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We Will Never Forget!



Wearing pink triangles, two men hold hands during emotional vigil on Sunday at Holocaust Memorial. President Reagan was in Germany to visit the graves of SS death squads. (Photo: Rink)

AB-1 Is Dead For This Year

Agnos Withdraws Bill From Committee; Feared 'No' Vote

by Will Snyder

AB-1, the bill for equal job rights for Gays, is dead for another year. Assembly Member Art Agnos, D-San Francisco, withdrew the measure from committee last week when it appeared doomed to a negative vote. But Agnos vowed to continue the fight.

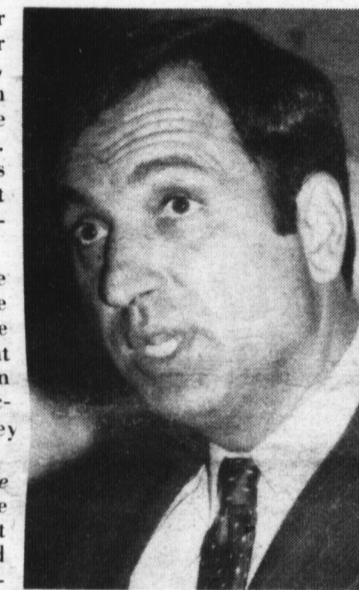
A vote on AB-1 was never officially taken by the Labor Committee because Agnos knew he was one vote shy of the seven needed to send the bill to the Ways and Means Committee. Agnos specifically pointed his finger at Lawndale Democrat Dick Floyd, the Labor Committee chair, as the culprit.

"He's voted for this bill twice before," said Agnos, "and he won't tell me personally why he has become a no vote, but we'll just continue to push on this thing until we have convinced the no votes that they should vote yes."

Floyd had indicated to *The San Francisco Chronicle* that he has become an AB-1 opponent because of increasing verbal and written pressure from his constituents, traditionally democrat and blue-collar.

Floyd was unavailable for comment Monday. A Floyd spokesperson—who refused to be identified—would neither confirm nor deny which direction Floyd had gone privately on AB-1. When asked if she thought Agnos was assuming Floyd would have voted against the bill, she said, "That's right."

AB-1, which represents what



Art Agnos (Photo: Rink)

Agnos refers to as "clearly the most unpopular civil rights issue," has had a frustrating path in the Legislature. It barely got by the Legislature last year, but Governor George Deukmejian vetoed the measure because he claimed there wasn't enough evidence of job discrimination against Gays. The

(Continued on page 4)

Second Survey Says Gays Have Greatly Reduced Sex

McKusick Study Charts 2-Year Decline

The level of sexual activity of Gay men in San Francisco has decreased dramatically since 1982, according to an ongoing study by the UC-San Francisco AIDS Behavioral Research Project. The study has found substantial reductions in the average number of sexual partners and specific sexual acts believed to transmit AIDS. "Gay men have made major changes in their lifestyles in the past 2½ years, and these changes may slow the spread of AIDS in San Francisco," said Leon McKusick, project director.

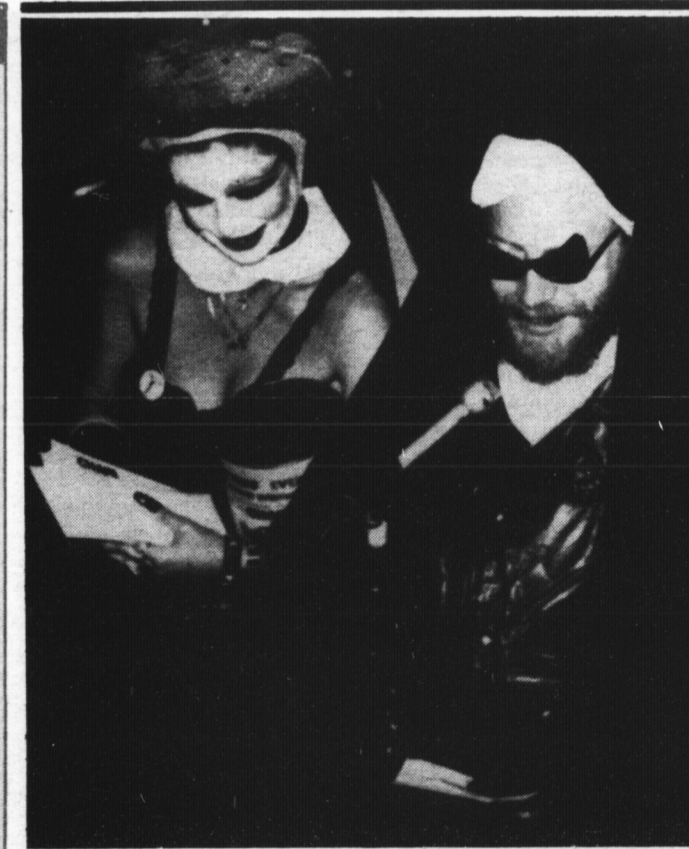
(Continued on next page)

IN THIS ISSUE

REDLINING: It's an insurance term, not a fashion statement—and it's illegal. Amid concerns that insurers are avoiding Gay clients, Ray O'Loughlin checks out the worries. **Page 3.**

UNION VOTE will affect Gay workers and Gay politics. The candidates for top spot in the city's AFL-CIO talk Gay as George Mendenhall takes notes on **Page 4.**

CHURCH AND US, the three-part Viewpoint, has stirred a heavy reader response. Three pages of readers' comments appear beginning on **page 9.**



Misty—Sister Mysteria—is fiance to Sister Boom-Boom—Jack Fertig. (Photo: Rink)

Boom-Boom to Wed A Real Woman

Beats Beating His Media; Jon Sugar's Barbara Walters Interview

by Jon Sugar

I have known Jack Fertig—Sister Boom Boom—for almost 10 years. The other night I took him out for a pizza and while we were eating he turned to me and said "Hey Sugar, ya wanna scoop? I'm marrying a woman!" I almost choked. "Are you pullin' my pud?" I asked. No, he wasn't.

Sister Boom Boom is marrying a woman and he said if I wanted more details I'd have to come over to his new digs off Folsom Street for an exclusive interview. I arrived in the home of Sister Boom Boom and his fiance Misty, aka Sister Mysteria of the holy order of the broken hymens, the first woman to enter the order of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

It was 10:45 p.m. I rang the bell and a voice from behind the grill asked "Are you Mr. Sugar?" The door creaked open and I walked in. Very Peter Lorre.

An attractive little guy identifying himself as the Marquessa de Sade told me Jack wasn't home yet but Misty was and would we like some coffee? Misty entered, wearing a tiger-claw T-shirt streaking silk-screened

What will happen when NBC's *The Chron* et al get a hold of this shit? Is this the final blow? Has AIDS so freaked out

(Continued on next page)

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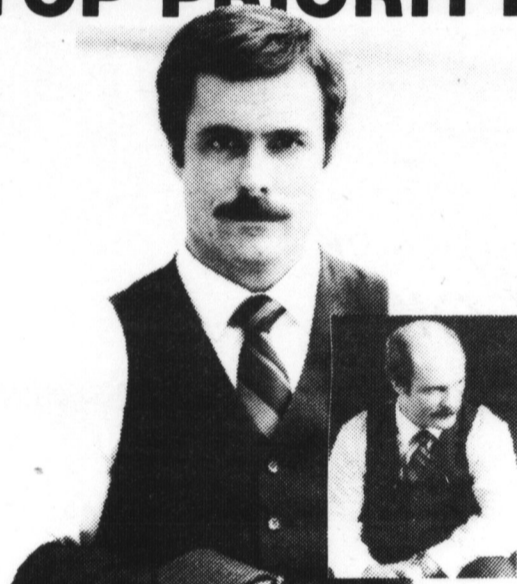
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Gays Reduce Sex

(Continued from page 1)

A study by McKusick; William Horstman, a San Francisco psychologist; and Thomas J. Coates, UCSF associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, is published in the May 1985 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*. In November, 1983, they surveyed 655 Gay men regarding their sexual practices during the previous month and the same month a year before.

The study included men who were at high risk of AIDS (those frequenting bathhouses and bars) and low-risk men (those who went to neither place and men in primary relationships). The study also asked about their awareness of risk reduction guidelines for AIDS.

Follow-up surveys of the same men in May, 1984 and November, 1984 found a progressive decline in sexual activity since November, 1982. The study found:

- The average number of sexual partners in the previous month dropped from 5.9 in November 1982 to 4.8 in November 1983; 3.9 in May 1984; and to 2.5 in November 1984.
- The percentage of those surveyed who engaged in any "unsafe" sex with a new partner was 47 percent in November 1982 and November 1983, 29 percent in May 1984, and 27 percent in November 1984. Unsafe sex includes acts where significant amounts of bodily fluids are exchanged.

- The average number of total unsafe sex acts in the previous month was 4.8 in November 1982; 3.9 in November 1983; 1.8 in May 1984; and only .8 in November 1984.

- Over 80 percent of those surveyed agreed with current health guidelines for AIDS prevention.

- The reduction in high-risk sexual activity was less dramatic among monogamous men. These men possibly feel protected by their monogamy, according to the researchers.

- Men in primary relationships were more likely to reduce the number of outside relationships and high-risk practices.

- Age was a factor in changing sexual behavior. Men over 40 were less likely to reduce high-risk behavior than men under 30.

"In examining the data, there is an important trend," said Tom Coates. "That is, Gay men have not substituted one sexual activity for another, but rather have declined in overall level of sexual activity. They have not necessarily substituted safe sexual practices for the unsafe ones."

Results of the McKusick study mirrored results of a study conducted last fall by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The AIDS Foundation surveyed 500 Gay men, randomly selected from throughout San Francisco. The survey indicated that two-thirds had "effectively removed themselves from any serious risk of spreading AIDS" by changing their sexual habits.

The AIDS Foundation study likewise found that the men most resistant to changing their habits were those over 45 years old, and those with no education beyond high school.

From a press release provided by UCSF Med Center.

NY Court Affirms Job Rights

A New York State appeals court on Tuesday upheld New York City Mayor Ed Koch's order to prohibit anti-Gay discrimination. The ruling was a rejection for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York City, the Salvation Army and a Jewish group. The three religious groups jointly contract for \$90 million in social services to the city a year. All three had fought Koch's Gay-rights order in court.

Koch's order, issued in 1980, was defied by the Catholic Archdiocese and the Salvation Army. The Agudath Israel of America later joined the resistance to the order. The city took the groups to court, and a lower court struck down the order—ruling, in effect, that the agencies could legally discriminate against Gays in hiring.

The ruling was made by a panel of the New York State Supreme Court, and passed on a 3-1 ballot. In its written opinion, the panel said the mayor had not only the authority but also the "constitutional obligation" to ensure equal job rights for all citizens.

"Where sexual proclivity does not relate to job function, it seems clearly unconstitutional to penalize an individual in one of the most imperative of life's endeavors, the right to earn one's daily bread," the majority opinion stated.

Boom-Boom, Sr. Mysteria to Wed

(Continued from page 1)

blood across her tits. The Bride of Boom Boom is a red-haired professional dominatrix who is funny, warm and shoots straight from the hip.

A beat later Mr. Fertig entered the room rambling happily about a theater date he just had with a 70-year-old Jewish woman with whom he smoked a joint. He met her at his day job at the Jewish Community Center. I fumbled with the tape deck and microphone. My mind was on one thing only. What the fuck is Jack up to now?

(JS) Are you really getting married? As in husband and wife?

(JF) Oh I don't know about the term "man and wife." Millions of people do it every day. I just happened to tell a friend and if he wants to blab it all over the wires that's his business.

(JS) Misty, are you a real woman?

(Misty) Oh yeah wanna see? And she pulls up her T-shirt to display two nice firm little breasts.

(JS) Is this a conscious and deliberate act, Jack?

(JF) Very!

(Misty) I met Jack while doing work at the SPI Mission. You know I've heard about you but I didn't know who you were. Why are you hitting me with all these off-the-wall questions? Don't fuck with my head and I won't fuck with yours!

(JS) How old are you?

(Misty) No comment . . . how old do you think I am?

(JS) 30-35.

(Misty) That's OK.

(JF) God created a beautiful garden for all of us to enjoy. When we marry we'll qualify for domestic partnership benefits. Just because I'm a man and she's a woman doesn't mean we can't love each other.

(JS) When is the big day?

(JF) Maybe a Sunday. Soon. When we figure it out you'll be the first to know.

(JS) Will you and Sr. Marquessa de Sade and Jack enjoy menage a trois? The number three is a very groovy number.

(JF) With the Marquessa de Sade? Please! No. Absolutely not.

(Misty) We want to enjoy ourselves the way God told us to.

(JS) There's the thread that holds our reality together. Do you two sleep together?

(JF) Occasionally.

(Misty) Who says you have to marry just so you can fuck? That may have been true in the old missionary position days (no pun intended) but not now. Misty and Jack are two ordinary normal people who are very much in love and want to get married.

(JF) She likes my boyfriends and I like hers! Misty says no kids. Her cats are quite enough, thank you. She would have to give up her job beating men to take care of them.

(JS) Do you have sex?

(Misty) Well mentally.

(JF) Spiritually!

