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Somnolent Serenade. Who'll get to these guys first — the fat lady or the sandman? Both vie for the lead during Opera in the Park. (Photo: Rink)

Mayor Says 'No' to Gay Benefits Plan

Feinstein Rejects Year-Long Study Before It Is Formally Presented

by George Mendenhall and Brian Jones

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has angered a group of Gay leaders and others she hand-picked to advise her on a "domestic partners" health benefits plan. The mayor last week rejected the task force's study, which took more than a year, even before the report was formally presented to her.

Feinstein said the panel had strayed too far from its original mandate. The mayor said she wanted a feasibility study for extending health benefits to any one "designated beneficiary" of a city worker. Currently, only married partners and minor children of city workers qualify for most city-sponsored health plans.



Herb Donaldson (Photo: Rink)

But the panel, early in its work, found such an approach to be so broad it would "bankrupt the bank." Instead, the panel shifted its focus to extending health benefits only to the domestic partners — "live-in lovers" — of Gay and Lesbian city workers.

Feinstein rejected that notion emphatically.

Municipal Judge Herb Donaldson said this week, "I thought the mayor would be objective enough to give careful consideration to the proposition and, if necessary, refer it to the Health Services Board and get their commentary and recommendation. I firmly believe that the hard work the members of the mayor's Health Benefits Task Force put in on this report should not have been dismissed out of hand."

The judge, chair of Feinstein's group, expressed his disappointment of her emphatic rejection of the final report. Her task force recommended that the 7-member Health Services Board administratively expand the health beneficiaries of city employees to include Lesbians and Gay men. The 7-member Health Board is the only regulating body over the health sys-

tem under the City Charter. It is now questionable that the board will even consider the matter, without Feinstein passing the report to it for consideration.

In December 1982, Feinstein vetoed "domestic partners" legislation which had been passed by the Board of Supervisors. The legislation, authored by Supervisor Harry Britt, included straight as well as Gay partners. The mayor's veto set off a City Hall protest demonstration and march. The Feinstein veto was opposed by her Lesbian and Gay city commissioners. But it soon became evident that Britt did not have the necessary votes to override the veto.

The supervisor later announced that he was proposing revised legislation but the votes on the board were not there, so the matter was shelved. The mayor

(Continued on page 2)

John Molinari Fights for the Lead

After 13 Years in City Hall He's Close to Winning Top Spot

ED. NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles on candidates for Board of Supervisors in the Nov. 6 election. In future issues, profiles of the other incumbents up for reelection, and profiles of the three openly Gay challengers, will appear.

by Allen White

The 1984 race of Supervisor John Molinari is the campaign of a winner. His candidacy is well-financed and has a broad base of support across the city.

To date, he has raised over a quarter of a million dollars. The money comes in contributions that mirror his constituency. He boasts a \$5 contribution from a person in the Mission while just minutes before he learned of a North Beach supporter who raised \$5,000. Political endorsements are coming in from all over the city and he has received assurances of support from virtually every community in the city.



John Molinari

The goal is not only to win, but to win big enough. The prize is the next presidency of the Board of Supervisors. That prize goes to the top vote-getter, and the person to beat is Quentin Kopp.

By assignments to committees and other actions that go with the office, the board president will shape many of the policies of San Francisco for the next two years. Molinari says he is distinct from Kopp. "For too long, Kopp has relied upon some perceptions that are not accurate. Many people are beginning to realize he is not what he appears to be," Molinari said.

Kopp has gotten a fair share of the Black vote in past years. This year, Molinari plans to attack Kopp's record on issues important to the Black community.

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

An openly Gay Methodist minister reflects on his church's rejection of Gay clergy. Guest column . . . p. 7

Shanti Project volunteers and staff are on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic. Mike Hippler reports p. 13

Hollywood Gay beauty pageant runs into its own version of the Miss America scandal — when the study winner is booted for being straight. But is he? Allen White . . . p. 19

Steve Warren explains it all to you, or is it Cloris Leachman explaining "Sister Mary Ignatius" explaining it all to you? p. 22

Paul Trefzger is back in the gyms — this time, going beyond the plate glass window at the Muscle System's two locations p. 29

Judge Says Catholic Agencies May Bar Gay Workers in NYC

Anti-Bias Order Declared Unconstitutional; Ruling Could Block Other Job-Rights Provisos

by George Mendenhall

New York City Mayor Ed Koch's order barring city-funded agencies from discriminating against Gay people has been declared unconstitutional. The ruling, by New York State Supreme Court Justice Alvin Klein, also calls into question an earlier Koch order barring discrimination within city government. The ruling also threatens executive orders protecting Gay job rights in other cities in New York State, as well as a statewide order. Koch said he will appeal Klein's ruling.

(Continued on page 3)

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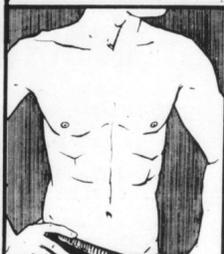
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Mayor Rejects Gay Benefits

(Continued from page 1)

had promised that she would appoint a task force to study the problem, and did so some months later — after being reminded of her promise.

The task force met for one year and then held up reporting to the mayor until after the Democratic Convention and summer vacations concluded. Donaldson, a political supporter of Feinstein in the past, was clearly disturbed over the mayor's refusal to pass the matter on to the city's Health Services Board. He declined to be present to give the mayor the final report.

TASK FORCE LOGIC

The task force took a direction which it felt was the only feasible, pragmatic solution. The mayor complained that her group ignored what she had told them she wanted in her original mandate. Feinstein stressed that when she called for the members to "explore the feasibility of covering any designated beneficiary of a city employee under the city's Health Service System," she meant that they were to include "a handicapped relative, an aged parent, or a dependent other than a marriage partner — as is done in the armed services."

The task force concluded that "any" also allowed for the possibility of limiting who the new beneficiaries would be.

The group recommended only one new inclusion: "A principal partner of the same sex with whom there is a continuing financial and emotional involvement, residing in the same household." That meant Lesbians and Gay men.

Legal spouses and the minor children of employees currently are included as beneficiaries, in that they can pay for a reduced-rate hospital plan. Under the new plan, Lesbians and Gay men who have partners who are city employees would also be able to pay the reduced rate.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* headlined "Special Benefits for Gays" in its task force story. Others asked why the task force excluded straight single people, aunts, grandparents, et al, from being beneficiaries also.

The task force had carefully explored this possibility and unanimously agreed that such a

broad plan could possibly bankrupt the city health system. This had been established during the 1982 testimony during the Board of Supervisors "domestic partners" debate when the city's health insurance carriers flatly rejected any such broad extension. The mayor had heard this also from her consultants.

Did the request to include only Lesbians and Gay men constitute an unfair "special interest category" as the mayor charged this week? The task force said it was not talking about "special" treatment but an attempt to overcome an inequality. It said the issue was equal pay and the fact that Gay people cannot marry.

"The task force felt that the concept of equal pay for equal work was a concept which was difficult to quarrel with, and that so long as heterosexual employees were given the benefit of coverage for their spouses under the City Health System and Gay and Lesbian employees were denied their live-in partner's coverage there was not equal pay for equal work."

The task force did not recommend a City Hall registration of Gay and Lesbian couples, as Britt had proposed in his vetoed legislation. However, it made this point: "It may be argued that extending health coverage to the partners as defined herein tends to favor Gay men and Lesbians over heterosexuals who choose to live together without benefit of marriage. One answer to that is that if heterosexuals so choose they may be married and avail themselves of this benefit; Gay men and Lesbians are not free to marry under existing legislation and thus are effectively denied any way of obtaining equal benefits for equal work."

Britt reacted unfavorably to the task force's recommendation. While agreeing with the assessment of the "equal pay" argument, he said the panel's approach was "unconstitutional and unfair."

"These fringes used to be like a turkey at Christmas — a nice bonus. But now, they are a major portion of your salary. So to deny equal benefits is to discriminate in pay," Britt said.

Any plan to extend benefits to Gay and Lesbian live-in lovers, but not to extend benefits to similarly situated straight sin-

gles, is "unconstitutional, and it's obvious why. You'd have to check a box on a form saying your partner is Gay, and you'd qualify. The city Gay-rights ordinance says you can't do that. You can't deny to single straight people their rights in order to get our rights. It's unfair and it doesn't work," Britt said.

Britt said he would meet Friday with a group of Gay and Lesbian leaders to devise a strategy to revise his domestic partners ordinance. "A lot of what we did was trying to get the mayor to go along. Now, if you're not going to get the mayor no matter what, you might as well go your own way and pass an ordinance," Britt said.

He said he believes he has seven votes on the Board of Supervisors for a domestic partners bill — enough to pass the legislation, but one vote shy of that needed to override a possible veto.

SURVEY

When the task force surveyed city employees to determine the demand for new live-in beneficiaries, it discovered its sampling was possibly too small. It received a surprisingly high 566 responses out of 1,000 randomly selected employees. Projecting this sampling to the current number of employees some conclusions were drawn:

A possible 906 Gay men, 82 Lesbians, and 82 Bisexuals (1,070 total) might be new beneficiaries if their city employee partners were permitted to include them. This would be a small number, considering the city's workforce is 38,584 people.

The task force explained that it was only 20 years ago that the concept of private industry covering the health needs of its employees emerged. It concluded, "Even more important are the symbolic implications of such coverage (Lesbians and Gay men) which would enable and encourage employers in the city to follow the lead of the city in extending such coverage to partners of Gay men and Lesbians."

The 11-member task force was diligent in its work with the Lesbian/Gay members, city Health Board Chair Walter Johnson, and Kaiser Hospital official Robert Zimmerman rarely missing one of the 24 meetings. In its final sessions, the group repeatedly reworded the report in order to obtain a unanimous vote endorsing its recommendations.

Feinstein has asked the Health Services System to set up an information desk in its offices to help currently unqualified dependents of city employees find insurance coverage elsewhere. She is requesting a report on the success of this operation in April 1985.

The members of the task force were Judge Herb Donaldson, chairman; Louis Giraud, an attorney; Naomi Gray, a consultant; Pat Jackson, a union official; Walter Johnson, president of the Health Services System board; Rob Katz, an actuary with Blue Cross; Phyllis Lyon, chairperson of the city Human Rights Commission; Juan Rael, an actuary; Connie O'Connor, a lieutenant with the sheriff's office; Sal Rosselli, a union official; and Robert Zimmerman, an executive at Kaiser Hospital.

G. Mendenhall
B. Jones

Anti-Gay Bias Okayed

(Continued from page 1)

The new Koch order would have forbidden discrimination against Gay people by private companies and other groups which do business with New York City. The court challenge was brought by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, the Salvation Army, and Agudath Israel of America. The groups had fought — and now have won — the right to discriminate in employment against Gay people on the basis of "religious principles."

Klein declared that Koch exceeded his authority and that only the New York City Council has the power to issue such a ban. Since 1972, the council has repeatedly rejected a broad measure prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, and accommodations. The mayor says he will appeal the Klein ruling, adding that maybe it is time to approach the council on the more limited issue of discrimination by city-funded agencies.

The justice wrote, "In order for the mayor to lawfully mandate against discrimination based on 'sexual orientation' or 'affectional preference,' he must have specific legislative authority." This opinion could undermine the earlier Koch order which forbade job discrimination against Gay people by city agencies. Also threatened are executive orders issued by other mayors in New York State, and a statewide nondiscrimination executive order issued recently by Governor Mario Cuomo.

Thomas Stoddard, legislative director of the New York City Civil Liberties Union, said he was worried. "The opinion goes

far beyond Gay rights. The court is challenging what every executive in the state is doing. It says that executives are creatures of the legislature and can't seek to enforce the Constitution on their own," Stoddard said.

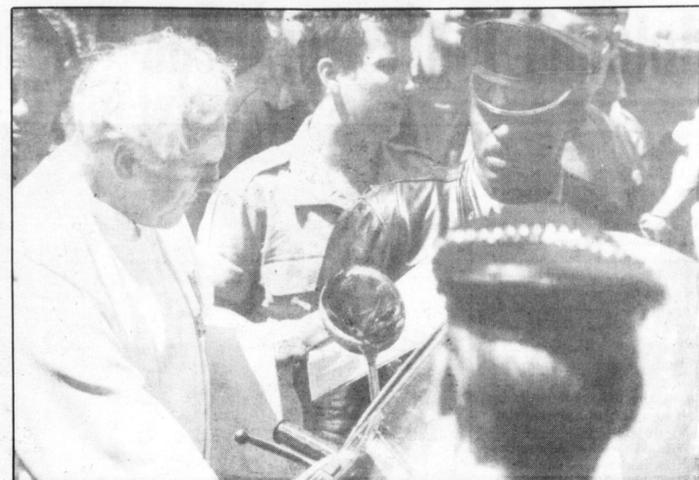
The three religious groups which challenged the order have millions of dollars in service contracts with the city to provide for the needy. The archdiocese was willing to jeopardize \$70 million in contracts with the city to provide care for many, including disabled and emotionally disturbed children. They said that if they signed the Koch decree they would be condoning homosexuality, a violation of their religious teachings.

Koch reacted to Klein's ruling by stating, "There is something even immoral about using taxpayers' money to, in effect, discriminate against some of those taxpayers."

The Lambda Defense and Educational Fund and the National Gay Task Force, which had lobbied the mayor for his order, were encouraged by an editorial in *The New York Times* on Sunday.

The *Times* commented, "Churches, like other organizations, have a right to contest a mayor's power by litigation, but they carry a heavier burden if they now take their opposition to the council. For the legislation is crucial to the humane, democratic principle underlying the executive order — the city must not subsidize job discrimination by contractors that it would never tolerate by its own agencies."

G. Mendenhall



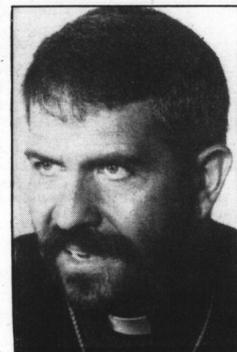
Revered Up Rites. Bishops bless battleships, so why shouldn't ministers bless motorcycles? They do indeed — as in this christening at the Eagle. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Troy Perry to Preach at Local MCC Service

Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church will honor the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Churches and a national civil rights leader, during worship services Sunday morning, Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m., and at a reception beginning at 12:30 p.m. Both events will be held at Golden Gate MCC's new location, 1748 Clay St., San Francisco.

"The entire community is invited to both events," said Rev. James E. Sandmire, pastor of GG MCC. "We're extremely pleased that Rev. Perry will preach at the morning service."

The afternoon reception will



Troy Perry

benefit the Washington, DC-based Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), a leading organization in the drive to persuade Congress to pass national legislation prohibiting discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men. No cover charge is required for the reception, but a donation to the Lobby will be gratefully accepted. Donations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$30, or more are suggested. Wine, soft drinks, and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Rev. Perry founded the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in 1968, as an outreach to the Gay and Lesbian community.



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Britt: Another try on Domestic Partners planned. (Photo: Rink)

Molinari Fights for Lead

(Continued from page 1)

Molinari's fight for Kopp's vote in the Gay community shapes up to be a political "Battle at Normandy." Lesbians and Gay men will be reminded about Kopp's remarks in *The New York Times*, considered by most Gay leaders as homophobic. They are also going to hear what Kopp says about Gays in *Sunset*.

Without any prompting or dialogue, Molinari received a strong ally in the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club. The club has come up with "Stop Kopp" buttons and they have been selling by the hundreds. Stonewall is taking the proceeds to buy billboards attacking Kopp for his anti-Gay stance against Gays during the time preceding the Democratic Convention.

Molinari will be hammering away at what he believes are the false perceptions of Quentin Kopp across the city. "No longer will Quentin Kopp have the luxury of getting votes where he doesn't deserve them," Molinari said.

For Molinari to be effective, his power will come from his strong record of being a leader in San Francisco politics. That leadership has strong roots in the Gay community.

He first came in contact with a Gay political group in 1970. Congressman Bill Maillard asked him to attend a new political group called S.I.R., the Society for Individual Rights. The concept was new and the group's agenda was Gay politics. At the time the club didn't make en-



Stamping for Gay Votes. John Molinari seeks endorsement of Toklas Democrats — and wins it big. He came in first among all the hopefuls. (Photo: Rink)

dorsements, they made recommendations. Molinari walked away winning for his candidate.

He was back at S.I.R. in 1971 representing himself as he ran for San Francisco Supervisor. Again he won. "Back in those

days," he said, "the Alice B. Toklas Club was just forming. I remember going over to their meeting place on Noe Street and working with people like Hector Gaerres, Jim Foster, Jo Daly, and Frank Fitch." That was the

beginning of a relationship with the Gay community that has seen him celebrate as his constituents have won battles and struggled through some stormy times.

Never did the pressure become so strong as in December of 1982. Mayor Dianne Feinstein was vetoing the "domestic partnership" legislation which had passed the Board of Supervisors. It was one of the strongest pieces of pro-Gay legislation ever introduced and Molinari's support was important. He believed the issues were misunderstood and fought for the bill's passage. He publicly disagreed with the mayor.

He also disagreed with Archbishop John Quinn of the Roman Catholic Church. Molinari, a Catholic, told Quinn that he felt his position was wrong. He would argue to the Archbishop that this was an issue calling for separation of church and state. Additionally, he said, "The church has to respect my civic conviction."

Molinari said he believed then — and still does — that the concept of domestic partnerships is a logical extension of various lifestyles of many people who live in San Francisco. Though there is strong disagreement by the church, the mayor, and others, he said he will not buckle on his position.

The domestic partnership issue was a contributing factor days later when a recall petition was filed against Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Molinari operates on a basic principle of keeping open lines of communication. He admits to heated arguments on many occasions with the mayor. Yet, there is a mutual respect that comes from honest expression of views.

In the early months of 1983, the mayor sent Molinari to do battle with the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club. The club was overwhelmingly against the mayor. Molinari appeared and spoke for the mayor. The move would have been political suicide for almost any politician in San Francisco. The club members voted 90 percent against the mayor — but they gave John Molinari a standing ovation.

How did he come out of a political minefield unhurt? The supervisor credits his success to the building of a rapport with the Gay community. He believes he has earned the trust he receives. "I don't expect the Gay community to agree with me on everything. What I do expect them to do is look at my 13-year record."

That record is indeed pro-Gay. He has had the ability to know when to take a stand when it counts. More than a decade ago, he was voting for the Willie Brown "consenting adults" bill. He recalls the city voting a resolution to support the state legislation by a six to five margin. "Now," he said, "it would pass unanimously. Ten years ago it wasn't so easy."

When Harvey Milk was elected to the Board of Supervisors, Molinari had already been there for five years and they became close allies. When Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated, Supervisor Molinari made a commitment to march each year in the annual candlelight march.

In 1980, police wanted the large march contained. The huge crowd was tense, as they feared violence might break out at any moment. A symbol that diffused potential violence was the presence of John Molinari. Walking at the front of the march, police knew that if they were going to attack the marchers, they would have to strike a blow at the supervisor.

He has earned respect and



built a rapport with the Gay community and also the police. He is able to sit down with the police with the same ease that he sits with the San Francisco Tavern Guild, the association of Gay bar owners and employees.

Part of his feel for the people of the city comes from his personal roots. A native of the city, his family arrived here from Genoa, Italy. A graduate of Lowell High School and the University of San Francisco, he was married, as were his father and his grandfather, in North Beach's St. Peter & Paul Church.

Not all his political decisions are popular. Some Gay political leaders are still angry about his vote against rent control last year. To a different group of voters, he defended his position in support of an Office of Civilian Complaints in the Police Department. He was accused of "selling out" when he endorsed the measure, strongly supported by the Gay community.

Last month John Molinari was out listening to the voice of a community in crisis. A Polk Street Town Hall meeting was called to explore solutions to tensions following a violent Gay murder.

For Molinari this was the classic example of his role as a leader. "People were angry and I was there because they expected a professional who will listen to their demands," Molinari said. "I was elected to my office to be a leader. I didn't go to the meeting to pacify a crowd; I went to get a job done." Within one week of the meeting Supervisor John Molinari had co-authored legislation with Supervisor Harry Britt to provide \$100,000 in funding for the Polk Street area to meet the crisis. The funds would provide for a Polk Street office for Community United Against Violence. ■

A. White

Gay Parents Set Conference Saturday 'For the Children'

On Saturday, Sept. 15., the Gay Men's Parenting Group is sponsoring a conference titled "For the Children." This conference will focus on forging links between the Gay male and Lesbian communities for the purpose of co-parenting. Barriers such as separatism, misogyny, and fear of AIDS will be examined with the purpose of confronting and handling them. Guest speakers, including Sara Lewinstein, Tom Waddell, and Joanne Gardner-Loulan, will talk of their own co-parenting experiences.

The conference will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration fee of \$15 includes a box lunch. For further information and registration forms, contact Ron at (415) 841-4622. ■



The Grim Reader. Does the B.A.R. cause AIDS? Whoever made this poster apparently thinks so. We're waiting for the one linking the Chronicle's tobacco ads to lung cancer. (Photo: Rink)

Legislature Prods Duke on AIDS Panel Task Force Approved and Funded But Does Nothing for 6 Months

Assemblyman Gray Davis (D - Los Angeles) recently said that "state lawmakers must play a prominent role in combating the mountains of misinformation on AIDS which had led to uncertainty, panic, and great personal suffering." The State Legislature responded recently by approving without a dissenting vote a Davis resolution (ACR 118) which calls upon the state's AIDS Advisory Committee to complete two fact-finding reports on AIDS.

The AIDS Advisory Committee was established in legislation passed last year and funded for \$500,000. This year, the legislature gave \$1 million to the committee.

But until last month, Gov. George Deukmejian did not make his appointments to the panel, and until July, it had never held a meeting.

"The foremost of the purposes of introducing this is to prod the governor. Half a year had passed without action from his office. This resolution tells him to get off the dime and make appointments and give some credibility to this newly established task force," Davis said in an interview.

The studies urged by the legislature would be submitted to the governor and would focus on the availability and coordination of AIDS-related services, and the status of AIDS research.

Davis said, "My resolution prods the governor and the State Legislature into making timely, well-informed policy and budgetary decisions relating to AIDS. I am elated that both Houses fully supported Assembly Concurrent Resolution 118. Clearly, state lawmakers must play a prominent role in combating the mountains of misinformation on AIDS which has led to uncertainty, panic and great personal suffering."

Davis noted that the resolution also requests that the committee meet at least quarterly through 1985. The committee, created by Senator David Roberti's SB 910 of last year, advises the State Department of Health Services in awarding AIDS contracts.

Davis added, "AIDS has touched the lives of thousands of Californians. During the month of July AIDS took the lives of another 39 Californians, raising the death toll to 439. In that brief period an additional 122 of our citizens were diagnosed as having AIDS, bringing the statewide total of reported cases to 1,334. This represents approximately 25 percent of the nearly 5,400 cases reported nationwide. To safeguard the public health it is crucial that state lawmakers be well-informed on issues relating to this deadly disease." ■

ALL RIGHT, SO WE'RE NOT AS BIG AS THE CHRONICLE, BUT...

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Michael Jackson Tells Tabloids to 'Beat It'

Libel Suits Will Be Thrillers If Gay Rumors Don't Stop

by Allen White

Using the considerable legal and public relations arsenal available to them, Michael Jackson and his managers have launched a preemptive strike against the use of homosexuality as a weapon to damage the careers of public personalities. The ripple effect of last week's press conference has hit the entertainment industry like a tidal wave.

The key parts of Michael Jackson's press release state, "It saddens me that many may actually believe the present flurry of false accusations."

"To this end, and I do mean END — NO! I've never taken hormones to maintain my high voice. NO! I've never had my cheekbones altered in any way. NO! I've never had surgery on my eyes. YES! One day in the future I plan to get married and have a family. Any statements to the contrary are simply untrue."

The charges have been reported in weekly supermarket tabloids and many articles have been written to imply that Michael Jackson is Gay. Not receiving as extensive coverage as Jackson's statement was an introductory statement issued by the star's personal publicist, Norman Winter. It is as unprecedented as the Michael Jackson statement and is a stern and threatening warning.

It states that Jackson has instructed his attorneys to "institute legal action to the fullest extent of the law and subsequently prosecute all guilty as new fantasies are printed." That sentence can be translated to be a declaration of war and there is

absolutely no question they mean business.

Jackson's publicist, Norman Winter told the *Bay Area Reporter* they wanted to set the record right. "Michael Jackson is not Gay and they are not going to allow the charge to pass in the future." Winter went to great lengths in the interview to stress that the statement was not to be interpreted to be anti-Gay. He reasoned that if a person was a Gay activist who was continually being labeled "straight," it would be just as logical for the person to also clarify the record.

Winter went on to state that the Jackson managers are aware that Michael Jackson has a strong following in the Gay community. This press release, he said, was not intended to carry homophobic overtones. At the same time, the publicist was emphatic that no longer were they going to allow their artist to be smeared simply because his actions might be construed to be that of a Gay stereotype.

The signal the Jackson people have sent is directed at the supermarket tabloids. Michael Jackson is the biggest superstar in the world and the resources to protect him are virtually unlimited.

In addition to the tabloids, Winter spoke of comics who have chosen to use Michael Jackson as the butt of their material.

Of Eddie Murphy, who has recorded comments about Michael Jackson, publicist Winter said, "Maybe Murphy was probably just jealous — look at the success of Michael Jackson and compare it with Eddie Murphy."

Significantly, comics, for the most part, are not saying Jackson is Gay, but are making the implication by accentuating his actions and identifying them as a Gay stereotype. Winter also stated that there could possibly be legal action against the comics who exploit Jackson if they felt it would prove successful.

