed in the southern part of our state.

Ethel Hart has been anticipating this venture for many a moon, and the day draws nigh when she will pack up bag and baggage (and biggie crane?) and leave our fair city for that community as unique as she.

She has asked me to communicate the following:

"As the time grows near for me to leave the Bay Area, which has been so much a part of my life, I find the time is much too short to see each and every one of my many friends to say good-bye in person; so I'm taking this means of getting to all of my very dear friends.

"Even though the space available in this column is too limited for me to state how I feel, and to remember each and every one of my friends individually, and also as good-byes are not the easiest thing to experience, I want to say instead of good-bye only 'Auf Wiedersehen' (I'll see you again).

"I also want to thank each and every one who has helped me, in so many ways, to enjoy and be able to live my life in the style that to me is so important. Thank you for the helpful hints, the corrective criticism, and the many, many other things you have done to help me. Without these things I could not or would not have been able to be

Ethel

"NOBILITY" DEBARKS!
(A Canvassing Nose?)

Ah yes, dear reader, the time rushes near when the kickoff campaigns will begin for Alameda County Imperial Empire's Emperor and Empress Sestole.

As of this writing, there are two good possibilities feigning interest in the royal Empership and three—possibly five—jockeying for position of the patrician Empressness. It should be one of those "fun" campaigns, as one teaser poster has already been torn down and destroyed. Things will, as you know, get hot and heavy and the bubbling caldron will overflow at H's Lordships in Berkeley on Saturday, September 22.

Dynasty in Berkeley? Mooooooooooo!

ARMARY MANDRELL UPDATE?
(A Punched Nose?)

Chatted briefly with Nova Lei one noontime last week and she informed me that she did, indeed, fulfill her commitments as far as the entertainment production for the latest ACIE Closet Ball. If this be the case, my mind is boggled and perplexed over why all the upset and agony from the inner crew, if you will, which erupted into seemingly delicious frustration over the point that no one seemed to know what was going to happen.

One said that yes, all was planned and the powers informed. Another said that no, she didn't hear the final planning. Others indicated that total disappointment and distrust resulted from this fiasco.

In the continuing chatting, Nova Lei stated that she elected not to attend, and even if she had there still would have been only one candidate (even though she and spouse are on the production outline three times for appearances).

Methinks that far too many wires got crossed—or double-crossed—and that anticipated fulfillments were never part of the original proffered assistance. Your guess is as good as mine, and we paid our money and took our chance.

Egads! Did the Oakland Pom Pons know that they were scheduled as part of the entertainment? I saw not one of them there.

Er, just what is the truth about that purported telephone call from "New Garland" to "Town" that wasn't on the friendly of terms? Is all of that a bunch of crossed and double-crossed wires, too? I don't know about anyone else, but I'm tired of paying my money and taking my chance.

NEZ'S NOTES:

• So far I have heard of two eager teams ready and able to enter the soapbox derby for Town & Country's First Anniversary—they're just waiting for the rules and regulations. How soon will they be out, Sam and Marv?

• Danny's birthday party, "Weather/Lestern," will be at Big Mama's on Saturday, August 4, at 8 p.m. There will be a complementary buffet (aren't you tired, Daddy David?) and entertainment by Bravo. The following Sunday, Ruth Hastings will entertain at 4 p.m.

• A three-day carnival arrives at Turf Club, Friday through

Sunday, August 10-12. Booths may still be available, so check with management. Friday's kickoff will be in the evening, with Saturday and Sunday 10 to 6. (No comments, Chris!)

• Ollie's Radcliff Hall will house the first Elected ACIE Royal Grand Duke and Duchess at 4 p.m. Admission is \$6—ypymtyc!

• Lake Lounge Anniversary partys on Saturday, August 18.

• Revol Anniversary partys on Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19.

• Congratulations to Little Ed and Mother Paulson's latest auction at the Lake Lounge last Sunday. They added \$750 to the coffers of the AIDS funding for the East Bay AIDS Fund.

• "A Lovely Evening of Lovely Entertainment and Lovely Auctions" is scheduled for Bench and Bar on October 14, a Sunday. Supposedly appearing at this soiree will be the current Mr. and Ms. Gay Alameda County, Joe Garza and Fuji, along with Foxy Lady 3, 4, 5 Little Mother and Foxy Lady 2 Nova.

• No final word yet on the outcome of the Black and White Ball. One hinted of a pullout, and others hint of a resurrection; still others hint of total abandonment. Ypymtyc!

• Sorry, Steve, but I did mention your serious sunburn in the last column. Somehow it wound

up on the cutting room floor, as it were. (Yes, it did. — Ed.)

• Sorry, Stephanie, but about that letter you wanted printed, see above item. (I can't help it—sometimes Nez is too big. — Ed.)

• Hey, Waddles, just what next week did you mean for dinner? And, Steve, did UPS drop it again?

• The first East Bay AIDS Fund committee meeting took place Thursday, August 2. Full details at eleven—er, next issue!

• Look for Oakland's own blues singer Faye Marshall to appear in the pubs around this county. She's terrific, even with that substitute drummer!

• Yes, Paul and David, I highly recommend you two as campaign managers for the upcoming phony zircon court! (That's DIAMOND, dear reader!)

• It's true; no rumor this! Mr. Lumberjack '84, George, and second runner-up, Jerry Joint, are definitely planning to enter the Swim Suit Dance Contest at B&B this Sunday—just to prove that the mature gentleman can strut his stuff, too. What's Mark going to do with those interviews?

When all other means of communication fail, read the directions! That makes me smile. Love,

STATE NEWS



Under Attack. State Senator Ed Davis being queer-baited for AB-1 vote. (Photo: Rink)

So. California Race

Ed Davis' Demo Opponent Begins 'Queer' Attack

Republican Davis Defends AB-1 Vote; Democratic Party Is In a Pickle

by George Mendenhall

Andrew Martin, the Democratic opponent of Republican State Senator Ed Davis, has launched an attack on the incumbent for his support of AB-1. The bill passed the state legislature, but was vetoed by the governor earlier this year. It would have made it illegal to discriminate in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. Martin is not expected to garner too many votes in the heavily Republican district in November where Davis represents the Ventura, San Fernando Valley and suburban Los Angeles Area.

Martin used the word "queer" 15 times in a recent interview. He said he would continue to use the word although he had been urged to stop doing so by the chair of the Los Angeles Democratic Central Committee. That committee has

are treading lightly around his candidacy.

State Sen. Gary Hart, who is a Democrat from Santa Barbara, states he will openly support Republican Davis if his colleague asks him to do so. The area's Assemblyman Jack O'

"Some people say I shouldn't use the word 'queer.' Well that's the way we talk."

— Andrew Martin

not endorsed Martin, delaying such a consideration until September. The Democrat did not request or receive Ventura central committee endorsement.

There is nothing unique in Martin's attack on Gay people. He says, "Do you believe people want to approve of queers teaching the public schools and being on the police force? Do you want them to be role models for our children? . . . Some people say I shouldn't use the word 'queer.' Well, that's the language we use around here. Is it OK for them to do the horrible things they do and then not to call them queer? Isn't that hypocrisy?"

The Democratic challenger has the traditional Democrat position on other issues. He is for Medicare, social programs to help the old and disadvantaged and he is against "selling off the national parks and poisoning the environment." However, because of Martin's stand on the Gay issue, Democratic officials

Connell may also be challenged on his support of AB-1. Hart, however, believes "Gay rights will not be a big issue in the mid-state legislative races." Democratic Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy told constituents in Davis' district that he supported AB-1 because it was wrong to deny someone a job on any other reason than merit. McCarthy has not endorsed Martin.

Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco) authored AB-1 and has urged the Los Angeles Democratic Council to openly rebuke Martin in September. Ed Albrecht, chair of the Ventura central committee, said that his group supports all Democratic candidates and will not disavow Martin. However, he added, "It's not a case where we agree with Andy Martin's philosophy—no way. In fact, we rebuke it."

Agnos, a staunch Democrat, said that he would support any Republican candidate who faced attacks by Democratic op-

ponents because of a "Yes" vote on AB-1.

Davis had a longtime record of harassing Gay people when he was police chief of Los Angeles for ten years. Much of the organizing of the Gay liberation movement in Los Angeles was centered on removing Davis after repeated raids on bars, parks and baths, and a general harassment of Gay people by police officers.

Davis broke with his past when he voted for AB-1 and spoke before the Gay Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights earlier this year to explain his vote. He said the L.A. Gay rights movement had been "nasty" to him earlier, but he now realized that "employment without discrimination is a simple basic right."

The incumbent also said he was relaxed about the upcoming election and felt unthreatened by Martin: "I will survive because my constituents are strong enough that they will not politically assassinate me."

The most notorious homophobe in the state senate, H. L. Richardson, was evidently not followed up on his earlier threat—that he would financially back any candidate who opposed a legislator supporting AB-1. Martin states that Richardson has not helped him but insists that some of his supporters have sent checks.

Agnos has formed a new organization, Californians for Justice, to support pro-AB-1 candidates who are threatened because of their support of Gay rights and to monitor the continuing involvement of fundamentalist churches in politics.

Stanford Demonstrators Protest 'Olympic Homophobia'

Stanford University again was the site of protest against "Olympic homophobia" for the second time in as many weeks. The "Ad Hoc Committee Against Olympic Homophobia" staked itself out at the front gate to the Stanford soccer field Sunday, July 29—where thousands of the 70,000 soccer fans were entering, to see the U.S. play Costa Rica.

As the fans entered, they were greeted by a dozen Gays and Lesbians holding signs and passing out leaflets. "We handed out about 3,000 leaflets at the front gate," said protestor Noel Hanrahan. "We got a mixed response. There were 10 to 15 people who complimented us on our efforts."

Hanrahan said the Stanford Olympic protests have been different than most Gay activities that members of the group have previously taken part in. "This is real Middle America. These people come from outside this area, and come here to see the Olympic soccer meet. You get the feeling it's not a safe place—we're much more vulnerable."

Both decisions are being appealed.

In its flyer, the demonstrators stated, "Given the fact that the USOC has never brought suit against any other of the hundreds of nonprofit organizations using the term 'Olympic' to promote their events, the court actions against the Gay Games are unmistakable evidence of homophobia."

The group is protesting a series of recent lawsuits by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to prevent the use of the term "Olympic" in describing the Gay Games, a San Francisco-based athletic meet for Lesbians and Gay men and their straight supporters.

The USOC has won an injunction against the Gay Games using the term "Olympic" in their title, as well as a court order for attorneys' fees in the case amounting to \$96,000.



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AIDS and Risk Reduction Discussed in South Alameda County

Because the numbers of AIDS diagnoses continue to grow throughout Alameda County, a Forum on AIDS, the AIDS virus, and risk reduction has been scheduled for Friday night, August 10, at the Maranatha Metropolitan Community Church in Hayward.

Co-sponsored by the Pacific Center's AIDS Project and the MCC, the forum will provide an update on developments involving isolation of the HTLV-3 and LAV viruses in the U.S. and France, respectively, plus the potential implications of that discovery for the AIDS epidemic.

"Since the incidence of AIDS in Alameda County has more than tripled in the past year, North and South County groups are feeling a need to join forces to fight this epidemic," according to Jeremy Landau, East Bay AIDS Project coordinator. "We really appreciate the Hayward MCC offering a site for this."

One of the many South County residents mobilized to fight AIDS is the Rev. Jodi Safier of Maranatha MCC.

"It's very important that we work together to fight the myth that we are not at risk because we're in Oakland or Fremont, like we would be if we were in San Francisco or New York," she said. "Similarly, we cannot delude ourselves into thinking that because we're women or Third World, heterosexual or Republican, we cannot get AIDS. The facts don't bear that out."

The forum will place an em-

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 3

- **Concord Jazz Festival:** music, Concord Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord, 8 PM, \$8.75 and \$12.75. Featuring the Dave Brubeck Quartet.
- **Freelance Dance Company:** dance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$6. The Salt Lake City dance company features choreography by LeeAnne Hartley, Juanita Suarez, and Penny McCally.
- **San Francisco Photographers:** exhibit, Nathan Hart Gallery, 437 Hayes St., S.F., opening reception 6 to 9 PM. Includes the work of Clifton Albergotti, Judy Allen, Nick Blair, and Robert Jew.
- **Danny Williams and Laurie Bushman:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10:30 PM, \$5.
- **Faye Carol:** music, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 9 PM, \$8.
- **Fampro:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Jazz:** dance class, Pride Center Auditorium, 890 Hayes St. at Fillmore, S.F., 6 to 7:30 PM, free. Beginning jazz taught by Ron Petersen. Wear gym clothes or loose clothing.
- **The Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting:** stage performance, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Written by Joe Besecker, directed by Constance Cramer.
- **Paradise is Closing Down:** stage performance, South of Market Cultural Center, 935 Brannan St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7 and \$8. Presented by Red Flag Theater, by South African playwright Pieter-Dirk Uys, directed by Leon Johnson.
- **Two Acts for the Deaf Yak:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Reflex Action Theatre presents Christopher Durang's *Nature and Purpose of the Universe*, David Mamet's *The Sermon*, Robert Patrick's *Something New*, and Laura McHale's *The Perfect Couple*.



Charlie Chaplin in *City Lights*, at the Castro Theatre Friday.

- **North Beach Grand Opera:** stage performance, Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 300, S.F., 7:30 PM, \$10. *Suor Angelica* by Puccini and *I Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo will be presented.
- **Bad Mothers:** stage performance, People's Theater, Fort Mason Center, Building B, S.F., 8 PM, \$7.50. The new adventures of Ladies Against Women written and performed by the Plutonium Players.
- **Tristan:** stage performance, Gill Theater, Fulton and Cole Sts., S.F., 8 PM, cover. Medieval rock musical featuring pop songs from the '50s and '60s. Call 928-9869 for reservations.
- **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10. Starring Ruth Hastings.
- **Cutting Canvases:** stage performance, Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, \$11. The final offering of Magic's 1983-84 season. A world premiere by James Keller and Albert Takazuckas.

SATURDAY 4

- **Moonstruck:** dinner dance for women, IAM Union Hall, 655 Vasquezos, Sunnyvale, 6 PM, \$15. A benefit for the Billy DeFrank Community Center. No-host bar, catered dinner, taped dance music, door prizes. Formal or semi-formal attire. For more information call (408) 374-5228, or (408) 263-7211.



Ruth Hastings (r.) and Craig Jessup in *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, extended through September 1 at 132 Bush.