(JS) Wait a minute. Do you two fuck or what?

(Misty & Jack) Not each other.

(JF) Lots of married couples love each other and don't fuck.

We have a loving and committed relationship. We have an erotic relationship. Eros.

(Misty) Totally unbelievable!

(JS) Is this the death of Sister Boom Boom?

(JF) Sister Boom Boom will never die! What are you getting at?

(JS) I want to do for you what I did for Vallejo.

(JF) Misty, where's the kitchen knife?

(JS) If you don't fuck, why do you want to marry?

(Misty) We're in love.

(JF) People fuck without getting married, why can't we get married without fucking?

(JS) How long will you be married?

(JF) Who knows what the future holds?

(JS) What about your notoriety?

(JF) Quite frankly, it's a pain in the ass. I like my privacy. I don't hound the media. The media hounds me. The letters to the editor's column will be full of letters twisting my love around. What we really need are people concerned about changing our world for the better, helping people out. We live in a world of consumers twisted by TV. We know the media is all hype. We want the media to use for our benefit.

(JS) Misty, how can you marry such a prominent Gay man?

(Misty) I don't care about that. I like Jack because of Jack.

(JF) Misty is an erotic shaman. We want to dream and keep the beauty and get rid of the ugly. Sex is underrated because it's handled so cheaply.

Insurers Deny 'Redlining' Castro

But AIDS Fear Leading to Some Firms Firing Employees

by Ray O'Loughlin

Rumors of insurance companies denying policies and raising premiums for those with Castro district addresses have been flowing through the community. But cases of "redlining" have yet to be documented and confirmed. One insurance sales representative, however, warned of a number of problems in the future as the AIDS epidemic worsens. He advised Gay men to not take the HTLV-3 antibody test to avoid being labeled uninsurable.

"We have not been able to find a single case to indicate any redlining," said Carl Heimann, of Schmidt & Schmidt Insurance. "We would be the first to feel it," he added. He reported that no insurers had refused to do business with Schmidt & Schmidt because of AIDS, though the agency is well known for its Gay clientele.

Jim Spahr, who also specializes in selling insurance to the Gay community, also said he saw no signs of a discriminatory policy toward applications from Gay men. "I don't believe there is organized homophobia in the major insurance companies," said Spahr. "If there is such organized homophobia, I'm going to be out of business very quickly." He said it was well known in the companies he deals with that he works in the Gay community.

"New York Life has seen and approved of the ad I run regularly in the B.A.R.," he said. "They even pay for a portion of it." He said it wouldn't be profitable for insurance companies to cut off Gay consumers, and they understand that.

DENIALS

Saying that he'd inquired about redlining, Spahr said, "All of the companies that I have posed the question to were paranoid that such a suspicion would arise and were doing everything possible to allay such rumors."

Asked if New York Life was redlining any area, Associate Manager for the company's San Francisco office, Bill Hagler responded, "Absolutely not. To my knowledge, there is no truth whatsoever in that claim."

Spahr branded redlining as "unethical and immoral." According to Jerry Whitfield, attorney for the California Department of Insurance, it is also illegal in California. Whitfield cited the state's Insurance Code, which specifies that a licensed insurer cannot refuse applications or insurance or cancel existing insurance "except for reasons applicable alike to all persons." That means that cases would have to be treated on an individual basis relying on clear evidence of a higher risk of disease.

"Assuming that once there is an identifiable AIDS indicator in an individual case, then that could warrant a higher premium," said Whitfield. "But a company could not target an area to base its rates on. You can't choose to insure or not insure on the basis of ZIP codes."

HTLV-3 TEST

That brings up the matter of the currently available blood test for HTLV-3 antibody. Will that become a marker in "individual cases" for wary insurance companies? According to Heimann, it may have already.

"We are absolutely against anybody getting the HTLV-3 test. We agree with BAPHR (Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights) that it is not

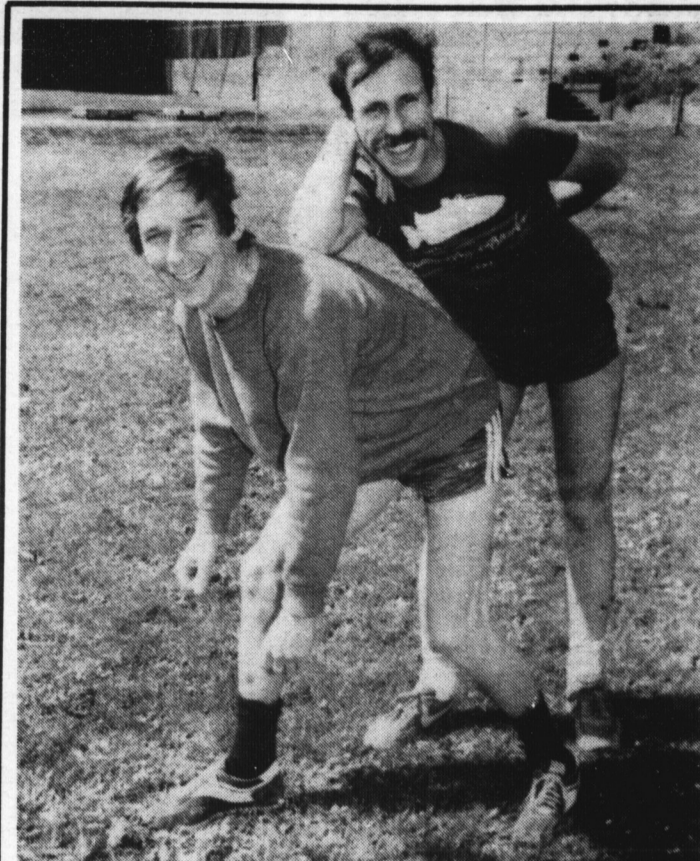
the company's action. Through the Medical Information Bureau (MIB), a huge computerized data collection agency based in Boston, an applicant can learn why a decision was made.

"You have a right to know what the insurance company based their decision on and what they were told by doctors and others. It's like the government's Freedom of Information Act," explained Heimann. "Insurance agents cannot get that information," he said—"only consumers themselves have the right to demand it."

Where Heimann saw an immediate problem looming was in the area of employee benefits. "We have been experiencing some AIDS paranoia from employers who have been firing people who are Gay and get sick. They're not advising people of their rights to convert group medical plans to individual plans."

He explained that with the medical costs of AIDS treatment being so high, employers fear that their insurance premiums will go through the roof. "Even one case," he said, "could screw up the rates pretty badly."

Heimann urged Gays to become better informed on insurance. Read the fine print, he said, know what is covered and what is not, and find out what your rights are regarding insurance.



Ready to Run

Dr. Hal Dillehunt and John Lorenzini are ready to run in the Bay to Breakers on May 19. People with AIDS will have a contingent in the 7.5-mile run, and are seeking sponsors as a fund-raising effort. For information and to make a pledge, call the S.F. AIDS Foundation, 864-4376.

(Photo: Rink)

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Gay Laborites Eye Vote on Union Chief

Walter Johnson Is Favored by Gay Activists in Monday Election

by George Mendenhall

A vote on Monday could determine how much emphasis will be placed on Lesbian and Gay issues in the local labor movement. An informal poll of up-front Gay people indicates that their choice is Walter Johnson, recently resigned president of the Department Store Workers. At stake is the position of secretary-treasurer of the city's AFL-CIO Labor Council. The estimated 15,000 of the 150,000 organized union members who are Gay are watching the election carefully.

When Jack Crowley died unexpectedly on March 17, he left the council seat vacant—at a point when there had begun to be increasing Gay influence in the local labor movement. The Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance was in its second year and was made a member of the council. Organized labor opposed the anti-Gay Briggs initiative in 1978.

The national AFL-CIO has taken a position for Lesbian and Gay rights and endorsed more federal funding—a move initiated in San Francisco. Increasingly, local contracts were including "sexual orientation" in nondiscrimination clauses. Openly Gay men and Lesbians were being elected and appointed to union positions.

FOUR CANDIDATES

The question among the Gay people who are union members is, "How aggressive will our issues be addressed in the future?"

Two of the four candidates in Monday's election have been and are openly supportive of Lesbian and Gay rights: Charles Lamb, 46, head of the city's largest union, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers; and Walter Johnson, 61, longtime president of the Department Store Workers. The four candidates are:

• Walter Johnson, who has made appointments of up-front Gays to positions, and opened his union hall for Alliance

meetings and forums. He has appointed openly Gay people to union positions. Although Johnson resigned his position while his union was heavily in debt, he remains popular and does not have to face re-election.

• Jeff Greendorfer, 37, the assistant council secretary-treasurer, who served under Crowley. He has rarely spoken out on issues such as Gay rights. He stresses, "I am in favor of Gays being treated equal with heterosexuals. Discrimination is inconsistent with the precepts of the labor movement." He adds, "I will win."

• Michael Hardeman, 41, Business Agent of the Sign, Display and Allied Crafts Union. He has the strong support of the more affluent Building Trades—plumbers, carpenters, etc. When asked about his support of Lesbian and Gay rights, he said, "Gays have been discriminated against. However, the council should not be endorsing parades. I don't know if labor should be pursuing things on issues totally unrelated to labor. Some people want to be involved in everything."

All of the candidates have agreed the Lesbian and Gay labor issues should be addressed in union publications, that contracts should include prohibitions against discrimination based on sexual orientation, and that the Alliance should be supported.



Gays in the labor movement were evident at "Spring Mobilization" march for jobs, peace and justice. (Photo: Rink)

GAY LABOR LEADERS

Openly Gay people have begun to surface in significant union positions. John Mehring, Milk Democratic Club activist, is a member of the Board of the Hospital Workers. Nancy Wohlforth is co-chair of the Alliance and Vice President of the Office and Professional Workers. Hank Cohn is business agent, Social Service and Health Care Workers. Sal Rosselli, Toklas Democratic Club president, is business agent of the Hospital Workers and former head of the Theatre Janitors Local. Howard Wallace is co-chair of the Labor Alliance. Roger Shipley is business agent of the Department Store Workers. Vince Quackenbush, Stone-wall Democrats, has joined Rosselli on the Central Labor Council.

Wohlforth said there is an absence of any public record on Greendorfer and Hardeman. She said, "It would be a great victory for our community if Walter Johnson won. He has been a progressive for 30 years—taking positions on women, anti-war, Gay, etc."

Shipley and Quackenbush agree that Greendorfer and Hardeman have little recorded on Lesbian and Gay issues. Shipley says, "With Walter Johnson there would be a strong council and we have to act soon under Reagan or there will be no jobs. Walter is uncompromising and progressive." Quackenbush adds, "It is the old way of doing things versus the progressive way. Walter is the person—on the issues that concern us."

Cohn stressed, "Greendorfer would do a good job and is comfortable with us. But he does not get involved. Maybe he just has not been in a position where he could be responsive. I favor Walter Johnson, who is the stronger candidate. This election can be important in our community as we moved into unorganized areas."

Rosselli said he would not endorse anyone and urged, "if any of these men get in, it would be a giant step forward. Things will move faster and there will be more cooperation. They have all worked with our community and they have given us total support." Rosselli added, "How-

ever, Johnson has the longer and better track record on Lesbian and Gay rights."

Homophobia has not surfaced as a major issue in the current election campaign. There is a rumor that some members of the Plumbers Union have been saying that if Johnson is elected "the Gays will be in control." There are those in the local union movement who do not want change and fear a take over by minorities and disruption if Johnson is elected.

Lamb's role could be significant in the next week as the front-runners may be close. Although it is conceded that Lamb probably cannot be elected, as the president of the largest union he could deliver the block of votes necessary for victory. G. Mendenhall

AB-1 Is Rejected

(Continued from page 1) measure would bar private employers with five or more workers from refusing to hire, train or promote someone because of any particular sexual orientation.

Agnos said Monday it was important for pro-Gay forces to get organized in order to get AB-1 passed. He pointed at anti-Gay forces as examples of well-organized camps.

"Those people are in a minority," Agnos said of anti-Gay groups, "but they're well-organized and well-financed."

Agnos specifically was referring to a fundamentalist religious group known as the California Coalition for Traditional Values. The Anaheim-based coalition spent \$150,000 on a 16-page color tabloid mailout newspaper which contained a heavy barrage of anti-Gay articles.

Observers of the Legislature claim that this kind of pressure is having an effect on Democrats worried about a continuation of the current nationwide conservative political mood during the 1986 elections.

Despite this kind of pressure, Agnos said he is not through with promoting Gay civil rights. "I think it is extremely important for the opponents of AB-1 to know that I am not giving up until I get this legislation passed," Agnos said.

W. Snyder

A Bitter Vigil at Holocaust Memorial

'Never Again Will I Hide that I am A Gay Jew'

by Allen White

Several Dozen Gay men and Lesbians joined hundreds of people Sunday for a vigil at the Holocaust Memorial in San Francisco's Lincoln Park. "It was the only possible response to the actions of President Reagan," said Cathy Nelson, one of the Lesbians in the crowd.

The hundreds of people became a living memorial to the millions of people who died during the World War II Holocaust. The President's visit to a cemetery where SS troops were buried had opened deep wounds.