Actor and television personality Charles Nelson Reilly said he applauded the move by the Jackson organization. "Michael Jackson has made a tremendous contribution to his art and that is how he should be judged. Can you imagine judging Judy Garland's by saying she was a heterosexual?" Reilly said.

Many people in the entertainment industry who are Gay gave Michael Jackson and his advisors credit for the courage to issue these statements. Several believe it could signal a new precedent regarding homophobic attacks against entertainers. Many stated that only a performer of the superstar status of Michael Jackson could deliver such a direct hit on the supermarket tabloids and magazines that for years have used being Gay as a subject of sleaze, not pride. ■

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The big problem readily recognized by the gay community is that at the time of their death their companion and gay families may be totally ignored and left completely out of the decision making process. Often, the distant family will order the deceased body to be immediately shipped away to a cold, unfriendly community for burial in a cemetery plot. This action may be totally against the desires or wishes of the person who has died and ignores the feelings of those who really care.

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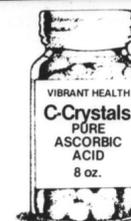
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VIEWPOINT

Bad Blood

People have different dreams — and different nightmares. That point is evident in recent weeks as the spectre of AIDS nightmares has been raised. These new nightmares are spun of the same scary stuff, but are as different as the Gay and the straight people involved.

The latest nightmare was dreamed up by the *Chronicle*. It was the heartrending story of a straight woman from the suburbs who died of AIDS apparently carried in a blood transfusion. The *Chronicle* called the case "the worst nightmare of the AIDS epidemic" come true.

No doubt, for straights, such a case is indeed "the worst nightmare." As long as AIDS was confined to Gay men and associated with sex, those fortunate enough to have escaped its scourge could cluck their tongues and express moral superiority. But now an "innocent bystander" has been stricken. The clear implication is that the rest of the people with AIDS are guilty of something.

This straight nightmare is monumentally important to Gays. We have fought the battle over blood before, and it is time to man the ramparts again. Early on in the AIDS epidemic, the fear that Gays "bad blood" would infect straights was the force which brought AIDS to the forefront of the nation's attention. Let's be honest here. AIDS would never have made the cover of *Newsweek* or the halls of Congress had it not been for the threat to the blood supply for straight people.

Rodger McFarlane has a different nightmare. McFarlane is executive director of the New York Gay Men's Health Crisis. Late last month, he was reacting to a disclosure first published in these pages. The *B.A.R.* reported — as did newspapers nationwide in subsequent days — that the federal Centers for Disease Control had invited comment on a proposal to make a national list of people with the antibody to HTLV-III, suspected as the virus which causes AIDS.

McFarlane said the suggestion was "my worst nightmare, confirming all my worst suspicions. It's now clear that their (the federal government's) only concern is removing the risk of AIDS from the population at large. They're not at all concerned with the male homosexual population."

That's strong stuff. Is McFarlane a raving paranoid? No, no indeed. He is head of the nation's oldest and largest AIDS organization and has met repeatedly with federal officials on issues regarding the blood supply and testing for AIDS. We strongly urge Gay men to ponder McFarlane's concerns.

The federal government, following the media blitz of the spring of 1983, has indeed responded to demands for AIDS research funds. We need to keep in mind, however, that the number one goal of that research at present is to develop a reliable test to find HTLV-III antibody in blood.

To what end will that tool be used? Obviously, it is a tool necessary to create the genetic material necessary for an eventual AIDS vaccination. Interestingly, though, the pioneering work in this field is not being done by the feds — but by a state researcher here in San Francisco working with a private bio-engineering firm in Emeryville. The virus cultures for the work now underway came from France and from the UC-San Francisco lab, not from the feds.

Meanwhile, you can bet cash money there will be a test soon to detect antibody to the HTLV-III virus in blood. Science is picking up speed in the AIDS epidemic. We had best consider the implications of wide-scale testing — and decide how to respond to such testing. The issues are enormous and the stakes are very high.

For starters, we should be clear on the conflict between our dreams and the dreams of straight people in the suburbs. We dream of a cure for AIDS. They dream of a way to keep our "bad blood" away from them.

Brian Jones

LETTERS

Positive Tests

★ We understand and sympathize with the concern expressed in your recent news story regarding consideration of the establishment by the Centers for Disease Control of the Public Health Service of a registry of people with positive test markers for AIDS. The San Francisco Men's Health Study is designed to discover factors which predispose people to develop AIDS. My colleagues and I want to take this opportunity to assure your readers that no participant in this study will be included in such a registry by virtue of participation in the research.

We have assured participants that all information obtained in the course of the research will be kept absolutely confidential. Our contract explicitly prohibits making accessible any information to any person, organization, or other governmental unit, including the NIH, in any form which could result in the identification of an individual. Our legal advisors assure us that this clause is fully defensible and we are absolutely committed to it. The findings of the study will be published only in summary statistical form.

Anything you can do to dispel the confusion and concern prompted by news stories which suggest otherwise would be greatly appreciated. The importance of full participation by persons selected in the scientific sample is critical to the success of the research.

Warren Winkelstein, Jr., MD, MPH
Professor of Epidemiology
(Principal Investigator
San Francisco Men's Health Study)
School of Public Health
University of California, Berkeley

Take It and Run

★ This letter is regarding the article in the Aug. 23 issue of the *B.A.R.*, in which it was reported that the Adolph Coors Company has contributed \$15,000 to the AIDS Fund.

As you correctly reported, this contribution has, for the most part, been kept quiet to avoid controversy and criticism for accepting the contribution.

My point of view, which I expect and hope is shared by the majority of Gay people in the San Francisco Bay Area region, is simply as follows:

It is apparent that the Coors Company has been financially hurt by the Gay (and others) boycott of Coors Beer, otherwise the Coors Company, compelled by Right Wing fanaticism as it is, would not have suggested and pursued such a donation. In this respect, our boycott has, at least on the surface, been "successful."

But beyond this, let there be no criticism nor controversy regarding the acceptance of this donation, on one — and only one — condition: that we not give ONE DAMN CONCESSION to the Coors people. They are giving this donation to the AIDS Fund because they realize that we (along with other minority groups who have joined the general boycott) hold considerable financial power for their firm and its profit margin. By accepting the Coors donation, we are doing nothing more than PROVING that we have clout; that we are worth something in the financial (and consequently, the social) structure of the modern United States.

They have given us this donation ostensibly in "return" for our giving THEM something: the repeal of our boycott. I say, let us take their money (as we have obviously crippled them), but give them nothing (repeat: NOTHING) in return. They are, right now, on their very knees, begging us to take their money because they are hurting for it. Well enough — let us take their money, so long as NO STRINGS ARE ATTACHED. They have done us wrong, and if they want to offer us money, I say TAKE IT AND RUN!

The controversy seems to center around, "They have hurt us in the past; do we accept their peace offering now?" Well, I say that this is no peace offering, it is

a surrender, and we MUST TREAT IT AS SUCH.

Let us give no concessions, but willingly take every damn cent that is given us to pursue AIDS research. I hold utterly no criticism for the acceptance of this donation. So long as we give nothing in return for what is given us by the Adolph Coors Company, we, as a movement, are promoting our cause to the expense and expenditure of the enemy.

Jeffrey J. Schmidt
San Francisco

On the Bus

★ I was riding the bus, feeling out of it, vulnerable. Riding the bus. In the back, the black boys were yelling and swearing and acting smart. Everyone in the bus kept their eyes to themselves, looked straight ahead like we're all supposed to do. An attractive, dark haired, mustached man was standing in the front, holding the rail. He was turned toward the front, so I took advantage of his backside with my eyes, my thoughts. I played with the images of playing with him, to pass the bus time.

The man in the seat ahead of me was reading the *Chronicle*, turning the pages intently. I thought about lying in bed with my lover that morning. How he curled around me and held me tight in his warm arms. How I put my head on his breast and clung to him. I recalled the vivid sense of his smell.

Then I noticed on the page of the newspaper, the man just turned the page, and there was Bobby's obituary. Right there on the page. In black and white. And suddenly a wave of emotion rose in my chest. And I pushed it back down.

I knew that he had died. Glenn told me last night when I ran into him at Market and Castro. Told me that he'd suddenly fallen apart so quickly, rife with pneumocystis and meningitis.

And Glenn said that he wishes that he could make every Gay man go down to the AIDS ward. Down to 5B. Then they'd learn. Then they'd understand what is happening.

I knew that Bobbie was dead. But when I looked at his obituary in the paper, a huge fist of emotion rose in my chest.

And then I could hear, clearly hear, the black boys in the back of the bus, talking about "faggot" and "faggies." Laughing, jeering, displaying their stupid obnoxiousness. "If one of those motherfucking fags tries to touch me, I'll kill him. I'll kill the fuckin' fag. Yeah man."

I glanced across the aisle where sat another Gay man, tight lipped, arms drawn tightly around himself. Sitting just two rows ahead of the black boys. Sitting tightly in fear. Not making a move to betray his fear.

I looked back at the newspaper, at Bobbie's picture. I remembered what a fighter he was. How strong I thought he was. Tears began to roll down my cheek, even though I held my breath, even though I refused to show my grief and hurt and pain on the MUNI . . .

I pushed the feelings down into my pockets to get off at my stop. My best blank face on my face.

Buzz Bense
San Francisco

Letter Policy

★ The *Bay Area Reporter* welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.



Stay and fight or cut and run? That's the question faced by many Lesbian and Gay faithful. Shown above, a service by Dignity, Lesbian and Gay Catholics. (Photo: Rink)

GUEST COLUMN

Strangers in a Strange Land

ED. NOTE: Late last spring, the United Methodists voted to bar Gays from their pastorate. At the time, there were two openly Gay Methodist ministers. One of them, Morris L. Floyd, wrote the following column at our request. Floyd is a United Methodist minister who until recently served as executive director of Lesbian and Gay Community Services in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

by Morris L. Floyd

Lesbian and Gay members of United Methodist Church are now challenged to discern whether and how to participate in the life of that institution. In May of this year, delegates to the denomination's General Conference voted to prohibit the ordination or appointment of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals."

This prohibition may be the most homophobic statement yet to emerge from a "mainline" Protestant denomination. As a result, many Gays and Lesbians find themselves confused. The church they once felt to be home has now clearly declared them to be "unclean." Since we do not see ourselves as unclean, and since we cannot be at home in a congregation which views us in that way, we find ourselves "strangers in a strange land."

Homosexuality has been a specific issue for United Methodists since clergy began to come out about the time of Stonewall. The General Conference of 1972 added to an otherwise Gay/Lesbian-affirming paragraph a clause stating, ". . . we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." Efforts to remove what came to be called the "incompatibility clause" were unsuccessful at the General Conferences of 1976 and 1980, as well as 1984.

Events occurring since Stonewall made a May 1984 decision explicitly banning the ordination or appointment of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" virtually inevitable. The 1980 General Conference took action it thought would settle the matter without specific language, but a ruling by the church's Judicial Council frustrated the effort. By mid-1983 it was clear that conservative forces in the church would stand for nothing less

than a clearly prohibitive statement on the question.

This position prevailed in 1984 by a narrow margin in spite of liberal efforts to keep a loophole open. While many think the newest legislation cannot be enforced without an amendment to the denomination's constitution, there can no longer be any doubt that the church's official decision-making body wants to slam the door in the face of its Gay and Lesbian members.

A part from the pain and disappointment many feel about this General Conference decision, Gay and Lesbian United Methodists find themselves challenged by several dilemmas. What does it mean for us to continue to seek inclusion in an institution which has said so clearly that it does not want us?

The ordination decision was the most highly publicized action of the United Methodist General Conference, but it was not the only one related to Gay and Lesbian concerns. Delegates also maintained the "incompatibility clause" and refused to approve language implementing an already existing commitment to the human and civil rights of Lesbians and Gays. They would not even approve an innocuous resolution calling for adequate support for AIDS research.

At what point should we in effect shake the dust from our feet and move on, rather than maintain our allegiance to this institution? Considering that the denomination still shies away from a wholeheartedly anti-racist and pro-feminist posture, what integrity would there be even if it should become more open to the full participation of Lesbians and Gay men? Clearly, partial justice is no justice at all; but what do we do while waiting for the revolution?

This question comes into particular focus for those few open Gay men and Lesbians who find themselves already "included" in the church in one way or another. Shall we see ourselves and our supporters as ecclesiastical disobedients? If so, what are the implications?

And another question: What does this inclusion really mean? Julian Rush, an experienced and talented liturgist and dramatist, is appointed to a part-time position in a tiny congregation. He depends on other

sources of income to have an adequate living and his full energies are lost to the church. My Bishop is willing to appoint me to special positions outside the local church and that is where my abilities are best suited.

Most clergy, however, see themselves as called to be pastors. Their training and experiences have prepared them for that role — and often for that role only. Even if the denomination should adopt more open policies, the time when most congregations will be ready to accept openly Gay and Lesbian clergy is still a long way off.

And what of the ministers in preparation? Theirs may be the greatest dilemma of all. I talked recently to a young woman serving as a pastor in a metropolitan area. Recently graduated from seminary, she is still in probationary status. Can this person enter into full status with any integrity when she knows that her ability to do so is dependent on her willingness to hide her Lesbian identity?

If she does so, what will be the cost to her effectiveness as she faces an uncertain future: a lifetime of hiding and fear of discovery or a serendipitous coming out with nowhere to go? If she chooses not to continue with her plans, how is she to deal with her frustrated call to ministry and her lack of marketable skills?

In this context there is no surprise in the number of people who ask why we stay a part of this oppressive institution. I confess there are many days when I have no answer to the question. If I define myself outside the institution, then I no longer have to face the difficult questions or the insecurity of being a stranger in a strange land. But that definition would be an act of bad faith for me.

I must not surrender the United Methodist Church to the bigots, the narrow-minded, the frightened. I choose instead to understand myself as a stranger searching for signposts toward an authentic expression of the faith. As long as I am a stranger, I can avoid the dangers of a sell-out while maintaining responsibility for who I am and how I live.

Nevertheless, I can join hands with the other strangers — people of color, women and more — and we can move together toward a new and more faithful expression of Church. Our threat to stay is infinitely more potent than a threat to leave because creating that new vision may well require the death of the current institutional expression.

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LETTERS

AIDS Nightmare

★ I am writing in reference to a front page article in yesterday's *Chronicle*. It was reported by Kevin Leary. He begins his story, "Bay Woman Dies After Transfusion," with the statement, "The worst nightmare of the AIDS crisis struck an unlikely victim Tuesday," etc. I, and I am sure many other San Franciscans, am offended by this assertion that after the heart-rending deaths of so many hundreds of AIDS victims previous to this last Tuesday, the death of a rich, white, heterosexual woman is any more of a terror than those of any of the others. Is there such a thing as a "likely" victim of this terrible affliction? Aren't all the deaths nightmarish, and weren't they all INNOCENT bystanders? To specifically state that this woman was an innocent bystander, intentionally or not, seems to imply that other victims, mostly Gay men, are somehow not in the same category.

The families, friends, and lovers of AIDS victims previously killed by this dread DISEASE may contest a claim to exclusivity in this case, which your paper for some reason deems something new and special on the subject. Everyone who has contracted AIDS has done so unintentionally, we can be sure. I believe the subtle undercurrent of this article is as if to say: "A fine, upstanding, well-off, white, heterosexual (that is, we read 'decent'), Marinite, mother, has been killed by an infection of a Gay-sex spread contagion, an 'innocent' bystander of homosexual practices and the Gay lifestyle.

No disease is "moral" or "immoral." Next, the *Chronicle* will be presenting articles advocating exorcism for neurological conditions, and burning of the soles of leprosy victims to drive out the "sin" that occasions their sufferings. It has taken 500 years of scientific development to debunk such shamanism. You are helping to perpetuate medieval, ignorant attitudes in articles such as these.

All AIDS victims deserve the sympathy and support of each of us. Not being a curse laid on Gays by God, the disease is bound, unless well resisted by research efforts and adequate care of those suffering, to advance into a greater cross-section of the general population. If this happens (God forbid!), no doubt people like Rev. Falwell will contend that it is God's wrath on adulterers, unclean teenage lovers, etc. etc. I am sure they believe all venereal disease is caused by moral or spiritual turpitude. This sort of nonsense, if not dangerous in the hands of ignorant and irresponsible citizens gathered into hate groups, will be beneath comment.

Mrs. Johnstone reached the age of 62, according to Leary's article. Many of the other victims never reached half that age. Whatever their sexual practices, the deaths of all these people are nightmares, and each new one is the worst.

Kipp L. Bailey
San Francisco

Pride Center Art Show

★ My name is Marcus Sabilino. I am writing this without the knowledge or approval of the administration of the Pride Center, where recently a theft of some 30 art pieces occurred.

In regards to Holly Smith's statement, "There was no volunteer on the desk, with the door standing open." I would like to know where she got that false information concerning the door and security. The fact is that the Pride Center agreed to allow Holly Smith and her committee to use space here at the center. However, the Pride Foundation never made any statements or accepted responsibility for the security of the work. The art show ended on the 11th of August not the 18th as Holly stated. Holly Smith and her committee should have seen that the art show was safely removed and or provided security for the work, knowing that we are a community building and that the public regularly has access to our premises.

I find Holly Smith's attempt to blame the Pride Foundation for her lack of planning and foresight towards the security of the art show very irresponsible and somewhat scapegoating on her part. I don't appreciate it when someone tries to blemish the image of the fine deeds and standards that the Pride Foundation stands for. And when the workers and volunteers of the Pride Foundation work so hard to establish the many fine programs we have here, all under the premise of building pride and providing so many services for people in need whether straight or Gay, I highly resent when one misinformed, irresponsible individual is granted the right to be quoted with irresponsible, incorrect information. It is the people like this making irresponsible statements like the previously discussed that really should be cross examined or have a second investigation to ensure the public that it is indeed the facts that they are reading and not someone's emotional and false accusations.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Marcus Sabilino
San Francisco

La Cage Review

★ My thanks to Michel de La Roche for his response to my negative review of *La Cage aux Folles*. I, too, think the article was pretty dumb — as it appeared. Unfortunately, the article was cut to half its original length before it reached the typesetter. If I'd had nothing more to justify my response than the points cited in print, my tone would have been different. If Mr. de La Roche had had access to my entire line of reasoning, he probably would not have agreed with me, but I'm sure he would have understood my frustration

with *La Cage* more clearly.

My article was cut because it did not fulfill my assignment — I blew it — and because my editor felt it was not newsworthy. I had been asked to review Gene Barry's performance. After seeing *La Cage* twice, I had virtually nothing to say about Barry, but plenty to say about the show in general. I thought my editor would welcome an essay on *La Cage*. Boy, was I wrong. Because the show was about to leave San Francisco, my editor decided that my article's content did not justify its length.

Articles get cut all the time; I'm almost used to it. What I'm not used to is the publication of a letter to the editor critical of an article that was cut in half.

At the theater, I open my mind and heart as wide as I can. I do not the response of those around me. The mechanism of taste fascinates me and, if my reaction contrasts sharply with that of the majority, I talk to other people until the disagreement is clarified, if not resolved. When I write, I describe my reactions as honestly, fully, and briefly as I can. I put Tonys, Oscars, Grammys, etc., out of my mind. I'm never sure whether they have been awarded for artistic merit or for political and economic reasons.

Exposure to art broadens and enlightens taste. Thoughtful reading, writing, and conversation heighten communication skills. Neither sophistication nor style, however, is as treasurable as sincerity. Though I am not among Michel de La Roche's favorite theater reviewers, his passionate defense of *La Cage* makes him one of my favorite theater-goers.

Bernard Spunberg
San Francisco

Discrimination

The following was written to the manager of *The Watering Hole*:

★ BWMT-SF is distressed to hear that a case of multiple carding occurred recently at *The Watering Hole*. We had thought that this practice, rampant in other communities, had been buried in Lesbian/Gay San Francisco. Apparently not.

With its not-too-subtle attempt to exclude "undesirables" (i.e., people of color, women, transsexuals, etc.), the *Watering Hole* has offended the entire community. Discrimination against one of us is an offense against all of us.

BWMT-SF believes that *The Watering Hole* owes Henry Chappell both a public apology and recompense for the damage done to him. Additionally, *The Watering Hole* owes the entire Lesbian and Gay community an apology for the incident, a visible posting of your policies, and a trained staff held accountable for impartial application of the policies and for treating all individuals decently and fairly.

G. Stuart Gillespie
Thomas D. Horan
Co-presidents, BWMT-SF

Police Brutality

★ I believe you will be doing an important service if you send your investigative reporter out on the story referred to in the letter "Equal Mistreatment." (*Bay Area Reporter* Aug. 30).

The letter raises many questions for me, and I would like a different, disinterested view of the whole matter: the arrest, brutal treatment, and subsequent release of the man without charge. If, indeed, those are the facts in his case, the police ought to be cleared or charged.

Traditionally the police have been able to brutalize blacks and the poor generally, and that treatment tended to legitimize lynching blacks as recently as the '40s, perhaps later. Lynching Jews went out of style in the mid 19th century, but the lynching of Leo Frank for a murder he did not commit and the formation of the B'Nai B'rith. Gays have had the misfortune to inherit the void. There is no B'Nai B'rith for Gays. "Bashing" is a euphemism. Lynching is a more exact term. The attitude of the police is an important part of the problem.

By the sentences meted out to murderers of Gays, society clearly indicates that Gay lives are of little value in America. This value-judgment is reflected in police attitude, not necessarily policy, as stated. Recent newspaper accounts of the previous activities of a controversial homicide detective stated that he was one of the questioners of Dan White — that is to say White's case in the police department was handled by two of his friends.

Although the most famous police riot in the U.S. was the one in Chicago, San Francisco has had more than its share of questionable police behavior. In the lovefest between the mayor and police chief there is little room for blame, but her honor did complain when her personal friend was beaten in the 49er mele.

In the recent Lord Jim raid, the customers were held at gunpoint for two hours "for their own protection," under conditions of terror. Even so, that was kinder treatment than that given the patrons of the Elephant Walk.

There is something basically wrong with the method used to select police. One must suspect that the choice is deliberately made to secure the result we now have.

As for "representation" by Commissioner Joe Daly and Ron Huberman, one must disregard that, as they have blended in with the establishment, and now stand only as apologists.

Jack Ragsdale
San Francisco

LETTERS

AIDS Lists

The following was written to the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

★ A recent suggestion that health agencies assemble lists of persons exposed to the AIDS-associated virus (*Chronicle* Aug. 24) has caused some alarm in men and women who have been cooperating with AIDS research studies.

I want to assure your readers that AIDS (and other) epidemiological studies at UCSF are carried out under an agreement of confidentiality by which we, the researchers, agree that no personal information will be made public and that only aggregate, statistical data will be reported. We are bound by this agreement and would not release personal information to a registry, if one were to be set up.

We in the AIDS epidemiology group do believe that the blood supply needs protecting, and we support the donor-deferral and screening policies at local blood banks. Epidemiological studies are necessary to develop such policies, however, and guarantees of confidentiality are necessary for epidemiological studies.

The support for our AIDS studies in San Francisco over the last two years has been truly remarkable. We hope you will assist us in making it clear that the confidentiality of research subjects will be protected in San Francisco, so that we continue to be able to carry out these studies.

Andrew Moss, Ph.D.
Dept. Epidemiology &
International Health, UCSF

On Blood Donor Registry

The following was written to Dr. James Curran of the U.S. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta:

★ I write to urge that you consider establishing an "acceptable blood donor registry" (ABDR) as an alternative to the proposed list of AIDS-positive blood donors.

As you must be aware, any list of persons whose blood is rejected because of AIDS-associated factors, is, without more, going to place a savage and debilitating social stigma, an unshakable albatross around the neck of any person whose name appears on such a list.

Gay community leaders rightfully decry the prejudicial effects against Gay men. But a lab error, a blood condition created by non-AIDS causes, a naturally occurring condition: no matter what, if it causes you — or me — to be placed on that list, could destroy our lives and our careers forever.

Mike Cassidy
San Francisco

Who will be willing to partake in research on AIDS? As, myself, a longtime and frequent blood donor, I ask you, will not many people think twice about volunteering to give blood at all?

The objective of protecting the purity of our blood supply is of course valid. Please, though, do not in the name of this cause destroy not only a large number of innocent people, but the very voluntary blood donation program which you seek to protect.

Carol Ruth Silver
Member, SF Board of Supervisors

Jesus as Hero

★ The Gay community is battling its head against a brick wall by taking the position that "Christianity" is the enemy, and by lashing out against "Cops for Christ" and other so-called religious groups who use the Bible not as a spiritual guide, but as a weapon against us. It is not original Christianity which teaches tolerance and love that is the enemy, but rather the "new Christendom," which uses the Bible as little more than a sex manual. The homophobic fundamentalists find little to quote, of course, from Christ's real teachings. They like to use his name, but they get their best ammunition from the fearful ravings of Paul. Christ forgives.

Despite what many think of Sister Boom Boom, he has cleared the way and shown us a useful example: The best way to fight fire is with fire, and with humor. I don't doubt for a moment that he knows the Gospels as well as Falwell.

Anyone who has made a study of the four Gospels on which Christianity is actually based, should know that Jesus was not against us. He was, in fact, and should be considered our hero. Paul, with his hellfire and brimstone condemnations was the enemy. But many confuse his ravings with Gospel when they were actually macho instructions in the form of letters intended only for members of the churches he himself organized. He was not Jesus Christ, he never knew Jesus, and he is notable only for forming what is known today as "Christendom," wrongly using the name of Jesus as the cornerstone. Jesus did not write, did not create an organized church — he tore churches down, and he did not condemn anyone to hell who expressed individuality. In fact, Jesus was perhaps the original "individual," promoting individuality and encouraging tolerance and love-thy-neighbor. One cannot say the same for Paul, who promoted a kind of holier-than-thou elitism.