- **Geoff Mains:** author of *Urban Aboriginals: A Celebration of Leathersexuality* will be at the Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., from 1 to 3 PM.
- **Gay Wisdom:** orgy of enlightenment, Berkeley, 10 AM to 5 PM, \$25. Call Tayu Fellowship at 552-8428 or 775-4904 for reservations and more information. Lunch provided.
- **Fourth Annual Unofficial Seafair Queen City Cruise:** depart from Seattle's Pier 56 at noon, return at 5 PM, \$28. A benefit for the Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities, the Seattle Municipal Elections Committee for Gays, and Tacky Tourist Clubs of America.
- **Eastbay Lesbian/Gay Runners Club:** run on Tilden Park trails, meet at 10 AM at the entrance to the Lake Anza parking lot. Picnic follows. For more information call 526-7315 or 843-4968.
- **Concord Jazz Festival:** music, Concord Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord, 8 PM, \$8.75 and \$14.75. Featuring The Boss Brass and the Modern Jazz Quartet.
- **Freelance Dance Company:** dance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Gay Comedy Night:** with alternating emcees Tom Ammann and Marga Gomez, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5.
- **San Francisco Mime Troupe:** stage performance, Precita Park, Folsom and Precita near Army St., S.F., 2 PM, free. The troupe will perform its election carol, 1985.
- **Two Acts for the Deaf Yak:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Paradise is Closing Down:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Bad Mothers:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Tristan:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **North Beach Grand Opera:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **All Join Hands:** Gay square dancing, dancers from every club join hands at 2140 Market St., S.F., 5 to 7:30 PM, donation.
- **Bye-Bye Verdi:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 3:30 PM, \$5. A light-hearted look at Grand Opera with Sam Bittner and five local "stars of tomorrow."

SUNDAY 5

- **People With AIDS/San Francisco:** brunch/reception, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 54 10th St., S.F., 11 AM, free. The newly-formed National Association of People With AIDS will be introduced, members of the Interim Steering Committee of NAPWA will present a report, and members will elect a representative to the Permanent Steering Committee for the Western Region. Open to anyone who has AIDS or an AIDS-related condition.
- **Ugly Dog Contest:** world championship, Lucchesi City Park, Washington and McDowell Blvds., Petaluma, 12:30 to 3 PM, free. Trophies and dog food awards to winners in each class (purebred and mutt) and overall ugliest dog, entry fee \$5 per dog. For more information call (707) 762-7772.
- **G 40+:** Gay Senior Men's Writing Group, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM.
- **The Gay Life:** radio, KSAN (95 FM), 6 AM. Highlights from the rally following the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.
- **94110 Show:** photography, Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St., S.F., opening reception and barbecue, 11 AM to 5 PM. Photographs made by people who use 94110 as a zip code.
- **Linda Tillery Jazz Quartet:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free. Featuring Mary Watkins, Bonnie Johnson, and Mark VanWagoning.
- **Voz Do Samba:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4 to 8 PM.
- **San Francisco Mime Troupe:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Tuffy Eldridge:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 7 PM \$4. Twelve-string originals.
- **Freelance Dance Company:** dance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Concord Jazz Festival:** music, Concord Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord, 7 PM, \$8.75 and \$12.75. Featuring Tania Maria.
- **Paradise is Closing Down:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Bad Mothers:** stage performance, \$5 (see Friday listing for details).
- **North Beach Grand Opera:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **All Join Hands:** Gay square dancing, dancers from every club join hands at 2140 Market St., S.F., 5 to 7:30 PM, donation.
- **Bye-Bye Verdi:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay at Mason, S.F., 3:30 PM, \$5. A light-hearted look at Grand Opera with Sam Bittner and five local "stars of tomorrow."

MONDAY 6

- **Strike Out AIDS:** celebrity bowling tournament, Brunswick South Land Park Bowl, Sacramento, 6:30 to 9 PM. Celebrity sponsors include Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin, and Dr. Tom Waddell. For more information call (916) 448-AIDS.
- **International Stand-up Comedy Competition:** The Punchline, 7 Maritime Plaza, S.F., 9 PM, cover. Featuring Tom Ammann, host Bobby Slaton.
- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Suzy Berger, Doug Holsclaw, and Marie Mondelli, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Performer sign-up at 7:30 PM.
- **Del Rey and the Blue Gators:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **Maxine Howard:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, cover. With Her Down Home Blues Band.

TUESDAY 7

- **Summer Social:** sponsored by the Women's Collective of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, Old Firehouse, Santa Teresa St., Stanford campus, upstairs, 7:30 PM. Refreshments available. For more information call 497-1488.
- **Fairies, Poges, and Christian Brothers:** The U.S. Navy and Homosexuals in World War I: lecture by George Chauncey, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4.
- **Denise Deneaux, Hughes and Pulling:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$4.
- **International Stand-up Comedy Competition:** comedy (see Monday listing for details).
- **The Third Person:** playreading, Fort Mason, Bldg. C, Room 300, S.F., 7:30 PM. Written by Tom Davey.
- **International Folk Dancing:** dance class, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2. No pre-registration necessary. Call 552-8413 for more information.
- **Ginger Doss:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.

WEDNESDAY 8

- **Us Girls Can Boogie Too:** women's dance party, Oasis, 11th and Folsom Sts., S.F., 9 PM, \$5. A multicultural night of music, dance, and entertainment featuring women breakers, rappers, New Wave, Funk, Salsa, Samba, and Reggae.
- **Finders Keepers:** playreading, Studio Rhino, 2926 16th St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$3. Written by J.B. Laws, with *Real Life Romance* by J.H. Ross. Both directed by Alan Herman.
- **New Traveling Voices:** music, Justin Herman Plaza, Four Embarcadero Center, S.F., 2 PM, free. Twelve voices singing gospel, pop, and Broadway tunes.
- **Vocal Minority:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. The entertainment specialists of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus perform an encore of its Lesbian/Gay Pride Week concert.
- **Jules Farmer:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.
- **David Lambie Interviews:** The Angels of Light and playwrights Daniel Curzon and Dan Turner about their forthcoming musical, *Cinderella II*, KPFA (94 FM), 4:30 to 6 PM. Also, from 10 to 11 PM, Lambie will interview filmmaker Arthur Bressan, Jr. about his intergenerational love drama, *Abuse*, and his new Gay male porno film, *Daddy Dearest*, as part of Fruit Punch, the Gay men's Radio show.
- **Writing Workshop:** for seniors 60 and older, 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birimisa, sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 431-6254 for address and more information.

THURSDAY 9

- **Slipshod Suckness: An American Backstroke:** stage performance, Intersection for the Arts, 756 Union St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5. Multi-media piece by John Woodall.
- **Dionysian Duncan Dancers:** dance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. Dances from the repertoire of Isadora Duncan.
- **Lea Centuri:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 and 10:30 PM, \$5.
- **Two Acts for the Deaf Yak:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Leopard Set:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, free.
- **The Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting:** stage performance, \$5 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Tristan:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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CABARET

GAY HUMORESQUE

New Gay Comedy is Healthily Defiant and Centered in San Francisco

by Bob Woolhouse

I have just finished a four-week crash course in what might be called the Appreciation of Stand-Up Comedy. If it had been taken in the straight world of the Punch Line, The Other Room, or Wolfgang's, I would have dropped out after the second night. Instead, I hung out at the innovative Valencia Rose comedy showcase, with side trips to Sutter's Mill's new Drop-In Comedy Hour.

As a result, I discovered more about the diversity of Gay life than I ever did during 1001 Nights in a Barroom, or from numerous academic texts on Lesbian/Gay psycho-sociology. Most of all, though, I had a hell of a good time.



Tom Ammiano (Photo: Rink)

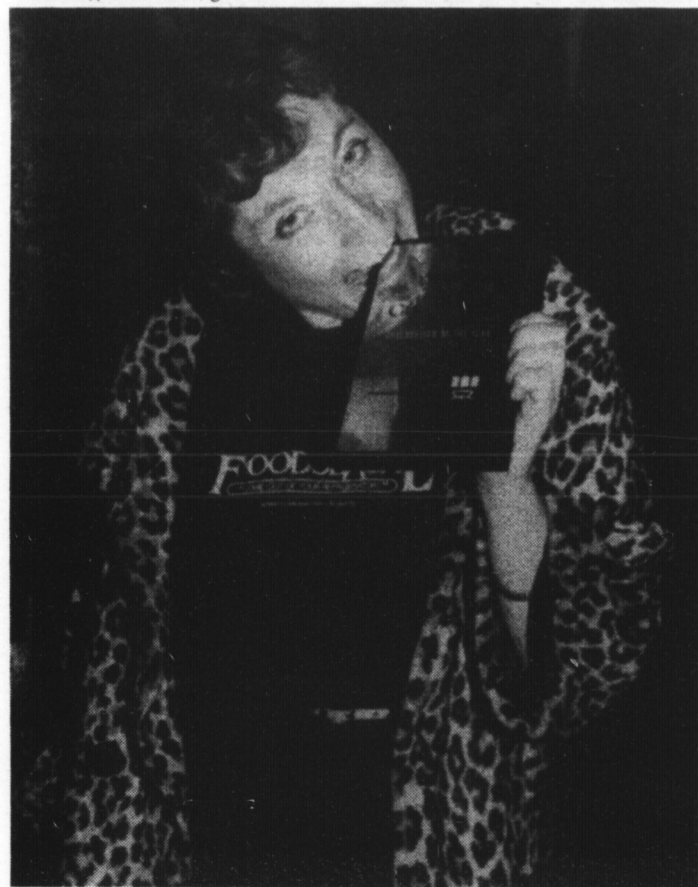
First, I would mention that Gay comedy is alive, well, and centered in San Francisco. It emerged here as did rock music, Francis Ford Coppola, and other less traditional aspects of show business. With its variety of cultures and its sense of community, San Francisco is a great comedy town in general, and Gay is very much a part of that trend.

Gaining momentum are the more established pioneers like Pat Bond, Carol Roberts, Tom Ammiano, and Lea DeLaria, who migrated here, got their acts

together, and took them on the road to entertain general audiences and underscore how diverse, rather than how perverse, Gay life really is.

WHAT IT ISN'T

The new, uncensored Gay comedy has little to do with the excesses and outrageousness of Camp. It is not high bitchery masking self-hatred and mutual animosity, such as the bitter gallows humor of the antiquated Boys in the Band. There are no put-downs like, "You know her. She's the one with the varicose



Carol Roberts (Photo: Rink)

veins of the cock." Or the ludicrous, "Show me a happy homosexual and I'll show you a Gay corpse."

Indeed, it is affirmative, self-approving, non-neurotic, and above all healthily defiant. It stresses, not the absurdities of the world of celebrities, but the absurdities of everyday living as experienced by a wide range of Gay women and men. These absurdities include those imposed by the straight world — politicians who want the Gay vote but not Gay input — as well as the ones we impose upon ourselves — ghetto attitude and the artificial butchhood of both the male and female variety.

In fact, Gay comedy can be so politically incorrect it could not have existed until fairly recently. Not only does it comment upon Gay oppressors, but upon ourselves as well: "Of course, I was in the parade. I don't belong to any one group, so I marched with Queens in Search of a Motif." Or take the more pointed Ammiano classic: Gay man at the River, "My God, that guy out there is drowning. Somebody get help." Other man, examining fingernails, "Is he cute?"

NO OLD CHESTNUTS

A refreshing aspect of Gay comedy is the absence of gag writing and the mechanical jokes often heard in the straight clubs, such as the exaggeration of: "I wouldn't say he's fat exactly, but he's afraid to go in the water at the beach. Somebody might harpoon him." Or the old switch formula: "I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out."

Instead, there are insightful comments on growing up queer in hometown U.S.A., such as Emmett Foster with his sly, poignant monologues about the Gay adolescent in Mormon country. There's Marga Gomez relating how her Old World mother always said, "Wherever you are, on a bus, in a theater, even in church, always sit next to a woman." And the response, "For the rest of my life, I'll follow her advice without exception."

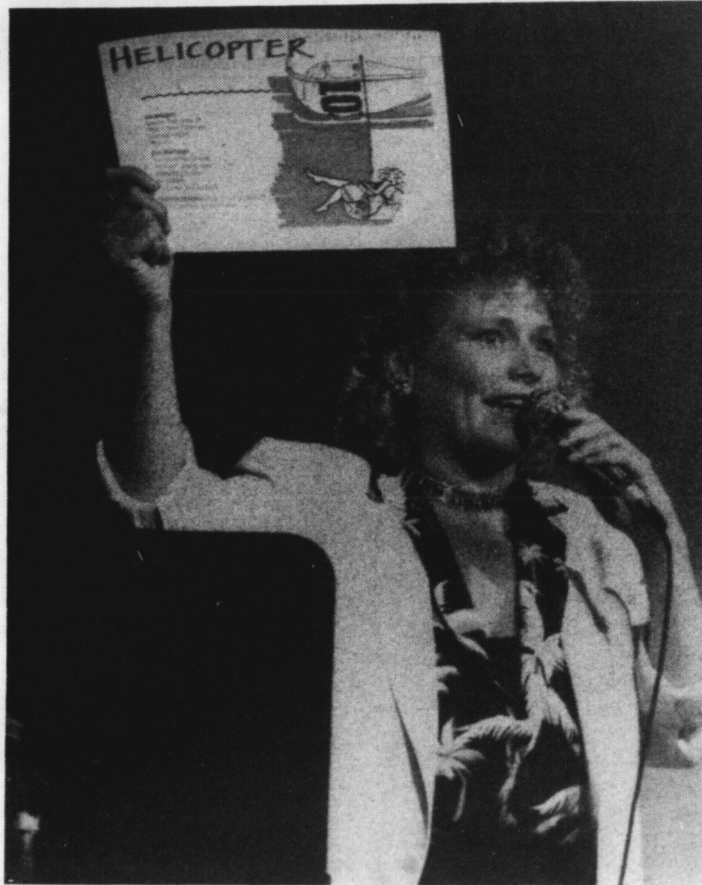
Of course, the funny and traumatic stories of coming out are here, and the comments on the ups and downs of Gay relationships. Mario Mondelli, who looks like he goes out straight-bashing on weekends, accompanies himself on guitar and sings a rather touching "Take me to your family reunion. Tell 'em I'm more than just a friend." Gomez describes a support group she and her lover joined called Workshop for Lesbians in Monogamous Relationships: "It worked very well for a while — until she met somebody there."

NO GAY STEREOTYPES

Every cliché of Lesbian and Gay male personality is demolished by these comics in their highly individualistic acts.