Approaching the stark memorial last Sunday afternoon, the only sounds were those of muffled sobs. Reagan would say on evening newscasts, "It was a fine day." It was not a fine day at the Holocaust Memorial. It was a gut-wrenching experience as hundreds of people remembered, wept and prayed for their families, who had been tortured and murdered in Nazi death camps.

Since the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Gay Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978, it would be hard to remember a time in recent memory when people gathered together with such a common purpose projecting a bond of mutual comfort.

Throughout the crowd, pink triangles were everywhere. Amongst the flowers that covered the bodies that form the monument, a person had pinned a black armband with a pink triangle to one of the arms.

Paul Matzner said, "I now have a reason to wear this shirt." His t-shirt was emblazoned with the pink triangle, the identification by the Nazis of a homosexual in the German concentration camps. His friend Paul Wasserman, like many others, wore a pink triangle pinned to his shirtsleeve.

With pink triangles on armbands, three young women sat inside the memorial next to the barbed wire fence that forms the outer rim of the work of art. As they stared at the sculptured bodies that lay on the ground, apparently trying to comprehend the magnitude of this event, the sound was broken by the sound of a young boy. "Daddy, there are so many dead Jews," he remarked as he sat on his Father's arms. The Father replied, "I wonder what our President is thinking."

The memorial is dedicated to the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. It is estimated that 250,000 identified homosexuals were also killed. In previous years, controversy has surfaced relating to the exclusion of homosexuals and others who died in the camps. Though built with Jewish funds and dedicated to the Jews who died in the Holocaust, Sunday afternoon the memorial was accepted as a memorial to every single person who died in the camps. The actions of Reagan seemed to jar the senses of many to the hatred of Hitler and his people.

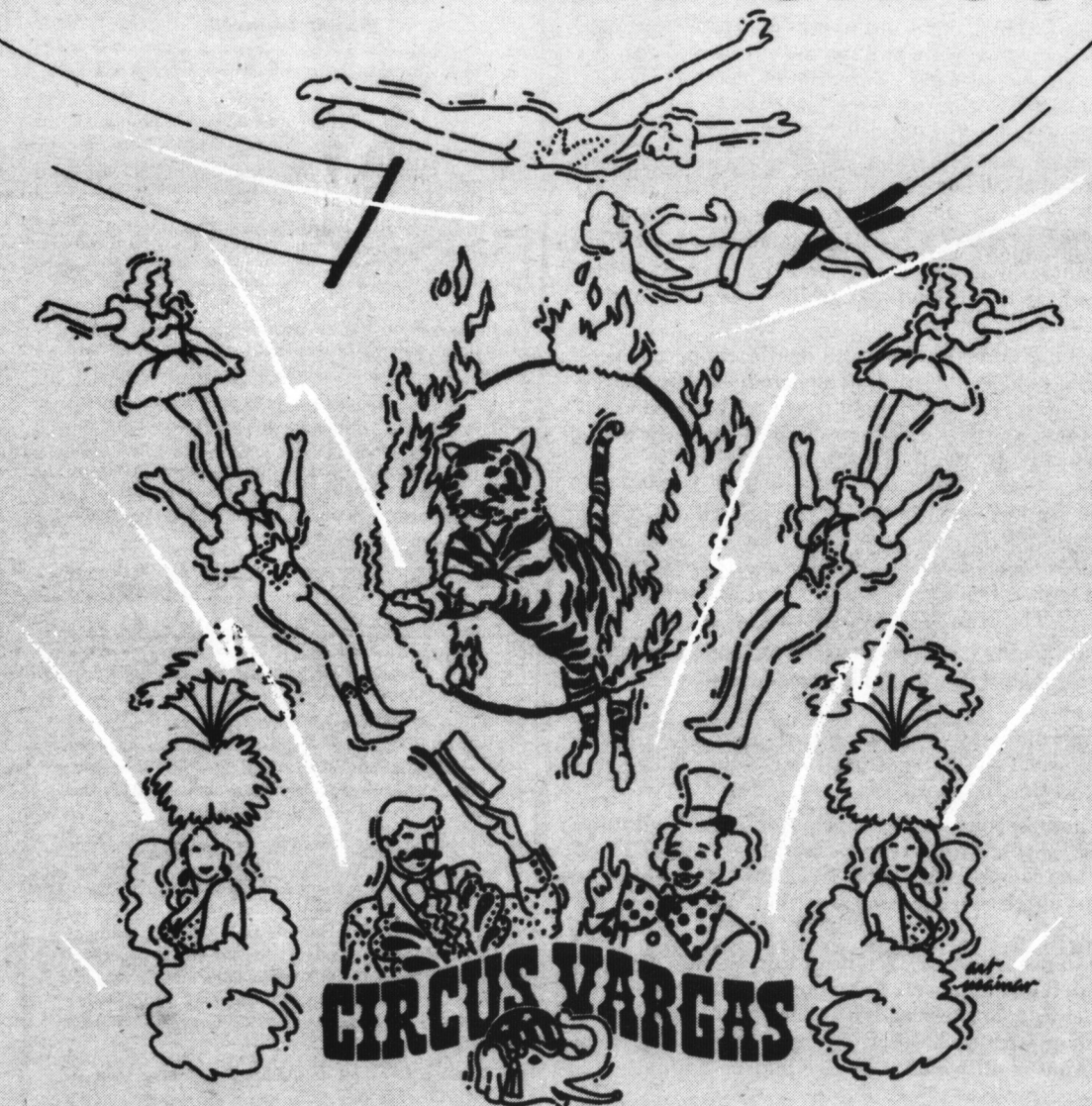
Gay men and Lesbians, many with tears in their eyes, embraced.

For Paul Matzner, the wearing of his pink triangle was "a way for coming to terms, my own method of reconciliation." Being Gay, he had felt excluded by Jewish people though he himself is Jewish. Sunday he made his statement. "I am a Jew and I am a Gay Jew," he said proudly. Several people questioned his pink triangle. Patiently he explained the meaning and there was understanding. Many



Women wearing the pink triangle rest in the "pit" of the memorial near sculptured corpses—reminders of the real death pits, filled with real corpses. (Photo: Rink)

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

The Church and Us

Last of Three Parts

We have talked, so far, about the works of people: about religion and the church. These are human institutions, created and maintained by people; and as such, they reflect the errors, biases and even cruelties to which people are vulnerable.

We have not yet mentioned spirituality. We have not discussed that Great Mystery sometimes called God.

Church and religion are one force. Spirituality and God are another. They may be related, but they are different. The church was formed by people to express their spirituality. And religion was a pathway to seek the Great Mystery. But that was long, long ago.

People must have spiritual sustenance in order to survive. People need food, and water, and shelter, and warmth. So too must we have spiritual manna. What is the quality of this force, that without it, we would die—or worse, live our lives in misery?

It is the idea of goodness: of right. Spiritual sustenance is that which teaches a person: You are good. It is that which instructs a person what is the right thing. It is that which guides a person to seek the right thing.

Without spirituality, life is not worth living. We Gay and Lesbian people know that all too well. Raised in a world which said, "Gay is bad," we learned we were Gay. And so we came to believe that we were bad.

The source of spiritual strength is a Great Mystery. Some people call it God. Ancient Hebrews did not and would not name this power, so sacred is it. It is this power, this Higher Power, which gives us the desire to do good—even at a sacrifice.

It is the ultimate goal of life to advance spiritually: to learn what good is. It is the ultimate joy of life to seek the Great Mystery: to do good things.

The church has spread misery and death among our people by denying our people spiritual sustenance. The church has perverted our values and taught us we are bad and killed us a million times as if the priest himself drew the razor blade across our wrists.

But this is not the worst crime on our indictment. There is a crime more vile still. The church has denied God to our people. In so doing, it has defiled the love of God—in the name of human bigotry. The church has not only attacked our people. The church has attacked God.

Most of our people have fled the church. This was a wise act. Who would stay in a burning house for fear of losing shelter?

In so doing, many of us have rejected spirituality. Many of us have rejected the force of good and right which some call God. And this has been unwise.

Yet, look around you at us: a people vigorous with spirituality, a people yearning to learn good and to do good. There is a spiritual awakening among the Gay and Lesbian people, and to be part of it is a healing and a glorious and a life-giving thing.

We need our spirituality. We need our Higher Power—however we define that power. But along this path to spiritual growth, the church in America is an enemy, not a friend. We are alone: alone with each other, and alone with God. That is enough. That is all we need to live and be happy.

Brian Jones

A Good Question

My lover and I of six years have been in San Francisco for seven months. We moved here from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We have kept close tabs on what San Francisco does, and how the Gay community works. We have seen a lot of good things happening as far as how open and free Gay life is. I myself work for Hospice of San Francisco. I am a nurse's assistant and work with AIDS patients.

We have kept up with just about everything about Harvey Milk and George Moscone. We see how high on a pedestal Harvey Milk is put by the Gay community.

We are puzzled why the Gay community does not have much to show as far as what a great man Mr. Milk was. Yes, there is a movie about him and there are two political organizations for Mr. Milk. Why is there no statue or plaque in the Castro for him?

Two good places would be out in front of where his photo store was or a statue up by the Muni entrance in front of the bank as you enter Castro.

Someday when the new Gays or new generation take our place, it would be bad if they don't know or remember Mr. Milk and know what he did for the Gays.

Michael P. Atkins
San Francisco

Mayor Galore?

The following is from a press release I've just received from MGM:

"Mayor Diane Feinstein and a host of prominent Bay Area personalities will join producers Albert R. Broccoli, Michael G. Wilson and the stars of the spectacular new James Bond adventure in celebrating the World Premiere of 'A View to a Kill' on May 22 at the San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts Theatre."

I love it. Feinstein will show up for a movie that's bound to be filled to the brim with tits, ass, sexist innuendoes and murderous violence, but she won't come to the Gay Pride Parade because it's in "poor taste." Just because they'll be dressed in tuxes and eating pate off paper plates doesn't make it tasteful, Snow White.

Or perhaps Diane has more than a little tasteful PR in mind by rubbing up against Broccoli and his tasteful crew—how about a tasteful transition from political hackery to international stardom? Diane would make a spectacular Pussy Galore in a remake of "Goldfinger." A photo spread in *Playboy* would surely follow.

Aaron Travis
San Francisco

Appalled

I am writing in regards to the article in the *B.A.R.* issue about Gay landlords discriminating against the Gay Parade Committee. I am appalled that you, *B.A.R.*, would print such garbage about two very fine human beings who happen to be Gay.

Dr. Sigler happens to have devoted half his life to the Gay community and to humanity. Dr. Sigler was one of the first practicing Gay dentists in San Francisco. Presently, he is supportive of setting facilities up at the Public Health Dept for treating AIDS patients for free. Due to the budget, they are still in process of purchasing the equipment needed to set this facility up. I hope you find a libel suit in the mail soon because I do believe the *B.A.R.* should be more responsible for what is being printed.

To the writer, you should have researched your article further before writing any story. I hope you get the attention you needed. You should retract the article and apologize to Dr. Morgan and Dr. Sigler.

My advice to Gay and Lesbian Parade Committee, they elect more responsible and more representative people to head their committee. Those two people responsible for this shameful article should be horsewhipped for slander and malicious conduct, (the two co-chairs).

A good newspaper is one that gives their public what is news or close to it. I feel you have gone far beyond the truth and towards fabricating news and complete sensationalism.

What a response! I hope you print this letter.

Phyllis Wong
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: The B.A.R. stands behind its story. It is a fine newspaper that just happens to be Gay.

Brian Jones

Apologia

* Forgive me for breaking our last date, for not returning your phone calls or for not calling at all, even though we'd made such a great connection in the bar, on the street or in the bedroom. Forgive me for not thinking more highly of myself, and, in turn, of you. Forgive me for listening and accepting as truth all the bullshit the church, our families and the majority of the world insanely believes about us as homosexuals.

I have a lot of old telephone numbers and addresses which have piled up over the years and I keep holding onto them thinking that I may use them again—the truth is that I haven't and probably won't—not because of you but because of me, my old fears of revealing myself to you, my fear of not thinking I was good enough for you or my fear of being abandoned somewhere down the road. Ironic that it is me who abandoned you, me the one that left you thinking I would call again and never did. I pray you didn't sit by the phone waiting for my call like I did all those nights I thought I had met "Mr. Right."

Before I throw out those old numbers, I want to apologize to you if, for any reason, you feel hurt, angry or resentful. Please understand that it wasn't you I didn't care for but myself. I hope and trust you will forgive my neglect and inconsideration. I am beginning at last to learn to care for all of us very deeply and am learning that our relationships are and can be some of the most powerful on Earth—we may truly be the forerunners of far greater things to come. We can and will make a difference, each of us in our own unique ways. Today, I am proud, grateful, happy, joyous and free in becoming who I am. I thank you for your love and support along The Path and now extend my hand in friendship.

Charles Chambers
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.

LETTERS

Bowled Over

* In reference to Jerry De Young's April 25 article on TG Wednesday/NL, I make the following comments.

First of all, I've never written to an editor before about anything, but your last two paragraphs in your "article" upset quite a few people including myself. I'm talking about the "Sleaze Society" (which are now called Friends and Good Times Sisters). You would have known this had you not jumped the gun and wrote your article before the meeting had concluded and had it to *B.A.R.* before it even took place. Is this the way gossip starts in the Gay community? "Gossip" items belong in other columns, we want more coverage, not gossip.