If the fundamentalists and "Cops for Christ" think that Paul has given them adequate weapons to use against us, then Jesus has given us even better weapons to use against them. The "modern Christian," who equates morality only with sexuality, and who believes that homosexuality is the greatest, if not the only, sin, is himself guilty of every other immorality Jesus warned against. Do they believe that "heaven" is divided into

various sections — luxurious condos for hypocrites and flaming pits for Gays? Jesus, Himself, said that it would be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgement, than for many hypocrites. But even so, the problem in Sodom was not homosexuality but unrighteousness!

However, are Gays so threatened by the mere mention of the Bible that we must retaliate by proclaiming ourselves anti-religious? It is not, I can assure you, to our advantage, and it is not true. Why can't we move with the trend and form a retaliatory organization called "Gays for Christ," espousing the more profound teachings of Jesus? Homophobes don't own the exclusive rights to spiritual and moral standards, and neither do the churches. I propose adopting Jesus as our own special hero (after all, they've got Pauline), learning His teachings thoroughly by studying His life as set down by the four Gospels, and using that powerful information to our advantage. If we haven't the fortitude to justify our own lives, no one else will.

Bob Hart
San Francisco

What If?

★ Suppose we assemble this group who profess to love Jesus Christ so much: Jerry Falwell and a few of his most staunch supporters, the Cops for Christ, and the president of the Mormon church with a few of his elders. Now, lo and behold, Jesus Christ, Himself, appears before them! What do they see?

They see a young man about age 30 with a beard and long flowing hair wearing a white muslin dress and bare feet in sandals.

Their reaction to this divine appearance: The Cops for Christ would give Him a citation considering Him to be a Haight-Ashbury hippie and as "undesirable" as some people at Halliday Plaza. Jerry Falwell would have heard that this fellow lives with twelve unmarried fishermen (you know what that means!) and an ex-prostitute who washes His feet with her hair. How unsavory! The president of the Mormon church would be appalled at His "ungroomed appearance" and sternly threaten the youth of his church to stick to the straight and narrow lest they degenerate to His level. Today, Brigham Young, himself, could not attend the university it is named after with his long hair and beard because of its dress code.

We all know what happened to the real Jesus Christ. With no concrete evidence, He was executed by the State at age 33.

Mike Cassidy
San Francisco

Opera Critics

★ I would think opera needs to be laughed at, too, like everything else in life, so it doesn't overwhelm us. I have often been amused by Mr. Heymont's column, *Tails of Tessa Tura* (a very funny title indeed!). But isn't it becoming too much of a joke, Mr. Heymont? I am sure many of us would like to know at least why the Zemlinsky opera (a work rarely performed and surely unknown to most of us) was such a "piece of shit," as you call it. It, indeed, may be so, but please, tell us why you think so. Critics do have some duties, you know. Everybody knows how wonderful *Magic Flute* is, and how much we all love it, but then some people can't take it. I would think opera lovers would appreciate your column more and would take you more seriously if the dishing was more proportionate to the information. Don't you agree?

Dick Johnson
Sacramento

Is Disco Dead?

The following was written to *Mary Louise*:

★ Ahhh! I just read your column in this past week's *Bay Area Reporter*. I agree with you 100%. Doh!, on every comment you made about SF's disastrous Disco Plague. My dear, I'm originally from the East Coast where I feel "Discotheque" got its name. I recently went back there for a two-week visit with my parents, and let me tell you . . . Disco is far from deceased. Those girls were out there every night in their finest Evan-Picone, clicking up a storm!!! When I returned to SF, I was once again much disillusioned by, as you say, those "head trip" dance bars. This is not where it's at, I'm afraid. We do need a fabulous Dance Bar in this city desperately!!! S'pose we start taking funds? What's a cha-cha palace Betty Wright lover gonna do? Karen Young where are you?

Glovenia Burkwietz
San Francisco

No, It's Not

★ "Mary Louise and Gertrude in the Disco" was wonderful! It's so refreshing to see in print someone say what we all know. Disco is alive and well! A sign to that effect hangs proudly over my desk at work, and my record collection grows 'n grows! It was standing room only at the Copa last week. It's only getting better.

Bill Smith
Menlo Park

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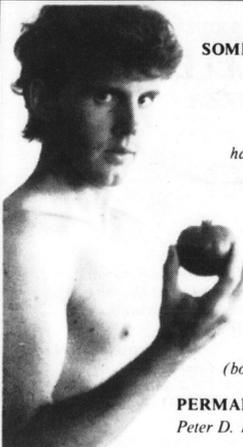
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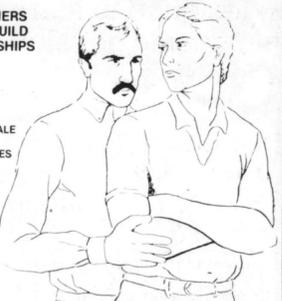
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LETTERS

Not Gay at the Faire

★ On Labor Day a group of my Gay friends and I attended the "Gay Day at the Faire."
 We all had a wonderful time until a certain point. I am extremely angry, as are my friends. I was walking around the Faire, hand in hand with my lover. We were called dirty queers and faggots in two separate instances, and told to go back where we came from. These insults came from the vendors.

As a Gay person, I am outraged by this sort of conduct, especially since this was supposed to be an event where Gays were welcome. I am a businessman and have lived in the Castro for seven years. I will never again spend good money to be insulted, and I shall urge everyone I know never to attend this Faire again.

Joe Marino
 San Francisco

Silver Lining

★ My name is Irene Smith. I work as a massage therapist, and at this time work primarily with people with the condition of AIDS. I have a positive view on this condition that I'd like to share with you.

What I believe we are dealing with here is a condition of fear, negativity, guilt, and anger that has come to a head. We are being forced to see it manifested in the physical body, that we might begin to learn to grow, to sort out and confront the conditions that we have set up for ourselves at this time. We are being forced to grow to love and to share our fears and hopes with others, and to come to the aid of our brothers. We must look at the positive growth that is going on, and put our focus there. We must learn from this if we are to correct it.

The fear, sadness, and horror of this disease must be overcome if we are to overcome the disease itself.

If you have had a friend that you have stayed close to during this disharmony, think of how you grew with the experience. Think of the love you shared with this person. Think of the growth this person had to confront in order to live with this disease and to die with it. Think back to the precious moments of love and growth you experienced with this person and share this with others.

If you are a person who has this condition, focus on the lessons you are learning and the love and support you are generating.

I have been a massage therapist in unit 5B for one year and have gone once a week with very few exceptions. I go room to room where there might seemingly be sadness and horror, only to hear from the occupants of these rooms, "I can't believe this place. Everybody here really cares." "I've never experienced such love and care in my life." "This place feels like home — everyone really loves me." These people are the healers of our times. They are focusing us to grow.

What greater memorial than to look at the lessons we are learning, the love we are sharing, and to continue to grow with it. We are being forced to reach the truth of our very existence. Love. Love in its purest form. That which is other than the physical body.

Our losses, our fears, and our horrors are our tools for learning. We must experience these losses, let them go, and get on with what we have gained from these losses. Only by creating a positive learning experience from this can we heal it. We are the healers of our times.

I hear over and over again, "I am afraid to live without this condition because I have never experienced such love in my life." Last night a friend told me, "I would rather live one year more with this disease than 50 years of my previous lifestyle. I have never been so loved or closer to my purpose in life. I have learned more in the nine months since I've been diagnosed than in the 30 years prior to this condition."

We must learn from this and setup positive, loving conditions in which to live. People are actually dying for love. We need to take a good honest look at what is going on here.

We are constantly looking to other responses to satisfy our internal needs, and this is not working. Yes, I believe AIDS means death. Death of an old lifestyle and creation of a new one. This is the full circle of life.

The Gay community is the healer of our times, because of your total freedom to be creative, your joy in living, and the enormous opportunity to love yourself and others at this time. This is the healing of our times.

This is total freedom to create a healing community. Be Proud!

Irene Smith
 San Francisco

Trivial Pursuits

★ A mid-term exam for those of us who tried to keep up during the summer, or ten little questions I don't want to answer:

1. After men, what is the largest minority? Gays - Blacks - Indifferents?
2. The U.S. developed a space weapons system then discarded it as ineffective. If the Russkes deploy such a system, are they ahead in the space weapons race? (True or False)
3. A candidate who pays 40% of her income in taxes is a liability to her party. (True or False)
4. If you help kill 700 Cubans, you are a hero. (True or False)

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

5. It is good politics to: propose legislation; get most of the supervisors to agree to it; then vote against it. (True or False)

6. Who reported more income, Republican or Democratic delegates?

7. If you are Black and criticize Zionism, you are censured by the Senate. If you are an American Jew, get elected to the Israeli parliament and advocate the expulsion of all Arabs; you are 1

8. If Kennedy tried to kill Castro, Castro would be 1) to try to kill Kennedy, a. morally correct; b. naive; c. reasonable; d. stupid; e. just.

9. If you invade Iran you will be: a. supplied by the Russians; b. supported by the U.N.; c. loved by the U.S.; d. hated by the Israelis; e. all of the above.

10. How many nuclear weapons does it take to kill everything on this planet?

Ari Selin
 San Francisco

P.S. Homosexual children are just that (10% of the population). The recruitment of any child is a disease which Mr. Falwell practices with unusual zeal.

Close 'em Up!

★ Please close all medical offices in San Francisco to slow the spread of ignorance and violations of civil liberties.

David N. Bentley
 San Francisco

Loving with Aids

★ As a person surrounded by persons with AIDS (PWA), I am responding to a letter to the editor published in the *Bay Area Reporter* a few weeks ago sent in from Ernest MacDonald of San Francisco. This letter is pinned up on my bulletin board at work and it still brings tears to my eyes when I read it. Bravo, Mr. MacDonald, and Bravo *B.A.R.* for bringing it to the community.

Isn't it about time we bring a little joy into the lives of our Gay brothers and sisters who have been deluged the past few years with horror stories and death notices relating to AIDS? How about the hundreds of people who are still alive and dealing with AIDS in our community? Wouldn't we all be surprised to learn how many of our friends have this disease and are still leading active lives? People with jobs, support groups like Shanti, the SF AIDS Foundation, Ward 96 at SFGH, and even just plain friends who are a part of the mental, spiritual, and yes even physical needs of people with AIDS.

Surely the time has come to spread the word of all the positive things that are a part of our community today, and the strength that we are all sharing. Sure, people are still dying from AIDS, as a transplanted New Yorker I have lost many, many companions. However, today I find myself in San Francisco surrounded by people living and loving with AIDS, and I am proud to be a part of it all.

Let's hear it for our community and all of us in it — who are not giving up and dying, but rather having lunch, throwing dinner parties, going shopping, and finding out what living is really all about — loving.

Joe Vesely
 San Francisco

Is It Safe?

★ I am visiting San Francisco from Wichita, Kansas. My question is, is it safe to drink the water?

G. Leigh Butterfield
 Wichita, Kansas

Beware Steve Perkins

★ Unless the editor of the *Bay Area Reporter* has received from chronic advertiser Steve Perkins reprints from reputable scientific sources which at least tend to confirm his contentions that routinely-administered enemas contribute to general health and stated or implied immunity to STD's and AIDS, unless *B.A.R.*'s editor has been assured by reputable medical advisers that those sources are in any way believable, I feel that the *B.A.R.*'s acceptance of advertising revenues from Mr. Perkins and its continuing dissemination of his pseudoscientific claptrap constitute a real threat to the Gay community. Mr. Perkins' message can be summed up: "Pay me for an enema, then go out and do whatever you wish and you'll be perfectly safe!" Would that life — and the pursuit of happiness — were as simple as Mr. Perkins!

If on grounds of "freedom of the press" you feel that Mr. Perkins' ads should continue to pollute the local Gay press, I would urge that an editorial disclaimer be closely juxtaposed. Such a disclaimer should carry a terse, cogent statement. Something like, "Mr. Perkins, despite his high colonics, is, from a scientific viewpoint, full of shit."

Having frequently observed Mr. Perkins' displaying his physique perched atop garbage containers in the Castro, I can testify that if he practices what he preaches, i.e., keeping his colon squeaky-clean through artificial evacuation, either that practice does not promote vigorous physical (or mental) health, or appearances are deceiving.

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

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO MEN'S HEALTH STUDY

If you live in the central part of San Francisco, you may have a visit from an interviewer employed by the Survey Research Center of the University of California at Berkeley.

The University (including the San Francisco as well as the Berkeley campus) is recruiting and studying a cross-section of single men in the city. This research is designed to learn how AIDS is spread, to determine why some people develop AIDS while others with essentially the same lifestyles don't, and to increase the chances of developing a test to recognize AIDS early enough to give a better chance of a cure.

The interviewer's first job is to determine whether any single men in sample households are eligible for the study. In most cases, letters are sent to the households. All interviewers carry identification and their names are on file not only with the University but with the San Francisco Police.

Any help those in our sample can give to this important research will be greatly appreciated.

P.S. You may have read recent articles in the *San Francisco Chronicle* or in the *Bay Area Reporter* about a proposed nationwide registry of people who produced positive tests for HLTV-3 antibodies in their blood. (This is the virus suspected as a factor in developing AIDS.) Our contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, specifically forbids releasing participants' names to any outside group — not even to the sponsoring agency. We cannot and will not provide names or other identifying information about our participants to anyone outside our staff.

This study has the support of Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Sala Burton and officials in the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

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POLITICS AND POKER

The Race is On

When the 5 p.m. deadline came last Friday for filing for public office in San Francisco, the long list of "intended" supervisorial candidates shrank. The November ballot will list 29 candidates running for the six open seats. In addition to incumbents Britt, Molinari, Silver, Renne, Kennedy, and Kopp, the list of would-be supervisors range from a self-described "Socialist Union militant" (Diana Coleman) to a musician (Ellis Leonard Keyes).

Most political observers expect the six incumbents to be re-elected, but some see former city librarian Kevin Starr, Gay attorney Dave Wharton, or Lesbian health administrator Pat Norman with an outside chance of knocking off one of the incumbents to gain a seat on the city's legislative body.

John Wahl, an attorney in private practice, is the fourth upfront Gay seeking election to the board. Most of the supes' private polls show Supervisor Willie Kennedy, appointed to the board by Mayor Feinstein to replace the late Supervisor Ella Hill Hutch, to be the weakest of the incumbents. But even Kennedy is expected to pull out a win in November to hold her job.

The big fight in the supervisorial race is shaping up between front-runners John Molinari and Quentin Kopp. The top vote-getter becomes president of the board in January. Polls show them running neck-and-neck. Both supervisors expect to spend a lot of money and both sides are pulling out all stops to see who comes in first.

In the Board of Education race, a total of ten candidates are seeking four seats. Incumbents Richard Cerbatos, Ben Tom, Libby Denebeim, and Eugene Hopp are all seeking to keep their jobs and the only candidate given any chance of possibly turning out one of the incumbents is JoAnne Miller, a teacher, who has some support among the city's many diverse political clubs. Other Board of Education candidates are Christopher Christenson, George Dykstra, Martin Eng, Terry Huginin, and James Legare.

Eight candidates have filed for the four open seats on the Community College Board where incumbents Tim Wolfred, Amos Brown, Julie Tang, and Ernest Ayala are all seeking re-election. None of the challengers are expected to defeat an incumbent in the Community College Board race, but among those trying are Patrick Fitzgerald, Dean Goodman, Andre Pehargou, and Moy Velasquez.

Mayor Feinstein's daughter Kathy married over the weekend to Rick Mariano. The Moral Majority's Jerry Falwell told viewers of ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" Sunday that "Walter Mondale doesn't have a prayer — even a voluntary prayer — of being elected," to which Brinkley snapped, "I wonder if he (Falwell) knows something we don't." Falwell, who says "the leaders of the Republican Party are God's instrument" for leadership of this country, once wrote in one of his books that "I hope I live to see the day we no longer have public schools, that churches will take them over and Christians will be running them." Supervisor Dick Hon-

gisto told the Examiner's Dave Farrell that Wendy Nelder's recent suggestion that flouride in the city's water may be one of the causes of AIDS has "caused a lot of people to question her mental ability." They've been laughing behind Wendy Nelder's back at City Hall for a couple of years now. And speaking of Supervisor Hongisto, when asked on Channel 6's "Viewpoint" program the other night about a possible Feinstein challenge to Alan Cranston, Hongisto pointedly replied that "I think she'll get her pants beat off."



Upstairs, Downstairs. It's real drama as endorsement time arrives. At the Toklas Club, the action is out by the stairs. Top, John Molinari surrounded by polls; bottom, supervisorial challenger Kevin Starr (far r.) proselytizes by the door. (Photos: Rink)



USA Today carrying a great review of Rob Epstein's new film, *The Times of Harvey Milk*; the film opens here Oct. 25 at the Castro as a benefit for AIDS and the Milk film project. In Anaheim last week a woman who thought she was having sex in the dark with her husband told the cops that she realized the man was a rapist when he fled her bedroom through a window; her husband had fallen asleep in front of the TV (gimme a break!). Geraldine Ferraro says she can't understand why her candidacy hasn't made more of a breakthrough with the nation's women voters. Ferraro told a group of feminists last week that "the one thing that bothers me are the polls still showing women splitting equally between Mondale and Reagan — it boggles my mind."

In New York an order from Mayor Ed Koch prohibiting organizations that do business with the city from discrimination against Gays was ruled unconstitutional last week. The state judge's ruling resulted from an appeal by three religious agencies, including the Salvation Army, which perform social services under contract.

Mayor Koch says he will appeal the ruling. Whether her old man becomes president or not, Eleanor Mondale is on her way to becoming a movie star; Eleanor tells us she will go to Greece after the election to film a leading part in the upcoming movie *Kings Are Wild*, starring Glenda Jackson. Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank will be guest speaker at a dinner and reception at the Mark Hopkins Sept. 28 given by The Non-Partisan Alliance, a Political Action Committee which makes campaign contributions to candidates who support Lesbian and Gay rights. Tickets are \$125; cocktails at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 (392-2800 or 552-5600 for info). And if you planned to vote for Angela Davis in November, forget it — the Communist Party failed to get the number of signatures needed to get Angela and Gus Hall on the Nov. 6 ballot in California. Look for Toklas president Sal

Facing Life, Facing Death: Shanti Seeks an Inner Peace

Counselors, Practical Volunteers are the Soldiers Fighting on the Front Line of the AIDS Epidemic

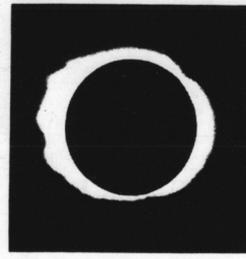
by Mike Hippler

They have been called death cultists as well as angels of mercy, spiritualists and mystics as well as strong-willed pragmatists. The truth, as always, lies somewhere in between, but one thing is certain — of all those who have attempted to do something about the AIDS nightmare, the staff and counselors of the Shanti Project have worked as hard and as selflessly as anyone. Their impact, especially among the people most directly affected, has been enormous. It is estimated that nearly 80 percent of the people with AIDS in San Francisco have utilized the project in some way.

Shanti Project, a volunteer counseling service for individuals facing life-threatening illnesses, their loved ones, and the bereaved, was founded in 1974 by Dr. Charles Garfield, a clinical psychologist. According to Jim Geary, who is now Executive Director of the project, Garfield was working with cancer patients at the University of California Medical Center at the time and was struck by the lack of emotional support for these people.

Because nurses and physicians were not trained to deal with the emotional and social issues that arise when people are faced with life-threatening illnesses, Garfield decided to train a group of peer counselors to give the kind of support that was lacking.

Garfield began with 14 volunteers, located the project in Berkeley, and focused on illnesses such as breast, liver, and pancreatic cancer, terminal heart disease, and terminal diabetes. In 1981, however, the focus began to switch when the



first local AIDS cases came to light.

Jim Geary, who joined the project as a volunteer counselor in 1978, formed the first AIDS support group in November 1981 in his home. At the time, there were only 35 known AIDS cases, and, says Geary, "None of us had any idea that the epidemic was going to take off the way it did."

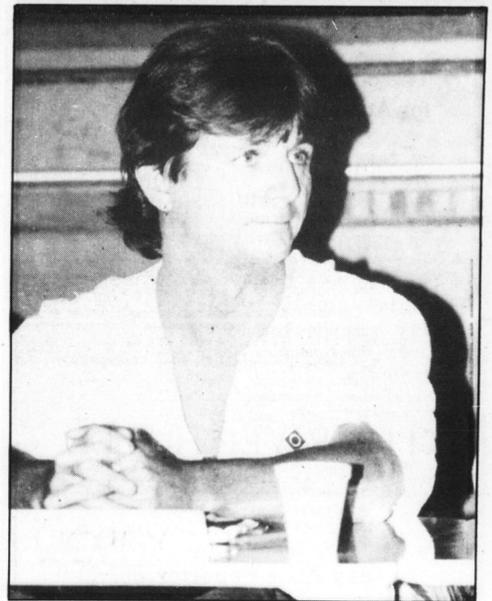
In March 1982 the project went broke. The Board of Directors, which included no Gay people and, perhaps as a result, had little sensitivity to the AIDS

issue, felt they could no longer continue. Deciding to disband, they turned the project over to the volunteer body.

At that point, Geary offered to become Executive Director on unemployment. Along with a new board, he was elected and ran the organization without pay until March 1983, when a funding proposal sponsored by Supervisor Harry Britt for \$59,000 came through. The project's present budget is \$900,000 a year, with almost half that amount coming from the city. The rest is generated from private contributions, foundations, and grants.

In September 1983 the board moved the project from the East Bay to San Francisco and decided to provide services here only to persons with AIDS rather than to persons with a variety of life-threatening illnesses. The reason for this, Geary said, is the relatively small budget, staff, and number of volunteers.

There are still 13 volunteer counselors in the East Bay who work solely with non-AIDS peo-



Jim Geary (Photo: Rink)

ple (AIDS people in the East Bay are seen at the Pacific Center), but the 100 counselors in San Francisco deal only with AIDS-related concerns.

At present there are 18 people on the Shanti staff. Most of these are administrators, such as the two volunteer coordinators and the residence director. There are also two registered nurses and five persons with Marriage and Family Counseling licenses.

There are no trained psychologists or psychiatrists on the staff, although Dr. Garfield remains on the board and acts as a consultant, for, according to Geary, there is no need for one.

"We don't do therapy," he explains. "We provide peer counseling. It is an equal type relationship. We don't see ourselves as working with a mentally sick population. We're working with a very normal population, in that all of us face life-threatening illnesses."

Geary's own background is perhaps indicative of the kind of experience the majority of Shanti workers have — plenty of practical experience but less formal training. He went to college for a year in 1970 but dropped out to do anti-draft and war-resistance counseling. Later he became the director of Catholic

(Continued on next page)

AIDS Safe-Sex Guidelines[©] June 1984

SAFE SEX PRACTICES

- Massage, Hugging
- Mutual Masturbation
- Social Kissing (Dry)
- Body-to-Body Rubbing (Frottage)

POSSIBLY SAFE SEX PRACTICES

- French Kissing (Wet)
- Anal Intercourse With Condom
- Sucking - Stop Before Climax
- Watersports - External Only
- (Risk Increases With Multiple Partners)

UNSAFE SEX PRACTICES

- Rimming
- Fisting
- Blood Contact
- Sharing Sex Toys
- Semen or Urine in Mouth
- Anal Intercourse Without Condom

AIDS Hotlines

- (415) 863-AIDS
- Toll-Free in N. CA: 800-FOR-AIDS
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Another Message From The San Francisco AIDS Foundation

AIDS Clinic Open in San Leandro

An AIDS Specialty Clinic has been opened by Fairmont Hospital as part of the Alameda County AIDS Response Plan. The clinic is open every Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m. Information and appointments can be obtained by calling 577-1620 any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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Community Support. Shanti Project programs are city-funded but still depend on donations and volunteers. (Photo: Rink)

Shanti: Facing Life, Facing Death

(Continued from previous page)

Peace Fellowship, "a sort of semi-radical branch of the Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., connected with the Berrigans."

Geary began his involvement in health care in 1970 when he worked as a recreational therapist with terminally ill preschoolers suffering from leukemia and lead poisoning. For five years after that he worked as a nurse's aide on a cancer ward.

Finally, he worked for three and a half years with the terminally ill at Marshall-Hale Hospital in San Francisco before assuming the directorship of the Shanti Project.

Although the Shanti Project could not function without the efforts of the director and his staff, the major thrust of the organization is through its volunteer counselors and the work that they do. These 100 counselors, who offer their services for a variety of reasons, must first undergo a 1½-hour interview and a 44-hour training period that takes place over two weekends.

Not everyone who applies makes it. Only 60 to 65 percent of the applicants pass the first interview, although approximately 90 percent of the people

The role between counselor and client is an ambiguous one. Friendship may in time develop, but friendship is not the point. The emphasis instead is on communication.

who undergo the training are accepted into the program.

Training sessions are held every eight to ten weeks, depending on need, and there are 20 trainees in a session. "We've had to put a lot of money into advertising in order to attract volunteers to the program," Geary said. "Our hope is to hold training sessions in the future no more than four times a year."

The training is "largely experiential," continues Geary, beginning to use words that may be the source of his reputation as a mystic, if not a Seventies fadist. "Through massage, eye contact exercises, breathing exercises, and a lot of touching, we try to encourage bonding between the counselors themselves."