"Actually I'm a slightly older Lesbian who'd like to think of herself as a sex object," says Linda Moakes in her act. "I'm what you might call one of the so-sos." Compare this with the old joke, "I'm 43. That's 95 in fag years."

Then there's Robin Keller,



Linda Moakes (Photo: Rink)

who starts out in a fluffy blond drag wig; she works with musical accompaniment, choreography, and delightful song parodies. There's also Karen Ripley, expert of the pause, the glance, the gesture, to underscore a point of humor. Then there's the self put-down of Suzy Berger: "What is my type of woman? Any type whatsoever. I can't afford to be choosy."

For variation, there's the tomboy DeLaria, now in a controlled hairstyle and less rambunctious voice, quietly singing Cole Porter favorites on one hand, and going on to find the funny side of female puberty, menstruation, and women's internal plumbing on the other. Gomez says in her act, "Let us discuss sex here for a minute. Do any of you guys think a vulva is a car imported from Sweden?"

In a completely different vein is the sharp, penetrating politi-



Danny Williams (Photo: Rink)

cal commentary of Ruby "Rodriguez" Rubenstein, contrasted with the off-the-wall impersonations of Sharon Holcomb, who, with a voice from outer space, does imitations of spacy folk singers from the '60s and somewhat overloaded bar stool habits.

The established institutions of religion and politics, of course, get rather beat up in the process. Monica Palacios thoroughly covers Catholic schooling with, "Those nuns were something else. They're the ones who invented capital punishment." So many comics describe the problems of growing up Catholic, one wonders if any Lesbians and Gay men grow up Protestant. Then there is the entirely original Kate Kasten, who starts off as an other worldly poetess like Emily Dickinson, and emerges into a riotous political activist

(Continued on page 26)

TALES OF TESSI TURA

Broken Queens and Shattered Dreams

GEORGE HEYMONT

No decent person likes to read about the plight of the battered woman. But the flagrantly flogged female whose future forebodes a life of utter futility inhabits the operatic repertoire in such great numbers that tearjerking is an occupational tradition. After years of witnessing sopranos sniff poisoned violets, throw themselves from castle walls, get buried alive in Egyptian tombs, and barbecue themselves and their horses on heroic pyres, I'm quite amazed that these women keep coming back for more. The only possible explanation I can come up with is that a job is a job and *someone* has to keep the box office healthy!

How well a composer can manipulate his audience's tears may well prove to be the true test of an opera's dramatic strength. When faced with the demands of championship tearjerking, two 20th-century composers — who are alleged masters of the craft — reveal varying degrees of success in the art form. And, although I could easily anticipate the dramatic results, only one composer succeeded in making me feel any genuine emotion for his heroine's sad story.

THE TRAGEDY OF TIA JUANA

Comparing the theatrical strengths of Gian-Carlo Menotti's writing with Giacomo Puccini's music is like putting the pubescent Jerry Herman up against the mature Stephen Sondheim. One can hardly hold a candle to the other.

Five years ago, when Juana La Coca received its world premiere in San Diego, most music critics reacted politely at best. The formidable artistic skills of the star, Beverly Sills, and the stage director, Tito Capobianco, helped conceal the gaping holes upon which the opera's structure was teetering. Menotti's opera was far from being a finished product. Indeed, it was common knowledge that the composer had been locked in a hotel room trying to complete the score in time for the opening night curtain. Punctuality has never been his strong point.

The plot's basic tragedy is an intriguing one. The daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, Juana (Joan of Castile) falls madly in love with her assigned husband, Felipe of Burgundy. A victim of political power plays, Juana is stripped of her crown and eventually estranged from her husband, her court, her father, and her children. After nearly 40 years of incarceration in a filthy dungeon, she dies a madwoman, betrayed by a trinity of the men in her life.

Although revised and restaged by the composer, the opera had not improved when seen again in Charleston, South Carolina this summer. If anything, its weaknesses had become more apparent. While Menotti's orchestrations are strong enough, the libretto and vocal line remain dangerously flimsy. The coloratura spectacle written for Juana's final mad scene is dramatically poignant, but arrives too late for anyone to really care.

Soprano Adriana Vanelli made a valiant attempt to milk the title role for all it was worth. As the triple threat of husband Felipe, father Ferdinand II, and son Carlos, baritone Louis Otey was stronger and more convincing than John Broecker, the Dutch baritone who created the three male roles in San Diego. But without major talents to cover its inadequacies, Juana La Coca fell flat on its queenly face. I have an uncanny suspicion that when Menotti dies, this opera will go to the grave with him.

Butterfly, which was performed on the thrust stage of the Loretto-Hilton Theatre. Graciously designed by Allen Charles Klein, sensitively directed by Bliss Hebert, and lovingly conducted by Joseph Rescigno, the evening was a solid triumph of opera as music theater. Using Colin Graham's revised English translation, this production opened up many of the musical cuts which are traditionally made in Act I. Although it appears in tiny bits and snippets, the restored music is most charming. The dramatic results were fascinating, utterly justifiable, and strengthened Butterfly's eventual downfall.

The cast of young Americans in St. Louis was uniformly strong. Tiny Maria Spacagna proved to be a most poignant Cio-Cio-San, with vocal power to spare. Tenor Tonio DePaolo

continues to impress audiences with his rich, full voice, and rock-solid musicianship. His characterization of Pinkerton as a crude American asshole was perfectly in keeping with the production, and gave surprising strength to the appearance of his wife, Kate Pinkerton, in Act III. Melanie Sonnenberg's Suzuki was solidly sung. John Brandstetter's performance as Sharpless may be one of the finest I've heard in recent years. The handsome baritone's stage presence is very sympathetic, and his voice keeps filling out nicely.

Although I've seen and heard Butterfly's sad story performed on many an occasion, the performance I caught in St. Louis proved to be a genuine, honest-to-God tearjerker. That this opera could provoke such empathy in my crusty soul is testimony to the strength of the cast, the solidity of the production, and, above all, the composer's lasting skills in using his musical genius to manipulate people's emotions. A job well done.

Party, Party

Febe's is planning a grand party tonight (August 2) to celebrate the birthday of San Francisco's Emperor II, Russ. The party is slated to begin at 9 p.m. The evening also marks the return of owners Don Geist and John Kissinger to San Francisco.

Russ currently lives in Biloxi, Mississippi, and made the trip to San Francisco to celebrate his birthday. He was Emperor of San Francisco in 1973 and 1974. For a period of 12 years he was a manager of Febe's. At the time, he answered to the name "Pookie."

Geist and Kissinger have been away from the bar for more than three months, and they are using the event as an opportunity to greet their many patrons. In announcing the event, Geist said Russ would participate in a unique ritual of the bar called the "duck dance." During the ritual, several grown men form a circle and jump up and down and quack like ducks. Febe's is believed to be one of the few bars in the country where this is done.



"And you think you've got problems?" Cio-Cio-San (Maria Spacagna) prepares herself for death by hara-kiri in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

Questionables

by Woolly

Did you hear about Pac Tel's refusal to accept classified advertising from a local Call Girl Service and also from a Male Model Agency of the same persuasion? Since neither could be listed categorically, the first requested inclusion under Home Entertainment Products and the second under Tool Rental Service.

Permission denied in both cases, but at least the verdicts weren't sexist.

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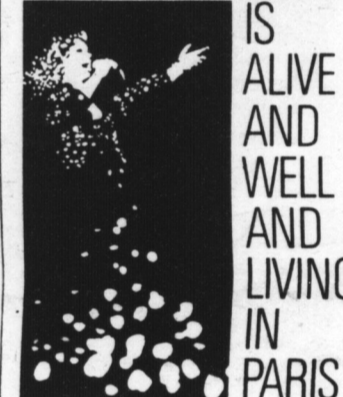
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EVEN IN BABYLON

Twirl On These

JOHN F. KARR

It was the end of an irritably hot and busy day. Convention crowds made street traffic an unbearable crawl, while underground on the MUNI platform the dense rush-hour throng pressed the wrinkles out of my clothes. I just wanted to smash my way into one of those packed, airless trains and ride. A fine moment to find out Big Sister was watching. You can't see the cameras which turn MUNI's subway stations into sound stages, but somebody somewhere is watching you when you're down there.

I grimaced at the thought as a woman with a Southern accent and a manner just on the thin side of evil reminded us we couldn't smoke, eat, or drink while on the platform. Then she added, with gracious maliciousness, that smokers, in particular, were liable to a fine. I could hear the ice in her drawing voice as she politely signed off. "Thank you for your 'tention," she said.

She couldn't have been more precise. Tension? Hah! MUNI seems to have been designed to induce tension, and though I'm

sure that's not the word she meant, or actually said, it's what we heard. It seemed fitting that MUNI would torture us and then thank us for being tortured, and the hostile mood of the crowd was broken as we shared a communal laugh at the irony.

There's so much tension around these days we ought to be thanked for it. But there're ways to relieve tension. If you pay attention to these new albums, your turntable may twirl it away.

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Debbie Saunders electrified the men who'd never heard her when she laid her guts and blues version of "Guilty" on the audience at last year's Cable Car Awards. But Debbie's been no secret to the women's community. She's the rock-out star of Amelia's, Clementina's Bay Brick Inn, and other clubs. Her new album, *A Shot In The Dark*, isn't "women's music" though, and she ought to be at the I-Beam and the Troc before Bill Graham grabs her up for Wolfgang's.

Saunders brings the gritty funk of R&B and gospel to rock. In a disco-crowded field, her music is made for "get down" instead of "space out." She doesn't use megatonics, electronic rhythm tracks, or the technological mix-downs of the dance music field which remove the human touch. She's an up-front, gutsy singer with a hard-driving band that would get the clients of any bar jumping, and although her new album is a little less forceful than her live performances, its clean production and combination of rock-out dance tunes and beautiful ballads made it a great debut for Debbie on disc.

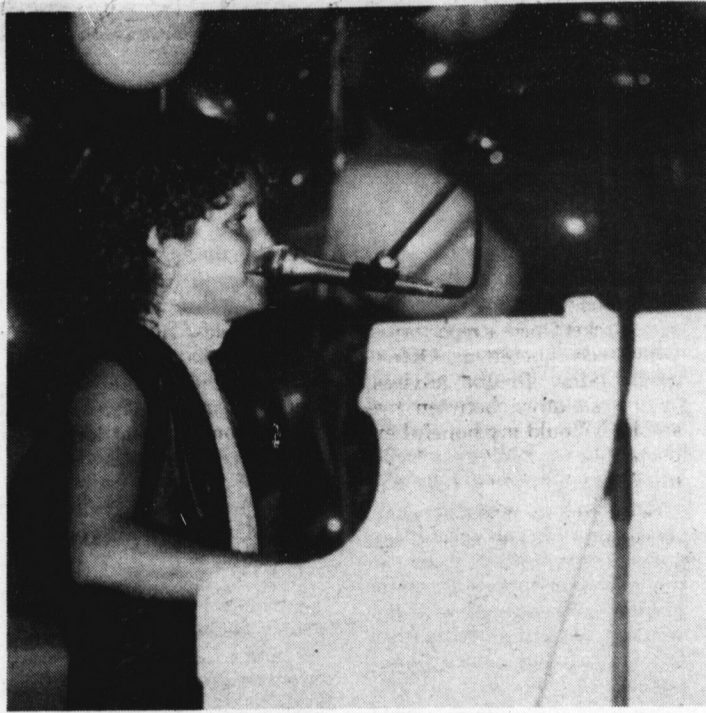
"Love Is Gonna Get You" is the first track, but I'll bet its sexy beat and hot licks will get you before love does. This smoldering hit ought to be released as an extended-play 12" single — it would just rock the Troc.

Even her approach to torch songs is hot, as a comparison of two will show. "Why Cry" is no old-fashioned weeper, but a rebellious statement. "You know I'm headed out the door," she proclaims, as the buzz of an electric guitar plays her anger and crisp keyboards kick the defiant refrain at her lover. "I don't wanna cry no more," she repeats insistently, and you know she won't be brought to her knees.

"Forever Friends," on the other hand, is a real torcher. As the always hot sax of Saphron Obois weeps, Debbie's vocal provides — beyond the words — the very sound of a love soured, as she pours deep and plaintive wails over our ears.

"Guilty" is here, too, plus "When Wrong Is Right," a moving answer to all those people who've put you down. "Turn Me Loose" is another up tempo potential pop-hit, and the finale is a beautiful, personal rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the Sky," which Debbie performs with only her piano for accompaniment.

While Saunders' sound is fresh and strong, there're traditional touches here of the "bar band" sound that crowds love — the rhythmic hooks of the Doobie Brothers, the funk of Boz Scaggs in his pre-gloss days, the up-front simplicity and good time of Elvin Bishop. Because of the label she's on, some stores (Tower) put the album in the Women's Music bin, but this mistake will soon be corrected. This is for everyone. Checkout Debbie and friends, including Obois' sax, at Mame's at 9 p.m. on Friday, August 3, and then dance over to the record store for her album.



Debbie Saunders (Photo: Rink)

ALL DRESSED UP

Cabaret star Samantha Samuels has her first album out. *All Dressed Up*. It's a five-tune bonanza which bears out the faith her fans have had in her since she began her cabaret career here several years ago. Her voice is richer on records than one might expect, plunging towards the bottom and flying free on highs, her rich vibrato matched by the lush, expansive sweep of the arrangements and recording.

True to Samuels' love of depression, the album features ballads, but not the simpy kind. The opener "You're My Man," grows from a whispered pledge of allegiance to just one guy into a throbbing anthem of commitment. Try this on your man late at night and you may find yourself calling it "our song."

"Mornings Aren't the Same" finds her moaning the loss of a lover, but the title tune kicks that mood out with swift electric chops. Its drum track and chugging rhythm shout Dance Hit! while a smooth mix, sultry sax

and the contemporary sounds of its two previous albums.

Bring them back alive is exactly what this joyous ragtime ensemble does. The group may play Scott Joplin in concert, but its record is a dream to anyone who already knows "The Maple Leaf Rag." They've searched dusty archives and music store cellars for forgotten gems of the ragtime era, and come up with a generous recording of fourteen long unheard sparklers, which, as their clarinetist told me, "is all hot stuff, in one way or another."