Being one for flowery words and not letting anyone speak during a meeting, you should debate some of the "Society" and I doubt if you would win—so debate classes for them aren't needed. Other than yourself, others also have an education. Also not all of the Sisters drink alcohol.

Since we serve on a committee together, your political and personal views on your popularity should be curbed drastically.

Be it known that I'm not a member of the "Friends and Good Times Society," but all of these people are my friends and I'm hurt over the attack on them.

Ron Squires
San Francisco

MCC and Boy Love

* It is with a sense of sadness that one witnesses the loss of intellectual integrity by the Metropolitan Community Church in its recently stated position regarding child molestation. One can understand and sympathize with MCC's plea bargaining with the Council of Churches for respectable recognition but one has to question the price of acceptance.

Surely, MCC has among its membership men who experienced molestation as children who did not suffer permanent psychological damage. If every minor under the age of 18 who was touched on the genitals by an adult over the age of 17 experienced trauma our mental health facilities would be overwhelmed. I don't believe that MCC perceives homosexuality as the pathological residual of molestation, as do some of the fundamentalist churches, therefore a more enlightened view is expected.

All instances of child molestation must be examined on a case by case basis to determine any or the extent of pathology. It has been my clinical experience that in the majority of cases of molestation trauma, aside from actual physical injury, the problem lies with the reaction of the parents and public. The child is convinced that he has suffered irreparable damage by well meaning but ignorant adults.

Furthermore, it is insulting to MCC that they be expected to make any statement concerning a condition which is more prevalent among heterosexuals in the so-called straight churches.

Martin F. Stow
San Francisco

O'Grady's Great

* Really, my friend John Karr goes too far in his column. Even in Babylon this week when he equates Camille O'Grady's status at the Mineshaft with "Urnal Queen in Sandusky, Illinois" (Sandusky's in OHIO, John).

I don't know how they feel about their Urnal Queen in Sandusky, but to denigrate Ms. O'Grady, especially in the context of her status at the Mineshaft, is unjust.

Camille O'Grady was and may still be the only woman ever to enter the Mineshaft. While she was there she gave a performance of her poetry which ranks in my all-time top ten theatrical experiences. In the middle room perhaps 50 men stood around looking for some signs of a performance. There was no stage, no obvious performing area, and no sign of Camille. Suddenly from below us, under the floor, came a blood curdling scream and the sounds of shouting. As everyone's attention focused on the floor, there was a thud and Ms. O'Grady burst through a trap door reciting her poetry (*Fast Food*, about subway sex, if memory serves). She then held us all in thrall for more than an hour.

On another level, Ms. O'Grady was out front and up front on Lesbian/Gay and S&M issues when very few people had much to say on the subject.

It is my regret that subsequent events in Ms. O'Grady's life have cooled her ardor for performing, otherwise I would take Karr to a performance and he would never put her down again.

Robert W. Pitman
San Francisco

Not True

* On several occasions I've said how much I enjoy reading the *B.A.R.* In fact, I make sure to pick it up here in L.A. every week. The *B.A.R.* is one of the finest newspapers of its kind that caters to a specific audience. It's a news oriented paper, not a dish rag.

Upon picking up a recent issue, I discovered an untrue and misleading reference to me in Marcus' column, and I would like to set the record straight before anyone would start thinking of the *B.A.R.* as a gossip dish rag. Marcus reported that Alternate Publications was sending me to Chicago to see the Mr. International Leather Contest. The direct quote: "To bolster their

sagging popularity they are sending their L.A. based producer to Chicago to find out how it's done."

I am not interested in a review of my work from your Queen Pin columnist. What I am interested in is the truth. It seems my personal vacation has become an item of dish and gossip by your Marcus, and I don't like it. My vacation is my business, paid for by me and I don't find it appealing that the *B.A.R.* (or someone on its staff) finds it necessary to create gossip (as well as discredit an up-coming event) by using the power that the press inherits. In my experience in reading the *B.A.R.* you've never done that, so why start now?

I will be in Chicago and will be seeing the Mr. International Leather Contest for pure enjoyment and if I should learn something from it, it will be an added pleasure. After all, we can all learn something new if we stay open and honest, perhaps you can pass that on to your Marcus.

The Gay press has come under fire occasionally and its only defense is how it chooses to report what it reports. The *B.A.R.* has always been the finest example of that, and I am quick to point that out to critics. Don't let us down.

Anthony Bruno
West Hollywood

Sour Note

* As a member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, I am writing about the very unfair treatment our organization has received from the *B.A.R.* in the review of our concert, "Catch A Rainbow" written by Bernard Spunberg.

Mr. Spunberg states "the Chorus has remained at the same, barely acceptable, level of musicianship" in this review. Unacceptable to who? The chorus has proven and continues to prove that it has a very high level of musicianship. The members of the chorus felt this concert to be one of our very best, both in terms of quality and diversity of the program. The response we have received from those attending the concert have been overwhelmingly positive, stating that our musicianship was professional and better than it has been in a long time. We work long and hard on our performances, all volunteer time. What Mr. Spunberg has against the chorus is yet unknown as he gives rave reviews to other musical organizations with much less talent and musicianship.

Also, it should be pointed out at this time to your readers that the chorus spends thousands of dollars a year advertising in your paper. For this we get nothing from the *B.A.R.* Our press releases are never run and agreements to run articles by the *B.A.R.* are overlooked unless the *B.A.R.* can find something negative to say about our organization. I do intend to go to our board and demand that no further funds are spent with your publication and that all comp press tickets for your reviewers be revoked immediately. There are other publications in this city that are far superior to the *B.A.R.* that treat our organization fairly and that is where our advertising money will go in the future.

Robert Hawk

Member, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
EDITOR'S NOTE: Any artists who presume to attain the stage of the Opera House would be well advised to learn how to accept criticism. The chorus charges professional level fees for its tickets, but expects the press to act as a cheerleader. That is not our role.

We stand behind the fairness of Mr. Spunberg's review. We expressly deny ever withholding chorus press releases from publication.
For the record, a number of the members of our staff attended the concert and paid their own way. This included those of us in the \$25 box seats. We did so to show our support for the chorus.

Brian Jones

Britt is a Bigot

* Your April 25 article which reports on Supervisor Harry Britt's comparison of Ronald Reagan to Adolf Hitler should give us all cause to reflect on what shallowness of mind and meanness of spirit exists in some Gay spokespersons.

Bigotry, whatever the source, deserves the rebuke of all people of good will. Britt's absurd comparison of Hitler to Reagan trivializes all that Hitler was and did and empties our language and memory of substantive content. It is about as compelling as noting that Harry Britt is a socialist and so was Joseph Stalin.

In the Britt scheme of things (which is similar to the analytical process of the religious right) there is no legitimate, honorable, or decent opposition to a left-wing perspective. Both Britt and the religious right employ caricatures and slurs; both de-humanize their adversaries by using rhetoric calculated to evoke hostility, fear, hatred and disgust. Neither Britt nor the religious right enhance public discussion of any issue nor facilitate resolution of matters in dispute. Instead, both demand conformity to their views while poisoning the intellectual environment and making civil discourse more difficult.

The sooner the Gay community repudiates bigots like Harry Britt the easier it will be for us to more fully participate in the political process of our country. If we pretend that Harry isn't a bigot, then we have no justifiable complaint about the manner in which our community is depicted by the religious right and their allies in intolerance.

Ernie Lazar
San Francisco

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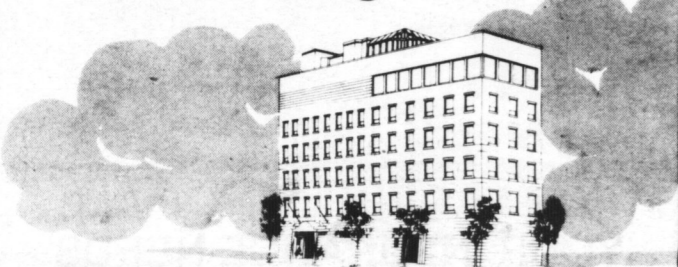
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LETTERS

Poetic License

★ As with many other natural disasters of this century, the AIDS epidemic is accompanied by mindless "God's punishment" interpretations by religious fundamentalists. In refutation, I have adapted Charles Fields' 1906 quatrain:

An AIDS Conundrum

If, as they say, God plagues the Gays
For being less than macho,
Why does She end the speedfreaks' days
And spare the friends of Sappho?

John Newmeyer, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
San Francisco

New AIDS Drugs

★ I am writing to inform your readers of new developments that have important implications for the treatment of AIDS, and which seem not to have received the attention they deserve.

• There are now several drugs which are known to be effective in inhibiting the AIDS virus. These drugs include HPA-23, Suramin, Ribavirin, and Foscarnet. While they are not necessarily a complete cure for all AIDS-related conditions, they may hopefully prevent continuing destruction of the immune system. Side effects of these drugs are reported to be tolerable, non-serious, and reversible.

• Continuing efforts are needed to ensure timely release by the Federal Drug Administration of such potentially effective treatments. Large-scale testing of these drugs on AIDS patients should be carried out promptly to fully determine their effectiveness. Suramin and Ribavirin are already available for such testing in the U.S. HPA-23 is under serious consideration by the FDA.

It is unfortunate, although understandable, that many people have currently found it necessary to bring anti-AIDS drugs into this country illegally, thereby risking confiscation, fines, and inadequate treatment supervision.

• The testing of these drugs requires blood studies for the presence of live virus. These studies are currently laborious, expensive and technically demanding, and are not readily available. Currently, trials of two of these drugs in San Francisco are being hampered because sufficient funding for viral testing has not been provided.

AIDS viral testing is now carried out by only a very few specialized laboratories. Additional resources, public and private, are needed to open new facilities, and to improve the efficiency and reliability of such tests in the future.

• Early treatment may be indicated for anyone found to be virus positive. It may be important for all people who harbor live virus to be treated early with a safe and effective anti-viral agent, without waiting for the development of frank AIDS or "pre-AIDS" symptoms. This might involve first determining whether one is antibody positive (whether one's immune system has "met" the virus). Those people who are antibody positive could then be tested for the presence of live virus, and have access to treatment with anti-viral drugs if they are found to be virus positive. Confidentiality for all these procedures should be assured.

Careful consideration needs to be given to these issues, and then followed-up with effective action. This could lead to direct therapeutic benefits, as well as serving to lift some of the pall of hopelessness and passivity which now hangs so heavily over many people.

David R. Kessler, M.D.

Past President,

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

Circumcision Spreads AIDS

★ For a long time I have been puzzled by the curious geography of the AIDS epidemic. Except for outbreaks in central Africa, where the virus probably originated, AIDS has been and remains largely an American disease. Conventional wisdom has held that this was simply a matter of physical geography and it was merely a question of time before the rest of the world caught up. Yet this does not seem to be happening. Six years after the first AIDS cases were reported, Britain still has fewer than 100 AIDS cases while the United States has nearly 10,000. If an epidemic could spread so easily from Africa to the United States, surely it could spread just as easily to the rest of the world. The question occurs, what do European, South American, Asian and Australian Gays have that we do not?

That's right. Foreskins. Except in cases where AIDS is transmitted through nonsexual means such as blood transfusions or dirty needles, AIDS is a disease of circumcised men and their sex partners. For years the American medical profession has held that the foreskin is a useless dirty appendage which should be cut off as soon as possible. And so doctors needlessly and routinely mutilate 95 percent of all infant boys born in this country. With very few exceptions, the U.S. is the only country where this is done.

But how could a mere inch or so of flesh play any possible role in reducing the risk of AIDS being transmitted during sex? The question might prove baffling to all those medical researchers hunched over their microscopes who have probably never even fantasized about playing with a hard, uncut cock, much less done it. However any self-respecting Gay bottom can tell the difference between a cut and an uncut cock up his ass. Even when an uncut man is fully erect, the skin

on his cock is not completely taut. This greatly reduces the amount of friction between the cock and the mucous membrane of the rectum during anal intercourse. Not only is this more pleasurable to all parties involved, it considerably reduces the risk of an abrasive burn to the penis or rectum through which the AIDS virus could enter the bloodstream. In other words, if you have ever been fucked raw, it was probably by a circumcised cock.

The epidemiological evidence is overwhelming. The AIDS virus has been present on this planet for at least 10 years. Over 90 percent of the men in the world are uncircumcised. The few countries where routine or ritual circumcision is the norm account for well over 90 percent of all AIDS cases worldwide.

Leonard J. Whitney
Sunnyvale

All in Your Mind

★ Every AIDS patient and member of high-risk groups owes it to himself to read *Creative Visualization* by Shakti Gawain (Whatever Press). The theory of creative visualization is that people get sick because they believe on an inner level that illness is an appropriate or inevitable response to some situation or circumstance, because it in some way seems to solve a problem for them or get them something they need, or as a desperate solution to some unresolved and unbearable inner conflict. If the mind's belief system (on a conscious or unconscious level) says it is appropriate or inevitable to get sick in a certain situation, it will signal the body accordingly, and the body will obligingly manifest symptoms of illness; it will in fact become sick.