There is also a good deal of "role-playing," "small-group processing," and "guided visu-

alization." The point of all this is "to get people in touch with their own feelings concerning death and dying," Geary said.

"Above all, we want to get rid of AIDS stereotypes." Only then, Geary said, will the counselors be of any use to the people for whom the organization exists — people with AIDS themselves.

"We don't do therapy. We don't see ourselves as working with a mentally sick population. We're working with a very normal population, in that all of us face life-threatening illnesses."

Jim Geary

Once a counselor has completed training, he commits himself to six months' service, six hours a week (reduced recently from a year's service, eight hours a week). Two of these hours are spent in Monday night support groups led by group leaders with at least six months' experience.

The other four hours are spent with clients, usually in a home or hospital setting. Counselors are matched to clients by Shanti staff members. The relationship

can be terminated at any time by either of the participants, either if things do not work out or if the need has been fulfilled. This is not an infrequent occurrence.

The role between counselor and client is an ambiguous one. Friendship may in time develop, but friendship is not the point. The emphasis instead is on communication. Participants talk about many things — the fears clients have, the reactions of friends and family, treatment options, and attitudes toward death.

They may discuss issues such as sexuality, body image, or the necessity of coming out to the family (if one has not already done so). Counselors provide information and give practical support. They lend themselves as a sounding board.

But one thing they never do is teach. Said Geary, "Our coun-

sors do not tell people how to live their lives. That's not their role at all. What they're there to do is to help clients get in touch with what they want to do and how they want to handle their diagnosis."

Geary said that many turn to Shanti because they have already turned to friends but that

those friends have not been "there" for them "in the way they need people to be there." Affirms Geary, "In an ideal world, where people have not been taught to be afraid of death, or have been taught not to talk about things like life-threatening illnesses, you would not need Shanti Project."

Clients find out about Shanti in various ways. The majority discover the project through other persons who have AIDS. Many are referred by the AIDS Foundation or by private physicians, especially those affiliated with the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.

Others learn of the organization through the five Shanti staff people at San Francisco General Hospital who provide counseling services on Ward 5B, the AIDS ward, and Ward 86, the outpatient clinic.

Not all who contact the project request volunteer counselors. Some need other help, ranging from simple information to a place to live. To provide for these needs, therefore, Shanti has established a variety of programs.

In addition to the volunteer counseling program, there is an information and referral program, as well as a program for community education, which provides speakers. There is the San Francisco General Hospital Counseling Program mentioned above.

There is also a Practical Support Program, which includes 55 volunteers who concentrate on practical rather than emotional needs. Practical support volunteers must donate four hours a week and commit for six months a year, and they help in shop-

(Continued on next page)

Shanti: Facing Life, Facing Death

(Continued from previous page)

ping, cooking, cleaning, and transportation for people with AIDS who cannot do these things for themselves.

"This is less a commitment in terms of time," offers Geary, "but an equal commitment in terms of intensity. They frequently deal with much more physically compromised clients than do our counselors."

Probably the most comprehensive Shanti project is its residence program. The organization houses 14 people at present in three locations, one near San Francisco General and two near its offices at the Pride Center. The first house opened July 1, 1983, and was leased with funding from the city. Residents pay rent on a sliding scale — approximately 25 percent of their income. If they have no income, they pay no rent.

According to residence director Helen Schietinger, the Shanti houses are not hospices. "People are not moving in to die," she states firmly. "Most are moving in to live their lives." Some eventually move out and return home to live with their families or friends or by themselves. Nevertheless, most vacancies are created when someone dies.

Over the past year there have been nearly 50 people housed under the program. More than 20 of these have died. This has not relieved the housing burden, however, and demand continues to be so great that Schietinger is presently looking for a fourth house. Although funds are available, she cannot find suitable locations and willing landlords.

For an organization so intimately connected to the concerns of the dying, perhaps it is difficult to avoid the stigma of a death cult. This appellation disturbs director Geary, who said it is not accurate.

"Our work with the dying is only part of what we do. We work toward recovery if that is the name of the game. And we

Stonewall Endorses Belli

Endorsement of Lia Belli for the State Senate was announced recently by the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club.

Commented Paul Boneberg, president of the 150-member club and an organizer of the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights, "We need a fighter in Sacramento who's a Democrat and can work with the Democratic leadership to get our legislation passed. We know Lia Bella well from working with her the last three years while she was president of the California Democratic Council and we have confidence in her to do a good job in Sacramento."

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work toward dying if that is the name of the game." Geary estimates that 90 percent of Shanti's clients view themselves as recovering. Consequently, the

them.

Regarding his own death, Geary is the ultimate pragmatist. "I have no fear of what happens after I die," he said, "although I don't look forward to it. I will be sorry to let go of the people who are closest to me.

'What we teach is that everyone's experience with death is unique. For some it will add meaning to their lives in how they approach their death. For others it will be a devastating and isolating experience.'

Jim Geary

project focuses on how to live with AIDS, not how to die.

As death is inevitable, however, for all of us, this is the Shanti philosophy, according to Geary: "What we teach is that everyone's experience with death is unique. For some it will add meaning to their lives in how they approach their death. For others it will be a devastating and isolating experience."

"We discuss all those feelings — joy, anger, depression, acceptance — and we make it clear that all those feelings are okay." Personally, Geary admits, when someone rages at the unfairness of it all, he rages too. When someone looks forward to the next phase of life, he is happy for

But what I have come to realize is that life is a process of never-ending change. As I open myself to that, I have less resistance to the way I live my life, and less resistance to the way I die."

For Geary, the key lies in discovering what he hopes all who come to Shanti will find, the meaning of the word "Shanti" itself — inner peace, peace that comes from a fuller understanding. As long as his clients find that peace, Geary concludes, nothing else really matters. ■

M. Hippler

Next Week: A look at the people who make Shanti work: the volunteer counselors.

Fear of AIDS Stymies Search For A Shanti Residence House

The Shanti AIDS Residence Program, which provides permanent housing for displaced persons with AIDS, is having difficulty finding additional housing because of the public's continued fear of AIDS.

The Residence Program was funded by the city over a year ago, when many people with AIDS found themselves out on the streets after telling their roommates or landlords they had AIDS. Shanti's Residence Program provides long-term housing. The Residence Program's director, Helen Schietinger, RN, says that houses with 3 to 6 bedrooms are leased by Shanti Project, furnished, and individual rooms rented to people with AIDS on a sliding scale.

"Until June," says Schietinger, "we never had to turn anyone down who qualified for the program. In May we began looking for a fourth house, knowing the need for permanent housing was increasing. We're still looking." According to the Residence Manager, Bill Barksdale, who is heading up the search, the major difficulty in locating the fourth unit is fear of AIDS. He explains, "I've called

regarding dozens of houses and flats which sounded as though they would meet our needs, only to be told that because our clients had AIDS the owner wouldn't rent to us."

AIDS is not casually contagious, and could not be caught by someone simply living next door to a person having the disease. However, some people in the general public continue to remain uninformed and fearful.

The Residence Program has advertised in both Gay and non-Gay newspapers for sympathetic property owners, with little luck. The few owners who have responded to the outreach so far have not had units which were appropriate. The property owners who currently lease housing to the Residence Program have been pleased to have Shanti as a tenant.

Persons able to provide assistance in locating additional housing for the Shanti Residence Program are urged to call Michael Fiorentino at the Residence Program office: 558-8611. ■

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Task Force Chief Ginny Apuzzo Sets Whirlwind Bay Area Tour

National Gay Task Force (NGTF) Executive Director Virginia Apuzzo will be appearing at a variety of events in the San Francisco Bay Area during the period of September 13-16. Apuzzo, the well-known and outspoken leader of the nation's oldest and largest Gay and Lesbian civil rights organization, will be in San Francisco for the purpose of receiving the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club Award for Outstanding National Leadership at the club's Annual Dinner on Friday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Hotel Meridien. Apuzzo has been an eloquent and long-time leader in the Gay rights movement, most recently as Executive Director of the NGTF since 1982, and the Fund for Human Dignity since 1981. For ticket information, contact Lawrence Wilson at 553-1511.

Additionally, Ginny (as virtually everyone calls her) will be the featured guest of honor and speaker at the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance and the Bay Area Career Women's Reception on Thursday, Sept. 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St. A \$6 donation at the door will benefit NGTF, BANA, and BACW. For more information, call Paul



Virginia Apuzzo (Photo: Rink)

Wotman at 552-5600.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, Ginny will again be the featured speaker and guest of honor at a Reception and Benefit sponsored by the newly-formed Federal Lesbians & Gays (FLAG) organization at the home of Board of Supervisors candidate Dave Wharton, 5031 Diamond Heights Blvd. A \$15 per person donation will benefit both FLAG and NGTF. For more info call Ted Shaner at 387-3157. The FLAG reception is from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ginny will be honored at a Champagne Brunch at the home of Philip Anderson and James Tibbs, 2338 Lake Shore Ave., Oakland. Admission is free, and all Lesbians and Gays in the East Bay are invited to meet Ginny over brunch. For more info, call Philip Anderson at 839-4921.

Also on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m., Ginny will be holding an Old-Fashioned Town Meeting and Ice Cream Social at Holy Redeemer School cafeteria, 117 Diamond (near 18th Street in the Castro). Admission is free, and the entire Lesbian and Gay community is invited to come and bring a friend to join in an open discussion of issues and concerns to the Lesbian/Gay community, as well as to give Ginny an opportunity to meet and talk with a broad cross-section of the San Francisco community. Ice cream and refreshments will be served, with donations going to benefit the Fund for Human Dignity and the NGTF AIDS/Anti-Violence Crisisline.

From 7 to 9 p.m. Ginny will be the featured speaker and guest at the regular monthly Potluck Dinner and Meeting of High Tech Gays in Silicon Valley. For those in either Silicon Valley or the Peninsula/South Bay area who wish to attend and meet Ginny, contact Rick Rudy at (408) 255-6128 for further information and location.

DEATHS

Barton Andrew French, Jr.

Bart French, 46, died quietly at the University of Texas Medical Center, Galveston, Texas on Sept. 5 after a 29-month battle with AIDS. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Barton Andrew (Elouise) French; his sisters Julia and Marna; his lover of 18 years, Robert; and his lover of 8 years, Walter; and his many friends in San Francisco.

Bart moved to San Francisco with Robert in 1968. They settled in the Upper Market/Castro area and opened one of the first openly gay businesses in the 2300 block of Market St. Bart continued in the proprietorship of antique shops where he cultivated his many friendships.

His family, lovers, friends, and acquaintances will miss his warmth, his loving, his caring, and his outrageousness.

A special thank-you to the AIDS care unit at the University of Texas Medical Center, Galveston, Texas.



ty of Texas Medical Center, Galveston, Texas.

A Celebration of Life picnic, in Bart's honor, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22 on Angel Island. Boats depart pier 43.5 starting at 10 a.m. BYO...

Donations in Bart's name may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. ■

Ronn A. Sherrill

Ronn A. Sherrill passed away Friday, Sept. 7 peacefully at home according to his wishes. Ronn was born in South Bend, Indiana on May 21, 1957 into a religious family of eight. He came to San Francisco in 1980 and worked until late at Le Salon. Ronn's hard-fought and extended battle with AIDS was made easier by the help of those at S.F. General Wards 5B and 86, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Visiting Nurses Association/Hospice. Ronn was grateful to those whose care was important during his difficult hours.

Ronn's decision to live his last weeks at home was made possible with the help of Murdock Davis, Don Somera and Glen Morris, his VNA/Hospice attendants, and the unselfish support of a few close friends. Although Ronn's health failed, his love and appreciation for these people never did.

In conjunction with memorial services held in South Bend,



Ind., services are set for Saturday, Sept. 15, 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Pride Foundation, Fillmore and Hayes Streets, San Francisco. Donations may be made to the AIDS Homecare and Hospice Program, Hospice of San Francisco, 225 30th Street, San Francisco, 94131. ■

Giftcenter Gala to Benefit Community

Saturday, Sept. 22, will mark the Fifth Annual "Twenty-Two on the Red" — a black-tie, casino-gaming gala — held at the Giftcenter Pavilion. All proceeds benefit the GGBA Foundation, a San Francisco foundation serving the Gay and Lesbian community.

Gift donations are estimated at more than \$25,000 with a Midnight Raffle of a 1985 Chevrolet Sprint donated by The Val Strough Company in Oakland. Last year, close to \$15,000 was raised for the foundation with over 300 in attendance. This year's projected goal is \$20,000.

"It's a whole new 22 Committee this year with new ideas and new energy to make an already historic event a truly memorable evening," says Committee Chair and Foundation Board Director Bob Hull. "One-half of all our sponsored gaming tables were sold in a week," says Hull.

Gaming tables and appointed concessions are sponsored by community businesses on a first-come, first-served basis with members of the Golden Gate Business Association given first choice, as GGBA is the sponsor of the annual event.

Founded in 1979 by GGBA, The GGBA Foundation has funded over 65 separate projects directly benefiting the Gay and Lesbian population and totaling nearly \$40,000 in grants.

Correction

An article which appeared in the Aug. 23 *Bay Area Reporter* headlined "Feds Make Plans for Registry of People with HTLV-III Antibody" improperly identified Dr. Neil Schram. Schram is a member of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, not the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights is a national group of Lesbian and Gay doctors and medical students. ■

G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

FBI Role in Prison Rape Pushes Activist to the Edge

Fast at San Quentin, Window-Smashing at 'Chronicle' — A Victim's Rage Surfaces

by Charles Lineberger

Tom Cahill's story is convoluted but it comes down to basics. He and his sister were anti-war activists in Texas during the height of the Vietnam War.

He was on parole at the time for destroying property belonging to his employer during a union dispute. His employer had installed a camera in the men's room to catch employees in union activities. Tom smashed it with a hammer and then waited in the toilet for the security guards.

He violated his parole by refusing to pay for the smashed camera, after reading that condemned murderers in his state were getting off with 3 years' probation (the same amount of time as his probation) and were not being required to pay anybody anything. He was incarcerated in the county jail for parole violation.

Word had been put about that Cahill was a child molester and the men inside were waiting for him, expectantly. For 24 hours he was sexually abused by the other men in his cell dorm. They urinated on him, they raped him, and they came back again.

Eventually, his sister managed to get word into the jail that her brother was not a child molester. The men's attacks ceased, but the damage was done. Mental scars were left on Cahill that apparently are with him still. Anti-war activity was finished; he and his sister left Texas and came to California.

The years passed. Cahill got married, opened a business, and got on with his life. But what happened to him lay just under the surface, waiting. One day he read something in a local left-wing paper about two Texas activists "neutralized" by FBI dirty tricks. He wrote to his senator and got access to his FBI files under the Freedom of Information Act.

From what he read, and what his sister, a former nun, authenticated, he apparently had been set up for that trip to the county jail and his 24 hours with the guys inside by the FBI.

It's circumstantial evidence. The FBI file mentions him both before and after his trip to the jail and can very easily be read

'They freaked out when I told them I hadn't eaten for 63 days.'

as proof that they set him up. This was too much for Cahill. He went to pieces; his marriage and his business went down the tubes.

To hang on to his sanity in the only way he knew how, Cahill has decided to fight back in ways that other people would consider a little too kamikaze-like. The *Bay Area Reporter* interviewed him in Ward 7B at San Francisco General Hospital. This is the maximum security ward for psychiatric patients.

There are two locked metal doors to cross and the windows are closed shut with heavy glass and screens. The ward is full of people who look like extras from a Marat-Sade production. Many appear drugged, and some are quite attractive, and some of these (all?) are Gay.

Cahill was brought out of his room for the interview. He is a tall, starved-looking man — he had just broken a 63-day fast. His head is bald, and he was wearing a regulation blue nightgown. Intelligent, sensitive, he was totally caught up in his personal dilemma — how to keep his sanity in the face of what his government had done to him.

Cahill had fasted in support of Randy Taylor's fast. Taylor is the Gay Vietnam vet who wanted to speak at the Democratic Convention. When Taylor gave up his fast, Cahill went on, changing his goal to publicizing rape in the prisons. He parked his van near San Quentin and waited. Zilch. The *Chronicle* made noises as if it was going to cover his story, but it never appeared.

Cahill, losing energy and his bearings fast, appeared at the *Chron.* tried to get into the news department, couldn't, and pulled out his trusty hammer. Out went the windows at the *Chron's* reception area. In came the police and out went Cahill.

California is not Texas, and San Francisco is not a Texas cow city (San Antonio). Cahill was sent to the psychiatric ward when he refused to eat at the jail's holding tank. "They freaked out when I told them I hadn't eaten for 63 days."

What next for Cahill? "I want to bring to the public, via the media, two issues close to my heart: 1) inmate rape, and 2) FBI abuse of power," Cahill



Back to School Check-up for Gay Men

Start the school year with a clean slate (even if you're not going back to school) by getting a VD screening at the Berkeley Gay Men's Health Collective (GMHC). You can have VD and not know it. About two-thirds of the men with rectal gonorrhea and nearly 90% of the men with gonorrhea in the throat have no symptoms. Many men with syphilis also never notice any symptoms. Protect your health and the community's, by getting screened regularly.

The GMHC's routine screening for men with or without

symptoms consists of three gonorrhea cultures (throat, penis, and rectum) plus a blood test for syphilis. For men with symptoms the clinic also tests for NGU and herpes (although there is no treatment for herpes) and treats scabies and crabs. All testing and treatment is confidential and is free, though donations are appreciated.

The GMHC's drop-in VD clinic is run by and especially for Gay men and is open every Sunday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Berkeley Free Clinic at 2339 Durant. For additional information call 644-0425. ■

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Fifes will reopen Easter Weekend—April 5, 1985.
For information and hotel reservations, telephone: (707) 869-0656.

South Bay Activists Form Political Fund

Board is 'Who's Who' of Gay Leaders, Supporters in Area

A new Political Action Committee (PAC) has formed in the South Bay. The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) is a nonpartisan, nonaffiliated PAC to promote Lesbian and Gay rights and to raise money for candidates who pledge to endorse those rights. BAYMEC plans to become active in campaigns in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

The new group's board consists of well-known South Bay activists and leaders. The members are Doug DeYoung, Finance Commissioner, City of Belmont; Wanda House, Co-chair, Freedom Democratic Caucus; John Laird, mayor of Santa Cruz; Rosalie Nichols, editor, *Our Paper*; Rich Rudy, president, High-Tech Gays; Wiggy Sivertsen, San Jose State University, United Professors of California local president; Ron Taylor, of Dignity, San Jose; and Ken Yeager, press secretary to Don Edwards, member of Congress.

Issues and criteria BAYMEC plans to use in considering endorsements of candidates for city, judicial, county, state, and federal offices include:

- AB-1
- AIDS funding
- The Equal Rights Amendment
- Equal pay for work of equal value
- Child Custody questions
- Security clearance procedures
- Policy toward police behavior

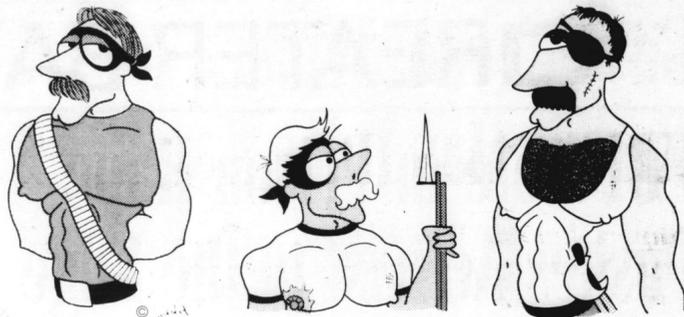
- Proclamations for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week
- Positions, record, and leadership on behalf of issues which advance the rights of Gays and Lesbians.

"For far too many years, Lesbians and Gay men in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties have been painfully aware of a lack of political power and legal protections. While there have been some notable successes with the enactment of civil rights laws in several Bay Area cities, the defeats we suffered in several anti-discrimination referenda against the highly visible and well-financed Moral Majority left many of us shaken and frightened," said Ken Yeager, BAYMEC treasurer.

"For these reasons, we have formed the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee. Our goal is simple and direct: to promote Lesbian and Gay rights through the political process," Yeager said.

For more information, contact BAYMEC at (408) 297-1024 or write to P.O. Box 90070, San Jose, CA 95109. ■

Pumps By Doug Fligley



When sex is outlawed, only outlaws will have sex.

OAKLAND

The New Empress' New Clothes

NEZ PAS

ENCUMBRANCE IN AIDEN? (A Got-It-Settled Nose?)

Merely! ACIE Coronation is a little over a week away, and forces within and without the Privy Council seem to be at odds in regards to the withdrawal of one of the Empress candidates.

A reliable source informed me of all the maxi- and mini-details leading up to the brouhaha, the processes of title stripping, the removal from Privy Council seat, and the enticement of "A drag queen in Exile!"

Another reliable source informed me that he gave direct orders for said candidate not to turn in a letter of resignation.

However, as of this writing, it is now permissible to announce the candidates who are running. (Isn't this silly? Didn't we all know just who was running before the kick-off party announcements?) Only one candidate for Emperor VI; Doug Odermat. Three candidates (as of now) for Empress VI are: the Ladies April, Billy, and Rhonda.

If you missed the "Yes, it will be an open mike; no, it will be entertainment only; no, it will definitely be open mike" kick-off party at the Spoiled Brat last Saturday, perhaps you witnessed the same scenario at the Bench and Bar last Sunday (smack dab in the middle of Ed and Little Mother's final auction at Revol). It's almost beyond human endeavor, but all candidates did manage to appear at the auction, attend the kick-off, and return to the auction.

Voting will be on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Turf Club from noon to 2 p.m.; Revol, 3 to 5 p.m.; and at H's Lordships, 7 to 9 p.m. H's Lordships, obviously, is the coronation site, and all the festivities begin at 7 p.m. with the theme of "A Trip Through Time." Tickets are \$12 pre-purchase, and \$15 at the door (if any tickets are available). Nope, I don't know where the tickets are being sold. No one bothered to tell me.

Sunday morning at 11 a.m., the Victory Brunch will also be held at H's Lordships, for \$7.50. This is the time selected by Empress Cha Cha and Emperor Don to present their awards for the year, and officially present Empress and Emperor VI.

Hopefully, a good number of the involvees will be able to make it out to the Hub for its "That's Entertainment II" Sunday evening.

PAMPERED URCHIN ENDURANCE (A Nose with Two Left Feet?)

The Spoiled Brat will present a Dance Marathon from 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28 to midnight, Sunday Sept. 30. It is a benefit for the East Bay AIDS Fund, and there will be guest DJ's around the clock. There is no mention on the flyer if and how much an entrance fee is required.

On Sunday at 6 p.m. Ed

Paulson and Little Mother (gee those names sound familiar) will auction off a very special vacation dream for two come true. The highest bidder will be able to select ANY nine days and nights in whatever month he/she desires.

The details read like a prize list on Wheel of Fortune, but here's what one can bid on: Hosts-guides-chauffeurs Rob and Lou will pick the two of you up on Friday afternoon (at work if you prefer) in a 21' executive coach. The eight hour trip to Palm Springs will be filled with full-bar cocktails, dinner, and video tape selections. A mobile telephone and CB radio will keep you in touch with the outside world. Once in Palm Springs you will explore your private home complete with heated pool and hot tub. While there, you will be chauffeured in a classic Cadillac convertible anywhere you desire to go. All meals, drinks, and transportation are included, so the winners don't even have to bring any money with them (unless souvenirs are desired). Note, if you will, that the total value of this nine-day soiree is \$5,800.

Sealed bids will be accepted from those who are unable to attend the marathon.

NEZ'S NOTES:

• Mr. Lumberjack II will be on vacation for a couple of weeks, and that means that yours truly (and possibly his Tita) will take over the brunch routine at Revol on Sundays 16 and 23 of September. Ray, you'd better come in for your favorite — authentic sourdough pancakes.

• Lady Billy's kick-off party is Sunday, Sept. 16, at Revol, 8:30 p.m. Then for the next four nights at 8 p.m., he will be at Jubilee, Town and Country, Lake Lounge, and Big Mama's.

• Yes, dear reader, all the prizes won by the "consortium," if you will, at Town and Country's Anniversary Party were indeed turned over to the auction and sold.

• God's Hooks! Horse Lady — formerly of the Windjammer on Geary — was in town recently, vacationing from Hawaii. Gee whiz! She hasn't aged one single wrinkle in all those years, and she's still as funny and full of life as she ever was. Her name comes from her equestrian expertise, dear one, not from looks or smell!

• And, there's no truth to the rumor that my recent "female attire doning" was a direct result of dating Daddy David!

Yes, this is a plagiarism: Everybody should believe in something — I believe I'll have another drink! I'm smiling! Love,

Nez

STATE NEWS

Only in Southern California

Gay Pageant Winner Booed; Rumor Has It He's Straight

'Super-Man '85' Won't Quash the Story, Says 'Sexuality Is Nobody's Business'

by Allen White

A former Chippendale dancer was almost booed off the stage last Saturday night as he won the "Super-Men '85" pageant before a near capacity crowd at the Hollywood Palladium. The annual event brought together more than 65 men chosen by Gay bars and businesses in Southern California for a sort of Gay Miss America contest.

Miss America's controversy this year was Vanessa Williams. For the Super-Men pageant it was Joe Davis.

The contestants are chosen after preliminary contests in Gay bars and businesses throughout Southern California. The spirit of the show is that the winner is the hottest Gay guy around.