He was right. Who can peg the infectious joy of ragtime, and who cares to? I just like to tap my toe, smile my smile, and let its happy glee glide over me. The local Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band, which plays frequently at the Valencia Rose, has been recorded with the close-up clarity of a live performance, perfect for the music. The album's pleasures are numerous. Among mine are the appropriately Gayly titled "Turkish Towel Rag" (subtitled "A Rub Down") with



Samantha Samuels

and soaring refrain add to the pleasure. You'll identify with the lyrics, too. Sam's all dressed up "all chic and haute countered, feeling self-assured," ready to step out and strut, but she forgot to remember . . . a man! Even in dance music, Sam carries a torch.

Samuels is joined by Marc Allen Trujillo for a smooth duet, and closes the album with the superbly dramatic "The Portrait." Long a specialty of her live appearances, it's great to have the perfect version of this scary, haunting tale on disc. After the dancing-divine of "All Dressed Up," "The Portrait" is chills-up-the-spine.

BRINGIN' EM BACK ALIVE

The disc may be traditional black, but the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band's album, *Bringin' Them Back Alive*, is a horse of a different color after

So, begone tension! These three albums, rock, pop and rag, will do the job.

STAGE

OffenPocket

by John F. Karr

It is not common practice for the same writer to both tout a company's production before opening and review it after. Such, though, is my situation with Pocket Opera's repertory of Offenbach operettas, *Offenbachanalia*. Brecht advises, "never sit down between two stools." Would my hopeful expectations for Pocket Opera be met?

With personal relief, then, and a good deal of professional joy, I can report that *Offenbachanalia* is a smash. The boulevard entertainments that lit up Paris one hundred years ago are now the avenue allurements of San Francisco. The witty tales of the librettos and Offenbach's incredible melodies have staid Van Ness bouncing. Offenbach is generally credited with inventing the operetta form. We can credit Pocket Opera with inventing a home for him here.

To be sure, the four shows offered vary in quality, from a well-sung though slightly stodgy *Belle Helene*, to the exhilarating, sure to be Standing Room Only *La vie Parisienne*. While music director Donald Pippin has cast with a seemingly unending supply of excellent voices, that is sometimes a problem.

Performing tradition for Offenbach goes two ways. His original casts were music hall stars whose personality sold the songs — one reason he so frequently doubled the vocal part in his orchestrations. After falling out of favor with the public and then undergoing a major comeback, Offenbach mounted grandiose revivals with inflated orchestras. For this reason, we frequently see opera stars attempting Offenbach on their days off. Sometimes they have the flair, sometimes not. I'd go for the flair, the charisma and exuberance of a star. It's a mat-

ter of personal taste. Pippin had gone for the voices. He's got them, but he doesn't always get performers with those voices. This mars the irreverent look at mythology, *La Belle Helene*, which is a tricky one to bring off at any rate. Its first act is a fragmented succession of performer's vehicles, slightly rocky in this performance. The show coalesces later, in the extended duets of Paris and Helen, lyrical inspirations of great loveliness unexpected amidst the hijinks. But the foolishness of the gods, the comedy scenes, don't quite come off, the emphasis on singing thickening the brew. For example, the rigidly operatic singing of Maxine Litwak as Orestes, though technically well done, is more Erda than imp. The singers can hardly be faulted, but the soufflé only half rises.

La vie Parisienne is a hats in the air hit, though, with every cast member not only singing for the gods but performing with a flair that pulls all the punches in this satire on amour, society life, and tourists. The comedy could not be higher when the servants of two establishments don their masters' clothes to fool some country hicks. Offenbach has set their wicked and silly words to a brilliant succession of snappy tunes, and this cast turns each into a show-stopper. They all deserve to be named: Sara Ganz stands out for the brilliance of her high soprano and its pointed use; Eric Morris is a dashing hero; and Robert Tate elicits cheers for the extreme bravado of his multiple impersonations.

It's all there — the double entendre, the conniving love affairs, and the courtesan Metella, whose famed "Rondo" will be ever timely as she describes the brilliance of Parisian night life and the dark abyss that yawns beneath it. Frankly, I didn't think Pocket Opera could do this well. Its *La vie Parisienne* is sheer Offenbach heaven.

The *Bridge of Sighs* also presents Robert Tate and Sara



No, this is not Offenbach a la Donald Pippin, but it gives you the idea.

Ganz in lead roles, and the show is not far behind *La vie* for high spirits and quality of music. Its plot may not be as sophisticated as *La vie*, for it's a melodrama of the silliest convolutions, but it's presented with a bold swag. I missed *La Perichole*, but Pocket Opera's done it well be-

fore; the heady success of *Offenbachanalia* should have its bittersweet charms well polished.

I thought it was nice that the S.F. Opera managed a summer season. But *Offenbachanalia* has turned out so merrily it should be a summer regular,

too. That's the fun I'd call *La vie* San Francisco!

J.F. Karr

La Belle Helene: Aug. 3, 12
La vie Parisienne: Aug. 2, 10
La Perichole: Aug. 5, 11
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Gems in the Pebbles

by Bernard Spunberg

Abusive, passionate art obliterates critical nitpicking. Joe Besecker's *Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting*, currently in production at Studio Eremos, is a bravely large-scale drama. The action depicts ten San Franciscan sophisticates — all straight but for one Lesbian — gathered to taste various Zinfandel wines. Their relationships have stood the tests of time and spouse-swapping. This year, however, the bonds of friendship are shredded by the publication of a novel by one of the group. The book describes the friends' foibles and failings mercilessly.

Through a series of flashbacks, playwright Besecker reveals the pain of a man forever guilty for deserting his mother's deathbed, a computer programmer addicted to speed, a prepie kleptomaniac, and a pregnant woman too insecure to lay off the juice even in her ninth month. Also present is a perpetual student who dabbles in everything but commitment, a pediatrician who hates babies, and an aspiring actress who wishes everyone else would just be nice.

And so they are — until the novel comes out and unleashes murderous rage.

"What," the wine tasters scream, "are we going to tell our families?" Wrong question. Right question: How can we

face each other — and ourselves — now that we all know the stinking truth about ourselves and each other?

Zin Tasting also touches on the relationship between the artist and his source material. Was the novelist morally wrong to describe his friends' failings? Just how far does a writer's right to dissect his friends' faults extend? Because playwright Besecker never fully confronts the issue, his play feels like a bite too big to be chewed, almost as though it has too many ideas.

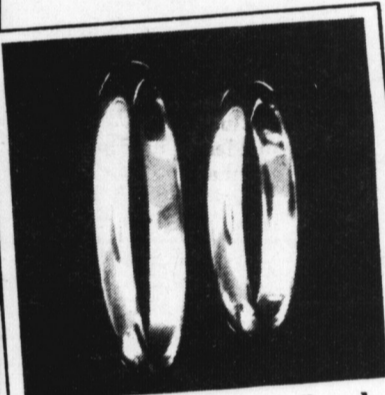
Too many ideas — what a criticism! Joe Besecker has created a complicated web of interdependent relationships among vivid characters torn by conflict. The actors — for the most part — match his inspiration. Christine M. Sullivan's sultry sexiness, so perfect for her role, generates skepticism that she can actually act. She can. Her monologue, in which she reveals a self-image dependent on sexual power, has the intensity of a boa constrictor wrapping its coils around a small animal. As the novelist's wife, Carol Cronin's kittenish teasing turns to rage when she realizes her allure can't begin to compete with that of her husband's typewriter.

Sheila Travis, as the prepie kleptomaniac, evokes unexpected sympathy for a woman more

(Continued on next page)

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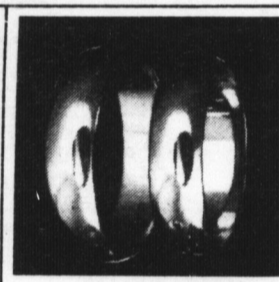
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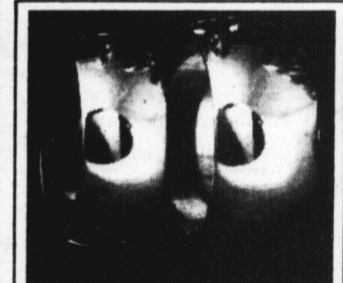
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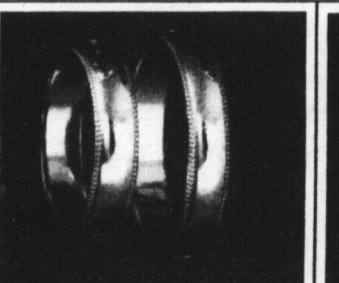
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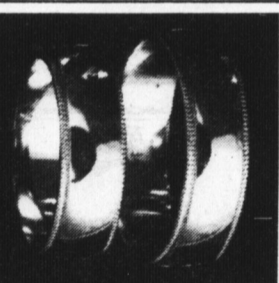
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STAGE

Freight Train

by Bernard Spunberg

Hilarating, whirlwind theater keeps audiences on the edge of their seats during *Two Acts for the Deaf Yak*, currently onstage at the Valencia Rose. Produced by Reflex Action Theater under the auspices of the art.re.grup., *Deaf Yak* is an evening of four one-act plays performed by eight actors. All four pieces are directed by Marcus Stern, whose staging leapfrogs right over the Rose's technical limitations with the airiest flights of imagination conceivable.

Robert Patrick's "Something Else" is an enchanting, disturbing, hilarious torrent of words dramatizing the creative process. We hear the private cogitation of a playwright floundering for ideas, alternating with snide comments from the half-formed characters — this pair has no illusions about their power of their destinies. Kirk Livingston and Rachael Patterson perform the play as a lickety-split scherzo. Livingston's Gayness (if he is indeed Gay — far be it from moi to make assumptions) lends an extra dimension to the playlet, especially when his character dabbles in heterosexual romance for a moment.

Laura McHale's "The Perfect Couple" depicts a crisis in the relationship between Ken and Barbie — yes, the Ken and Barbie. McHale's piece was per-



John Balma (l.), Patti Lesser, and Ellen Idelson in *The Nature and Purpose of the Universe*, part of *Two Acts for the Deaf Yak*.

formed last year at Studio Eremos in a longer version that had a little more depth and resonance. Still the play makes its points about the illusory nature of love, independent will, and reality as deftly as ever. Rachael Patterson is a hyper-realistic doll-woman. One wonders what she ever saw in Paul Freedman's somewhat stiff, mannered Ken — except, of course, for the fact that they were made for each other.

David Mamet's "A Sermon" is a logjam of non sequiturs. Suave, mellifluous John Balma appears in leather jacket and clerical collar, and proceeds to tell us about a dentist who put a tooth in a glass of Coke in 1939. The next day, Hitler invaded Poland. We also hear the story of the deaf yak of the evening's title in a rich little metaphor that seems to say that those incapable of perceiving the world are also incapable of participating in it. "The Sermon" winds up with some of the best advice ever offered at any price: Be very kind to one another in your daily lives. And clean up when you're done.

All three works of the program's first half are connected by material devised by the ensemble. These segues work not only to provide thematic continuity, but also as nice little au-

dience shockers. Don't worry, you won't get a pie in the face, although you may feel a moment of acute embarrassment. You've felt it before and you'll feel it again; why not enjoy it for a change?

Director Stern pulls out all the stops for Christopher Durang's "The Nature and Purpose of the Universe." This play is so bleak, you'll either kill yourself or die laughing. Patti Lesser plays — brilliantly — a woman raped, tortured, and insulted by her husband and sons. Then her luck runs out. Also on hand are scary Ellen Idelson as Sister Annie de Maupannant, the Radical Nun from Bernardville who intends to take over the Catholic Church, and John Balma as the Fuller Brush man, who is not a gentleman. Geoff Shields is pure poison as the hapless heroine's horrible hus-

band, and all the other actors double up as the pimp son, the faggot son, and the son who lost his you-know-what in a most unfortunate reaping incident. The play hammers home the idea that life is actually tremendously worse than you ever imagined.

Stern solves the problem of relentless violence by staging the play as a radio show, which only serves to make the violence more real. After all, is not the material a finite illusion that crumbles to dust? Are we ever affected by anything so deeply as what we imagine or believe? Take religion, for example.

Stern's ensemble darts and twirls between microphones that somehow acquire expressive power of their own. Those hard, shiny, vertical poles sometimes look like prison bars, sometimes like instruments of torture. Simple sunglasses becomes symbols of ruthless authority, and a bathrobe conveys the pathos of a martyr's rag. And all the while, the play hurtles along to its black little end with the momentum of a freight train out of control.

Why did *Two Acts for the Deaf Yak* leave me euphoric as well as dazed and drained? Why wasn't I depressed by all the chaos and mayhem? I think it's because — just for a moment — Stern took complete charge of my mind. He threw open the windows, emptied the cat's box, and cleaned out the cobwebs — and then he left. I feel new. ■

B. Spunberg

Two Acts for the Deaf Yak
Valencia Rose
Through August 18; 863-3963

"If you're not rejected at least three times an evening, you're not really trying."
— Pete Doelger

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Under the Volcano



Going to Hell is Albert Finney (l.) in *Under the Volcano*, John Huston's instant classic. Jacqueline Bisset and Anthony Andrews (Sebastian in *Brideshead Revisited*) are just along for the ride.

Summa cum Lava

If watching a man drink himself to death isn't your idea of a good time, what do you go to the bars for?

But seriously, "Only in Mexico is death an occasion for laughter," says the Consul (Albert Finney) early in *Under the Volcano*. Twenty-four hours later he's lying dead in the mud outside El Farolito, Cuernavaca's sleaziest whorehouse, and no one is laughing. It's the Day of the Dead, and the day the Consul's former wife returns to help him if she can, and accept him if she can't.

She can't, because he's on his final descent into hell. "Hell is my natural habitat," he says.

Under the Volcano is not a cheerful movie, despite more light moments than you might expect, but it's a great one. It's obvious that John Huston set out to turn Malcolm Lowry's classic novel into a classic film, not one that would be obsolete by the time its theme music dropped off the charts.

This could be Huston's year for an Oscar, and it will likely be Finney's. It's not easy to play a drunk for two hours, bringing out nuances of the man's character in varying degrees of lucidity without a moment's sobriety. Once Richard Burton might have done justice to the role, and James Mason before him. Michael Caine wasted himself on a variation of it last year in *Beyond the Limit*.

Jacqueline Bisset as the Consul's wife, and Anthony Andrews as his half-brother, give excellent supporting performances, but it's Finney's film — and Huston's. The director, who turns 78 on August 5, adds interest to a story that might have been dull and depressing by filling in the background with odd shades of local color.