Visualization refers to the way in which we communicate from our mind to our body. It is the process of forming images and thoughts in our mind, consciously or unconsciously, and then transmitting them to the body as signals or commands. Conscious creative visualization is the process of creating positive thoughts and images to communicate with our bodies, in place of negative, constrictive, literally "sickening" ones.

I think it would be helpful for the healing and medical community to also take a look at the psychological parallels of disease. But my main point is we don't have to wait to be healed and vaccinated by a homophobic administration or scientific community. The real breakthrough is waiting to be made in the mind of the individual who consciously decides to be well.

Ronald Poe
San Francisco

No Davis Fan

★ I write you concerning an article in your April 25 issue, titled "Is Ed Davis Born Again on Gay Rights?"

I honestly believe that the image that Mr. Davis is fostering is a false one, especially when he uses his church to back up his stand, as he did when a homophobic in Los Angeles several years back. During his period of chief of police there, he did every kind of devious method, such as using plain-clothes officers to entrap individuals such as myself.

In my case, I was riding a bicycle from a friend's house, on the way to work at my security guard position, close to a shopping mall in San Fernando Valley, when the pants I was wearing came apart at the fly. Since I was familiar with the problem I carried an extra safety pin with me so that I could fix it. This I tried to do in the men's room of the shopping mall, since it was on the way to my job. Because I was fixing my fly, two of Mr. Davis' plain-clothes officers arrested me with the charge of "lewd conduct" which led to my experiencing brain-washing interrogation, thrown into the "slammer" overnight, handcuffed and appeared at court, etc.

The point that I am trying to make is, that Mr. Davis is using a new Gay issue for his own political prestige because, as the saying goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks;" or, "You can't change the spots on a leopard." I cannot believe, at this stage of his life, that Mr. Davis has now had a revelation to fight for the rights of Gays after he has persecuted them for so long in his past years. And, I am sure that time will tell that Mr. Davis cannot be trusted, but that he is only "acting" as a more liberal-minded person for the image of saving his senatorial ego.

Richard A. Daller
San Francisco

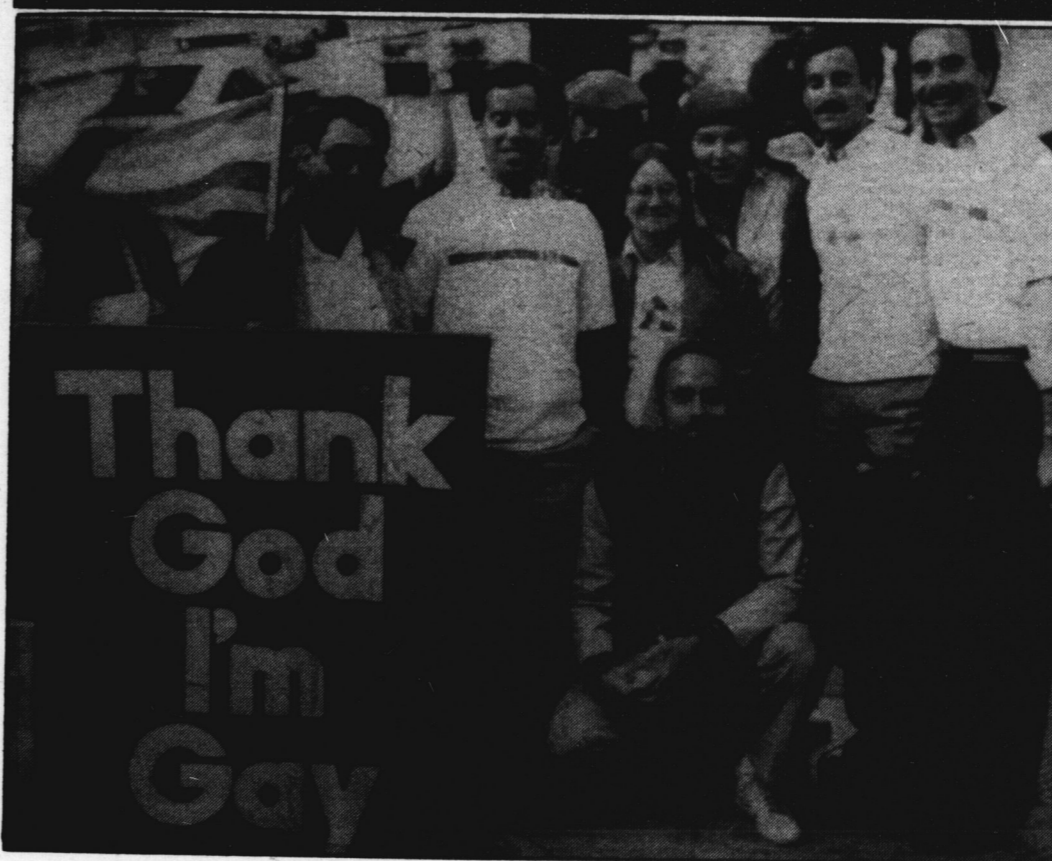
April Harvest

★ The "April Harvest" show on Monday, April 15 was truly enjoyable to the hundreds of people who attended. The entertainment was good, and the event made lots of money for its sponsoring organization, Mobilization Against AIDS. I am sorry that it was not reviewed, either as a show or as a news event.

I know there are editorial problems and decisions every week, and I hope that the next time this one comes up, the *B.A.R.* will choose on the side of reporting what happened—especially as there have been events not nearly as well attended but that had considerable attention in the Gay press.

Ben Gardiner
San Francisco

THE CHURCH AND US



Gay religionist last summer, confronting the Rev. Jerry Falwell's "Family Forum" in San Francisco. (Photo: Rink)

Falwell in Reverse

★ Your article in the April 25 issue in the Viewpoint section of your paper entitled "The Church and Us," was in my opinion rather one-sided, narrow-minded, and very insulting! Example: "Gay religionists have worse than half a brain: they have a whole brain, all of it unused."

You call this area of your paper "Open Forum," however I have seen nothing in the way of an opposing view, and I wonder if you have any plans of printing the views of the other side, during or after the conclusion of this three-part article?

I believe that if Gay men and women are to receive our just and equal rights under the laws we must stand united and not tear down one another due to our different religious or any other beliefs. It is this type of discrimination on the part of so many fundamentalists that has denied us our rights, are we now going to tear one another apart using the same mentality and discrimination as those whom we've fought against for so long?

I enjoy reading the *Bay Area Reporter* and I would love to see your paper fall to the level of some of Jerry Falwell's writings and sayings, only in reverse, which I believe this article has done!

Louis J. Giguere
San Jose

A Protest Within

★ Although I agree that the churches are not our friends and grossly exploit certain passages of their Bibles in order to condemn and abuse us, I believe we should recognize the value of the openly Gay presence within those hostile churches. Our mere presence there as Gays demanding full rights serves as an apt, concrete (living and breathing) protest against the bigots' use of those antiquated scriptures to malign us. Our presence, what little of it there is, functions as a profound objection to those scriptures. It is possible that those who brave the trials involved as members of traditional churches evolve or transform into able leaders in the churches which we as Gays are starting to create of, by and for ourselves.

If not, so what? We need allies everywhere, especially at a time like this. Spirit knows no bounds and hopefully does not exclusively endorse any particular Bible. Even though I can embrace Jesus without the blessings of the Archdiocese of New York City, let us show compassion toward those among us who cannot. I also feel that before we throw any more stones at our local priests and ministers, perhaps we could meditate and chant with them, or even take them to bed (Leviticus forbid!) I support the Gay brothers and sisters everywhere, and I prefer Gay leaders who do the same. Let us stick to our motto, "Out of Many... One." May the Force be with you. ("OM")

Joe Caruana
San Francisco

The Church and Us

Reader response to the three-part Viewpoint, "The Church and Us," has been heavy. In the next three pages are letters we've received to date. Further responses will appear in the usual Letters section.

Fashion Statement

★ Your editorial against established religion, particularly Judeo-Christianity, was not surprising as it reflects similar bias in *B.A.R.* news articles, in the columns, in other editorials and in your replies to letters.

As an atheist, I do not share the beliefs of Christians and Jews but I do respect them. It seems to me that most Jews and Christians react to the issue of homosexuality with far more seriousness, more sensitivity, and more understanding than you do. It would behoove you to undertake a more thorough understanding of the history of religion and, as well, a better awareness of the Gay community.

Has it not occurred to you that a large number of Gays—and I would argue that they are among the better part—are religious? In the Gay parade each year, there is a succession of participants who identify their Gayness through the various religious sects. These Gays remain in the mainstreams of Judaism and Christianity in spite of, or in response to, dogmas that condemn Gays. When you attack these religions with absurdities, with misinformation, with utter ignorance of histories, tenets, or exegesis, you demean these Gays even while you decry homophobia.

To select one of your absurdities as an example: Priests do not wear "dresses" any more than surgeons or chefs do when working. Priests wear cassocks. The colors are not "black for Catholics" and "white for Episcopalians." Catholic priests include brown-robed Franciscans, white Dominicans and other habits can be blue, red, purple and grey. The Anglicans are similarly tinted.

The issue of homosexuality and religion is not as black and white as you would make it. The smears and innuendoes against religion which you repeatedly fling only muddy your argument and besmirch yourself.

Dennis Halac
San Francisco

Biblical Background

★ Concerning "Viewpoint: The Church & Us," author Brian Jones typifies Jerry Falwell-type thinking. He would do well to look up in his dictionary the word "hermeneutics." Anyone who reads the Bible completely ignoring hermeneutics comes away with a bigoted, distorted, Falwellian view of Christianity.

How can anyone come away with a correct understanding of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah without know-

ing first that ancient peoples (straight warriors) would sexually penetrate their male victims' anus as a sign of conquest (treating a man like a woman). Throughout this period heterosexuals used homosexual acts as means of expressing victory, violence, idolatry, promiscuity, and uncleanness. There is no discussion of homosexuality in the Bible as an "act of love." Indeed, the word homosexual is not to be found in ancient Biblical texts, but was added later.

Jerry Falwell and Tim LaHaye will never tell you that Leviticus (the most popular anti-Gay quote used) actually refers to the abhorrence that early Jews had for bodily emissions, such as semen and menstruation. A man having sex with his wife during her menstruation was considered a filthy practice just as two men ejaculating together was considered unclean. (Interesting enough, hypocrite Tim LaHaye writes that the Levitical restrictions are out of date and need no longer concern Fundamentalist Christians, while the sentences regarding homosexual conduct are truly applicable today. Tim LaHaye ain't gonna let no Bible fuck up "his" fucking sessions.)

So much is hidden from us if we don't study the past. Will Catholic Archbishop Quinn let you know the well-kept secret that in the early days of the church homosexual marriages did exist as borne out by Dr. John Boswell's (Yale University) research? Will Pope John Paul II tell you the truth that Saints Serge and Bachus, two 4th century Christian martyrs were both soldiers and lovers?

The Church and Bible are not out to kill us, as Brian Jones suggests. The real danger to everyone is those who read the Bible and apply it to their bigotry instead of searching for truth.

Let us commend people like Bishop Swing and others for their efforts to bring together the Christian Gay and straight communities, but for many of us, too much damage has been done to us by the Fundamentalists and other right-wing groups that we could never ever again align ourselves with any Christian church per se.

Martin Dennis
Marina, CA

Explanations

★ I am requesting that you read Rev. England's explanations of Levitical phrases concerning abomination: "If man also lie with mankind," directed in the "Holiness Code" to "Hebrew people who were surrounded by pagan and polytheistic peoples... (the

(Continued on next page)



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THE CHURCH AND US

(Continued from previous page)

Hebrews commanded to be holy, set apart to God." That "Paul's statement is clear—no part of this Law binds the Christian anymore," plus three full pages of intelligently researched good news explanations which will give so much information to you, who is writing such terrible news, and please, I invite you to meet me, someone you printed has "a whole brain, all of it unused." Let me be at least one of the many you are insulting.

Rusty Guyett
San Francisco

Unspoken Anguish

★ If Brian Jones' Viewpoint weren't so full of unspoken anguish, I would have relished a few of his hilarious images, for example, the bit about ministers and priests hogging "the exclusive patent on the Great Night Light." That's a hoot!

Yet what I found was the anguish of a man who is angry that the Bible is not a literally true document word-for-word, not an "authority" that he can stand on like he was undoubtedly taught he was at some time. I heard the anguish of a bitterly hurt man, who writes of the truth which is "painful, terribly painful."

In some ways, his Viewpoint expresses some of what he wished to express, but unconsciously. He writes exactly in the style of the fundamentalists whose nonsense constantly filters into my office because they assume I, as a minister, might be in league with them in their ignorant mischief, horrendous fears, and clenched-tight cruelties of spirit.

Like the fundamentalists with whom he has parted company, he assumes that any Bible not taken literally and read in a childish, stupid manner, as if it was only some sort of ethical kiddie Yellow-Pages, is not a real bible. "Revision" and "integration" is "laughable nonsense," which is exactly the belief of the fundamentalist. It is also a hallmark of the fundamentalist style to lump all religions who express teachings different from the fundy's own into one collective. This Mr. Jones does, using the phrase "Judeo-Christian culture" (which is nonsense as far as I'm concerned... Jewish cultures and Christian cultures are not remotely alike.) I suspect that Mr. Jones was himself raised... and traumatized by a fundamentalist culture. (I also suspect he is not a black man... I can't imagine a black man using the words "darkness," "dark" and "blackness" in such a way, so symbolic of the fearful and dreadful.)