As the show narrowed to the finalists it became evident to the audience Davis was probably going to win. At the same time, tables of people began to boo. The boos were fueled by the rumor that Davis was straight — and homophobic to boot. The rumor spread across the huge Hollywood Palladium like wildfire.

As Joe Davis was announced "Mr. Super-Man '85," the boos were almost stronger than the applause. As the show finished, the lobby was filled and the subject was Davis and how the audience felt they had been ripped off.

The rumors continued as unsubstantiated charges were made that the guy was homophobic, had a bad attitude, did not want to be associated with the other contestants, and countless other bits of gossip.

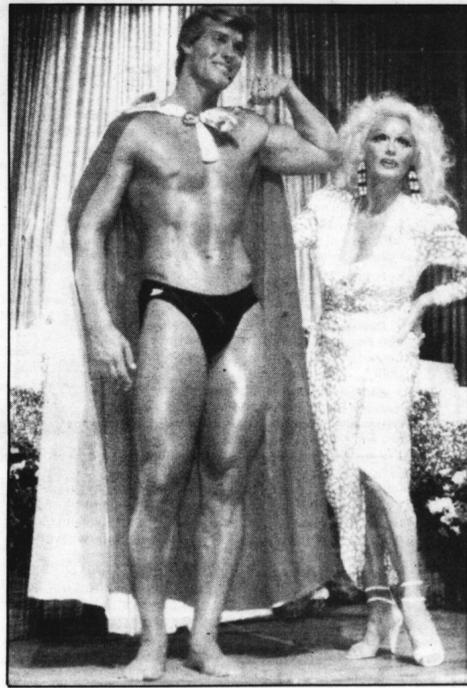
As the rumors continued in the lobby, the winner posed for pictures and signed autographs on the stage. Before a press corps which included almost every Gay paper in the state, he was asked if he was Gay. He responded, "There are three things I don't discuss — politics, sex, and religion." He then was asked about Gay pride. He said, "I'll tell you what I told the judges: I'll do my best to represent the community."

Rumor was overtaking fact as the departing audience. Being Gay was becoming an issue and Mr. Super-Man '85 wasn't doing anything to quash the controversy.

The show's producer, Dave Hodgson, emphatically stated the guy was Gay. But he didn't say how he knew other than to say he checks these things out in advance. Bill Baker, a director of the recent NBC movie V and a judge, said he believed from the interviews with Davis that he was Gay. The Assistant Producer, Sal Montalto, said there is nothing in the rules that says anything about sexual orientation and therefore it shouldn't be an issue.

The dynamics of the boeing audience provided a climactic ending to an extremely well-produced evening. The entrants were from all over the Southland and the audience reflected the diversity. There were people from San Diego, Palm Springs, and Hollywood. Even Honolulu and Las Vegas were represented.

The audience turned the event into as much a social event



Super-Man Joe Davis. Muscles of steel... but did a straight stud steal the show? (Photo: Rose De Castro)

as a show. Still, no matter how social, there was no question the people were there to see the men.

Give or take one or two who got lost in the shuffle, there were 67 contestants. When the curtain opened there was an audible gasp. The audience of more than 1,500 men reacted like lions in a zoo at feeding time. As each man was introduced there was screaming, applause, and near hysteria.

MC Kenny Sacha kept a finger on his script just to maintain. After they were introduced the group was broken into more manageable groups of four sets. The curtains spread and about 17 men presented their bodies in the "Levi competition." The phrase is used to describe the only article of clothing they were wearing. At this point particular contestants began receiving sup-

tion of a Southern California tradition called LaRey. LaRey has turned overdressing in drag into an art form and evidently is looked to in the Gay community in a way tourists look to the Hollywood sign.

It fell upon LaRey to introduce the judges. Hollywood has a special way when it comes to judges for Gay events. The judges, in no particular order, were Mamie Van Doren, Charles Nelson Keilly, Grease 2 co-star Mike Clifford, Zeld Rubenstein, Pepito Alberto, V director Bill Baker, Angelyne (who seems to be everywhere on L.A. billboards), and Tim Holloway, who was Mr. Super-Man '84.

Then they introduced the finalists. A total of 16 were selected. One by a tie, which became an interesting twist as the evening progressed. They had 15 questions for 16 finalists. The questions didn't tax the mind, which the audience didn't seem to be terribly concerned about. The problem arose when they ran out of sealed envelopes with the questions.

There was no envelope for the last finalist, who also would turn out to be the winner. Kenny Sacha started to ask a question, then stopped and changed the question. That split second was the opening. Some in the crowd began to boo.

Six finalists were announced. The audience was cheering the finalists as they were announced and increasing the boos as they guessed the winner.

The winner was announced. Joe Davis, representing Hugu Video, was Mr. Super-Man '85. It was near pandemonium.

For his efforts the winner received a new Pontiac and some other prizes. ■

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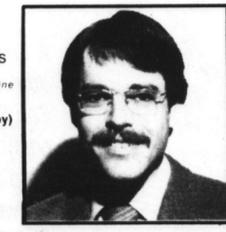
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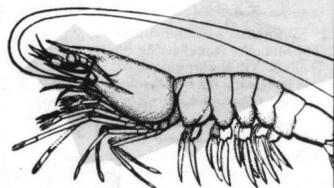
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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 14

- **AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance, Studio Rhino, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5. A collage of theatrical pieces that focus on the many ways AIDS has affected all of society.
- **Loving Women:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5 to \$8 sliding scale. A dramatic exploration of love among women by the Mother tongue Readers Theater.
- **Riot Squad:** comedy/improvisation, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10:30 PM, \$5.
- **Jane Dornacker:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, cover. Comedy open mike.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** lecture by Joseph Itiel on how to control or eliminate habits through self-hypnosis, 2038 22nd Ave., S.F., 8 PM, \$7.
- **Gay Italian Speaking Group:** meeting, 8 PM. Call 282-4956 for more information.
- **Lynda Bergren and Jae Ross:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.

- **Charles Busch: Alone With a Cast of Thousands:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. Busch takes his act from the Rose to Rhino.
- **The Woods:** stage performance, One Act Theatre, 430 Mason St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. The Open Door Theatre Company performs a play by David Mamet.
- **Future Junkyard:** stage performance, Zephyr Theatre, 595 Mission St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. Dream Theatre presents a new production.
- **Cinderella II:** stage performance, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. Written by Daniel Curzon and Dan Turner, performed by the Angels of Light.
- **Kerrigan Black:** music, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness and Geary, S.F., 8:30 PM, cover. Black will also appear at the Sansome Street Brasserie, 411 Sansome St., S.F., at 5:30 PM.

- **K-RA-ZY for Gershwin:** stage performance, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., cover. Call 776-2100 for details. With Patricia Butler and Scott McKenzie.
- **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.
- **Jacques Breil is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10. Starring Ruth Hastings.

SATURDAY 15

- **For the Children:** conference sponsored by the Gay Men's Parenting Group, Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, \$15. The conference will focus on forging links between the Gay male and Lesbian communities for the purpose of co-parenting, with speakers Sara Lewinstein, Tom Waddell, and Joanne Gardner-Loulain. Call 841-4622 for more information.
- **Wine and Cheese Reception:** sponsored by the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom Law Student/Law School Committee, 468 30th St., S.F., 3 to 5 PM.
- **AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Did You Come or Fake It?:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5 to \$8 sliding scale. The Mother tongue Readers Theater in a revised production.
- **Gay Comedy Night:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Featuring Linda Moakes, Mario Mondelli, Marga Gomez, and Ruby "Rodriguez" Rubenstein.
- **Robin Young Band:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4. Rhythm and blues flavored with jazz.
- **I Want Your Newspapers:** final newspaper collection of the year to benefit the Gay Men's Chorus, Happy Boy parking lot, Market and Sanchez Sts., 9 AM to 4 PM. A garage sale will also be held at the site.
- **Autumn Equinox Celebration:** sponsored by the Tayu Fellowship, Russian River, 1 PM until, \$15 single, \$25 couple. Call (707) 887-2490 for more information.
- **Leola Jiles:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$6.
- **Conjunto Caspedes:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4 to 8 PM, cover. Album release party for the Afro-Cuban band.

- **Garage Sale:** 20% of proceeds go to AIDS Foundation, 2989 Jackson St., S.F., all day.
- **David Kelsey and Pure Trash:** music, New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk St., S.F., 8 PM, free. The original Pure Trash performs with David Kelsey in a farewell performance.
- **Charles Busch: Alone With a Cast of Thousands:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).



Bob Stone, Ellen Brook Davis, Doug Hobeclaw, and Chuck Hilbert in AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival at Studio Rhino through Sept. 16. (Photo: Mark I. Chester)

- **Future Junkyard:** stage performance, 8:30 and 11 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Woods:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Cinderella II:** stage performance, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **K-RA-ZY for Gershwin:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jacques Breil is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret (see Friday listing for details).

SUNDAY 16

- **And We Call It Survival:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5 to \$8 sliding scale. The San Francisco premiere of the newest addition to the Mother tongue Readers Theater repertory.
- **AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Geraldine Ferraro Emancipated All Star Blues Band:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, cover. With Addie, Keta Bill, Jo Baker, and Lady Bianca. The Lesbian Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club will staff a voter registration table.
- **The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** performance and auction, Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., 3 PM, \$6.
- **The Gay Life:** radio, KSNB (95 FM), 6 AM. A January 1982 interview with Bobbi Campbell and the first part of the memorial service for Campbell will be aired.

- **Day Hike:** Las Trampas Regional Park, sponsored by the San Francisco Hiking Club, meet at the McDonald's on the corner of Stanyan and Haight Sts., S.F., 9:45 AM.
- **San Francisco Frontrunners:** run at China Basin, begins at 10 AM at the intersection of Mission Rock and 3rd Sts., One to five miles.
- **Eastbay Frontrunners Club:** run at the Berkeley Marina, meet at 9:30 AM at the first parking lot on the left by the windsurfers' dock. Brunch follows a three-mile run. Call 525-7315 or 527-9167 for more information.

- **G 40+:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Frank Mosher, creator of the Alice Faye Cinema Club, will share stories on film greats of the past and inside information on vintage films.
- **VD Clinic:** by and for Gay men, Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM, free and confidential. Call 644-0425 for more information.
- **Tropical Nights:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4 to 8 PM, cover. Salsa, samba, funk, and jazz.
- **Bettina Barboza:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **Holly Near, Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, and Arlo Guthrie:** music, Greek Theatre, Berkeley, 3 PM, cover.

- **David Kelsey and Pure Trash:** music, New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk St., S.F., 8 PM, free. The current Pure Trash performs with David Kelsey in a farewell performance.
- **Tavern Guild Picnic:** at Windsor Waterworks and Slides, featuring The Doom Flume, 8225 Conde Lane, Windsor, 9 AM to 6 PM, \$12. Free food, raffle prizes, swimming, games, free beer, wine, and soft drinks, voting for Mr. and Mrs. Tavern Guild 1984. Music will be provided by DJ Randy Dulaney, his third year providing services for the picnic. Dancing all day.
- **Charles Busch:** stage performance, \$7 (see Friday listing for details).

- **Future Junkyard:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Martha Young Trio:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM.
- **Cinderella II:** stage performance, \$7 (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.

MONDAY 17

- **Come to the Cabaret:** extravaganza, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8 PM, \$25. The San Francisco Council on Entertainment presents a cabaret extravaganza featuring Doug Ferrari, winner of the 1984 Stand-up Comedy Competition, and Tom Ammannio, plus a host of others.
- **Aldo Antonio Bell:** music, Raggs, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$5.
- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Co-emcees Tom Ammannio and Linda Moakes. Performer sign-up at 7:30 PM.
- **Tuffy Eldridge and Krista Hillhouse:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 to 11 PM.

TUESDAY 18

- **Bette Rhino Awards:** Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM. Tom Ammannio will emcee.
- **Star Crossed in Mantua:** playreading, Fort Mason, Bldg. C, Room 300, S.F., 7:30 PM, \$2. By Richard S. Usem.
- **Dexter Devoe and Glamor Rock:** music, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6.
- **Teresa Tudury:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **Scott Warner:** music, Raggs, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$5.
- **Miki:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **Michael:** music, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 6 PM, \$3.

- **Lisa Pawlak:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **For Women Only:** live erotic dancing, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **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.

WEDNESDAY 19

- **Beyond Happiness:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. A one-man, multiple character play written and performed by Peter McGee.
- **Elbow Grease:** playreading, Studio Rhino, 2926 16th St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$3. Written by Barry Lowe, directed by Phillippe Roy.
- **Inter-Racial Relationships:** a discussion for Lesbians of color and non-color, Pacific Center, Berkeley, 8 to 9:45 PM, \$2.

- **David Lambie Interviews:** radio, KPFA (94 FM), 4:30 to 6 PM. Armistead Maupin, *Chronicle* columnist, will discuss the latest compilation of his *Tales of the City* collection, *Babycakes*, and take listener questions at 848-4425.

- **Sammi Gray:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.
- **Milt Abel and Steve Kravitz:** comedy, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 PM, \$4.
- **Lynda Bergren:** music, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 6 PM, \$3.
- **A.J. Holmes:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **The Bong Show:** comedy, Club 181, 181 Eddy St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$2. Danny Williams will emcee, performer sign-up from 8:30 to 9 PM.

THURSDAY 20

- **Beyond Happiness:** stage performance (see Wednesday listing for details).
- **Writing Workshop:** for seniors 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birimisa, sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders.
- **Jule Farmer:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.
- **Reginald McDonald:** music, 132 Bush, 132 Bush St., S.F., 6 PM, \$3.
- **Joseph Taro and Nancy McLean:** music, Raggs, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$5.
- **Hector Avian:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **Steel Town:** stage performance, Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$8. The San Francisco Mime Troupe brings its show to the East Bay.



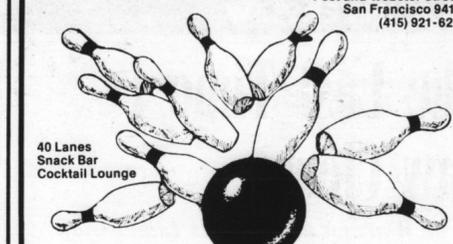
Gary Garrison, of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, wants your newspapers. Bring them to the Happy Boy parking lot at Market and Sanchez Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Photo: J. Altman)

- **Logan:** stage performance, West End Theatre, 90 El Camino Real, Berkeley, 8 PM, \$3. The Bardic Art presents Paul Edwin Zimmer's play.
- **Charles Busch: Alone With a Cast of Thousands:** stage performance, \$7 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jacques Breil is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret (see Friday listing for details).
- **Debbie Saunders:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **Western Star Dancers:** beginners square dance class, YMCA, 220 Golden Gate, 2nd floor, S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-6134 for more information.
- **Cinderella II:** stage performance, \$7 (see Friday listing for details).
- **K-RA-ZY for Gershwin:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fun Run:** sponsored by SuperNutrition Vitamins and Au Naturel health food store, polo grounds, Golden Gate Park, S.F., 6:30 PM, free. Three miles. Meet at the south end of the polo grounds on Middle Drive.

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.

JAPANTOWN BOWL

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GAY BOWLING LEAGUES

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE - San Francisco's oldest Gay league. This league is traditionally 20 or more teams and we expect this season to be no exception, so sign up early. League starts on Monday October 15, 8:45pm, is 80% handicapped, costs \$7.50 per person per week, and there are 5 people per team.

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE - Growing by leaps and bounds. This league is only 2 years old and starts on October 9, bowls on Tuesday nights at 8:45pm, is 90% handicapped, costs \$7.50 per person per week, and there are 5 people per team.

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE - The most popular league for the more serious bowler. The individual averages in this league are a little higher than the other Community Leagues. League starts on September 26, bowls on Wednesday nights at 8:45pm, is 80% day handicapped, costs \$7.00 per person per week, and there are 5 people per team.

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE - Just perfect for you night workers, the league bowls on Thursday afternoons so you people who work at night can enjoy the fun of league bowling also. League starts on September 27, bowls on Thursdays at 1:00pm, costs \$5.50 per person per week, is 90% handicapped, and there are 3 people per team.

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE - Kind of like the Hawaii League, except at the end of the season you spend 3 days and 2 nights in Reno all expenses paid (except food). League starts on October 21, bowls on Sunday nights at 6:00pm, costs \$9.00 per person per week, is 90% handicapped, and there are 4 people per team.

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE - This is the ultimate, a league where you spend a week on Waikiki in June of 1985 and all expenses are paid (except food). Everyone goes to but everyone in the league. League starts on September 7, costs \$16.00 per person per week (this includes the Hawaii Trip), handicap is 90%. There are 4 people per team.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

The Last Time I Saw Cloris

Steve Warren and Cloris Leachman Talk About Old Times and New

by Steve Warren

Cloris Leachman remembers more details of our last meeting — at a press luncheon in Atlanta in 1977 — than I do: how many people were present, where each of us sat, and that it took them 45 minutes to serve the food when she was *starving*.

It was at the height of Anita Bryant's crusade, and I admonished the star for drinking orange juice. "And I said, 'Isn't it wonderful what she's done for you people!'" she recalls verbatim.

Knowing Leachman's attitudes on the subject I had understood her to mean that Bryant's attacks had meant the Gay community as nothing else had been able to do. A woman from a daily newspaper misinterpreted the remark and reported that Cloris had offended "a long-haired, male newsman who has made no secret of his support for the Gay rights movement."

"She wanted to misunderstand," Cloris recalls. "She was upset because the public relations man had asked her not to smoke around me."

Whatever her motivation, the reporter turned in a vitriolic piece that insulted the actress' talent, appearance ("... looking wrinkled and fiftyish...") and personality. Of all the bitchy comments, the only one Cloris

CAN WE DISH?

Her candor about Collins is surprising.

"Why should I help her sell her book?" she agrees. On the other hand, "They ask me about it and I have these funny stories..." With Rivers, she says, it's always a question of "Can we dish or do we have to remember we're sisters?" Not one to carry a grudge about something that happened 30 years ago, Leachman is not feuding with Collins. They last saw each other "about a year and a half ago. We had a chat... She's not after my husband now. She's after my son."

Now that makes sense. My first meeting with Cloris was at another Atlanta press luncheon, in 1976. She brought her oldest son, Adam, then 22, along to



Cloris Leachman in her dressing room at Marines Memorial (Photo: S. Warren)

with Ronald Reagan.

"He was very gentlemanly and courteous... gallant," she said. "He would take my elbow when we crossed the street."

Of the president today, she comments, "What's dangerous is the people he's putting into place, giving credence to — the Falwells..."

Giving equal time before dropping a discussion of politics — "I shouldn't talk about it. I don't know enough" — she suggests, "If Mondale blew dry his hair he might win. He'd look like Phil Donahue... Well, not like Phil Donahue, but at least he'd look cuter."

Sporting a butch new haircut herself — "I like to try different things" — Cloris admits she has to be reminded to do plugs in an interview, but says she's having a good time in Sister Mary Ignatius.

"I can tell when the Gays are out there because they laugh louder and harder," she said.

Many Catholics also respond heartily to much of Christopher Durang's black comedy about a manic nun whose dogmatism has ruined her students' lives for generations.

There are those who don't laugh, however, including the ones who had the show closed in St. Louis, and those who are trying to keep it from opening in Detroit.

"The whole history of the church was to keep people ignorant," Leachman says, indicating that she wants the line quoted. "I think it's important to shake things up, not to get too comfortable in our beliefs. We're not laughing at Christ in the show, we're laughing at ourselves."

TWO FACES OF CLORIS

There are two Cloris Leachmans, they explain — er, she explains. One is "the righteous, rigid, perfect part," the other "the funny, warm, allowing, silly, laughing-at-myself side." They don't conflict, she says: "One side just sort of watches the other."

"If I hadn't been an actress

I'd be much more the rigid, righteous side, but you can't play all the characters I have and get inside those different kinds of people and still be judgmental." Most people, she feels, are afraid to make the effort to understand each other because they would have to love each other. "It's our lovingness that's in the closet," she says.

Despite such wild roles as Sister Mary Ignatius, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, and the Hungarian mother in *Ernie Kovacs: Behind the Laughter* — one of her two Emmy nominations this year — Leachman says she does not like parts that are nothing but camp. She turned down *Madame Arcati* in the musical version of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, she says, and would rather see her played by a man. "Noel Harrison wants to play it... He isn't Gay, however," she adds unnecessarily.

"I want to be challenged and drawn into new experiences — farther and deeper." She compares herself to her dog, a basset/schnauzer she named

scene she had to enter Fonda's ultra-masculine den and say, "This is my favorite room in the house." She asked for — and had to fight until just before airtime to get — a few frilly pillows on a couch, which would be her corner of the room.

She and Noel Harrison toured recently in *The Housekeeper*, a new comedy by James Predeux. It was a disaster, and they thought it was because of a complicated flashback structure. There was talk of trying to rework the play so the scenes fell in chronological order, but nothing was done. In what was supposed to be the next-to-last week of the run, Cloris became more insistent, but found that no one wanted to make the effort for a play that was about to close. In a display of what she calls "drama," but the company probably saw as temperament, she persuaded them to try; and she says the play worked wonderfully well. They ran for an extra three weeks when another project fell through, and would have gone longer if she hadn't had another commitment.

'If Mondale blew dry his hair he might win. He'd look like Phil Donahue...'

— Cloris Leachman

"And Bob's Your Uncle": "I like to run around sniffing at everything... I haven't been challenged enough yet. The best challenge is a part that's not written yet." She gives examples of experiences she's had in *The Oldest Living Graduate* and *The Housekeeper*.

The former, done live on television with Henry Fonda, was a play about men.

"The playwright (Preston Jones) was exploring his relationship with his father and wasn't interested in writing about women," she said. In one

A MEDIUM... AND OTHER MEDIA

Overbooking appears to be a problem for Leachman. She's soon to start shooting a film, *Ghost Writer*, on Canada's Victoria Island. It's a "mystery-romance," she says, in which she plays the mother of a boy who has committed suicide. Dee Wallace, who had been her son's lover, comes to visit her and the two women "associate with other worlds" to find out why her son took his life. "It's a lovely script — by a woman," the actress says. (Continued on page 27)

STAGE

Life and Love

by Bernard Spunberg

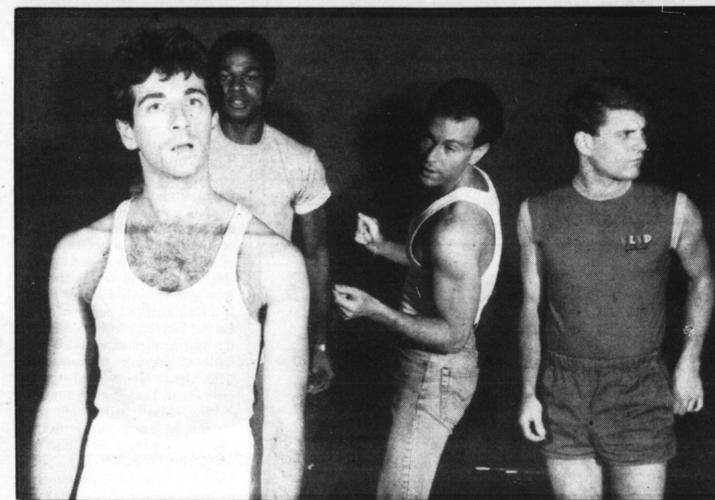
Gay love and identity overflow the work of *AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival*, currently onstage at Studio Rhino. The AIDS show sidesteps the morbidity for which no one goes to the theater. There is no moralizing and no hand-wringing. There is, however, lots of truth. Under the direction of Leland Moss, these 21 scenes and two songs express the agony of AIDS. Irresponsibility and self-deception are not glossed over. Neither are humor and heroism.

Loosely connected by fragments of New Year's Eve parties ushering in 1980 through 1984, the AIDS show includes the work of 13 Lesbian and Gay male writers. Their diverse points of view and the program's loose structure — segments may be deleted without damage to the whole — make the AIDS

between professional ethics, maternal responsibility, and growing identification with and love for her patients.

"Mama's Boy," written by Adele Prandini and acted by Donna Davis, is a portrait of every Gay man's mother who has more than a shred of love for her son. Prandini's words are those of a woman sure of nothing but her unconditional love for her child. Donna Davis' voice stirs primal sensations for every Gay man who ever experienced a moment of motherly love.

"It's My Party," by Doug Holsclaw, gathers together four Gay men nostalgic for no-holds-barred sex — not that their sex lives have been entirely empty. "I had safe sex in a jeep the other day." "What's so safe about that?" "The emergency brake was on." "Safe sex actually seems



Randy Wiegard, Bruce Jones, Bob Stone, and Doug Holsclaw in *AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival*. (Photo: Mark I. Chester)

'The AIDS show... reveals the connection of human to human...'

show relevant to diverse organizations. In other words, the AIDS show is much too good and much too important to fold after its current run. It should tour.

For Gay audiences, the most powerful moments may be those depicting unfamiliar situations. "The Nurse," written and performed by Ellen Brook Davis, is spoken by a woman who cares for people with AIDS at work and her children at home. Davis' poetically written, tenderly characterized nurse is torn

a dull prospect to this group until someone suggests a circle jerk. Not such a bad idea. Knees edge closer as the main issue slowly rises. Hands-on assistance is about to be applied when — oh, no! The pizza is here!

The partiers then join pizza delivery boys in "Safe Livin' in Dangerous Times," a song by Karl Brown and Matthew McQueen, who also wrote "Rimmin' at the Baths." Both songs expose the dynamics of Gay sexuality with bluntness

that makes us flinch and laugh.