Most novels deemed "unfilmable" have lived up to their reputations. *Under the Volcano* has met its match. ■

(Regency III) S. Warren

Purple Rain

When Women Cry

It's not widely known that Prince is the bastard son of Jimi Hendrix by Little Richard. Fortunately, he inherited Jimi's musical genius and a face even prettier than Richard's. Unfortunately, he's chosen to show what a bastard he is in his otherwise frequently sensational film debut, *Purple Rain*. Apparently made up by the same

person who does *Miss Piggy*, the Black Prince photographs a ghostly beige, which explains why he's acceptable for MTV. He and his co-star, Apollonia Koterou, look whiter than the Reagans.

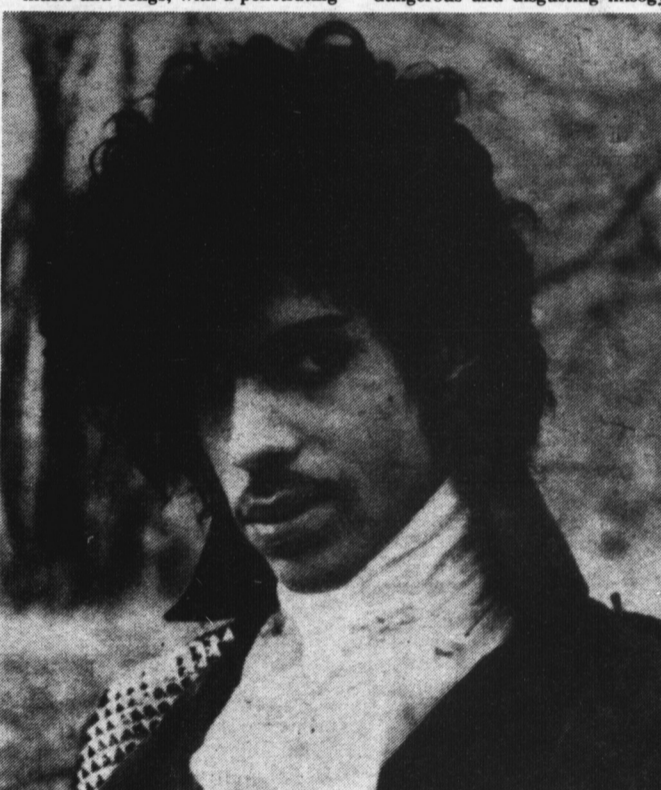
Prince claims not to be Gay, but projects an androgyny that at times makes last year's superstar, Michael Jackson, look butch. The movie should have been called *Lavender Mist*.

Few of the people in *Purple Rain* can read lines, but they rarely have to; most of the soundtrack is made up of music and songs, with a penetrating

person who later attempts a variation on an Abbott and Costello routine — throw a woman into a dumpster. When Day woos Apollonia away from Prince he parades her publicly in a slave collar.

It's the same shit that's been protested for years in advertising, on album covers and in rock videos. Now it reaches a new low in a movie that could influence a whole generation's concept of romance.

Despite all that *Purple Rain* has going for it in looks and sound, its dangerous and disgusting misogyny



If Handsome is as Handsome Does, this man is not as pretty as he looks. Prince sings and poses when he's not slapping Apollonia Koterou around in *Purple Rain*.

base that has the effect of Sensurround on the *Galaxy*'s sound system. Like the cast, the visuals of this umpteenth child of *Flashdance* are chosen more for their impact than their relevance to the plot, which pits Prince against Morris Day for a starmaking Minneapolis gig and the heart of Apollonia.

Feminists of all genders should avoid *Purple Rain*. How sexist is it? It makes Brian De Palma's *Scarface* look like a NOW convention. Prince and his father (Clarence Williams III) use their women as punching bags. The older man's wife-beating is condemned in the film, but we're supposed to forgive Prince because he's trying to work through his problems and we know he really loves Apollonia. Bullshit. Both men's slapping scenes made me physically ill.

Women are further degraded when a "girl group" plays the rock club and turns it into a strip joint, with men stuffing money into their Frederick's of Minnesota costumes. In one of Prince's numbers, a woman in his band kneels before him as if trying to suck off his guitar. Morris Day has his assistant, Jerome Benton — with

merits strict avoidance. In other words, get out your umbrellas! ■ (Galaxy) S. Warren

Another State of Mind

No Punk Indented

"It's about change. It's music by young people for young people. The music we grew up with was by older people. We couldn't relate to it."

Those might have been the words of a fan of Dylan or the Beatles in the '60s, but "there's a new generation with a new (old) explanation." The thought is expressed by a member of the punk subculture, and he might be bummed out to learn his parents said the same thing when they were his age.

This sense of *deja vu* is the most interesting thing about *Another State of Mind*, a documentary which examines the punk scene in the context of a 1982 concert tour by two bands from L.A., Youth Brigade and Social Distortion. (Continued on next page)

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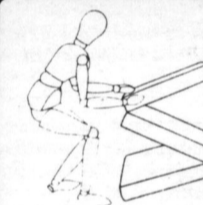
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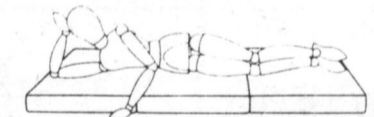
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Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting (Continued from previous page)



The cast gathering of the Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting.

adept at looking pretty than speaking truthfully. As her primly buttoned-down husband, Don Hart copes with a monumental monologue respectfully. Betsy Burke and Toni Orans as the actress and the Lesbian make much of their few, brief moments in the limelight. Joe Peer's speed freak programmer boils over into hysteria a little too soon; still, he makes an indelible impression.

Minimal characterizations by playwright and actors suffice for all but one of the remaining roles. Pale and faceless, the novelist neither defends nor admits wrongdoing. He does react when his wife bows out of her role as sexual plaything, but we never hear him speak out on the central issues, never find out whether he's a dedicated artist cursed with hypocritical friends

or a social parasite. Playwright, actor, and director Constance Cramer must share responsibility for this hole at the center of their work. Seen in relation to the rest of the canvas, however, the hole is a pinprick.

I generally avoid hobnobbing with artists I write about. I try to describe my gut response to what audiences pay to see, and I believe random chat can dull that response. I'm glad I broke my rule with director Cramer, for our confrontation crystallized the reason why I found her producer of *Zin Tasting* so moving. Explaining that she "directs from the crotch," Cramer nailed me with a glance composed of wisdom and love. The power of her gentle, all-encompassing gaze reduced me to a puddle in less than a minute. Cramer's cast mirrors her own

intensity. Her actors underline the greedy, egotistical sexual subtext present throughout the play. Even while keeping individual characterizations in clear focus, the ensemble rises to meet the various climaxes with the rhythmic responsiveness of musicians.

Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting is not perfect. It's long, unwieldy, and not for audiences in love with slick, shiny surfaces. It's directed at audiences who like risks, want to be shaken up a little, and relish the adventure of sifting through a few pebbles before finding their gems. ■

B. Spunberg

Annual St. Valentine's Day Zin Tasting
Studio Eremos
Through August 25; 626-6715

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS S

FITNESS EIGHTIES

KIEL ELLINGTON From Doughboy to 'Blueboy'

by Charles Linebarger

Kiel Ellington went from 260 pounds of mostly fat to a trimmed down, muscled up physique that soon will grace the covers of *The Advocate* and *Advocate Men*, and possibly *Blueboy*. Kiel is in his 30s. He was in his 30s four years ago when he decided he wanted to do something about the state of his body. He talked to a good friend, Courtland Wright, who runs a personalized program called Body Shape that specializes in getting men into excellent shape.

Courtland took Kiel in hand and led him into a vigorous workout program using weights. Kiel began to work out daily, but he still remembers what it was like before.

"I weighed 260 pounds, and it all moved when I walked," he said. "I'd carried this weight for 10 years. And one day I just decided I wanted to get rid of it."

For almost two years Courtland worked out with Kiel on a daily basis. Kiel gave up drinking and smoking. After a while he reached a plateau in his training and felt he wasn't going to make any more progress, but he kept pushing. He feels most people in training lose track of their goals, and how far they've come. But with Courtland behind him he kept pushing. He stayed away from steroids.

Then one day he looked in a mirror and saw a new body, the

one he'd been dreaming of. But like people who have been fat all their lives and are suddenly thin, he kept seeing his old self in the mirror. His self-image hadn't caught up to his new reality. Again, Courtland was there feeding him positive thoughts, helping him adjust to his new body image.

"If I can do it," Kiel said, "anybody can do it. Bodybuilding doesn't change your life. Everybody in the world doesn't suddenly get down on their

knees to you, and people get very discouraged when they reach their goal and find all the doors aren't suddenly opened."

But doors have opened for Ellington. Wright convinced him to enter the Mr. CMC Contest last October.

"I was scared to death," he said. "I don't know why I did it."

Fortunately he did. A talent agent gave him his card and asked him if he'd like to test for Graphics Television. Ellington took the test, of course, and was offered the job of sports anchor on GTV.

"My God, I've learned everything about the (TV) business," he said. "I've done a punk rock act, an exercise program, a . . ."

In July Ellington will become what he never in his wildest imaginings had believed possible, he says. He will become a coverman, a Gay male sex symbol. In July he will be on the cover of *The Advocate* and in November on the cover of *Advocate Men*.

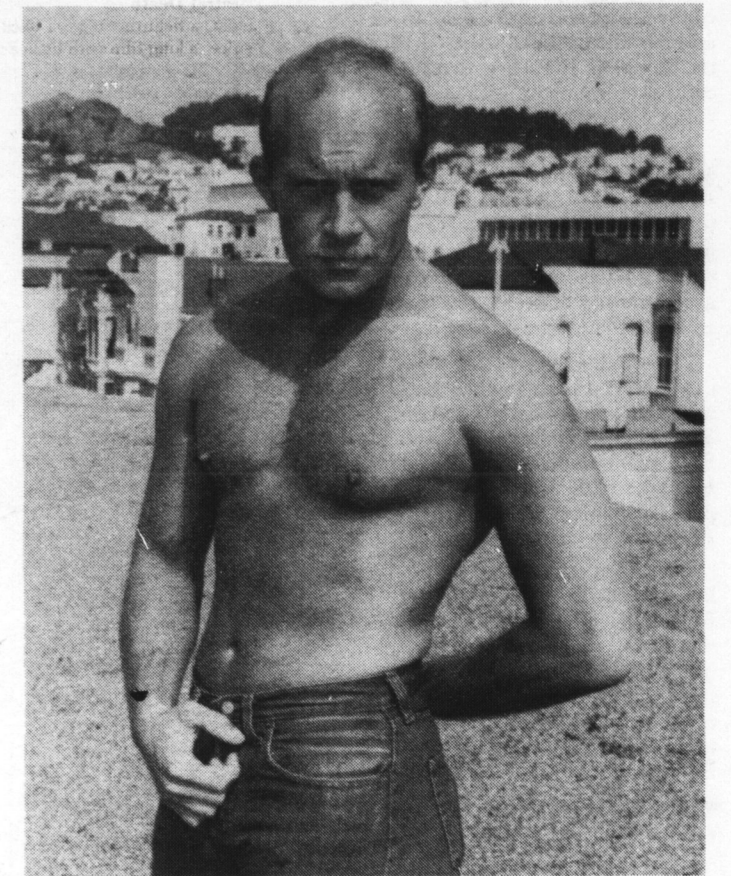
Not everything has been peaches and cream.

"The only problem I've had is I can't hold on to a relationship like I used to," he said. "People don't take me seriously now. I don't know if it's my job or the way I look. I just broke up with a boyfriend of six months because some people came up to me at Trocadero and asked for my autograph. My boyfriend stormed out, and then called the next day and said he couldn't handle it."

Wright is a 38-year-old native of Spokane, Washington. When he began working out he weighed 123 pounds at 5'11". His problem was a lack of weight, the opposite of Kiel's. He was 21 years old. His aim at the beginning was to reach 140-145 pounds. "Then I got into it." Today he is 188 pounds of solid muscle.

Wright had a major setback in his training in 1969 when a tumor was discovered in his head. An operation left the left side of his face paralyzed for five years. It wasn't until 1971 that he was able to begin working out again. But in 1972 he won the Most Muscular title in *The Advocate's* Groovy Guy Contest.

Today he works out at Gold's Gym and makes his living room there, too. He takes people who are dissatisfied with their bodies and trains them. He measures them to get the percentage of body fat they are carrying, and



Kiel Ellington (Photo: Rink)

the percentage of muscle mass they have, and then talks to them about what changes in their bodies will make them look their best.

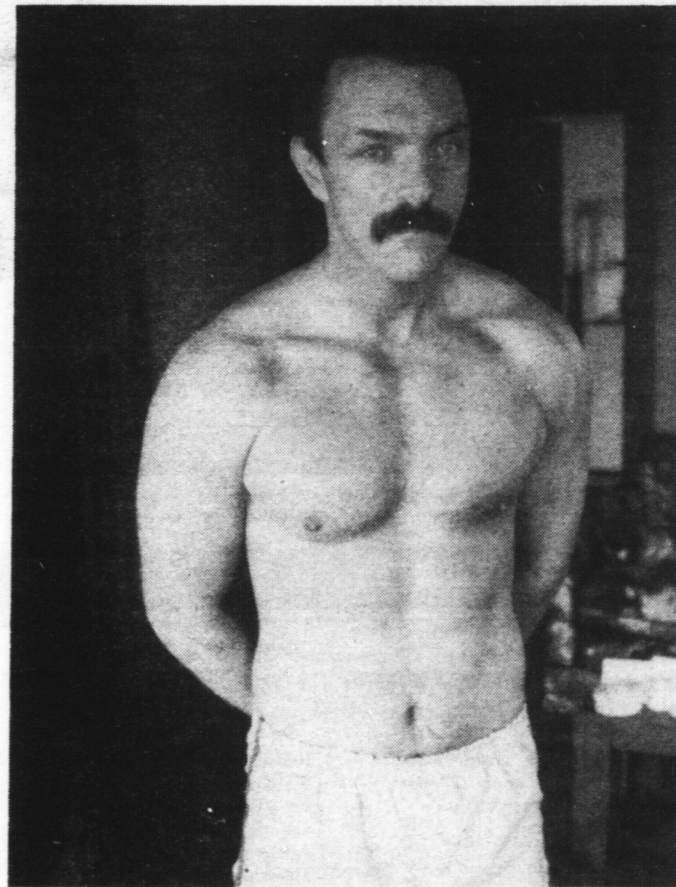
With his years of experience working in gyms and with bodybuilders, Wright had some interesting comments on the differences between straight and Gay bodybuilders.