He praises the fundamentalists for being consistent in their interpretations, and joins them in saying that Leviticus is to be read as if it was written in English yesterday by an unquestionable authority. He rejoices in their supposed murderous intent, and wishes the "Gay religionists" would wake up and realize that this is the only honest way to read the literary deposit we call the Bible. This is the point of view of a fundamentalist who can't give up the habit, and who is afraid of approaching the Bible, like any text of humankind, with reason and freedom, the "picking and choosing" he so strangely satirizes.

Mr. Jones, the "dark" is nothing so fearsome as you say. There are many ways, some foolish and destructive, like the fundamentalist approaches, others more humane, and consistent with other humanly written texts, such as "Love one another as I have loved you," in other words, unconditionally. There is much nastiness and yes, "evil" to fight in this world, especially, sad to say, in the camps of some churches. But don't use fundamentalist standards and ways in your fight, it will get you nowhere, will not really reconcile you to your past, however sad.

Use your mind, fully, your heart fully. You will face your pain, and in doing so you will face the world for the first time, and see some trace of "light."

Mark Belletini, Pastor
Star King Unitarian Church
Hayward, CA

Don't Speak for Me

★ Your editorial "The Church and Us" does not speak for me, nor does it speak for a great number of religious Gay men and women. I have no intention of justifying fundamentalist bigotry or the homophobia of orthodox Christians, Jews or Moslems—yet I do



Bishop William Swing of San Francisco with award from Gay group; seen here with NY Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. (Photo: Rink)

take issue with your statement that, "The Church wants to kill Gay people." The best one could say about such a declaration is that it's blatantly sloppy language. The worst one could say is that it's a damnable lie.

The Bible is open to conflicting interpretations and diverse viewpoints. There are liberal factions within the mainline churches which openly embrace Gay rights. There are churches such as the Unitarian and Quaker congregations which advocate Gay rights. When you say "Church" be a bit more specific because you're talking about a lot of liberals and a lot of Gays who are also the Church. Apparently you have a Big Button on churches and/or religion—which causes you to react with blanket condemnation of that which you have no understanding.

God gave us brains to use so that we will find the truth; not rely on what others tell us to be gospel. You, and every individual needs to ascertain for him and her self what the truth really is.

Rev. Ronald T. Pannell,
Gay religionist and proud of it.

Grateful Pagan

★ Although I expect you to get a lot of negative response to your editorial on Judeo-Christianity and Gays, I want to applaud you wholeheartedly for your clear thinking and courage in stating the truth.

If one digs deeply enough, some good can be found in any philosophical system. While horrendous on the whole, the Nazis did reduce unemployment in Germany (by removing Gays, Jews and others from the work force). I am not enamored of the Nazis, and thus have no desire to truly seek positive points in order to defend them. Why my fellow Gays seek to do the same with the Judeo-Christian cult remains a mystery to me.

In my childhood I was forced into intense Christianity by my well-meaning parents. In more recent years I met people who on the surface seemed the epitome of what I was taught was a "good Christian." The open acceptance, warmth, natural spirituality did not come from worshipping a murdered man on a crossbeam. I cannot adequately express how grateful I am to be a Pagan. My particular approach is that of a Goddess oriented Shaman.

I hope that the poor souls in our community still knocking at the Judeo-Christians' door will soon see the futility and folly of their pursuit.

Blessed be.

James Andrew Nicholas
San Francisco

Poor Kid

★ So, the church, of which there is only one, wants us dead!!? Whew! Sounds like some Baptist preacher really scared the bejezus out of lil' Brian one day. And like so many injured children, Brian has made that which he hates and fears into a pretty big monster—a monster that eats up the whole world. Poor kid.

Who am I to believe? On the one hand, dozens of historians, Biblical scholars, theologians and even some church leaders themselves, busy "revising" Christianity all over the place? Or, on the other hand, a journalist?

The move to change the churches did not begin with "Gay religionists." The debate over fundamentalism, after all, is about as old as Christianity itself.

Fortunately, the stagnation you believe in has never won out. Of course, you might prefer that the lunatic fringe were "the church." Then you could go on hating and fearing your monster that scared you so thoroughly.

The next time a politician makes a bigoted anti-Gay remark, are you going to lamboantly demand we all renounce our citizenship too?

Paul Stone
San Francisco

Look for Truth

★ This is in response to your editorial "The Church and Us" (E.A.R. 4/25). I agree, "there are none so blind as those who will not see." Why do you see so clearly the lies, but are blind to the truth?

It is a fact, and Biblical scholars and theologians far greater than I will agree, that the message of the Bible is not one of condemnation of homosexuals. Your exhortation of such just adds to the

Don't Speak for Me

★ Your editorial "The Church and Us" does not speak for me, nor does it speak for a great number of religious Gay men and women. I have no intention of justifying fundamentalist bigotry or the homophobia of orthodox Christians, Jews or Moslems—yet I do

THE CHURCH AND US

(Continued from previous page)

at least in our society: Most people (don't ask me why) believe in a god and need religion to one degree or another, and you can't convince them otherwise by arguing—faith, by definition, is immune to logic. But the ways in which religion impinges on sexuality and politics can be modified (it's a human institution, after all, and I say: Let those with the stomach for such a job do what they can.

Steven Saylor
San Francisco

Love Thy Enemy

★ You are more frightening than homophobic Christians! You demonstrate very poor leadership! Many support groups in the Gay community, for folks you don't know exist, are backed and funded by the church. There is more anti-Gay hostility in the Democratic Party than the church, which is motivated by the commandment to love thy enemy! Yet you have not ac-

Inflammatory Divisiveness

★ I'm amazed that in 1985 reference is still being made, power is still being lent, and reverent dignity is still being accorded to the ancient anecdotes of a long dead civilization contained in the Bible. I'm also surprised that anyone places total faith in a book written by human beings who claimed to be the sole scribes of God's word. As a die-hard meliorist, I thought the human race had collectively learned the hypocrisy of religion and had finally begun to move past it toward a less personified spirituality. I've always thought of religion as a business to promote a blindered morality with parameters designed to compel its adherents to maintain a healthy cash flow for its government. I've never felt I needed religion because I'm comfortable with the idea of God being both personal and extrapersonal and I don't need to be in agreement with hierarchy or a church to experience the love and forgiveness of God. But some people do, and that is their unassailable right. The irony of people's absurd attempt to enforce love and forgiveness (the only morality I need) with religions and Bibles is, however, obvious.

In this spirit, Mr. Jones, may I admonish you for being so unforgiving to a type of Gay person whose ideologies and practices are different from yours and certainly mine. They obviously don't have the strength, the conviction, or the rebelliousness you have, and are instead holding on to their sacred belief systems. Condemning a person who doesn't have any other frame of reference for expressing intimacy, and who practices S&M sex because his father beat him as a child is quite analogous to your intolerance of Gay religionists. Mr. Jones, you'd be doing the community a great service by promoting love and forgiveness instead of the inflammatory divisiveness contained in your editorial (E.A.R. April 25). The religionist, the S&M practitioners, the AIDS patient; these are not expendable, inimical, or merely sick people. These people live with conditions as all victims of human nature live with conditions. Some conditions may appear to be facilitated by social structures or interaction. But the bottom line is that each person has the ultimate choice of which conditions will apply to him. If he makes the choice for pain, we should forgive him and love him more,

Dogmas Do Change

★ I imagine you'll be getting quite a bit of flack over Brian Jones' series of editorials about "The Church and Us." I personally agree with his sentiments, and am quite delighted by his unflinching prose ("The Bible wants us dead and the church exists to carry out that sentence").

I do, however, take some exception to his view that Gay religionists working to change church attitudes from within are involved in a hopeless and even dangerous pursuit. Church hierarchies and dogmas are hard to change, but change they do; and the more humane among lay people are often open to changing ideas about homosexuality. Certainly a nonreligionist like myself, completely outside the church system and unable and uninterested in speaking its language, isn't going to reach those people.

Religion, like politics, is a battle for the hearts and minds of the people. Like it or not, most people in America are religious, and I think it's valuable to have Gay activists working within those religions to educate, raise issues, and simply to be seen. Total segregation—all Gays on one side, all churches on the other—would be a dangerous situation indeed; they're a lot bigger than we are. I don't envy Gay religionists and the task they've imposed on themselves; I neither sympathize with nor understand their religious motivations; but I don't negate the longterm value of their vocal presence within mainstream churches.

It's a matter of politics, practicality, and accepting a changeless given.



Doors of St. Patrick's Cathedral in NY - where Catholics are fighting Gay job-rights ruling. (Photo: Rink)

THE CHURCH AND US

not be witty, or angry, and cruelly reinforce his pain. In his great classic, "Nature Boy," Nat King Cole sums up my sentiments... "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return."

Frederick Cambell Hovey
San Francisco

Love Thy Enemy

★ You are more frightening than homophobic Christians! You demonstrate very poor leadership! Many support groups in the Gay community, for folks you don't know exist, are backed and funded by the church. There is more anti-Gay hostility in the Democratic Party than the church, which is motivated by the commandment to love thy enemy! Yet you have not ac-

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DATELINE: THE WORLD
 'Homosexual Panic' Defense Fails in D.C. Murder Trial

A Maryland man who claimed that a student made a sexual advance at him was found guilty of second-degree murder by a District of Columbia Superior Court jury.
 24-year-old James C. Howard III was convicted in the fatal 1983 stabbing of Robert Andrews, 26, a student at the Howard University School of Law.
 The jury deliberated for two hours after receiving the case, following a two-day trial that saw the playing of a secretly recorded police tape of Howard confessing that he killed Andrews because of the alleged sexual advance and that Andrews allegedly threatened him with a knife.
 In the tape, which was played for the jury, Howard said he met Andrews at a pedestrian mall at about 6 a.m., when Andrews made a sexual advance to him.
 That prompted Howard to kick Andrews, after which Andrews allegedly threatened him with karate chops, hit him with a backpack and pulled a knife on him. Howard said he then pulled out his own knife and stabbed Andrews in the stomach.
 Howard repeated his allegations in his testimony. But two prosecution witnesses, Jean Rosser (Andrews' sister) and Jesse Cooper (his former roommate) denied that Andrews knew karate, that he was a non-violent person, and that as far as they knew, that Andrews was heterosexual.
 Assistant U.S. Attorney Wallace Kleindienst, responding to the jury's verdict, told *The Washington Blade* that the second-degree murder conviction showed that "the jury didn't believe Mr. Howard's claim that he stabbed Mr. Andrews in self-defense."
 "They had to have felt that there was malice there," Kleindienst added.
 Nesbitt employed the controversial "Homosexual Panic" defense, which argues that a heterosexual man, when confronted with a sexual advance by a gay man, could go into an uncontrollable "panic" which could prompt the straight man to kill the gay man in defense.

Seattle Blood Drive Nets 150 Pints
 With Gay men effectively prevented from donating blood because of AIDS fears, blood drives have been underway in cities across the country for more than a year in which Lesbians have been the principal donors.
 One such drive recently concluded in Seattle with 150 pints of blood having been donated.
 The drive, sponsored by Blood Sisters Seattle, was aimed specifically to benefit Gay men with AIDS.
 Carol Sterling, a spokeswoman for BSS, told reporters at a news conference in the Puget Sound Blood Center that the blood drive "is an attempt to let the city of Seattle know that the Lesbian and Gay community is working together to fight AIDS."
 Sterling noted that "the blood of Lesbians is the least contaminated source—our VD rate is .001 percent and we are the most likely to have a good blood content."

Man Who Bilked Gays Gets 3 Years
 A San Diego man who posed as a policeman to extort money from Gays was sentenced to three years in prison—with the judge saying he wished he could give him ten years, *Update* reported.
 Steven Joseph Wilson was sentenced by San Diego Municipal Court Judge H. Ronald Domnitz after Wilson pleaded guilty to charges of extortion under color of authority.
 According to a probation report, Wilson has used the same method of extortion against Gay men for more than 40 years, having been arrested 21 times, many of the arrests in New York and Florida.
 In the San Diego case, Wilson, 64, pleaded guilty to extorting \$1,250 from a 76-year-old Gay man he saw in a Balboa Park restroom last February.
 Wilson exposed himself in an attempt to solicit sex and told the man he was under "arrest" even though the man did not respond to him.
 Wilson showed an authentic-looking police badge, handcuffs and told the frightened elderly victim that he could go free if he paid \$500 in "bail money."

Senate Panel Passes Research Privacy Bill
 The State Senate Health and Human Services Committee approved May 2 a bill by Senator Milton Marks, R-San Francisco, that guarantees confidentiality to individuals participating in AIDS related research. The bill, SB-292, will soon be heard by the full Senate.
 According to Marks, SB-292 is designed to address two related problems. "One of the most visible side effects of AIDS is public hysteria," Marks said after the committee hearing. "It is clear that we must guarantee the privacy of individuals participating in research for their own emotional and financial well-being... this is a question of an individual's civil rights."
 However, Marks' bill also reflects the concerns of researchers. "The University of California is very supportive of this effort—researchers must guarantee confidentiality in order to guarantee maximum participation in the research effort," the Senator explained, he added that U.C. and AIDS researchers want the strongest bill possible.
 SB-292 would provide confidentiality guarantees for records compiled by AIDS researchers. The bill would require researchers to resist a subpoena, and provide penalties for the release of confidential information without the research subject's approval. In addition, confidential research information could not be used to deny employment or insurance to a research subject when it is released in violation of the bill.
 From a press release provided by the office of State Sen. Milton Marks.