There's about a hundred other high points. The recurring New Year's Eve parties are attended by Bob Stone, who always whines, "Isn't somebody going to ask me to go home?" His wish finally comes true when someone barks, "GO HOME!" Markley Morris' "Nobody's Fool" is a delicate portrait of Peaches, Queen of Larkin Street, who, at over 70, is the oldest person to have contracted AIDS. Randy Wiegard makes the stomach turn with "Ricky," spoken by a vain little health queen who can afford to ignore AIDS. After all, everybody knows only those sleazy South of Market types get

AIDS. Chuck Hilbert dances and camps as required, and then delivers Dan Curzon's sermon for "Reverend What's-His-Name" with sincerity all the more bloodcurdling for its paternal sweetness.

Director Leland Moss deserves credit, not only for the show's pace and organization, but for his portrayal of Murray. Remember Arnold's telephone friend in *Torch Song Trilogy*? This time, Arnold is offstage as we hear Murray reorganize his values over four conversations spaced a year apart.

As true to life as Murray is, he is no more real than Moss' embrace of Bill Barksdale near the end of the program. In Dan

Turner's "Invitation," a group of men with AIDS has met to be together. Overcome by emotion, Barksdale leaves the group suddenly. Moss follows Barksdale, speaks to him, and then hugs him. A tiny moment, but it expresses the connection of man to man.

That connection forms the foundation of the AIDS show. Even more than its specific content, the sheer existence of the AIDS show in all its excellence reveals the connection of human to human as the source of life and love.

AIDS: Artists Involved with Death and Survival Studio Rhino Through September 16; 861-5079

'I can tell when the Gays are out there because they laugh louder and harder.'

— Cloris Leachman

requested a retraction of — the first time she'd ever done such a thing — was the idea that she was opposed to Gay rights. Aside from further offending a writer from a major newspaper, she risked alienating the "family" audiences she was trying to attract to a production of *Wonderful Town*.

That's not all Leachman remembers.

"You didn't look like this," she said. "Either your hair was shorter or you didn't have the mustache. You look like Jesus now and I'm sure I would remember if you had looked like Jesus then." Actually, only the beard has been added.

Another actress might bring up Jesus just to lead into a discussion of Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You, the play Leachman is performing at Marines Memorial Theatre through September 30, but she's too honest for that. The woman who gave Joan Rivers and her national *Tonight Show* audience the details of her ex-husband George Englund's affair with Joan Collins faster than the hostess could say "Can we talk?" is not going to resort to trickery to hype a show.

that one, and I spaced out on much of the conversation because I couldn't take my eyes off him. Having spent most of my life in the Eastern states at that point, I hadn't seen many California surfer-types up close, and Adam was among the most beautiful men I'd ever seen.

"If you thought he was gorgeous," Leachman laughs when I tell her, "you should see my fourth son (Morgan)." She describes him with maternal pride as I discreetly wipe the saliva that's drooling down my chin.

People relating Leachman's story frequently start with her being a runner-up in the 1946 Miss America pageant.

"That's not who I am or what I am about," she corrects. She had already had her own radio show and won acting awards by that time, and only got sidetracked because someone entered her in the Miss WGN (Chicago) contest and one victory led to another.

Within two years she was a charter member of Elia Kazan's Actors' Studio and was appearing regularly on Broadway. In the mid-'50s she worked in movies and television, including playing the mother on *Lassie* and doing two G.E. Theaters



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(Photo: Rink)

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STAGE

Lost in The Woods

by Bernard Spunberg

Plays about failed communication risk failure to communicate. David Mamet's *The Woods*, currently presented by the Open Door Theater Company at One-Act Theater, depicts a man and woman discovering the extent of their incompatibility. Mamet's characters have a good sexual relationship in the city, where there's lots of bustle to distract them from each other's personalities. In the country, however, their friendship disintegrates. Their listless, peevish conversation drifts from herons to frogs to crickets to beavers to ozone to Viking child-rearing customs. Unable to agree on anything, they are equally incapable of discussing their differences with knowledge of either themselves or their subject.

Musings on life and relationships crop up now and then. "Maybe you can't hear crickets during the day because the sun makes the air different. Who knows what's happening, anyway?" "You can't change a thing by moving it someplace else." "The gulls cry caw, caw, caw, and then they go someplace else for the winter."

David Mamet's *American Buffalo* depicts characters similarly inarticulate. Their coarse, rhythmic diction, however, generates music, and their volatile interaction reveals the love that humanizes even the slimiest

swindler. *The Woods* is smaller than *American Buffalo* in every respect, but is surely finer than this production.

If director David Fischer's two actors have insight into their characters' inner lives, they certainly don't express it. Their portrayals, ranging from sulk to whine, convey generalized upset with none of the specificity that might bring us closer to the

characters. Who are these two, anyway? We don't know, and we don't care. Characters groping unsuccessfully for self-knowledge can be deeply sympathetic, but not if the actors are groping unsuccessfully for characterization.

Given the meandering, desultory nature of the dialogue, its memorization represents no small accomplishment.

The Woods
One-Act Theater
Through September 22; 584-5989



Robert Frederick and Claire Hail in *The Woods*.

The Future Is Here

by Bernard Spunberg

Industrial rot pervades *Future Junkyard*, currently presented at the Zephyr Theater by the Dream Theater. Created by Mark Knego, *Junkyard* is less a play than a nightmarish evocation of a world ruined by pollution both spiritual and material. We hear the continual distant rumble of factories — or is it war? We see an inventory of technological debris tended by a grimy, semi-human machine. The junkyard is visited by figures with discarded TVs for heads, a junk trader indistinguishable from his (her?) wares, and several decrepit souls on the brink of death. Language is reduced to gestures and electronic static. Nothing more is needed to express "help" and "Pay."

A fragment of plot hinges on the discovery of an object with magical healing powers. With no dialogue or characterization beyond greed and pain, the burden of narrative rests on clear pantomime. Staggering, twitching, and flailing away, the denizens of the junkyard are too ill to act out more than a brief incident.

Masks and costumes created by Mark Knego and Bruce Veldhuizen reflect imaginative craftsmanship, sparing no effort in the service of art. The masks give concrete form to the collective post-industrial nightmare of chaos and disintegration. Sound



A *Future Junkyard* visitor.

and light by Anne Roberts and Bruce Pederson evoke a world of comfortless paranoia.

With a duration of about ninety minutes, *Future Junkyard* is too long by half. Excessive length dilutes its expressive power. Cut and per-

formed with an appropriate companion work, *Future Junkyard* would more fully convey Mark Knego's terrifying, vivid conception.

Future Junkyard
Zephyr Theater
Through September 30; 552-7547

Are you epistemologically correct?

EVEN IN BABYLON

Transgression in Word 'n' Deed

JOHN F. KARR

September. Labor Day became a week of laboring to survive the heat. It's not officially Fall for another ten days. Right now it's Staggering. We're saved only by temperate nights, limpid air hung with the musical notes of a trio who won't be seen sipping cocktails together at Hamburger Mary's — Jerry, Terry, and Edo.

Despite the heat, there's music by day. Ah, Opera in the Park: Madame Caballe, giggling through an intermission interview, looked like the glamorous older sister of Edie the Egg Lady, and fractured English in Edie's fashion; Big Daddy Sherrill Milnes, 6'2" and 225 pounds of matinee idol swoon, a picture of the operatic villain as Roughish Gentleman, wore bermuda shorts for the interview but wouldn't uncross his legs to reveal his low notes; Nunzio Tadesco, a baleful tenor, claimed he was vacationing when Mr. McEwen found him, but should have been retiring; and MC

"once and for all" that he is Gay. Concerned with his image as a role model for his fans, he fears they may be hurt by "this terrible slander." He wants "to keep their respect." No matter which way he swings, his ideas are crooked. Being Gay, slander? Just state the facts, Michael.

If any of these newsmakers wise up, there'll be some apologies made. Me? I may not wear clothes like the Pope's red swishery, or trounce laws like a feudal Duke, but I got No Apologies.

WHAT A CLEVER LEAD-IN

No Apologies is a magazine of Gay writing you've probably never heard of. I just stumbled across issue Two several weeks ago and was so excited I wanted to write about it. Wait a week, the publisher advised. Issue Three was just arriving.

What an amazing collection of writers we have in San Fran-

'Metaphorically speaking, though, the heat seems to be on all over the world, as life gets more complicated than the plot of *Il Trovatore* without being orchestrated as well.'

Richard Thomas, fawning his way into place as his generation's Tony Randall. They sang and they *schwitzed*, and they made the six o'clock news.

That's the arts coverage. Metaphorically speaking, though, the heat seems to be on all over the world, as life gets more complicated than the plot of *Il Trovatore* without being orchestrated as well.

What to do with a frozen embryo? Defrost. A committee of legal experts, philosophers, theologians, and scientists advocated the destruction of two frozen embryos produced by a couple who were subsequently killed in a plane crash. The committee felt the embryos had no claim on "their" parents' estate and should not be declared orphans or made wards of the state because they weren't legally alive.

Who is alive, fortunately, are the victims of a Labor Day fag-bashing at Baker Beach. The bashers defensively claim the fags made advances, but also stated the incident was just a prank that got out of hand. Like the Polk Street "prank" that ended in death? Like the "pranks" of good-time boys in *Clockwork Orange*? End of summer boredom is hard on straight boys, but bashing incidents have risen since Governor Duke said we didn't need the protection of laws. There's blood on his hands.

Both the Pope and Michael Jackson displayed clean hands recently. The Pope reiterated the Church's birth control stand. Even a method as simple as avoiding sex during your wife's fertile period is wrong. The only method allowable is pull-out, and I wish the Church would do the same.

Michael Jackson called a formal press conference to deny

cisco, most of them unknown yet as good as the knowns. *NA 2* quivered in my hands with its surprising contents. *NA 3* confirmed my discovery. Give or take a couple of Phil Andros releases, *No Apologies* is the hottest thing between covers.

The magazine, which more resembles a paperback book, was started by Bryan Monte last fall, issue One dated November of 1983. I don't know which Muse whispered in Monte's ear — he received a grant from Brown University and went off to their department of Creative Writing before we could talk. He left Kevin Killian, an author of the wildest fancy, to Guest Edit *NA 3* while he settled into school. He'll resume his post with *NA 4*.

The contents of *NA 3* are provocative, amusing, edgy with creativity. Killian revealed his presiding effect as Editor.

"Almost all the pieces were commissioned," he said, "because then I could proceed with my own vision of it. I wanted it really entertaining, kind of daring and transgressive. I wanted the whole thing to be tantalizing, which is why I took just parts of works by several authors. It's the old Gypsy Rose Lee trick — keep 'em wanting more."

Killian's goals sound little like the stereotypically stuffy literary magazine, and the resulting collection is bracing and genuinely reflective of San Francisco's Gay culture, especially the transgressive part. Many of the writers use the one trait that unifies all Gays, sex, as a springboard to their own particular subject, and parts of *NA 2* and *3* are steamy. Killian embraces such content, being disdainful only of commonplace style.

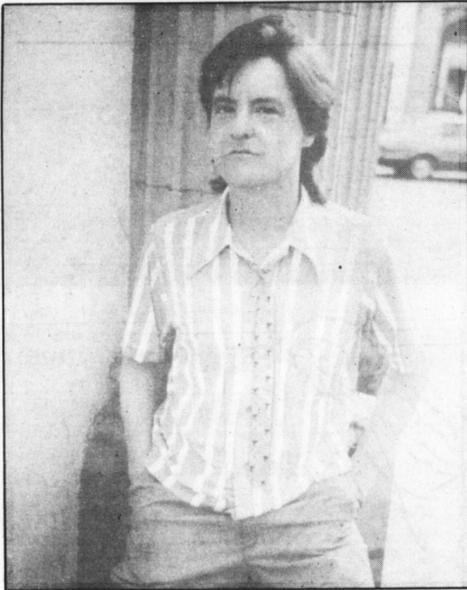
"Gay writers are too hermetized," he complained. "Their subject matter is so radical, the content so daring, that they feel

they must use more traditional forms of writing to gain acceptance."

There's little of tradition in *No Apologies*, as daring subject matter — actually the stuff of Gay life — takes on surprising form. Robert Gluck's selection in *NA 2* was transgressive enough to be requested for a forthcoming issue of *Drummer* magazine, and Steve Abbott's current "Three Nights in Paris" is sexually robust, its style pushing forward like the erections it frequently describes.

Killian is also interested in literary theory and criticism. The center of *NA 3* is the work of poet Robin Blaser, who, along with Robert Duncan and Jack Spicer, led what they called the Berkeley Renaissance. Blaser is not as well-known, said Killian, because he's rather reclusive and publishes his poems infrequently. Killian was fortunate to receive five poems from Blaser, and they are accompanied by an essay on Blaser by Bruce Boone and an article on Duncan and Spicer by Lewis Ellingham.

History in *NA 3* includes a clear-eyed visit with Isherwood and Bachardy by DuMont Howard, and Harold Norse's remembrance, "The Honeymoon of Auden and Kallman." An unusual article is the criti-



Kevin Killian (Photo: Rink)

plored by Abbott's gothic novella, Dinah Bagley's perfectly executed satire on Harlequin romances, and two poems Killian describes as "right off the Kahlil Gibran trail, very odd and unusual."

Aaron Shurin introduces nine writers from his writing class at Community College, the city-funded school designed to meet neighborhood needs, which will continue only with our support. In a moving preface to his students' work, he places these new writers as peers in a stream of continuity that includes all writers. He continues a tradition here himself, as his first publication was assembled by his teacher.

"I think two of these writers are going to be real stars someday," said Killian, without naming which of the nine he means.

Other contributors include Sam D'Allesandro, with another piece of the sort which made his book, *Slippery Sins*, such a striking debut. Sam's daily life

cedes to secrets; his subject here is death, or more exactly, how he continues to live after his boyfriend has died. It hovers beautifully between conversation, poetry, and fiction. There's a touching, precise memoir from Susie Bright that has a perfectly controlled technique, a wry message from Robert Gluck, and poems by Bryan Monte, as well as a special section he edited. And that's only half the contents.

Backtrack to *NA 2*, and you'll find an interview with Judy Grahn, Bob Gluck's philosophical erotica, a bit of Killian's crime novel, *TOM-TOM*, and poems and fictions by others.

The variety of *NA 2* and *3* is surprising enough, the quality high. Who knew all this was percolating in San Francisco? Bryan Monte and Kevin Killian, certainly, and I'm glad they've served it up. *No Apologies* presents an entertaining, transgressive bunch. Quite an achievement for all concerned.

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Star Turns

GEORGE HEYMONT

The beginning of any new season is accompanied by a curious frenzy and a touch of madness as singers warm up their vocal cords and pray for the best results. Opening nights, in particular, are a tricky business. In many cities the season's openers have been transformed into fundraising galas where upwardly mobile socialites and rapidly fading dowagers are under intense pressure both to see and be seen. Because a lot of money rides on the success of opening night, these evenings are usually reserved for the biggest stars in the business. Although the handful of international artists who genuinely rate an opening night may be getting a bit long in the tooth, it is always a privilege to watch them do what they do so well.

By and large, these singers are known throughout the music world as the long-distance runners of their trade — musicians whose art and professionalism are a constant. Alas, 1984 marked yet another cancellation by superstar Luciano Pavarotti, whose picture has been the most insistent marketing device used by the San Francisco Opera since Terry McEwen took control of the company.

Some make it to the finish line. Some don't.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

One of the few who has continued to deliver the goods throughout these long and many years is Leontyne Price. The featured soloist for the San Francisco Symphony's opening night Italian Gala, the soprano came through in her usual measured style despite conductor Edo De Waart's annoying tendency to drown her out. After 30 years in the business, Price still chooses her repertoire with a personal conviction which is indeed unique. Always challenging herself, the veteran artist opened her evening with a difficult aria from Mozart's *Idomeneo* before launching into the more familiar chestnuts by Verdi and Puccini. Moments before she arrived onstage to sing Leonora's "Pace, pace, mio Dio" a friend asked me how many times in her career I imagined Price had sung the legendary aria from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*. Alas, I could not supply him with an answer. But it really didn't matter, for, as soon as the applause swelled to greet her entrance, he whispered with undying admiration, "C'mon, girl — get out there and pay the rent!"

It's hard to believe Price is nearing 60, for she looks as regal as ever and has retained most, if not all, of her vocal splendor. She worked hard to get through Turandot's difficult "In questa Reggia," and was occasionally overpowered by the tidal wave of sound coming from De Waart's musicians. Her rendition of "Un bel di" was a calculated crowd-pleaser which demonstrated that Leontyne has been practicing her fan technique. The diva's encore of "Vissi d'arte" was equally well-received, but the soprano's tendency to go scooping after notes has grown alarmingly. Her darker chest notes sound huskier than ever, and occasionally the full-throated power of her voice seems thinner than in the past.

However, it should be noted that in those spectacular soaring moments in Magda's aria from Puccini's *La Rondine* when Price lets it all hang out in a free-flowing journey to heaven she was, quite simply, untouchable.

JEALOUSY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Another star turn, though one of a markedly different nature, was on display in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this summer where Sweden's Elisabeth Soderstrom took on the role of Christine in

the art of singing as a means of communication is all about.

The production, which was effectively designed by Carl Friedrich Oberle and deliciously directed by Goran Jarvefelt, proved to be most charming. Conductor John Crosby allowed Soderstrom plenty of leeway in which to weave her magic spells. Alan Titus was in fine form as Robert Storch, a stage version of Richard Strauss. John Stewart was the young Baron Lummer who flirts with the volatile and selfish Christine.

In those uncanny moments of Straussian genius which depict Christine sledding in the snow, waltzing at a ball — and the final scene between the composer and his jealous wife — Soderstrom glowed with a passion, intelligence, and crafty femininity which was not of this world. A remarkable person of whom little more needs to be said, the woman is such a phenomenal artist I'd be thankful for the privilege of watching her read the telephone book. ■



Christine (Elisabeth Soderstrom) can't make up her mind what to do with Baron Lummer (John Stewart) in Strauss's *Intermezzo*.

The CLIOs Are A Must

by Michael Lasky

The idea of paying to see commercials might strike you as a tad odd, but every year the San Francisco screenings of the CLIO Awards — the Oscars of Advertising — sell out. And for a good reason: the 75-minute pastiche of end-to-end advertisements is among the best in the world. Taken out of context of TV program interlopers, the commercials offer some of the sharpest entertainment in 60 seconds or less.

The foreign commercials have less censorship attached to them. The sexy, suggestive ad for Lee Jeans from Buenos Aires is typical, with its well-developed men and women in various levels of undress. But provocative doesn't guarantee success. Humor helps, and most of the TV ads in the show are funny — some very funny. Most of them you have never seen: a Volkswagen ad from London, a battery ad from Japan, a German wine commercial that is a

CLIO Awards
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BACK TO BATON

Wham Bam Grazie Signora

PHILIP CAMPBELL

Opening night glamor used to be synonymous with the opera. Overdressed and overheated socialites clamoring with flamboyant productions for recognition and publicity made first night the event of the Fall season.

All that has been changing, however, since the San Francisco Symphony took up permanent residence in its new home in Davies Hall. Being number two has forced the symphony to create a new experience in first nighting, and for several years now, its opening galas have managed to teach the opera a lesson in giving audiences their money's worth.

Each year a new theme, inspired by different national characteristics, allows for imaginative evenings that manage to combine fundraising with high spirits and elegant taste.

After visits to France, Russia, and an all-stops-out all-American spectacular, this year the symphony turned to Italy for an uncommonly lavish party that made Luciano Pavarotti's non-appearance at the opera's opener a nonevent. It proved, once and for all, that when the symphony gets in the mood, nobody does it better.

Beautiful graphics, shimmering decorations, and a star of the first magnitude — borrowed, ironically, from the world of opera — guaranteed this year's Gala D'Italia would be a rollicking success. If any of the event's sparkle seemed a bit dim to me, it had nothing to do with the party or the concert, but with the exasperating architecture of Davies Hall itself.

The design of the auditorium at Symphony Hall is really

rather satisfactory. The seats are comfortable, there's plenty of leg room, and the sight lines are excellent. Acoustics range from acceptable to truly wonderful. The color scheme is warm and inviting, and the addition of the gorgeous new Ruffati Organ is visually stunning. It may not be one of the great concert rooms, but it is certainly satisfactory, in spite of the fact that there is no central aisle.

It's intermission at Davies that proves so maddening. It takes forever to get from an orchestra seat to the lobby because of that bloody aisle, or the lack thereof. Once out of the auditorium the lines at the liquor bars and the coffee counter are impossible. Never once have I managed to get anything without the chimes telling me I don't have time to drink it. Going to the restroom also takes all the time available.

The design of the lobby is miserably uncomfortable. There are no designated smoking areas and too few ashtrays. There is no place to rest a program, jacket, or drink. Trying to navigate a passage from one end to the other becomes an ordeal in sheer time consumption and irritation, second only to trying to escape the Midnight Sun on a crowded night.

It's not fun to be smoked at, stepped on, view cleavage that should have remained clad at close quarters, or dodge precariously poisoned drinks, but that is just what I was forced to do at the Gala D'Italia. These problems show no signs of being corrected, however, so I am happy to report that the concert on opening night went a long way towards calming my frazzled nerves.



Montserrat Caballe sings in *Opera in the Park*. (Photo: Rink)

The Last Time I Saw Cloris

(Continued from page 22)

She also has a TV pilot brewing, for an hour-long TV detective show she compares to the classic English comedy *The Lavender Hill Mob*. "It's something like it, but not really," she says.

If that becomes a series, Leachman fears she won't have time for two other projects she's excited about — a production of Noel Coward's operetta *Bitter Sweet* with Luciano Pavarotti, and a new opera based on the life of Isadora Duncan, which she's developing with dancer/choreographer Jacques d'Amboise.

"I'm 20 years too old to play

The orchestral portions of the program seemed little more than pleasant filler between the arias sung by Leontyne Price. Yes, she was the star, and yes, she still has what it takes to make the show. Everything about her, from her regal posture to her beautiful gown — a kind of liquid grey sparkly number — spoke of taste and a career filled with success. The voice is, perhaps, not as facile or audible in the lower register, but her top notes still come, if not as easy, then with a certain smoky patina that is uniquely hers.

Her voiced seemed a little troubled at first, slightly shrill and squally. I've never heard Price scoop for notes before, and it surprised and alarmed me. But then, the last time I heard her in person was seven years ago, and even a voice as magnificent as hers can't last forever. By the time she reached the Puccini arias in the second half, her instrument was fully warmed and the years dropped away. Her first encore was "Vissi d'arte," and it was a great person as Tosca, the opera star and consummate artist.

If it weren't for Price's overwhelming presence, I think more attention might have been given to Maestro Edo de Waart. After all, it is his last season in San Francisco, and he will be sorely missed. Still, his real opening night test will come this week when he conducts Mahler's massive Symphony No. 8. For the gala he was center stage, but hardly the center of attention.

One last gripe before I congratulate the Symphony Association for its superior sense of fun and flair in party-giving, and that is an impassioned plea to do something about the air conditioning in the auditorium. We don't need to be refrigerated, but it would be more conducive to wakefulness if it weren't always so warm. The Gala D'Italia was a bella party, too good to feel drowsy. ■

some children in more traditional homes. As another interview with Cloris Leachman draws to a close, she waits to see how she will be misquoted or misinterpreted. (Not at all, I hope — maybe just harmlessly paraphrased.)

"I don't do well in print," she laments. "I don't care if they hate me. I just want to be understood." She agrees that part of the problem is writers' need to come up with "good copy." "Copy is a word I don't like — in any sense," she says, adding that we should all find out who we are and be ourselves.

And don't worry about being perfect. "The trouble with being perfect is it's boring. It's dead."

S. Warren

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Skyline

Making It Small in NYC

So this photographer from Spain who's made it as far as he can go there comes to New York to make it big at *Life* or *Newsweek* or some such magazine. He can hardly speak the language and, let's face it, New York is one of the easiest places to get intimidated. A foreigner in New York is like a Gay in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir — you have few friends.

So Gustavo (Antonio Resines) sees the few people he does know, who put him in contact with people who might help him. Two things are against him — I mean other than his pigeon

English — his photos are a decade behind the times, and his Spanish machismo keeps him excessively proud.

So for 84 minutes, set against a raucous soundtrack, we follow Gustavo through inconsequential meetings with duplicitous people, through conversations which he's lucky not to comprehend, through being callously thrown from his sublet apartment for a weekend — this is New York, after all — and so on.

The point is that for Gustavo, nothing happens. For us either, as a matter of fact. And with the wicked, anti-cathartic ending, it becomes downright unenjoyable. *Skyline* is one trip to New York you can miss. ■

(Lumiere) M. Lasky

Until September

Yes, But What Year?

Until September is a romance movie in the Danielle Steele style. A woman (Karen Allen) misses her plane to Warsaw in Paris, meets a Frenchman (Thierry Lhermitte) and falls in

love. But he is married and she is possessive. Uh oh.

Karen Allen is always a feisty delight — remember her in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*? Here she is merely petulant and obtuse — just like the script. At one point, when she finally gets down, after hours of saying no, she says to her lover, "I love to smell your body. I am good at placing smells."



The happy couple (Thierry Lhermitte, L., and Karen Allen) in *Until September*.



A scene from *Skyline*.

Not that great, Karen — you obviously couldn't smell this limburger film. We're talking massive stinker. Director Richard Marquand's pacing is one step above freeze-frame. The story is nonexistent. When you find yourself making sarcastic comments at the screen, you know it's time to leave.