"Gay bodybuilders generally want a flat stomach, a bigger chest and arms, broader shoulders," he said. "They don't usually want to compete; what they want is a nice, firm, hard, proportioned body. Whereas

straight bodybuilders look at other men as competition; they want to be the biggest, most muscular, etc. They'll pay any price, work at any level, even to the point of risking their life, to reach that goal."

If you want to begin a bodybuilding career, Wright said you should be prepared to pay the cost of it. The most important expense is time. According to Wright, you have to put your time in the gym at the top of your list of priorities.

If you want to have the body beautiful, you're going to have to be prepared to pay the cost. ■



Courtland Wright (Photo: Rink)

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Bunkhouse Wins It/ Everett's Ties Hunkies

RODGER SOTO

The Bunkhouse, led by Peter Storch and Tommy Africa, clinched the Bill Chapman Division Championship with a hard-fought 12 to 7 victory over Carl McMurdoo's Rainbow/BATS.

In the beginning of the game, it appeared Carl's gang was going to deny the Bunkies the title by scoring its seven runs in the first two innings, but with the sparkling pitching of Steve Davis, backed by the excellent

defense of his teammates, the team was able to shut down the Rainbow's hitting. The Bunkhouse has been in the CSL for the past eight years, starting off fairly weak and growing into one of our toughest teams.

As special mention, the Bunkhouse is a scrappy, competitive, good-natured, talented bunch of guys who are of all sexual persuasions, exemplifying what the Community Softball

League is all about.

Everett's of San Francisco did it again by adding two more victories to its nine straight wins with a 12 to 7 win over Nap's and 16 to 8 win over Jack's. Everett's, who has won the Championship three out of the past four years, looked doomed in the beginning of the season, but with the dynamic coaching of Norm Smith and the return of

(Continued on next page)

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One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benary

(Continued from previous page)

Like the tour in *This Is Spinal Tap*, the travel is as inharmonious as the music. "Eleven guys in a bus. Nobody was prepared for that . . . cabin fever," says one of those who desert when their converted school bus breaks down for the last time in Washington, D.C.

More interesting than the central groups, whose work constitutes a battle of the bland, are the peripheral people and events filmmakers Adam Small and Peter Stuart discover along the way. "Straight Edge," a conservative punk movement, is against alcohol, drugs, and one night stands. An evangelist at New York's P.U.N.X. House preaches, "If you're a punk rocker, yes, you can be saved," and his punk congregation sings "Victory in Jesus" as you've never heard it before. One defender of the violence in slam dancing says it's "not negative violence . . . an energy release."

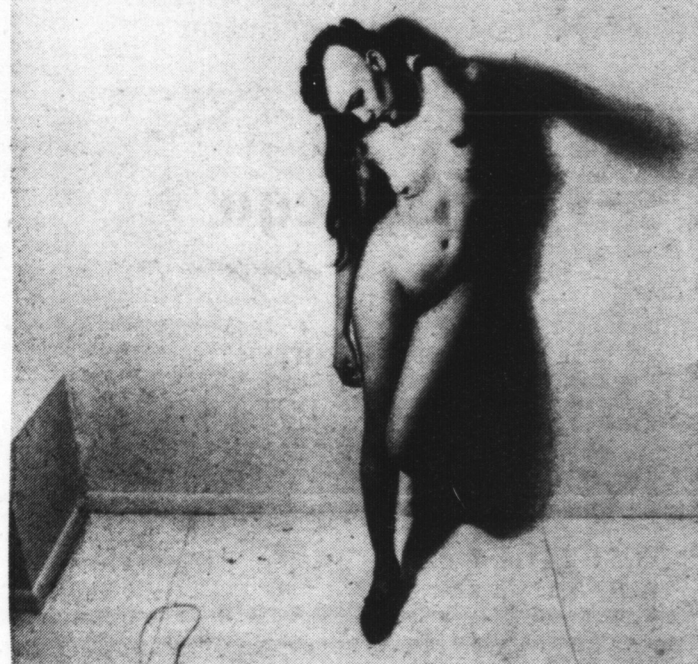
The poor videotape-to-film transfer is as crude as the badly recorded music, but the style fits the subject. There's a bittersweet nostalgia in watching the youngsters discover, as did the beats,



That was *No Lady*, that was Charles Chaplin (r.). Dustin Hoffman hadn't been born yet when this "Tootsie" walked the screen in the 1915 short film *The Woman*. Beautifully restored prints of 32 Chaplin shorts will be shown in the *Chaplin, Lost and Found* series at the Castro, August 3-11. Also involved are eight of the legendary actor-writer-producer-director's features, all but the end-of-career disasters *A King in New York* and *The Countess from Hong Kong*. The genderfuck creature pictured above is not to be confused with Chaplin's more famous character "The Little Tramp."



Some Men Shouldn't Do Drag! Cheech & Chong's *The Corsican Brothers* may be their best movie since *Up in Smoke*, but that's not saying much. Roy Dotrice plays the Gay villain, Baron Fuckaire, who has a poodle named Poofster and an S&M playroom. By the time Cheech Marin (r.) dons the garb of the queen's hairdresser, the humor has been so low for so long that a little more camp is hardly offensive. Edie McClurg, on loan from John Waters, plays the queen. For a funny movie about the French Revolution, try Bud Yorkin's *Start the Revolution Without Me*.



Another State of Undress. "People should sculpt themselves the way they feel. I look like death," says Valerie in *Another State of Mind*. Looking forward to a normal family life, the young punk says she's saving up bizarre stories to tell her grandchildren.

hippies, and early Gay movement people before them, that they have strength in community: "If you're not the only one, you know there's hope for the world."

(Lumiere) S. Warren

ect to the screen. A girl passes as a boy to pursue studies forbidden to women, but finds it confuses her love life. With *Lies My Father Told Me*.

Tuesday-Wednesday, August 7-8: (Red Victorian) *Come Back to the 5 & Dime*, Jimmy Dean. At a James Dean Fan Club reunion, residents of a lonely town reveal the secrets of their straight, Gay, and transsexual lives. Unusual but works. ■

(Continued from page 20)

Gay Humoresque

scorning Ronald Reagan to the heavens.



Monica Palacios (Photo: Rink)

WOMEN'S WORLD?

If you get the impression women are more visible in new Gay comedy than men, you may be

right. This is an interesting development, especially since wisdom has had it for years that "dykes don't have a sense of humor." Explanations range from, "Women have less trouble coming out and standing up to identify themselves than Gay men do," to "Cabaret comedy takes a more aggressive, centered personality, and Lesbians fill the bill better." Make what you will of these intellectualizations.

Yet the men are coming on strong as well. Funny as hell is All American Boy Doug Holsclaw, fuming like an enraged walrus, talking about Helen Gurley Brown's book, *Having It All*, in which she supposedly gives instructions to women on how to go down on men. "What an outrage!" he says. "Talk about encroachment!"

If anyone is able to break down the barriers of separatism, it has to be Danny Williams. Looking like a post-hibernation teddy bear, he instructs a roomful of Lesbians how to behave in a Castro Street boutique. This includes a high scream upon finding a sweater to die for, a swish bit with the hands, an attempt at hisping slightly, and overcharging for everything that strikes your fancy. Can you imagine the resulting scene? Dozens of women just out of Amelia's practicing a good-

nated Nelly act and having the time of their lives.

THE ORIGINALS

You cannot talk about Gay comedy in San Francisco without discussing the all-time champions: Jose and Michelle from the old school, supposedly, whose popularity today is greater than ever. Drag? To be sure. Camp? You better believe it. Still funny? Uproarious. Theirs is the humor of survival.

Listen to Michelle's monologue on being arrested 30 years ago at the old Black Cat for impersonating a woman; on being carried off in the paddy wagon with a melange of screaming queens; on spending the night in disintegrating regalia in the drunk tank where anything could happen; and on finishing up in the morning with the judge, who says, "And I suppose I won't be seeing you again." Michelle answers, "Well, I really don't know, Your Honor. You just might if I get a new dress."

Then consider the triumphant present-day Michelle at the opening of *La Cage aux Folles* in a glimmering, glittery, white creation with a three-foot train that outdid anything on stage. "Don't you love this gown? It took me seven years to get the thing right," he says. "Isn't it

amazing what you can do with toilet seat covers?"

In addition, there is another veteran who does great comedy bits, often overshadowed by his other talents. Between musical numbers, David Kelsey will launch into his version of two men leaving the checkout stand at Safeway. One is trying to explain to the other how he managed to end up with a box of jumbo size Kotex in the shopping bag: "Well, er, I don't know. Somebody must have slipped it in when I wasn't looking. But they're great for, er, washing the windshield. Really!" Just listen to him for timeless, affirmative, Gay humor sandwiched in between the songs, the organ, and the pizzazz of Pure Trash.

TRUTH OF THE MATTER

The new Gay comedy particularly stresses the up-beat, and in our own terms: "Don't get down on yourself. It's more fun if you let somebody else do it for you." And finally, the humor that works is Valid Gay Humor, like the remark from The Enclave: "I guess I don't mind too much being rejected in a Gay bar. But what I do mind is being rejected by someone I didn't want in the first place."

It comes from telling the truth about ourselves and making that truth funny. Woolly ■

G.S.L. UPDATE

Switch Hitters Ball, Playoffs Saturday

Starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, the players, fans, and friends of the Gay Softball League will be in for a good time.

First, the playoffs begin when Moby Dick takes on the Kokpit, and the Village locks horns with the Rawhide. It is a best two out of three tournament, with games being played at Lang Field.

During the regular season, Moby Dick thumped the Kokpit 10-2, and the Village came back to edge an injury-riddled Rawhide 9-6. All four teams can hit with the best of them, so it looks as if defense will decide the outcome of the prelims.

Later in the day, 7 p.m. to be exact, the fabulous Switch Hitters Ball will be held at California Club, 1750 Clay, between Polk and Van Ness. Admission is \$10, with half the door proceeds going to the Shanti Project.

For those of you who do not know about the Switch Hitters Ball, it's a contest between GSL members, who start out in their uniforms and then are transformed into men or women. The novel twist is that each contestant can perform a musical number of their choice. It is one

of those "only in San Francisco" happenings. Don't miss it!

Seeing that scores don't mean as much as the GSL finished regular season play, this is what happened last Sunday: The Phone Booth over the Rookies; Pendulum downed the Kokpit; Ambush did just that to the Village; DeLuxe surprised the Cafe Sn. Marcos; Rawhide defeated the Vagabond; Moby Dick came back to win over the Pilsner Inn; and Googie's edged Chaps in extra innings.

FINAL STANDINGS

Cable Car Division		
Ambush	14	0
Pendulum	13	1
Moby Dick	12	2
Rawhide	10	4
Chaps	6	8
DeLuxe	5	9
Phone Booth	4	10
Golden Gate Division		
Village	10	4
Kokpit	8	6
Pilsner Inn	6	8
Googie's	6	8
Vagabond	5	9
Cafe Sn. Marcos	4	10
Trax	2	12
Rookies	0	14

(Continued from previous page)

some healthy players, Everett's is in a dead heat for the first place of the Julie Jordan Division with Hot & Hunky.

If there was an All-Star for the day, my pick was Everett's Manny Simmons. Manny, who has been in the league since his infancy, has always been a great player, but this year he is outdoing himself both in hitting and defense. In Sunday's action, Manny went 7 for 7 and played great defensive ball. The Stats people informed me that Manny is in contention to take the batting title this year. The defensive play of the day also was performed by Everett's player Joey Baretta, who hailed a shot to first baseman Joe Hollomon, who in turn threw a bullet to catcher Doug Wade, ending the inning with the bases loaded. The other super player in both hitting and defense was handsome Joley Tardiff.

The "You Can Do This to Me" award must go to feisty 1983 All-Star Ted Bailey of the Cinch. After using some peppy language against the City Ump., Bailey was thrown out of the game, then out of the park, and finally out of the league. I mention this to let Ted know that an over-zealous umpire from the city cannot throw you out of the CSL. What was it you called him again?

Good luck to the six finalists

in our sister league, the GSL, in its playoffs, especially to our friends on the Ambush and Kokpit teams.

CSL SCOREBOARD

Slow Rush	14	Hot & Hunky	13
Bunkhouse	12	Rainbow	7
Hot & Hunky	10	Rockin Robin	8
Everett's	12	Nap's	7
Rockin Robin	6	Force	2
Everett's	16	Jack's	8
Force	5	Cinch	0

STANDINGS

Julie Jordan Division		
Everett's	11	5
Hot & Hunky	11	5
Slow Rush	8	8
Jack's Happy Daze	6	9
Nap's Peacock	5	10
Bill Chapman Division		
Bunkhouse *	11	5
Rainbow/BATS	8	8
The Force	7	9
The Cinch	6	9
Rockin Robin	5	10

* Division Champions

August 5 games will be played at Balboa Park:
12 p.m. - Slow @ Hot & Hunky; Force @ Rainbow/BATS
1:30 p.m. - Nap's @ Cinch; Rockin Robin @ Bunkhouse
3 p.m. - Jack's @ Cinch; Nap's @ Hot & Hunky

R. Soto

High Gear

Stretches Lead

High Gear continued to pull away from the rest of the pack in the Wednesday Night League at Japantown Bowl.

Backed by Michael Carris, 209-554, R. McMullen, 192-536, and Ken McMullen, 198-543, the High Gear boys were not to be denied their 4 and 0 victory over Team 10, who also rolled respectively with Dan Franceschi, 193-513, and Michael Bulawit, 189-501, in a losing cause.

Damaged Goods ran into **THING!!!** with not enough men to fill a team, and consequently had to forfeit all four points. With Dennis Harsh leading the way with a 182-503 backed by Bob Luha's 180 tally, one wonders if the score would have been any different. With this victory, **THING!!!** now occupies second place and is within striking distance of the leaders.

Stud City and the Late Nite Rollers battled to a 2 and 2 standoff. R. Dwaileebe's 489 was tops for the Studs as Sharon Barrows tossed a nifty 173 for the Rollers.

Team No. 1 polished off the Carolina Gamecocks 3 to 1 behind Tom Redding's 224-515, Bob Johnston's 184-514, and a fine solid backing by the rest of the team. Team No. 1 has the potential and power to knock off any other foe in its way, and will surely have to be dealt with in the weeks to come.

Jim Barnes' blistering 243-214-612 took top individual honors for the week. Backed by Clarence Nora's 186-185-540, the 3 Budha's + 2 locked down the Kokpit 3 to 1.

Dan Burley rolled a 196-504 for the Ball Buddies, which was all they needed to post a 3 and 1 mark over the hapless cellar-dwelling CB's, who had only Jerry Smith's 180 to show for the evening, staving off a shutout.