Christian U. Rejects MCC Clergy Student
 A clergy student affiliated with the Metropolitan Community Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia has been rejected for admission to the Christian Broadcasting Network University.
 According to *Our Own*, Catherine Houchins was turned down despite having scored in the top 20 percent of students taking the university's entrance examinations.
 CBN University's dean of admissions told Houchins by letter that the decision to reject her "was certainly not based on any deficiency in your potential for graduate work."
 Rather, the letter said, the turn-down was because of Houchins' career choice: to be licensed and ordained minister of MCC.
 CBN University was founded by TV evangelist M.G. "Pat" Robertson, who denounces homosexuality as a sin, and MCC was founded in 1968 by the Rev. Troy Perry as a church

64 New AIDS Cases in April; 34 Deaths; Nat'l Total 9,760
 Sixty-four new cases of AIDS in San Francisco were reported to the Department of Public Health during April. It was a slight abatement from the 70 new cases reported the month before, which set a record. The April total of 64 new cases compared to 38 new cases reported one year earlier, during April 1984.
 The total number of AIDS cases in the city was 1,125 at month's end. That compared to 506 total cases reported one year earlier, at the end of April 1984.
 There were 34 AIDS-related deaths in April in the city.
 Nationally, the federal Centers for Disease Control had logged 9,760 cases of AIDS as of April 22, of whom 4,760 had died. This was more than double the number of AIDS cases as of one year earlier, when 4,177 cases had been logged as of April 1984.

Politics and Poker
 Wayne Friday's column will return next week.

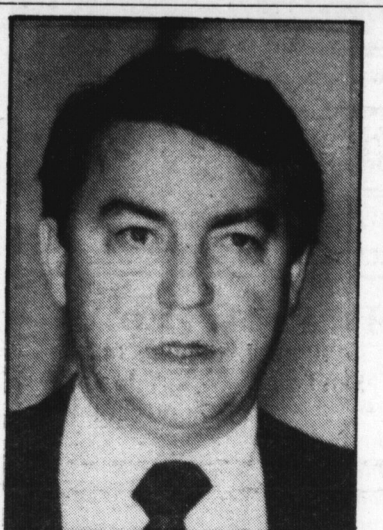


DION B. SANDERS

GUEST COLUMN

Civil Rights Struggle Is Still With Us

by Supervisor Richard Hongisto
 In San Francisco, the battle for human and civil rights is not behind us.
 In July, for example, I received a phone call from Diana Christensen, vice-president of Alice and Executive Director of CUAV, about a column in the *July Policeman*, the POA newspaper. It was written by "Cops for Christ" and denounced and derided the "immoral" lives of Gay people.
 Among the authors was an inspector who had just been assigned to a particularly horrible, hate-motivated murder of a Gay man on Polk Street. It didn't seem right to her or me that someone speaking so ill about a group of people should be assigned to handle such a sensitive case.
 I sponsored a resolution requiring that city employees who publicly espouse hatred toward members of any group would not be assigned to an important case involving a member of that group. Alice endorsed the resolution; the Board of Supervisors passed it, with only two dissenting votes.
 I introduced an ordinance to protect city employees and applicants from unnecessary inquiry into their sexual practices and habits. The Board passed it.
 Then the Mayor vetoed it, on the ludicrous grounds that it might protect arsonists from being investigated by those with strong feelings about the crime of arson. I'll be frank: The Mayor's veto of that resolution was a boost to bigotry.
 It was an easy matter to amend the ordinance to allow questioning about a sexual harassment charge and to allow questions approved in advance by the Civil Service Commission. Again, the ordinance won community and employee support and passed the Board of Supervisors, against the Mayor's objections and threatened veto.
 After all rational objections had been dealt with, we were left with one obstacle: a lack of respect for personal privacy at the very highest levels of city administration, a profoundly unjustifiable interest in the sexual life of others. We finally got the law passed when it became clear to the Mayor that we would override her veto.
 I was aware of the questions prospective police officers were asked. In 1959, when I was applying to the SFPD, I was asked, "Are you getting laid enough?" In 1984, the questions were more sophisticated—"At what age did you first have intercourse?" and "Are you a homosexual?"—but no more relevant.
 I introduced an ordinance to protect city employees and applicants from unnecessary inquiry into their sexual practices and habits. The Board passed it.



Mayor Feinstein vetoed it, on the grounds that the ordinance weakened the "City's ability to fight sexual harassment and sexual abuse."
 It was an easy matter to amend the ordinance to allow questioning about a sexual harassment charge and to allow questions approved in advance by the Civil Service Commission. Again, the ordinance won community and employee support and passed the Board of Supervisors, against the Mayor's objections and threatened veto.
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others have their day in court, their share of the American way of justice?
 The police department objected to losing their control over the adult theaters—and let the Board know about it! The weekend before my ordinance removing police permits was to be heard before the Board of Supervisors, some two dozen police officers raided the Mitchell Brothers Theatre and arrested Marilyn Chambers for prostitution.
 The DA didn't press charges; the Supervisors passed my legislation. But the Mayor refused to sign it; it became law without her signature.
 While our liberties and rights may be in less danger here than other places, it is nonetheless clear that we will find resistance at the highest levels of our local government for some time to come. It doesn't have to be that way. Just as we need and deserve a Governor who won't veto AB-1, we need and deserve a Mayor who cares enough to get angry when a person or group's rights are abused—angry enough to do something about it instead of defending the perpetrators. I look forward to the day that the Gay and Lesbian community and its friends elect one.

DEATHS

Gerald Burkhardt
 Gerald (Jerry) Burkhardt, 34, died April 5 at home in San Francisco.
 A native of Wichita, Kansas, Jerry is survived by his wife Donna and Children Joel and Lindsey. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. For further information contact Lambda at 861-5335.

Paul M. Hogge
 Paul M. Hogge, 32, passed away April 15 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
 He is survived by his mother and father, Lillian and Melvin Hogge; 3 sisters, Janet, Karen and Connie; 2 brothers, Dan and Richard; and several aunts and uncles.
 Paul will be remembered for many things: his quiet manner; his "All-American Boy" smile; his quest for knowledge; his love for life; and his kindness to all who knew him.
 Paul will always live on in the hearts and memories of his family and his many friends here in San Francisco, until we are all together again. Rest in peace... our gentle beloved friend.
 If anyone desires further information, please call Bonnie at 532-3017.

Obituary Policy
 The Bay Area Reporter publishes death notices as a community service free of charge. Items are submitted by lovers or immediate family.
 Please include complete name and other information to identify the subject to friends and acquaintances. If a memorial service is planned which you wish to publicize, include date, time and place.
 If you include a photograph, please label it clearly. If you wish the photo returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
 Notices of more than 100 words may be edited for space. We cannot accept poetry. Deadline is Tuesday, 12 noon.

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Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day
 Sunday, June 30
 Call 415-861-5404
 Parade headquarters: 335 Noe St. near Market
 Or write: L/GFDC, 584 Castro #1985, S.F. 94114
 Volunteers needed now for Beer Booths, Float March, Safety, Media, Medical, Program, Celebration, Youth, Child Care, Outreach and Merchandising subcommittees, plus office help, etc.
 General Membership Meetings
 5 p.m. Sundays, May 19, June 2 & 16
 Call Office for Location
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Parade Benefits
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 Tuesday, May 21 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. • \$10 donation
Board of Directors Reception
 Russell Kassman Piano & Organ, 425 Hayes near Gough
 • No Host Bar
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 Thursday, May 23 • 9 p.m.-2 a.m. • \$3 donation
3rd Annual Hot Colors Party
 Dancing, Hors d'oeuvres, entertainment
 by Tom Ammiano, The Mother of Gay Comedy
 End Up, 6th & Harrison Streets
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 Saturday, June 1 • doors open 9 p.m. • \$7*
Heat of the Night
Paul Parker & Magda Dioni ("Dangerous")
 Showtime 12:30
 Trocadero Transfer, 520 Fourth Street
 Door charge 'til midnight only to benefit Parade Committee
 *Additional \$5 Trocadero membership required AFTER MIDNIGHT
 Come early to support the parade
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 Sunday, June 9 • 3-9 p.m. • (high tide 6:55) • \$15 donation
Immigration Rights Benefit honoring attorneys
Mary C. Dunlap and Leonard Graff
 At Bill Jones' Houseboat—B-Issaquah Dock, Sausalito
 (Waldo Point Houseboat Marina near Sausalito-Marin City
 101 exit or long walk from GG Ferry terminal) • No host bar
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 Friday, June 28
Celebration Reception for Stage Speakers & Entertainers
 Time and place to be announced
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 Ask for it at your local liquor store, restaurant or bar
 1982 Cabernet Sauvignon 1984 Sauvignon Blanc
 by Pride & Unity Wine Cellars
 Coming: Champagne!
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Parade Begins
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Happy trails to you too—Dale Evans sings as Roy Rogers, complete with red glitter eyelashes, looks on. (Photo: Rink)

Out of the Closets And Into High Heels

13th Annual Closet Ball: Last at Japantown? Audience Pensive as Queens Face Stairs

by Allen White

Tony Taboada became the 1985 Closet Ball Queen last Saturday night before a capacity crowd at the Japan Center Theatre. The announcement of his winning capped the latest in what has become one of San Francisco's premier Gay events.

This year, with the possible destruction of the Japan Center Theatre, the producers chose to merge nostalgia, the illusion of female impersonation and the theatrics of the Broadway musical, *La Cage aux Folles*.

The choice of a "Closet Ball Queen" is based on a principle of Gay camp and fun. Contestants must never have appeared in drag, at least in public. This year, more than past years, it was obvious this was their first time out in the fine art of "drag." It was, as always, a showcase for high fashion. Dynasty could make it through half a season on the attire of the contestants.

The show opened in the mode of a rehearsal. Spread across the stage were nine, count them, nine of San Francisco's more infamous female impersonators. Each had a special number making the opening production number 30 minutes long.

The people Robert Michael Productions gathered together included Pat Montclair, Brandy, Mavis, Shannon of Sacramento, Dale Evans (don't ask), Nova Lei, Nancy, Tommy Quinonez and Minnie Frances Cato. Everything you ever expected a "drag" to do on a stage, they did. They rode roller skates, they did strips, they teased, and they all forgot the word "simplicity" when it came to costumes.

For many in the audience it was a trip down memory lane. All the performers had performed in one of the many places that are a part of San Francisco's craziness in the last two decades.

Following the madness of the opening number came the entrance of Michelle, the Mistress of Ceremonies. Michelle has built a reputation in San Francisco as being to drag affairs what Dick Clark is to the American Bandstand. Both seem to never change and both seem



Looking like they just stepped out of TV's *Dynasty*, these Closet Ball celebrants turned heads and got flashbulbs popping. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Closet Ball scenes, clockwise from top: Contestants appear in male attire before the big change; Shannon of Sacramento does the Relativity Dance—Mass times energy; Pat Montclair feathers the stage with the Las Vegas look; Last year's winner, Deena Jones, beams with Tony Treviso; and this year's winner, Tony Taboada, takes the Victory Walk. (All photos by Rink)



(Continued from previous page)

indestructible. Following Michelle's entrance—which is always done with the subtlety of a Charlotte Maillard balloon drop—the male competition of the Closet Ball began. The 15 contestants offered a little something for everyone's taste. The personality contestant of the night was "Men Behind Bars" co-producer Jim Cvitanich. (Cvitanich, for the record, had indeed appeared publicly in drag before—so apparently, the rules were bent.)

After their introduction they had one hour to create their illusion. The 1984 Closet Ball Queen was then introduced. The man, Tony White, became Deena Jones, without question the most talented and electrifying person to ever win this contest. His stage presence combined with a tasteful and stylish costume were the personification of this type of entertainment.

Act number two began with a salute to *La Cage aux Folles*. The rehearsal set of the first half was replaced with a staircase that seemed to reach to the sky. Half the audience that had even the smallest grasp of knowledge about drag gasped, half in horror, half in delight.

Fifteen guys who had never before been in high heels were looking at a staircase half the size of the City Hall rotunda. Before they started the introductions the bets were on. Nothing is more dramatic than a drag queen falling down a staircase and this year they gave them the longest staircase imaginable.

As the second act began the staircase was surrounded by shimmering curtains that gave an excellent setting for a lip-synched version of "We Are What We Are" from "that" show. With an excellent dance ensemble they sang, danced with featured performers Tommy Quinonez and Pat Montclair. Both could run the "Bay to Breakers" in high heels.

The high point of the evening arrived with the introduction of the men returning as elegant "women." It was a sight to behold. This was the year of the walk. In magnificently attired gowns they appeared. With breath held, the audience watched as they descended the staircase. Mercifully the producers gave them an entrance half way down the stairway to the stars.