It's at the point when Karen says to her philandering lover of two weeks, "I feel like I've spent a lifetime with you," that I realized I felt the same way. So I left. ■

(Alexandria) M. Lasky

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week
by Michael Benzry

Thursday, September 13: (Strand) Exploring sexual feeling and human relationships. *Women in Love*. D.H.

BOOK RACK

Beyond Politics

Streetboy Dreams
by Kevin Esser
The SealHorse Press: \$7.95

by Paul Reed

While opinionated moralists debate the issues surrounding child molestation and the North American Man-Boy Love Association, the fact remains that the very idea that childhood sexuality is "wrong" is a product of our current, highly repressed society. At this precise moment in American history, it is assumed an attraction to young people is sick and improper. But just because a given culture holds a given set of morals at a given point in time doesn't mean basic human nature is changed.

Of course not. If love between older men and young boys was "normal" and vaulted in ancient Greece, why is it so despicable in 1984? If there were no boundaries based on age or sexuality during the high Renaissance when it came to sexual activity, does it mean everyone at that time was sick? Of course not.

When statistics indicate an "epidemic" level of sexual interest in youngsters, one might well wonder why the numbers are so high. Could it be that sexual attraction between generations is perfectly natural?

Of course this argument does not condone a fully adult man raping a five-year old. But it does suggest the rape of a five-

year old is quite possibly the very unfortunate byproduct of a society which insists all its members conform to a few rigid rules about sex, most of which go completely against the grain of human nature.

Streetboy Dreams is not about child molestation in that sense, but to many, the story of an adult man (Peter, a teacher) and a 14-year old street punk (Gito Lopez) and their relationship, might arouse strong feelings of repugnance. Well, take a look.

In *Streetboy Dreams*, Peter takes Gito in off the street. Gito has no family, and so Peter allows him to live with him. From the very beginning, Peter — who is Gay — is highly attracted to Gito, to his beautiful skin, the fresh curves of his youthful body. But Peter feels his attraction is wrong. He feels he should not be attracted to a 14-year old.

He tried to calm himself. What the hell was wrong with him? A boy was taking a shower in his bathroom, nothing more. What had sent him running for the booze? What kept him huddled on the couch, short of breath, nearly trembling? He knew only that he wanted to open the bathroom door, to see the boy, to be near him. But was caring about Gito so terrible? And if not, then why this fear? Why this ache clutching at his stomach?

unsettling mental, and randy pansexual experience. With *Roma*.

Wednesday-Thursday, September 19-20: (Roxie) Films from Robert Altman about human emotions, including *Gay Emotions*. *Streamers* is a tough film about army recruits waiting to be shipped to war, one of whom toys with the homoeroticism of the others with unsettling results. *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Cher, Sandy Dennis, and Karen Black* are at a fan club reunion in a small town. Lonely straight and Gay lives are revealed.

Thursday, September 20: (York) John Waters and the American Dream incarnated in Gay male actress Divine. *Pink Flamingos* is keeping up with the Joneses, only in Baltimore it is becoming the filthiest person alive. *Female Trouble* is the American search for fame, as Divine leads a life of crime after being raped. She plays both parts in the rape scene. ■

As the story progresses, we find young Gito is rather tantalizing, both in his physical appearance and in his behavior towards Peter. Young Gito begins, quite simply, to flirt with Peter, which in turn deepens Peter's attraction, and finally, Peter's love for the boy.

There is an intriguing plot, wherein a friend of Gito's seduces Peter, then disappears, leading Peter and Gito on a search to locate the boy. By the end of the novel, Gito has professed his own desires for the man, and the two of them commence their sexual relationship.

Which brings us to the point of the story, which is that in this case a tender love story between two human beings opens against the context of a society which condemns such a relationship. Yet, as the author so craftily demonstrates, it is the mutual desire of both parties to meet in this relationship, so where is the harm done?

Now this might have been a different novel, a dark story perhaps of seduction and force, betrayal and rape. And that would have been the story to which the moralists should object, not to a story about a man and a teenager who desire each other equally.

In the final analysis — beyond the political and moral considerations — *Streetboy Dreams* is a story of great compassion, the story of two individuals who grow together in self-knowledge, self-acceptance, and love. ■

BAY AREA REPORTER
SPORTS & FITNESS

FITNESS EIGHTIES

Part I of Two Parts

The Muscle System

If You Look Up and See the Bodies, It's Just the New Gym on the Block

by Paul Trefzger

Just when the shopping complex at 2275 Market St. looked as if it were going to become a ghost mall, suddenly there's activity — a lot of activity. The Muscle System has taken over the entire second story. It's a huge area that formerly consisted of nine units, now open wide back to 16th Street with windows added to brighten the space, and probably the financial well-being of the complex.

For historians, the building, in the early '70s, was The Shed, an after hours dance hall. Later it was the scene of political celebration when Harry Britt was elected in a city-wide election, and when Proposition 6 (firing of Gay teachers) was defeated in 1976.

The new tenant and landlord — more specifically, building manager — is ambitious and energetic Bob Landy and his colleagues, who have been

stay. Number two: we wanted a nice clean place. Three: equipment that's functional, not breaking down. We bought equipment that was as good as is possible. Four: all three of us had worked out with free weights and with Nautilus, and there was a feeling that some had grown out of Nautilus and it was a matter of personal preference. Five: we wanted to try to be consistent year after year on a membership price. In my

work and contracting at the new place. He gets *Architectural Digest* and studies that stuff." Cella, who had joined us, said, "Bob is more the 'money man' — bookkeeping, payroll, etc. George does this down on Hayes Street and he also makes sure things are in repair. We cover for each other."

George Ash told me about himself.

"For the past three years I've had the 'Ho Ho Ho' Christmas shop on Market," he said. "I've been a longshoreman and a warehouseman. I joined Bob and a group of about 20 others in Michael Maletta's 'Creative Power Foundation' in giving the first megaparty, 'Stars.' Lately there hasn't been much going on in the city. I like to produce energy for other people to enjoy." His new endeavor, Church Street Faire, is "a large space, a gallery to exhibit unique, contemporary art. We also have all sorts of party items — balloons, napkins, cards, flowers, gifts."

"Sportswise, I've been an avid softball fan from the beginning," Ash continued. "It had my energy, as did all city sports. I used weight lifting as a tran-

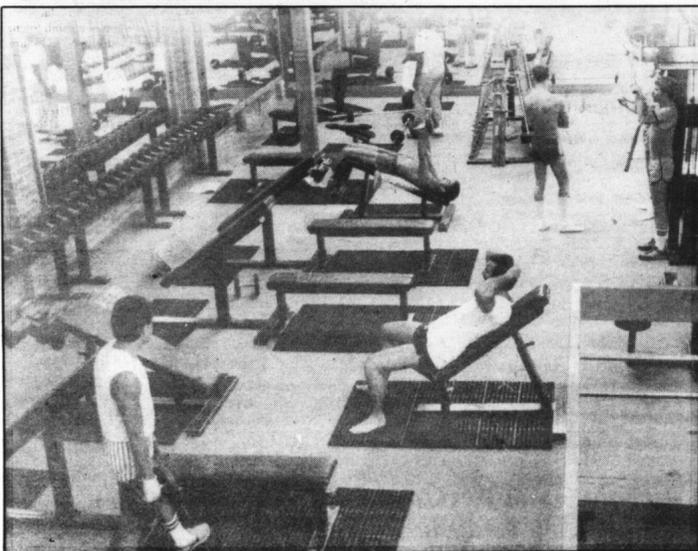
fast reaction. Some will appreciate help. Some say, 'I've been doing this for fifteen, twenty years. Mind your own business.'"

Landy was born in Yonkers, New York.

"I've always participated in neighborhood sports," he said. "I went to Manhattan College in the Bronx and studied Liberal Arts with a major in History. I joined the Navy and as an officer was stationed on the U.S.S. DuPont on the East Coast. After the military I taught school for a year and a half. I vacationed in San Francisco and

it didn't take long to convince myself to move here. I returned to New York to earn the money to get started, came back, blew it, and then got a job with Pan Am. For the last six and a half years I've been with Zephyr in real estate. I live on Collingwood. I've been working out since I came to the city in 1968. Over the years I've gone to different gyms and would bitch and moan about how things were there. Through real estate, I saw an opportunity when a client, Lee Machado, was opening The Pump Room (next to the Balcony, now Academy). I became

(Continued on page 31)



The floor at the Hayes Street location of Muscle System. (Photo: Rink)

holding fort a few doors down, same side of the street. That Muscle System, with its all-glass front featuring a continuous bodybuilding show, has been so successful that Landy and his partners, Frank Cella and George Ash, have just opened Muscle System at 364 Hayes (Civic Center) with an adjoining juice bar and expanded facilities.

Bob told me that prior to creating the first gym, "We sat down and decided what we did and did not like about gyms. Number one: we didn't want to project attitude. No looking down noses or ignoring anyone. A lot of people coming to a gym for the first time are apprehensive. Some people have an idea about themselves that isn't real, that they don't look as good as they do. They feel that they have to work out at home for a year before coming in. Sometimes it takes guts to say, 'I'm going to join.' If attitude is remote, you'll

opinion, it's not fair to change. It was \$275 when we started. Today, it's \$300. While inflation set in and rent almost doubled, we've kept it competitive and we can offer two gyms for the price of one. We opened our Hayes Street gym on October 15, 1982. We had typical 'new gym' problems at first, but it's running smoothly now.

"We like a certain amount of socializing," Landy continued. "It's a nice healthy environment to meet people. This is not to encourage people to come just to socialize. A doctor said recently, 'The people I meet, I meet at the gym. I don't go to bars.' By and large, we've put a whole lot of energy into it, and being owners and managers we can do more. It's not like hiring someone else. Each one of us has something else (outside interests) beside the gym. I work at Zephyr Real Estate. Frank's into buying property and then renovating it. He did the design

quillizer. As far as our gym is concerned, I'm always looking out for things that will be best for the city. The gym is healthy, and it's a good place to socialize. People can kiss, embrace, pass numbers around. We want lovers to be happy and enjoy themselves. No hanky panky, though."

Bob Landy elaborated upon the operation.

"Hayes Street has a jacuzzi; Market Street, a sauna; European suntanning beds — four on Hayes, three on Market. We have the latest Klaas machines at the new gym. We have very good instructors. John Courlas and Bill Heter are our principal instructors. They must like it. We don't lose our employees."

I asked about his observations on the gym.

"Sometimes I'll notice people aren't doing what they could to get the maximum benefits from a machine. There's no hard and

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S.F. TRACK & FIELD

RICK THOMAN

S.F. Track & Field Festival

The 1984 track season ended Sept. 1 with the running of the first annual S.F. Track & Field Festival at McAteer High School. The event was produced by the S.F. Track & Field Club, which had a tremendous 1984 season, from the Footlocker Indoor Track Classic in February through the National Masters Championship in August.

More than 30 athletes participated in the Track Fest, representing a wide range of talents and ages. Both men and women participated and set the tone for a relaxed, friendly, yet highly competitive day in the sun.

The meet started off with the 10,000 meters, won by 48-year-old Kevin Gilligan, who was followed closely by the women's champion, Maria Regaldo. The race was followed by competition in 12 other events. Although there were clear winners in many events, some of the races went down to the wire, forcing timers and judges to make some careful and critical decisions.

For instance, one tenth of a second separated the two women finishers in the 110 high hurdles, as Lauren McGuire hung on to edge out Daj Oberg.

In the men's 4x100 meter relay, S.F. Track & Field Club's Bernard Turner anchored his team to a victory over the S.F. All-Stars by a mere 6 one-hundredths of a second. And the thrills went on.

In the men's 30-39 age group 100 meter race, Earl Bryant and Rick Thoman tied with identical 11.9 times, which was a season-best time for Bryant.

The meet also saw a lot of athletes doubling and tripling events, and no one was more prolific than J.W. White, who competed in the 2 mile (1st in age group), 1500 meters (1st), 800 meters (2nd), high jump (2nd), and the long jump (1st).

The S.F. Track & Field Club would like to thank Gregg, Carl, Tom, Brian, Steve, John, Larry, and all the other volunteers who helped make the first annual S.F. Track Festival a success, and to all the others who helped support the team throughout the 1984 season.

The club is now going through a building phase to prepare itself for next year, and its eye is still on the 1986 Gay Games. If you'd like to be a part of the S.F. Track & Field Club, call Bernard (821-7674) or Rick (641-1786) for more information.

RESULTS OF THE 1984 TRACK & FIELD FESTIVAL

| Event | Athlete | Place | Time/Mark |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 10,000m | Kevin Gilligan | 1st -men | 43:38 |
| | Maria Regaldo | 1st -women | 43:42 |
| | Chuck Demmon | 2nd-men | 51:35 |
| 100m High Hurdles | Lauren McGuire | 1st -women | 19.6 |
| | Daj Oberg | 2nd-women | 19.7 |
| 110m High Hurdles | Emery Barnes | 1st -men | 16.01 |
| | Larry McDonnell | 2nd-men | 16.19 |
| 100m | Daj Oberg | 1st -women | 14.3 |
| | Alita Rosenfeld | 2nd-women | 17.1 |
| | Ken Patterson | 1st -men (18-29) | 10.53 |
| 200m | Cliff Castello | 2nd-men (18-29) | 12.01 |
| | Ed Pasco | 3rd-men (18-29) | 13.80 |
| | Earl Bryant | Tie 1st -men (30-39) | 11.90 |
| 400m | Rick Thoman | Tie 1st -men (30-39) | 11.90 |
| | Don Jung | 3rd-men (30-39) | 12.82 |
| | Bill Cosentino | 1st -men (40-49) | 15.0 |
| 800m | Mike Smith | 2nd-men (40-49) | 15.3 |
| | Zachery Bell | 1st -men (18-29) | 24.04 |
| | Rick Thoman | 1st -men (30-39) | 24.24 |
| 1500m | Earl Bryant | 2nd-men (30-39) | 24.93 |
| | Don Jung | 3rd-men (30-39) | 28.11 |
| | Ed Pasco | 1st -men (18-29) | 59.1 |
| 2 mile | Bernard Turner | 1st -men (30-39) | 53.0 |
| | Alan French | 2nd-men (30-39) | 58.13 |
| | Hal Herkenhoff | 3rd-men (30-39) | 59.1 |
| 5000m | Doug Brooks | 1st -men (18-29) | 2:08.3 |
| | J.W. White | 2nd-men (18-29) | 2:09.4 |
| | Dwayne Isham | 1st -men (30-39) | 2:04.1 |
| 10000m | Hal Herkenhoff | 2nd-men (30-39) | No Time |
| | J.W. White | 1st -men (18-29) | 4:27.9 |
| | Rick Hall | 2nd-men (18-29) | 5:47.4 |
| 20000m | Garet Stark | 1st -men (30-39) | 4:42.6 |
| | George Scott | 2nd-men (30-39) | 5:08.5 |
| | Don Jung | 3rd-men (30-39) | 5:56.4 |
| 30000m | Kevin Gilligan | 1st -men (40-49) | 4:45.4 |
| | Ed Gehrman | 2nd-men (40-49) | 5:59.5 |
| | Lauren McGuire | 1st -women | 16:21.3 |
| 50000m | J.W. White | 1st -men (18-29) | 10:54.9 |
| | Kevin Gilligan | 1st men (40-49) | 11:13.1 |
| | J.W. White | 1st -men (18-29) | 17'9 1/2" |
| Long Jump | Larry McDonnell | 2nd-men (18-29) | 17'3" |
| | Bill Cosentino | 1st -men (40-49) | 11'5" |
| | Mike Smith | 2nd-men (40-49) | 11'3" |
| Shot Put | Daj Oberg | 1st -women (18-29) | 27'0" |
| | Lauren McGuire | 2nd-women (18-29) | 20'9" |
| | Marilyn Davis | 1st -women (30-39) | 18'1" |
| Javelin | Alita Rosenfeld | 1st -women (40-49) | 26'8" |
| | Ed Gehrman | 1st men (40-49) | 23'11" |

"Sex is out; money is in." The Bay Area Reporter has plenty coverage of both.

WRESTLING CLUB

DON JUNG

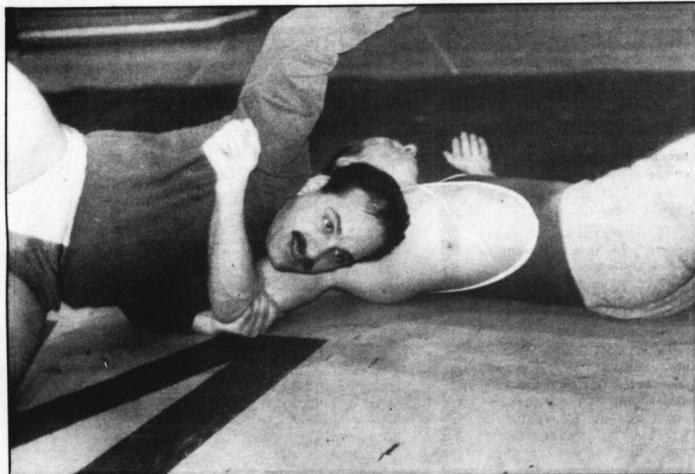
GGWC vs. So. Cal. Wrestling

Wrestling, wrestling, wrestling. From small acorns grow big trees. At this point the seed has sprouted and has grown another bud with the fourth meeting of the Los Angeles wrestling team (Southern California Wrestling) and the San Francisco wrestling team (Golden Gate Wrestling Club). The GGWC is sponsoring the meet, which is being held Saturday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, right in the heart of the Castro District at Collingwood and 18th Streets.

These two teams grew out of the Gay Games and have trained eagerly ever since. Being the contact sport that it is, we have engaged in as much contact as possible before and after practice. Man, I've never seen people enjoy practice so much. We're getting real good at a high crotch lift. Our practices at the Body Center Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. are growing each time. The quality of wrestler varies from stumblebum to nationally rated coaches, so all are welcome.

As in most sports, there are also master divisions for ages 18 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 and up. Being the oldest in the group, Don Jung has done the best in the masters division. San Francisco State University has a masters wrestling tournament every April which is considered the best open tournament on the West Coast. In the tournament this April, Jung battled his way into the finals by being able to get the initial jump on his opponents and ride out for the wins. In the finals for 1st and 2nd it was a different story. Jim, his tall and lanky opponent, was quick and good at countering offensive moves. Even though Jung could score on the take-downs, his opponent would reverse and score on a body tilt. The net score was Don 7 and Jim 12. With both men being able to score it would be a toss-up as to who would win the next time. Wrestling is more a game of strategy than who is stronger, so one who is knowledgeable is more likely to beat a much beefier opponent, such as a body builder.

At the last United States Wrestling Association local meeting that some of the GGWC members attended, it was announced that the Gay Games raised \$69 in membership fees. Everyone laughed for about ten minutes when they realized what was said. GGWC and USWA have a good relationship because GGWC is concerned about being good wrestlers first and our rights as Gays to wrestle in the public forum second. We at the Golden Gate Wrestling Club want you to come to our wrestling meet with L.A. and show your support in our struggle for human rights and the pursuit of happiness in wrestling for a saner world. You will see beautiful, sexy wrestlers of all ages, weights, and skill at the meet. And what eroticism to see hard, sweaty, muscled men slowly powering against each other to gain that dominant position. Be there to catch the live action. Interested potential wrestlers and club supporters can get hold of Don at 839-6500.



Gene Dermody (top) and Carl Marton on the mat. (Photo: D. Jung)

TGWEDNESDAYNBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Monday League Upset; Wednesday League Accolades

Women Behind Balls, a Monday Tavern Guild team in its first season, has caused quite a surge of positive thinking within the ranks of the league. On Aug. 27, this heretofore unremarkable group came face-to-face with the masterful Eagle Creek Midtown Boys (2nd place team) and managed to pull a +2/-2 draw out of what had been projected to be a disastrous encounter. Congratulations WBB's — no one would your opponents pretentiously assume a 4-win night.

Now that the '84 Summer Season is almost over for the

Tavern Guild Wednesday League, it is appropriate to consider another subject, one that affects all of us in one season or another. It seems that the nearer it gets to the end of season, the more prone some bowlers are to becoming disenchanted because the possibility of placing near the top has disintegrated. This disillusionment appears to be responsible for more and more absences the nearer the last evening approaches.

In an attempt to help soften the cruel realization that one's team may not place first, second, or even third, and to offer

some alternative mental attitudes toward this disappointing prospect, might I suggest that improving one's personal and team average is a valid reason for continuing to participate to the season's close? If you cannot handle this attitude and would feel more comfortable with something a little more negative, then there is always the possibility that a win-or-two by your team on the last few nights may prove to be directly responsible for another team not placing too high.

If neither of these two scenarios serve to instill a renewed determination for a perfect attendance record next season, then possibly the following list of dedicated Wednesday Tavern Guild bowlers (minimum 9 games) will help strengthen your resolve.

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

| TG MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 19 of 25 - as of 8/27/84) League Average: 712 | 4. New Image 51 1/2 24 1/2 | 11. Renegade 41 1/2 34 1/2 |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Central Sta. 57 1/2 18 1/2 | 5. Body Center 47 29 | 12. Crystal Springs 41 35 |
| 2. EC Midtown Boys 55 21 | 6. Pilsner Pick-ups 46 30 | 13. Mommie's Queerest 40 36 |
| 3. Park Bowl 53 23 | 7. Pendulum 44 31 1/2 | 14. G. Kelly Drvg Acad 36 40 |
| | 8. San Francisco Gym 44 32 | 15. Wmen Behind Balls 34 42 |
| | 9. Perfect Petals 44 32 | 16. Men's Room 33 43 |
| | 10. Twin Peaks 42 34 | 17. Global Travel 29 47 |

(Continued on next page)

G.S.L. UPDATE

Banquet, Tulsa, and the Fall Season

For those of you who can now read this column since coming back from Houston, we have firm up several dates for the old calendar.

Mame's on Bay Street will be the site of the Gay Softball League banquet Friday, Sept. 28. This will be the final function that Commissioner Bob Dozza will host, so let's all be there to bid him a fond farewell. Many surprises are planned for the evening, I'm told by the banquet committee.

The fall season for softball will start Oct. 7 and continue for six weeks through late November. Remember, the first 20 people signing up will play. Times and fields will be announced soon. As of now, it is Jackson

The Muscle System

(Continued from page 29)

a 25 percent partner. It was functioning a few years, but not well enough. Later, Frank and I heard about a building on Market becoming available and I approached my roommate, George, about joining us. I was, at the time, working out at the 'Y' and The Pump Room, and I'd been a sales rep for vitamins, so I'd been around to the gyms. I remember, one day we were having breakfast at Church Street Station when we heard that the building was going to become available. I saw my chance.

Frank Cella was born in Winchester, Massachusetts.

"I also played neighborhood sports," he said. "I went to Northwestern in Boston on the co-op program (five years) in Business and Political Science, and graduated in 1974. I came to San Francisco for a three-week vacation and stayed six months. I went back to Boston and stayed one day and then moved out here. It took me about a month to get started. I've been buying, renovating, and selling property for about the last five years. I met Bob when I was interested in buying a house."

George Ash was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He moved to San Francisco in 1966 and to the Haight/Ashbury.

"I had been in the Air National Guard and being in the Air Force, I was able to take flights to the West Coast," he said. "Yes, I took advantage of Uncle Sam."

An interesting combination of partners, I'd say, I asked Landy if they were compatible.

"We have our ups and downs," he said. I asked if he felt that the talk of their being possibly the successful Gay gym were true. He wouldn't commit himself. He had an obvious proud enthusiasm for the opening of the new gym in the mall could look up and watch the guys pumping iron on the second level. He said, "Gays in general have a keener interest in their physical appearance, and AIDS has made people here more conscious of their health and well-being, and that, probably, if you're physically fit, you'll be more able to ward off ailments. It can't be scientifically proven, but it makes sense. I look forward to seeing a lot of people at our opening."

P. Trefzger

To be continued...