The Pilsner Vultures knocked off the Lucky Strikes 3 to 1 behind Steve Tuttle's 184 and Tom Begano's 180 lines.

The Taco Tycoons zipped over the 500 mark for the first time this year with a 4 and 0 trouncing of the Pinheads II. Using their 55-pin handicap, Ed Porter's 186, and over-average bowling from the rest of their mates, the Tycoons were not to be denied. In losing, the Pinheads II crept to within the league cellar by a point and a half.

In the final match of the night, Sticky Buns drew the blind, but David Moody's 191 line, with teammates rolling average, pushed the team over the 500 mark for the season.

STANDINGS

1. High Gear	28	8
2. THING!!!	24 1/2	11 1/2
3. Late-Nite Rollers	23	13
4. Number 10	21	15
5. 3 Budha's + 2	21	15
6. Carolina Gamecocks	21	15
7. Pilsner Vultures	20	16
8. Damaged Goods	20	16
9. Number 1	19	17
10. Kokpit	19	17
11. Sticky Buns	19	17
12. Taco Tycoons	19	17
13. Stud City	18	18
14. Lucky Strikes	14	22
15. Ball Buddies	13	23
16. Pinheads II	11	25
17. CB's	9 1/2	26 1/2

B. Luha

TGWEDNESDAYNBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Look Back With Pride

How many of you know which TGWNBL team won the Tavern Guild Perpetual Trophy back in the Winter of 1982/83? For that matter, how many of you know which team currently possesses this prestigious prize? Well, to enlighten those of you who may be in doubt, and to provide a bit of nostalgia for those of you who aren't, here are a few historic facts over which to reminisce.

After 23 weeks of bowling, the Pin Pals took first place for the Winter '82/83 Season with a 45-24 ratio (69 games). The High Scratch Game was achieved by Adrian Stenson (PWIL) with a marvelous 262.

The 1983 Summer Season was the first one in which we used the fourth point total pin system, and I must admit, serious doubts were expressed as to its applicability, but, happily, it has proven to be an interesting innovation. Anyway, PWIL, One! and PWIL, Too! came in first and second respectively, with 66 1/2 - 25 1/2 and 59 1/2 - 32 1/2. Lowell Hills of the PWIL, Too! team took the HSG with his soaring 267.

This past '83/84 Winter Season, the dynamic Japantown Bowling Bombers ended the season with a four-game lead (64-28) over its nearest competitor, The Pilsner I (60-32), and were awarded the coveted Tavern Guild Perpetual Trophy. Not to be ignored, John Rogowski of the magnificent Park Bowl team bowled the seasonal HSG with an astonishing 269, a league high for the past three seasons that is still holding.

This brings us up to the current summer bowling season, in which some pretty extraordinary things are also happening — not the least of which is the number of games bowled by the 200+ers.

200+ Games for 7/25/84

Bob Mack (Park Bowl)	(657 series)	212	213	232
Ron Squires (Trojan Ends)	(600 series)	228		
Tom Sipple (Japantown Bowl)	(608 series)	212	227	
Andres Colon (Park Bowl)		214		
Rob Mallin (Pilsner Potlickers)		208		
Morgan Chase (Pilsner Potlickers)		208		
J.C. Halstead (Sweet Inspiration)		207		
Bob Rolison (Pilsner II)		201	205	
Pat Conlon (Pilsner #1)		203		

Three 600+ series in one night. Unheard of in the TGWNBL! That is, until July 25, 1984. The skill you guys demonstrate adds something very exciting to the already vibrant TGWNBL personality. Don't stop now! — It's just starting to feel good.



Winter '82/'83 TGWNBL champs, Pin Pals, receiving a trophy. (Photo: Rink)

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES			
TEAM STANDINGS			
TG MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 14 of 25 - as of 7/23/84) League Average: 706		4. Pilsner Potlickers 38 22 5. Stallion Stampede 38 22 6. Play With It, Ltd. 36 24 7. Cafe San Marcos 36 24 8. Anonymity Reigns 36 24 9. Japantown Bowl 34 1/2 25 1/2 10. Grady's 31 1/2 28 1/2 11. S.F. Eagle 31 29 12. DK's Unmtnbbls 30 30 13. Trojan Ends 26 34 14. Pilsner II 25 1/2 34 1/2 15. Wdsly Shows 25 35 16. Gay Sports 25 35 17. Pendulum 24 36 18. Scenic Hwyway Tours 23 37 19. Sweet Inspiration 22 38 20. Hr Tdy Gn Tmrw 21 1/2 38 1/2 21. Alley Cats 20 40 22. Animals 17 43	
TB WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 15 of 24 - as of 7/25/84) League Average: 742		1. Queen Mary's Pub 35 17 2. Park Bowl 34 18 3. Four Winds 32 20 4. Alamo Sq Saloon #1 32 20 5. Pig Pigs 30 22	
29. Park Bowl 41 1/2 18 1/2 30. Pilsner #1 40 20 31. Pilsner Pts Sisters 38 1/2 21 1/2		Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.	

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BITCH IN HEAT

Family Feud

Hi, Sissies, Hi! Oh God. The kids are fighting again. I told you we should have never had children. How's a lady supposed to do her nails in all this racket? A mother's work is never done. These kids are throwing a hissy-fit. Tatting on their Sisters:

"Momma, Momma, the Sisters are on TV cuttin' the fool again! Wearin' those nuns' dresses again! We saw 'em! Tell 'em to stop, Momma!"

"You shoulda seen 'em, Momma, on Good Morning America and everything. They're embarrassing the whole family. I can't go to school. All the other kids are pokin' fun, and a threat to the Gay movement. America has seen enough of you. Every time you are on television or your picture is in the newspapers, a false and bizarre stereotype of Gay men and Lesbians is reinforced to people across the country."

"The Gay movement does not need that... Our goal is to show people that Gays are just ed Life in all the wrong order. Mary-Louise is just positive that if we unmix the time-sequence, Joe will see why he isn't making any sense."

Now, to listen to Joe tell it, IN THE BEGINNING (they always put it in big letters there in "Genesis") the heavens were without form and void and darkness was upon the face of



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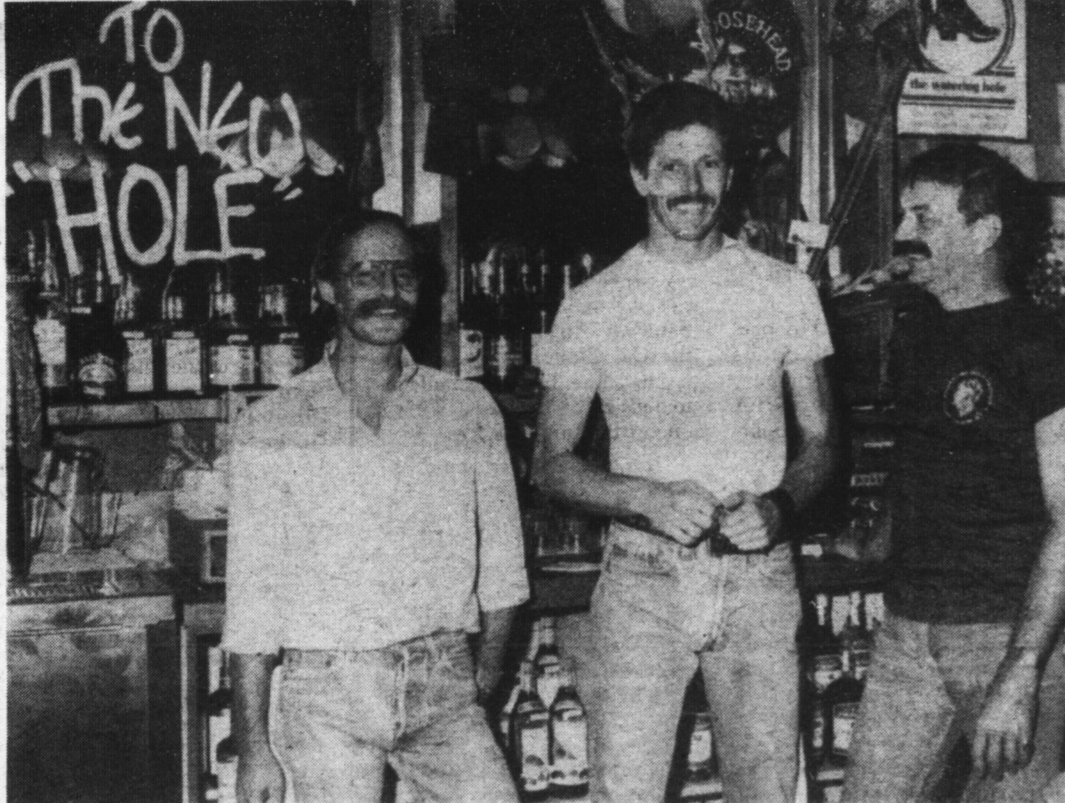
Field reporters are returning with stories of frolic from Sonora. The Barbary Coaster run, "Tara, Tara, Tara," seems to be the biggest hit of the run season so far. The show was a critical success for director Gene Forest. Apparently, Michael Gill has taken his place among famous "Prissies" with a transforming version of "I need that kind of loving." Other starring roles were played by Larry Valasquez, "Mammy," who dropped his kitch duties of feeding a few less than 280 — nearly 100 more than expected — to render "You got da wrong keyhole." Robotom as "Scarlet" brought the house down with his version of a dying "butterfly." I won't even try to recap the plot.

Saturday, cocktails held a lot of the guests, beginning with The Grand Duke and Duchess hosting smart cocktails, and ending with Sable posing mid-stream for photos. In between, The Imperial Guard erected a full scale set of "Tara," with Marlana playing Scarlet. The SFGDI and the 42nd Street Gang vied as Jonnie's "Tara's Garden," serving peach punch and the 42nd production of "Gone with the Wind Gone to Tokyo" with Bobby Wong attacked by a dive bomber. The new kids on the block, The Cal Eagles, even turned out a great comic "Madam Butterfly." The club is celebrating a recent decision making the Eagle its

home bar where its colors fly next to the DJ booth. The Eagle's Kamikazes were deadly, as were the Constantines.

During guest night, Miss Piggy was the big hit. Her wry humor has kept things in perspective all year.

Middle Folsom is a veritable tidepool of activity these days. The Wateringhole moved to new quarters Friday in the street level of the Globe Hotel, a magical place where the legendary Red Star Saloon once stood. This hallowed ground looks like it's going to be gold for Bryan Todd and Bob Marrel. The accolades came from every direction: The Wateringhole's own bartender, Norman, created a huge "Red Star" in flowers, reflecting the graphic of the pin which Bryan handed out that evening. One of Bob's "old" friends, H. L. Perry, quipped with luminaries such as Lenny Mollet and his manager Richard. Remember RR Lodge owners Sam and Jim? It's Sam and partner Lee who finished the tasty western interior. Another of Bob's buddies, Bob Eddgel, "lie d" him early on. This four day festival of friendship was all catered by Wortman and Steven's Happy Chefs. Dan brought a New Bell tradition to So/M when he started the tiffany-style chandelier swings: Earthquake, Gordon Colquitt, with his huge black muscled chest, consorted with Jim Bergman, and the whole weekend



Welcome to the New Hole. Little John (L.), Big John, and Bryon, manager of the New Watering Hole, are ready to greet customers. (Photo: Rink)

seemed somehow suspended on the planet "Party."

This is just a sample of the revitalization of that neck of the Folsom: JC Corbett has completely turned the old Ramrod around. Something to be said for mega-personalities. JC started bartending last Wednesday amid the biggest All Candidates night yet for the Grand Ducks' race. DJ Bill Young is also making things spin faster at the Ramrod.

This vital party atmosphere is matched stroke for stroke by the SF Triangle, which celebrated its grand opening last week also. Manager David Birch is a big furry teddy bear, and stands ready to serve up some fun for all. Owner Bob Freir had to make some big concessions to reinstate the liquor license — the huge basement is permanently locked. No more uncut inspections. Stop by the Triangle at Eighth Street near Howard and drink with bartenders Danny Armas and Michael.

The Eagle's handy barback, Billy Carter, celebrated his birthday last week. Among the gifts came a special pair of engineer boots from Ron, Stella and Butch. They belonged to Billy's close friend Dennis Yount. We hear Carter's been wearing 'em to bed.

August 8 will bring goodies: Read Gilmore, owner of The Fox and Castle Grande, will appear on Gay Cable 6 at 10 p.m. in an interview by his old school chum Sharon McNight. This segment will also air on Castro

Video Kiosk (CBMG).

Can we talk? Chuck Slaton is so pleased with the performance of his Chaps crew that he treated them all to an evening at La Cage aux Folles. In their stead, David Stoll and Butch Freeman raised hell that evening, and generally gave the bar away. August 8 is the Chaps anniversary, and that week will be full. Monday is a bartender's bash, with food and man-meat to eat. Wednesday is the main celebration, and Friday features a Daddy's Contest at 9 p.m. (Apply at the bar.) Sunday, you'll be able to party with the winners. Both are to benefit the SF AIDS Fund.

Justin and Randall have "made nest" in the Castro, and are doing some "Fine Tailoring," using both leather (chaps, pants, shirts, etc.) and cloth. Call Justin at 621-2554 for an appointment to see some of his wares.

Kip and Joe Costello met and tricked around five years ago. The truth of that encounter has finally come to light. It seems Joe, in the heat of passion, reached under Kip's bed and in to the nearest pot his hand could reach. Kip was shitting cordovan shoe polish for weeks. Now you know the real meaning of that hanky in his pocket.

HELLCATS AND HALOS

It seems the CMC is responsible for the resignation of the homophobic director of Off Road Vehicle Recreation Areas.

This fellow wasn't gonna let them nasty queers in His park. However, with Senator Milton Marks on the horn with Prez David Sarathain, things quickly changed. We remember our friend!!!

The CMC added two fledglings to its ranks: Michael Bowman, candidate for Grand-Duck, and Ando Merendi have turned in the tacky goldenrod leather for the true blues. The CMC is hosting the only "official" apre-bell celebration, after the new Duke and Duchess are crowned Saturday, August 11. Party starts at midnight at The Village.

Warlock MC's head priest Jim Halton announced the club's pre-run open meeting tomorrow, Friday, August 3, at The Eagle, beginning at 8 p.m.

August 4, Saturday, The Constantines are headed for Half Moon Bay on a bike trip. This is a one day, no fee, just-for-fun-trip meeting at The Ramrod at 10 a.m. A safety forum will follow the club's return to the SF Eagle, from 4 to 6 p.m. That club also invites you to join it on its run, Kumoniwanalaya III, August 17-19. \$60 includes five meals, booze, the usual events, guest night, and campsite/costume awards. Write to P.O. Box 4964, SF, CA 94101, or drop by the Eagle or Ramrod for an application.

The LA MC Satyr's Labor Day run to Badger Flat, near

(Continued on next page)



The chow line at the Eagle Beer Bust last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

Fresno, is accessible enough for you to attend: Write to P.O. Box 1137, LA, CA 90078.

The Brig will soon hang The 15 Association's colors again. The club and friends will gather Sunday, August 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. to witness the blessed event. You remember, someone stole the last set.

The Golden Gate Troopers bid a tearful farewell to its founder John "Super Trooper" Clifton, who is moving to the LA area, following career opportunities. Perhaps he'll join the Black and Tan there. They, too, give good parties!

The Imperial Guard is one of those groups who clear straddle The Slot. They are a fraternal brotherhood that functions to serve So/M and the Imperial Family. Join them in a beer bust this Sunday, August 5, from 3 to 6 p.m. for just \$6. This includes food and lotsa nice bodies to oggle over.

Mentioned the California Eagle earlier. Al Bell, its Prez, tells me it is formed to be a long distance club. Not only to see who can "shoot" the farthest, but eventually to create a Grand Tour by bike to the East Coast. They plan this 30-day trip next summer. Says Al, "We're here to bring some fun into the MC scene."

In the butch world of Gay Sports, the Kokpit's Kokfighters are in the finals of the Gay Softball League. Their friends gathered last Sunday for a rousing auction by Ron Ross and Mark Brown. The group somehow managed to raise more than

2,000 clams toward a trip to Tulsa for a tourney. Ross sold everything from tortured plants to Char's stepping-down gown. A raffle for \$100 was won by little Eugene, who is the Second Baseman's lover. Keep it in the family.

Those teams are a tight knit family, too. You can find out by attending the GSL's big fundraiser, "Switch Hitter's Ball," Saturday, August 4, at 7 p.m. at the Cal Club. Each team appoints a member to be made in to a vision of loveliness. This is one of the fun ones.

SFGDI's Parkay, and the CMC's Bruce Herralson, are Mr. & Miss SFGAY this year. They are investing their household, Friday, August 3 at Hungarian Hall (yes, they have one too) 1052 Geary near Polk. The dubbing begins at 8 p.m., and a \$5 donation is required.

Have you noted: Grand Duke Ken and Remy are BC MC's, Emperor Rich is a Coit... half of the GD Candidates are Club members!!!

Speaking of Ducklings: see the calendar for candidate parties and all candidate meets. The Grand Ducal hall will be at Japantown Theatre this year on August 11 at 8 p.m. The Theme: Harlequins. Jesters, Mimes and Clowns doesn't reflect the serious and wonderful work Ken and Sable have done this year. Everyone in town will want to pay homage to them that night. No clowning around.

Stay sassy. See ya' in the skins!

K. Stewart



Billy Preston at the Leather Weekend at The Woods with friends Jerry Keller (c.), Mark Abramson (r.), who organized the event, and Mary Clayton of Rolling Stones fame. (Photo: Robert Pruzan)

BITCH

The worst. Oh, don't blame me. The truth isn't pretty.

You know, sometimes it seems to Mary-Louise that the more obvious a thing is, the harder it is for some folks to see it. Have you been on a city bus lately? What's the worst thing a school kid can call another school kid? Well? You know the words they use. And you know what they mean.

It's 1984 on the Planet Earth and to be a Fag is to be the worst thing there is. And guess what? We're the Fags.

And now you want to blame that on the Sisters. Well, you know what? Go ahead and do it. But when you do it, know what you're doing. Know that you are doing the same thing all those straight pigs are doing when they beat us up, shut us up, push us out, and put us down. You're trashing Gay people. And there's no excuse for that, brother, no excuse at all.

Now, the way Mary-Louise sees it, there's two ways we can play this game. We can make all the straight people love us. That's what Joe Baker wants to do. Way I figure it, that will take about 17 million years.

Of course, we'll have to shut up everybody who is an "embarrassment" to achieve that. Gee. Seems to me everybody is embarrassing, sometimes, to somebody else. I wonder, when Joe is done shutting up the Sisters, who will be the next to go? Oh well. I'll let Joe explain that one.

There's another way to play the game. That is for Gay people to love each other. We could do that today.

It's simple. But it's not easy. Those are two different things. Everybody grows up being taught to hate Fags — even Fags. Especially Fags. We've got an extra reason to pay attention when those lessons are taught. We have learned those lessons too well.

But we could do it. We could start to love each other right now. And it wouldn't depend on NBC, CBS, CNN, or ABC, and even the FBI and the CIA couldn't stop us. Fags loving Fags. Just imagine it.

But we'd have to give up wanting to be straight first.

And that's something most of us just can't let go of, isn't it? Bye, Sissies. Bye.

B. Jones

SWEETLIPS SEZ

Birthday Balls

DICK WALTERS

Don't forget the Switch Hitters Ball this Saturday night at 7 p.m. sharp at the California Club. Tickets are only \$10 and half goes to the Shanti Project. Wait till you see this year's fabulous performance by Googie's softball team — right Ed?

The Circle J Cinema on Jones Street is still one of the most popular video houses to go to and find some great films (?). Nice to see you there working at night, Lon.

Howard, of Googie's, has a houseguest from Atlanta who has been spending a lot of time with Tom Wessner of the Elephant Walk. How come you didn't get Tom into the bar to buy a drink the other day, Phillip?

Understand that the popular and oldest Gay bar in the city — The Club Dori — has been sold, and will become a straight bar and restaurant now. We'll miss you out on Presidio, George and June, but hope that we see Ed and Marlow around town.

Chuckles is now the night bartender at Googie's on Wednesday through Sundays. If you are lucky you'll find his handsome Nicky sitting at the bar, so come on down and join them in a libation.

Bob Golvich, is it true that your new bar is going to be called The Chicken Coop? Heard it from Dolly Dale. Welcome back home, Stark. We had to babysit Dolly and Trouble while you were back home. Hope everyone is OK back there.

Happy belated 50th Birthday to Jack (Nooch) as of Wednesday the 1st. Did you like your little surprise party?

The one and only Darryl Glied will be the new night bartender at the Hob Nob starting this Sunday. Yes, he has left the Land's End and is back down working the same street as Rome. How are things at the Gold Room, Rome?

We would like to welcome JC Corbett back to the Ramrod on Folsom Street. We know you'll bring the Ramrod back to its former glory, isn't that right, Art

York? So let us know what your big plans are for the Ramrod, JC. We truly are interested.

Hope you all enjoyed the opening session of the Olympic Games as much as I did. I think we can be proud of all the athletes with the great performance they put on — Buzzy Berkley spectacular if there ever was one.

Kimo's dance bar is doing a great business late at night with some great dancers, so why not stop in and try it. Besides, they serve some great Hawaiian drinks with some great bartenders.

Carlos keeps the energy going after the bands stop on Sundays, and during his solo performances on Saturday nights at El Rio.

Sports Note: The El Rio Tartarugas (Turtles) are bar-tuging big at Japantown Bowl on Tuesdays, where they are tied for first place.

Happy belated birthday to Edna Mae from Blanche of Portland. We hope you enjoyed your Mexican vacation. Nice to see Ron & Lance here this weekend.

Boxing Club

Have you ever had any interest in boxing on any level — as an additional exercise, recreation, as a means of learning to defend yourself, or just for fun? For Gays and Lesbians who are

interested in any aspect of the boxing world, a boxing club is now being formed for residents of the Bay Area. Developing endurance, working out, training, and organizing will be offered.

If you are interested, please call A-1 Rick Plumbing and Construction at 347-2246 or 457-4229.

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, August 2: Barnum & Butterly, Black Rose, 8 p.m. benefit to GD Coronation, auction, raffle, entertainment and pie throwing. GD Leonard, Chaps, 8 p.m.

Friday, August 3: Warlock's Open Meeting, SF Eagle, 8 p.m.

An Evening with Friends, Investiture of Mr. and Miss Gay SF, Hungarian Hall, 1052 Geary near Polk, 8 p.m., \$5.

House Cleaning, Kimo's, an after-ball affair in honor of Bruce and Parkay. GD Leonard, Febe's, 10 p.m.

Saturday, August 4: Constantine Road Trip, check in Ramrod, 10 a.m., destination: Half Moon Bay. Safety Forum, SF Eagle, 4 to 6 p.m. GD Michael Bowman, Stallion, 2 to 6 p.m.

GD Leonard, Polk Gulch, 2 to 4 p.m.

Third Annual Switch Hitters' Ball, GSL, Cal Hall, Clay near Polk, 7 p.m., \$10. Benefit for Shanti.

Sunday, August 5: GD Michael Bowman, New Bell Saloon, 2 to 6 p.m.

Imperial Guard, SF Eagle Patio, beer bust, \$6. Includes food. 3 to 6 p.m.

GD Trixie Trash, Kimo's, 4 p.m.

GD Leonard, Mint, 4 to 6 p.m. and Highway (Church St. Station) 8 p.m.

Monday, August 6: Open Court Meeting, Kokpit, 7:30 p.m. Mid-reign meeting.

Bartenders' Bash, Chaps, 8 p.m. Food. Open to the public.

GD Leonard, Foghorn, 8 p.m.

GD Michael Bowman, 222 Club, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 7: Gay Pioneer History Project, Valencia Rose, 8 p.m., \$4. "Fairies, Pogs and Christian Brothers."

GD Sandra Sorrelles, Casa Loma, 8 p.m.

GD Michael Bowman, Men's Room, 8 p.m.

GD Leonard, Eagle Creek, 6 to 8 p.m. and Loading Zone, 9 p.m.

Wednesday, August 8: Chaps Anniversary, 8 p.m., entertainment.

All Candidates Night, Grand Ducal Council, Men's Room, 8 p.m. Tickets to ball on sale at 7 p.m.

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A NEWS ANALYSIS

Do Anti-Gay Police Belong on Gay Cases?

*Polk St. Murder Investigator
Condemns Gays in Column*

by Allen White

The homicide inspector assigned to investigate the "fag-bashing" murder of John O'Connell is an endorser of a column which denounces Gays published this month in the police newspaper.

In a column signed by Inspector Ed Erdelantz and five others, the Cops for Christ attack police hiring of Gays, Gay sensitivity training for police, and indicate that Gays belong in prison. They attack the appointment of the Rev. Jim Sandmire of Metropolitan Community Church as a police chaplain, saying it "humiliated" the police and is an "embarrassment." (For text of column, see adjacent box.)

Investigators are hoping for a break soon in the O'Connell case, and no one close to the case has questioned Erdelantz's official conduct. But the condemnation of Gays by a police officer

assigned to a Gay-related murder has raised questions of appropriateness. Should anti-Gay cops work on fag-bashing cases where cooperation from the Gay community is important?

That question comes amidst a wider context. Erdelantz and other "Cops for Christ" are becoming more public and vocal in their denunciation of Gays. Not only newspaper columns, but public speeches — like one scheduled next week in San Diego — are being used by the Cops for Christ to publicly condemn San Francisco Gays, including Gay and Lesbian police officers.

Among those calling for a review of police assignment policy is Supervisor Richard Hongisto. Hongisto is the former San Francisco Sheriff and himself was once a police officer.

Aware of the homophobic column, Hongisto said he plans to discuss with Police Chief Con Murphy the subject of how officers are assigned to sensitive

★ ★ ★
**Police Arrest One
Suspect; Three Flee**

LATE BULLETIN - San Francisco police announced late yesterday they had arrested one of the four young men they believe attacked John O'Connell July 29 on California Street near Polk. O'Connell later died of head injuries.

Lawrence Wilson, attorney for the police department, said the suspect was arrested in Vallejo, where all four lived. The other three fled toward Oregon and were being trailed by police late Wednesday.

★ ★ ★

Contradicts Court Order

Immigration Makes New Push To Keep Gays Out of the U.S.

*'You Cannot Be Allowed Into the U.S. If You
Are Homosexual,' Says Border Brochure*

by George Mendenhall

The federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is defying a decision in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and demanding that all visitors, students, immigrants, and others entering the United States declare if they are homosexual.

The court ruled in the *Carl Hill v. INS* case earlier this year that a person cannot be denied admission on homosexual grounds unless the person has had a certificate from the Public Health Service declaring that he or she is Gay.

Since the Public Health Service refused to issue such certificates, even openly Gay people were to be admitted — until the last few weeks.



Split Inning. Who's on First? Augusta Wind — one of the softballers at the Switch Hitters Ball, where everybody scored. Allen White touches all the bases on page 3. (Photo: Rink)

he's
back!
Mr. Marcus
On Page 29



Berkeley Schools Okay First Partners Plan

by John Wetzel

Breaking suit with the City Council, the Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA) party-dominated Berkeley School Board last week passed for its employees the very same "live-in lovers" plan that the City Council had delayed a week before. The vote was 5-0 with one abstention.

The School Board approved the very same document the council voted to delay, in fact, noting only that references to the "City of Berkeley" be abridged for the "Berkeley School System." The board will conduct a second vote on a finalized draft of the plan on September 18, which is a formality, according to sponsoring director Ethel Manheimer.

The board hopes the Aug. 1 vote will serve to equalize pay status between marrieds and unmarrieds. The plan was basically designed by Berkeley's Human Relations and Welfare Commission (HRWC) to address salary inequities toward Lesbians and Gays who pay into the system but get no returns in fringe benefits because they cannot legally marry.

The plan automatically qualifies registered couples for all job benefits previously offered to married couples only. The policy is the first public record drafted anywhere in the United

States to take Gay and Lesbian relationships into account. It also provides for the only publicly chartered registry for same-gender couples anywhere in the world.

Similar forms of this policy have, in other cities, been attacked as destructive of the institution of marriage. It has been opposed by religious leaders and by right-wing activists in San Francisco and elsewhere. But the majority on the Berkeley board cited equity and fairness in their decision to go ahead with

(Continued on page 17)

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The band played on in memory of its founder, Jon Sims, at mammoth Grace Cathedral event p. 11

Falwell denies saying MCC'ers are 'brute beasts' — but it's there on videotape p. 15

Reclaiming the Gay share of Paris literary solon society in the 1930s — Mike Hippler interviews Sam Steward . . . p. 20

(Continued on page 2)