SCOREBOARD

(Continued from previous page)

| | | |
|------------------------|----|----|
| 18. Doris Day Care Ctr | 29 | 47 |
| 19. Team #15 | 24 | 52 |
| 20. Amazing Six Graces | 20 | 56 |

TG WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 21 of 24 - as of 9/3/84) League Average: 744

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Park Bowl | 57 1/2 | 26 1/2 |
| 2. Pilsner Potlickers | 57 | 27 |
| 3. Pilsner Pilsas Sisters | 55 1/2 | 28 1/2 |
| 4. Pilsner #1 | 53 | 41 |
| 5. Japantown Bowl | 50 | 34 |
| 6. Anonymity Reigns | 49 | 35 |
| 7. Play With It, Lud. | 48 | 36 |
| 8. Stallion Stampede | 47 | 37 |
| 9. Cafe San Marcos | 44 | 40 |
| 10. Pilsner Trojan Ends | 42 | 42 |
| 11. Pilsner II | 42 | 42 |
| 12. Grady's | 39 1/2 | 44 1/2 |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| 13. Pendulum | 39 | 45 |
| 14. Wednsdy Washouts | 39 | 45 |
| 15. DK's Unminibls | 38 | 46 |
| 16. S.F. Eagle | 37 | 47 |
| 17. Gay Sports | 34 | 50 |
| 18. Sweet Inspiration | 32 | 52 |
| 19. Hr Tdy Gn Tmrw | 31 1/2 | 52 1/2 |
| 20. Seenic Hwyay Tours | 30 | 54 |
| 21. Animals | 30 | 54 |
| 22. Alley Cats | 28 | 56 |

TG THURSDAY LEAGUE (Week 17 of 17 - as of 8/23/84) League Average: 588

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|
| 1. Queen Mary's Pub | 48 | 20 |
| 2. Park Bowl | 43 | 25 |
| 3. Four Winds | 39 | 29 |
| 4. Pig Pins | 33 | 35 |
| 5. Alamo Sq Saloon #1 | 32 | 20 |

Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

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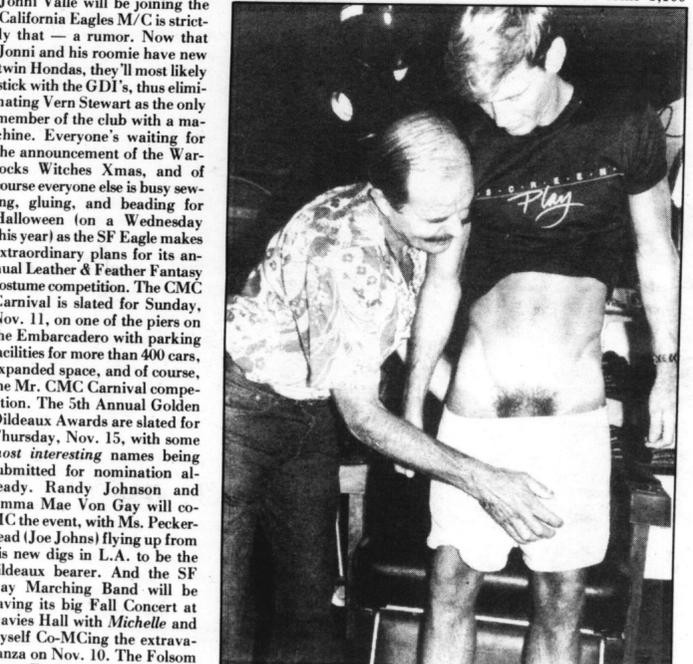
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MR. MARCUS

For the Days Dwindle Down . . .

Only 109 days left in 1984, and now that Labor Day is ancient history, it's time to look forward to the Fall season and the plethora of activities headed your way to keep you occupied. This weekend, of course, is the Warlocks M/C bike run, the last one of the season. The theme, M-TV, promises to bring out the best in punker-type and rock video performances on the show this weekend. A Date at Minsky's has been postponed to a DTBA (date to be announced) by the SF GDI's and the rumor that Jonni Valle will be joining the California Eagles M/C is strictly that — a rumor. Now that Jonni and his roomie have new twin Hondas, they'll most likely stick with the GDI's, thus eliminating Vern Stewart as the only member of the club with a machine. Everyone's waiting for the announcement of the Warlocks Witches Xmas, and of course everyone else is busy sewing, gluing, and heading for Halloween (on a Wednesday this year) as the SF Eagle makes extraordinary plans for its annual Leather & Feather Fantasy costume competition. The CMC Carnival is slated for Sunday, Nov. 11, on one of the piers on the Embarcadero with parking facilities for more than 400 cars, expanded space, and of course, the Mr. CMC Carnival competition. The 5th Annual Golden Dildeaux Awards are slated for Thursday, Nov. 15, with some most interesting names being submitted for nomination already. Randy Johnson and Emma Mae Von Gay will co-MC the event, with Ms. Peckerhead (Joe Johns) flying up from his new digs in L.A. to be the dildeaux bearer. And the SF Gay Marching Band will be having its big Fall Concert at Davies Hall with Michelle and myself Co-MCing the extravaganza on Nov. 10. The Folsom Street Fair will take place from Noon to Dusk on Sunday, Sept. 23, gracing the Miracle Mile with booths, FIVE bars, games, entertainment, and fun from 7th to 11th Streets and two giant stages with music and NO political shenanigans. Looks like you're headed for a lot of fun times in the next several weeks, and I hope you'll survive them all in the true spirit of SF's Gay community. Not to forget 22 ON THE RED at the Giftcenter Pavilion on Saturday, 22 Sept.



Ben (L.) paid \$105 for the privilege of removing Lee Ryder's shorts last weekend at the Studstore. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

mean?" to which another voice announced, "Gladys, Dianne, and Imogene." Are the Satyrs trying to tell our title-ridden GDI's something? . . . Lee Ryder was in town over the weekend to autograph the new video cassettes of his latest film down at the Studstore, and 20 of his most ardent fans showed up and bid \$105 for the running shorts he wore in the film. The consensus of those in attendance is that BIG surprises DO indeed come in small packages. Ryder's considerable sexual apparatus has made many a heart flutter around here, not to mention the masses in the provinces. . . . And all the waitpersons at Church St. Station are GREEN with envy since they found out one of their co-workers got a neat anniversary present from his on-again, off-again lover: a night with Richard Locke, the creator and star of one-man, one-hand shows. Said waitperson isn't walking too steady these days. . . . And no one can claim that the after hours sex palaces aren't doing their share in health pro-

garner enough votes to become the Pres. of the board of Supervisors . . . *Los Puercos en Paraiso* held its annual Bar-B-Q at the Highlands Inn up at the Rushv last Sunday, but since Capt. John Forni and Officer Joe Hessian of Southern Station read this rag religiously, you'll have to consult your Spanish Dictionary to understand the foregoing . . . It was at the Satyrs M/C run two weekends ago that during one of the musical skits there was a pause during a medley and the question was asked "What does G.D.I. motion. Ken Fitzharris, proprietor of the BOOT CAMP Club, reports that since the AIDS educational program(s) began, he has given out more than 40,000 condoms at his place of business.

If you're not doing anything around 6 p.m. this coming Saturday, 15 Sept., you might want to drop in to the patio of the SF Eagle, where some 150 local dudes will be welcomed with a light supper and cocktails after disembarking from the SS Rotterdam on which some 1,100

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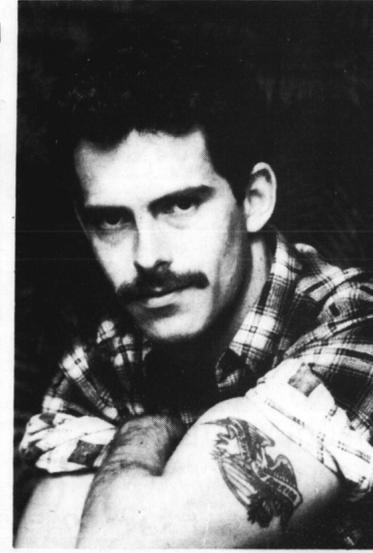
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A National Gay Treasure

KARL STEWART

By now, you've probably heard the world and are dumb-founded. "Is David Kelsey really retiring?????" David's reply is an emphatic "NO." He is, however, going on vacation for two weeks at the end of this month, and on a national tour for a couple of months in October and November (or so).

If you like music and a lot of fun, Kelsey has created both at the New Bell for ten years now, which began after a stint in Hawaii. David's love affair with the city, however, goes back to the dark days of Charles Peirce and the Gilded Cage. Kelsey played, then, at Lenny Mollet's On The Levee down on the Embarcadero.

Pure Trash is a Dixieland-style jazz band which David accompanies on Sundays at The Bell. This group, as we know it, will utter its last notes this Sunday. Pure Trash is another legacy of the late-conductor Jon Sims. The Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was in a parade in Redwood City a while back, and David K was on the bells, xylophone, etc. To celebrate that day's victories — I believe dodging beer bottles was one — the guys gathered at a member's home and began to jam with David on the keyboard. The rest is history — five years of Gay music and frolic on the New Bell's stage.

When David returns, he will form a show trio.

"I'm reviving a lot of my own

routines," Kelsey said. "Songs and general madness, which includes costumes. Hell, if Charles Peirce can do it at The Woods, so can I."

Another little jewel of our Gay world is the Galleon. It's been two years since Dick Lee and Mike Stanzione bought the ancient ship lock, stock, and patio. The guys had a party to mark the occasion, which brought out folks from all corners. From the Haight, Trax owners Ken Smith and Bob Douglas stopped by. This is a regular eatery for Ken, as it is for Bobby Shore and Char, who dragged in the entire cast and crew of the Starlight Room and Char's Kokpit. They must have rented a ship to shore shuttle.

Of course, Dick's partners in the Village, Hank and Giermo (Bill Martin), were on hand to toast a few. Marlow, of the Club Dori chimed the sad news of that bar's closure last weekend.

Have you noticed that Dwayne, Dick and Lee's constant companion, has picked up a little extra baggage? Tony T of the CMC has become a fixture on his arm. Another sophisticated couple. Oh yes.

The Galleon's second anniversary was also marked by a spread of food, including hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and BBQ, which had a superb sauce.

"Bernice" (Ben Carualho) led Mike, Dick and Bartender



Sonny Cline (r.), Mr. Northern California Drummer, and Lewis 'mud wrestling' at the Eagle. (Photo: Rink)

Billy with floral neck pieces he made himself. The evening was topped off with a light birthday cake filled with strawberries and grapes in sweet cream in honor of Mike and Dick's annus. These two have kept the Galleon on the leading edge of Gay San Francisco's favorite cafes.

Speaking of food institutions, Mama Billy hosted a wild Wild Goose Reunion at Gary and Barbara's Freeways (the former "Goose") last week. When Billy sends up the party-cry, a full bodied "Yeeeah!" the troops on Polk Street respond. Her chic turban and tastefully voluminous gowns do not bespeak the kinetic and vivacious bacchanal she inspires.

Billy attracted some interesting folks to party with too. There was a tall blond called Marcus, with a weathered manly face and the most incredible sculptured lips you'd every want to kiss. Then, of course, there was a big-bearded hulk Gary and his slender, lithe, gentle lover (also) Gary. They are referred to as Earth Father and Earth Mother. Of course Tracy, the latest Balloon Girl, was dressed to the nines in her characteristic veiled hat.

Olin of the Pilsner gibed, "I've heard of mud wrestling, but this...?" It was Grand Duke Michael Bowman's wrestling pools he was leering at. They were filled with raspberry jello and white packing popcorn, dotted with a few choice water balloons here and there. "This was his first official function wearing his new crown. The Eagle Patio was filled with the usual congeries of man-meat, but to watch this spartan event.

The first up was Tim, manager of Casa Loma Hotel, vs. Bruce. Both were a visual treat in colored jocks exposing furry, tight buns, as they heaved and pulled one another. Bruce proved to be the more skillful in the slimey match.

As pitchers of draft circled liberally, Don of the Golden Gate Wrestling Club met Gerry, with Don downing his opponent in a tough bout. Don and his club invite you to attend the 2nd Annual Dual Wrestling Meet, where the GGWC will square off against LA's SCWC. The action is Saturday (9/15) from 6 to 9 p.m., with a donation of five bucks. All this at the Eureka Valley Rec Center at Collingwood and 18th Sts.

The two funniest matches were that of Empress Tessie (XV) against Empress I of Marin, Kitty, with hose shredded and Kitty strategizing desperately to outwit Tessie's 100 lbs. or so advantage. She didn't.

Then, of course, there is the absurd and the sublime: Naomi Del Rey and big furry Leo. Now their weights were about the same, but Naomi was so busy groping the trojan that she was a pushover for him. She loved every minute of it.

The "most aggressive round" award goes to Grand Duchess Edie with Patrick in purple leopard briefs. Patrick won the laurel.

Another hot couple of broncos were Lewis, with a provocative "steer" tattoo on his left cheek, being pinned by Mr. No/Cal Drummer, Sonny Cline. Watching that takedown from the lofty roof stair was quite upsetting. I believe I even saw the steer wink at me.

Michael Bowman was backed up by Naomi and the fine emceeing of Sandi Sorrelles. Watch out for Bowman. His functions are always colorful and packed with variety.

Mr. and Miss Gay, Bruce and Parkay, are jumping right in there too. Tonight (Thursday, 9/13) you will find them at the Village hosting Evening with the Stars, from 8 to 10 p.m. This show will cost ya a buck or a can of food for the SF AIDS Foundation.

Saturday is the notorious Tavern Guild Picnic out at Windsor water works. The \$12 will bring you food, beer, and lotsa wet. Bruce and Parkay are sponsoring a bus to the north-ly tract, leaving the Village at 11:30 a.m. and returning at 7 p.m. Ten clams will get you on the Gayhound, with an open bar to and from. Tickets are available at the Village. Separate picnic tickets are available from

any Mr. or Miss TG candidate, of which there are hundreds.

Heard the gang had a ball at the Alaskan Coronation, especially Empress Remy who ended up sleeping with her sister, Terry Taylor, the newly crowned empress of Reno. Incest????

Congrats to Floyd and Michelle, our new Cowboy n' Cowgirl — I'll let you figure out which is which. They were elected last Saturday at a pleasant little pageant in the bowels of the Rathskeller. The show even turned out to be interesting, with such personalities of silent screen as Miss Goldblat — Dorothy Duster's prettier and much younger sister — and Gene Forest working the boards. Lashes thinks the 35 minute "Stepping Aside" numbers could have been pared down by "Men n' D," but at least the new Cowboy can speak a dialect of English we can understand easily.

Bill Quouts, our intrepid cocktail engineer at the Eagle, celebrated 41 of 'em last week with cake by Stella, dress by Dior, hair by Divine, and the china being washed by Chuck of the Atherton.

Bob Merl was taken completely by surprise when Bill Wood and the other officers of his Cyclersrunners MC presented him with a full size copy of the club's colors at Bob's bar, The Wateringhole, last Saturday during the club's first beer bust. This was the first MC beer bust for The Wateringhole in its new quarters at Folsom and Hallum.

The Cyclersrunners will have an Open Meeting Friday, Sept. 21 in the Ramrod at 8:30 p.m. This will be a pre-run meeting publicizing Opera Madness, which follows (9/28-30).

This weekend is our Warlock Run weekend, down at Lake San Antonio near King City. Because of the easy access to LA from there, it is usually one of the biggest runs, populated with new faces and lotsa sunshine. \$60 will buy all the food, fun, and booze you can consume in one weekend, and they throw in the shower for free.

Kimo's 7th Anniversary is comin' up this week, Wednesday and Thursday (9/19 & 20). Mama Billy will present her wonderful food, and Kimo will pull out the fire dance and dust it off during a full bore Hawaiian show and luau. Drop by.

Thank you for all your concern. I'll be hacking away at the keys every other week back here. Hope to see ya' in the Skins.

FRIESE FRAME

Picnics and More

MARK FRIESE

Fun, excitement, jokes, and laughs, and much more is in store for you if you're going to the Tavern Guild picnic this Sunday. This is always a lot of fun, and there is still time to get a ticket and arrange with a TG bar to go on one of the many buses leaving that day for Windsor, Good Luck, Tammy Lynn.

Broadway to Hollywood is the theme for this year's Beaux Arts Ball, which will be held at the Galleria Sunday, October 21. Bob Ross, Char, and a special guest will MC the costume portion of the evening, sets will be by Alan Greenspan, and the guest artist will be Sharon Redd, premiering her new dance single.

For all of you devoted fans of David Kelsey and his Pure Trash Band, this Saturday and Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. will be your last chance to see them performing as a group. Many of the former members of the band will be there for the fun, and it's all happening at the New Bell Saloon.

Did any of you doubt for a minute that an East Bay fundraising effort headed up by Ed Paulson and Little Mother would fail? Of course you didn't. At the Revol this past Sunday, the pair concluded their AIDS

fundraisers by making more than their proposed goal of \$20,000. They will also be the hosts at a three-day dance marathon at the Spoiled Brat in Hayward, Sept. 28, 29 and 30, at which time a dream week for two in Palm Springs will be auctioned off. Congratulations are in order for Ed and Little Mother, who along with other individuals and businesses, have helped to raise more than \$40,000 in the East Bay for AIDS in little over two years.

Want a story that might seem a bit hard to believe? Well here goes... It seems that a few SF natives were having a few nips at the Santa Rosa Inn and met someone professing to be La Kish's high school teacher. Is it possible that someone could be that old?

An unusual way to find a bar has to be how they give directions to the Mine at the Russian River. All you have to do is locate the time/temp. sign and you've got it made. Once you've found this new addition to the river scene you'll be quite impressed to find video and dancing have found their spot at the river. Coming up at the river Saturday, Oct. 6 will be the second annual White Night Party at Drums, which will start at



Singing the Night Away. A scene at the last night of the Club Dori. (Photo: Rink)

10 p.m. and will feature San Francisco's own Sylvester.

Best wishes to all of you at the Club Dori. We'll certainly miss the bar and great staff. Also, congratulations to the Queen Mary Pub on six years, and many more to come.

Don't forget the picnic. Bring a towel, bring a friend, but most of all have a good weekend wherever you choose to spend it.

Winding it up for another week. Hope you're all enjoying the great weather we've been having. Until we meet on these pages again next week, remember: There's nothing wrong with being a queen. It all depends on what size crown you want to wear. See you at the Leather Town Meeting and all around the campus!

Marcus

MARCUS

(Continued from page 32)

Eagle next Wednesday night, Sept. 19, beginning at 9 p.m. The video has been dedicated to a friend of the Cloggers who recently passed away of AIDS. Hope to see you all there... Would you believe Michelle has doffed his gorgeous gowns and is now wielding a hammer somewhere in upstate New York helping someone build their dream house? It only goes to prove that dresses are nice, but they create an illusion of femininity and not the other way around... Just because Butch Freeman decided not to wear leather for a couple of days last week when the temperatures soared, the whole community was in an uproar, wondering if he'd changed his lifestyle. No, he hasn't, and now you know why San Francisco is the leather capital of the world — there are only a few days in the year when leather is not comfortable, and last week was among those days. But you should have seen Butch in white shorts, white sneakers, and a white man jogging around Bernal Heights two weekends ago... Vern Stewart, who classifies all his little "play-mates" as toys, apparently cleaned out his toy box last week and came up empty, as Elmar, Scott, and Jake all took hikes and La Stewart was NOT amused at being left out in the cold all weekend, and looked quite wistful in spite of the hordes of cuties out and about... Customers of the SF Eagle were greeted by Black & White Men Together picketing outside last Sunday claiming racial dis-

crimination because of a job vacancy that was filled by a White man in spite of the fact that Black men applied for it. Says Rev. Charles Terry of Third Baptist Church, a Black man and a leather man to boot: "The most blatant and unfair accusation I've ever heard." Rev. Terry is a regular at the leather bars South of Market, and he ought to know. Quite frankly, one of the Black applicants was offered the job and turned it down for unknown reasons. Can anyone please anyone anywhere anytime these days? Har-rumph!... Miles Mitchell only lasted one day at the SF Eagle — he is now pushing the booze at the Arena, and by the way, tonight at 10 p.m. is the Bare Chest Contest to name Mr. October 1985 in the forthcoming calendar, and dancing is *de rigueur* there these days... Watch for a new leather store with hot styling and tailoring opening soon in one of South of Market's leather bars by Hammersmith Leathers, the store that took the Russian River by storm. Guernville hasn't been the same since... Next time you're in L.A., and at a loss for something to do, no friends, etc., pick up a handy little book called "Buck Rogers' HAPPENINGS." It gives a day-by-day account of everything that's going on in smogville and outlying districts, and it's free...

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Genetic Researcher Explains Cloning of the 'AIDS Virus'

East Bay Firm Creates Virus in a Test Tube, But Predicts Vaccine is 3 to 5 Years Away

by Charlie Linebarger

Recent articles in local dailies have given the impression to many people that a small East Bay genetic engineering firm may be on the verge of creating a vaccine for AIDS. That hope is premature, but some promising things are going on in the fight against AIDS at Chiron Corp. in Emeryville.

The *Bay Area Reporter* talked to Dr. Paul A. Luciw, the director of the AIDS project at Chiron. The important thing that has happened at Chiron, according to Dr. Luciw, is the cloning of the full set of genes for the virus believed to lie at the root of AIDS.

The story begins over a year ago at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, when French scientists succeeded in identifying an infectious agent (virus) believed to cause AIDS. Six months later in Washington, D.C., federal scientists at the National Institutes of Health also succeeded in isolating a virus from their AIDS patients. The belief has been, from the beginning, that these two viruses are very similar — probably identical — and are probably the cause of AIDS.

The next step for Chiron came this spring when Dr. Jay A. Levy of UCSF's Cancer Research Institute succeeded in isolating a virus from an AIDS patient. Dr. Luciw said that Chiron believes that Levy's virus is similar to the two previously

discovered AIDS viruses, and also probably the cause of the disease. (Note the change in nomenclature: we're now talking about a disease, not a syndrome, because many scientists now believe that the virus responsible for AIDS has been found.)

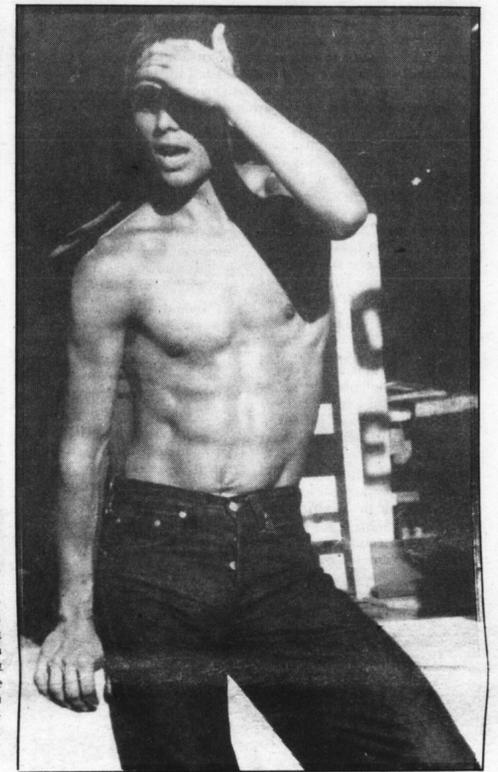
Chiron came into the picture in June of this year, Luciw said, because, "We have recombinant DNA technologies." That means Chiron is capable of studying the exact chemical composition of the virus and, perhaps, duplicating it.

Taking off from Dr. Levy's discovery, Chiron has been able over the past summer to reduplicate — or "clone" — Dr. Levy's AIDS virus in a test tube. "This

is extremely important for studying the virus," Dr. Luciw explained. "This will allow us to complete a process we're half-way through now, discovering the exact chemical composition of this virus."

Discovering the chemical composition of the virus is important, according to Luciw, because the researchers then can begin to ask questions about what it is in the virus which causes AIDS. Luciw pointed out that both the French and the National Institutes of Health in Washington have also reduplicated the virus, or their variant of it, in vitro (test tube), and have begun studying it.

Chiron is apparently different than these giants in AIDS research. (Continued on page 2)



We're Havin' a Heat Wave, hard to keep cool when things on the street are this hot. (Photo: Rink)

Dave Wharton: Gay in the Center

He's Hopeful in Second Campaign; Wants to Improve Gov't Access

by Allen White

Dave Wharton is a man with ideas for San Francisco who is running for supervisor. In a race where incumbents have a distinct edge, Wharton said he firmly believes he has a chance.



Dave Wharton (Photo: Rink)

He slyly throws out his best endorsement, which says that "Dave Wharton seems to be the very sort of outstanding San Franciscan whom the framers of the city charter wanted on the Board of Supervisors." The sentence takes on an ironic meaning when it's noted that the author is Kevin Starr, the same Kevin Starr whom Dave Wharton must beat to become a supervisor.

Wharton received the kind words from Starr in 1982 when Wharton ran an unsuccessful race for the office. He believes this time around that he has a good chance. He has backed his hopes with some solid ideas to improve the city. The primary thrust appears to be to give the people who live in San Francisco more contact with their government.

(Continued on page 5)

IN THIS ISSUE

What's in Joan Rivers' closet? Are we talking fashion here? Oh, grow up. Rivers and a publicist for Michael Jackson take swipes over some not-so-Gay remarks. Allen White stirs it up . . . p. 3

Winning ticket numbers from the Mr. & Miss Tavern Guild raffle . . . p. 10

The Mayor didn't show, she and Quentin Kopp were booed, and recent Gay-rights defeats were on everybody's minds. That set the mood for the Toklas Club's annual dinner. But Ginny Apuzzo spurred on the faithful not to give up hope. George Mendenhall reports . . . p. 14

Shanti Project counselors are on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic, dealing daily with life and death concerns. Mike Hippler sits in on a counselors' group session . . . p. 16

Studio Rhino is looking for a captive audience with revival of a play that sent the actors to jail in the 1920s. John Karr bails out the show . . . p. 22

Veteran character actor Harry Dean Stanton chats with Steve Warren about his new movies, *Repo Man* and *Paris, Texas* . . . p. 22

Gay Chicagoan Linked To Midwest Murders

Body of Hustler in Dumpster May Solve Murders of 22 Men

by James C. Jackson

Chicago - A Gay man here, who is a suspect in dozens of sex-linked serial slayings, has been charged with the brutal dismemberment murder of a teenage hustler. The victim's body was cut into eight pieces and thrown in a trash dumpster behind the suspect's apartment.

Larry W. Eyler, 31, who Illinois police compare to John Wayne Gacy, is being held without bond in Chicago. He is a suspect in 22 other slayings in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. Already charged with the stabbing murder of a Chicago electrician one year ago, Eyler was free on bond when the dismembered body of 16-year-old Daniel Bridges was found Aug. 21.



Danny Bridges, slain hustler (Photo: WMAG-TV, Chicago)

Eyler, a former house painter, was charged with the murder the day after his arrest. Investigators found in his apartment blood-stained clothing and newspaper, as well as tools they believe may have been used to dismember the teenager.

Investigated for more than a year by police from seven states working to solve nearly 50 murders, Eyler is also charged with the savage slaying of Ralph E. Calise, 28 — just one of at least 34 various slayings since 1980 which police say may be "homo-

(Continued on page 4)