The transformation of every contestant was excellent. The audience screamed, hollered and jumped to their feet for almost every entrant. They were deserving of their acknowledgment.

As the contestants left the stage to await the results of the judges, Michelle dressed in an outfit which would have done the grape growers of the Napa Valley proud, introduced Producer Wally Rutherford. He made a serious and straightforward plea for the Gay community to help fight to keep the Japan Center Theatre from being turned into a ten unit movie house.

The winners were announced right on schedule. Fourth runner up was Carlos Garcia, sponsored by Leticia Luna. Third runner up was James Cvitanich, from the Pilsner Inn. Second runner up was Vic De Dios, sponsored by Marisol Berenson. The first runner up was Rick Patton, sponsored by the Casa Loma. All the winners received cash prizes and, of course, a plaque.

At one point in the evening, emcee Michelle summed up what the Closet Ball is all about. "Where else," he said, "could we be so silly and so stunning all at the same time?"

A. White

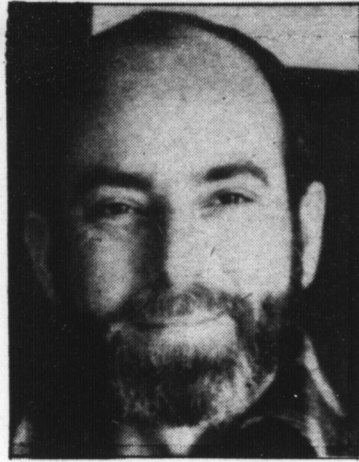
**Photo Forum
S of Market**

Attacks, the closure of bathhouses, some Gay bars going out, and the unknown effect of the South of Market redevelopment plans have left the Gay community with a general fear of being removed from a favorite neighborhood, South of Market. But it is not only the Gay community concerned with South of Market, Paul Shultz of the Cafe Soma and Soma Gallery has stated, "There's plenty of room down here for all kinds of people and if we eject one group, like the Gays, to homogenize the neighborhood, we'll lose some of the charm that attracts people to the South Market in the first place."

Schultz's concern has turned into action. He has agreed to exhibit portraits of Gay and Lesbian San Franciscans in a show and party entitled "We Are" at the Soma Gallery May 16.

The Oasis, Castle Grand Brasserie, Gay bars, theaters and resorts have come together to make the event successful. Entertainment will include performances by the Gay Men's Chorus, the Robin Kay Singers, the Vocal Minority, White Dance, and the Marilyn Memorial Chamber Music Chorale performing "We Are the World."

Lisa Kanemoto, Paul Schultz and his partner Deborah Savage have agreed that proceeds to the "We Are" exhibit and party are to go to Community United Against Violence.



**Lazere Chairs
Development
Authority**

Arthur Lazere, a certified public accountant and Gay activist, has been elected chair of

the Industrial Development Authority of the City and County of San Francisco. Lazere, 44, was appointed to the board of directors of the IDA by Mayor Dianne Feinstein in 1983.

The IDA issues tax exempt bonds to fund loans for industrial and commercial projects. The favorable interest rates offered through such financings encourage projects which create new jobs and retain existing jobs in the city.

Most recently, a \$5 million industrial development bond, combined with an Urban Development Action Grant, induced Hills Brothers Coffee, Inc. to move their operations to a new plant within San Francisco rather than to an out-of-state location. As a result 156 jobs were saved and 44 new jobs were created in the city.

**Kokpit, '42nd Street'
Direct Sporting Feet to
Turk, Gough Street**

What do the cast of "42nd Street," the S.F. AIDS Foundation's Food Bank and The Kokpit have in common? Softball!

The cast of "42nd Street" and the GSL Kokpit team will play softball on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at Lang Field (Turk and Gough Sts.) as a benefit for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Food Bank. Admission is canned or boxed food donations to maintain this vital program.

Anyone who is unable to attend the game may still donate non-perishable food items to the Food Bank by contacting the S.F. AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia Street, on the fourth floor.

THERE IS NO LONGER AN EXCUSE FOR SPREADING AIDS

Right now in the Gay community, we're faced with some extremely difficult decisions because of AIDS—sexual decisions affecting our lives and lifestyles. We Gay men have come up with a lot of excuses for avoiding the issue.

We all know that safer sex can reduce the risk of contracting and spreading AIDS. Some practices are more effective than others; some we have questions about.

We all need to make informed decisions, not excuses. You'll probably agree that none of the following excuses justify the spread of AIDS in our community.

"Whose responsibility is it?"

It's yours. Your partner's. And the community's. *Everyone* must take a concerned and active role if we're going to stop the spread of this disease.

Here's another common excuse: "If someone doesn't ask me to practice safer sex, I figure that's their decision and I respect it."

Why? Aren't you concerned? Perhaps your partner is just as uncomfortable in raising the issue as you are.

"Whose life is it, anyway?"

It's yours. Your partner's. And the community's. The excuse "It's my life" is only partly true. The life of your

AIDS SAFE SEX GUIDELINES

- Safe
 - Massage, Hugging
 - Mutual Masturbation
 - Social Kissing (Dry)
 - Body-To-Body Rubbing (Frottage)
- Possibly Safe
 - French Kissing (Wet)
 - Anal Intercourse With Condom
 - Sucking—Stop Before Climax
 - Watersports—External Only
 - Cunnilingus
- Unsafe
 - Anal Intercourse Without Condom
 - Semen or Urine In Mouth
 - Sharing Sex Toys
 - Blood Contact
 - Rimming
 - Fisting
 - Vaginal Intercourse Without Condom

Bay Area Physicians For Human Rights (1984)

partner and the well-being of our community are also at stake.

AIDS is not just a physical problem. There are political, social, and economic effects as well. There is already evidence that social freedoms may be restricted because of AIDS. AIDS can be used as an excuse for anti-Gay action and legislation.

Making decisions about sexual practices is difficult. Sticking to those decisions is even more difficult. But this isn't a moral issue; it's a matter of life and death.

"Changing my sex life isn't a cure for AIDS."

That's true. There is no cure or vaccine. And researchers think they are years away from developing one. Safer

sexual practices are our *best* means right now of reducing our risk and stopping the spread of AIDS.

"Change? Nobody else is doing it!"

The fact is that a major research project conducted by the AIDS Foundation among San Francisco Gay men revealed that two-thirds of the Gay community is making a serious effort to reduce their risk by practicing safer sex. *Two-thirds.*

Talk about it. Even though it's a difficult subject for everyone, chances are your partner is just as concerned as you are and would probably welcome a chance to discuss it.

Let's stop making excuses.

Let's stop the spread of AIDS.



For more information about AIDS prevention, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation: (415) 863-AIDS Toll-Free in No. CA (800) FOR-AIDS TTY (415) 864-6606

G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Oakland Lesbians Form Political Club

Lesbian Organizing Committee Has Hopes for City Council

by Charles Linebarger

The Oakland elections last month, which returned Mayor Lionel Wilson to office, have spurred the interest of local Lesbians. And an informal group of women interested in shaping the municipal government to answer the needs of Gays and Lesbians in Oakland has found new cohesiveness.

The Oakland Lesbians Organizing Committee had its first meeting late last Fall, according to Susan Ganz, the Committee's interim chair. Ganz was the secretary of the three-year-old East Bay Lesbian Gay Democratic Club at the time she heard about the newly forming organization for women.

"We wanted the Oakland City Council and the people of Oakland to be aware of Lesbian and women's problems," said Ganz. "At our first meeting we drew about 30 women and a lot of them didn't know that Oakland had passed a Gay Rights Ordinance. That in itself made them realize they had more power than they had thought."

Asked why Oakland Lesbians had felt the need to found their own organization—when the Oakland-Berkeley area is already represented by the East Bay Lesbian Gay Democratic Club—Ganz answered, "The East Bay Club has a more diffuse focus. They focus on Gays and all of Alameda County. We're honing in on one area to create a greater impact."

Ganz said the committee is hoping to interest women who don't normally become involved politically, as well as women who might feel uncomfortable politically in a partisan Democratic club. She compared the Oakland Lesbian Organizing Committee to the League of Women Voters, which is also a non-partisan organization involved in politics on behalf of women.

Earlier this year, the committee co-sponsored the Oakland Candidates' Forum with the East Bay Club. This was the only forum at which both candidates for mayor of Oakland appeared.

"We had a lot of women there," Ganz recalled. "Probably around 50 from our organization. It was at this meeting that Mayor Wilson said he would be willing to appoint members of the East Bay club and the committee to city commissions such as the Commission on the Status of Women. That would obviously be an important place to have a Lesbian represented."

As far as the issue of Domestic Partnership, Ganz said that the Oakland Lesbian Organizing Committee was going to follow the lead of the East Bay club in deference to "the experience they have with it." The East Bay club pioneered the concept of Domestic Partnership and saw it enacted into law in Berkeley last year.

Attorney Karen Ryer has been involved with the committee since its inception last summer. One of the reasons she saw as leading to its birth had to do

with the recently enacted Oakland Gay Rights Ordinance.

"The ordinance," Ryer said, "has got some teeth, it sounds good but no one knows about it. In fact, there have been no complaints brought under it and there are a lot of potentially discriminatory employers and landlords in Oakland. We're making quiet inquiries now, whether it's posted where it should be and if not, why not."

One of the goals of the Committee, according to both Ganz and Ryer, is placing an up-front Lesbian on the Oakland City Council. Ryer said that she feels that that woman should be a woman of color.

"Someone, say, of San Francisco's Pat Norman's caliber," Ryer said. "Someone who could speak to Oakland residents on a lot of issues. I find Oakland to be more open in a lot of ways than San Francisco. I think this community is ready for someone to say something smart economically about the city and that person could be a woman of color and a Lesbian."

The Lesbian population of Oakland is large and diverse, Ryer feels, and the time may be right for Lesbians in Oakland to make their contribution in the cause for Gay and Lesbian rights. While saying that she feels that the Gay rights movement has stagnated in San Francisco since the assassination of Supervisor Harvey Milk, Ryer added that, "maybe we can shake things up over here."

Concord MCC Sets Memorial Day BBQ

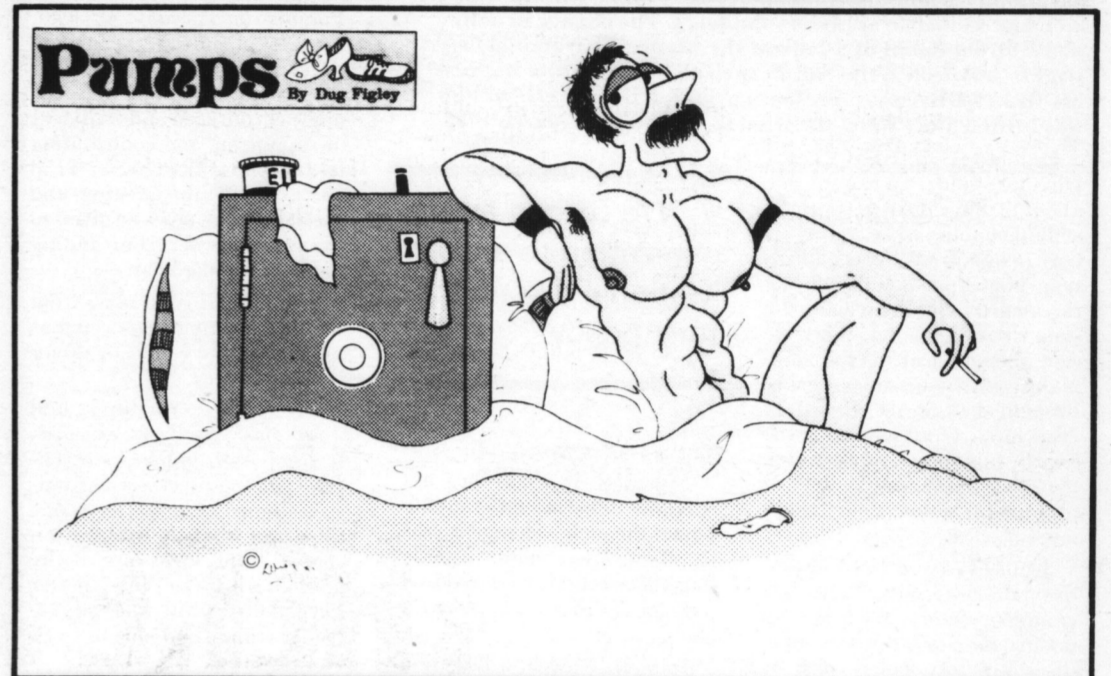
The Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church will hold a Memorial Day barbecue on Sunday, May 26 at the Concord church beginning around 12 noon.

The church, which is located at 2247 Concord Blvd., urges anyone to attend and to bring hot dogs, hamburgers or some other kind of food, if possible. Everyone, whether they bring a dish or not, is welcome.

For more information, call the church office at (415) 827-2960.

AIDS Is Topic at East Bay Library

The Pacific Center's East Bay AIDS Project will conduct the first of a series of educational forums on AIDS and its effects on Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, the nation and the world. The forum will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvia.



Gay Men's Health Collective Expands Services

The Gay Men's Health Collective in Berkeley continues to grow and expand its services. Its Sunday evening Drop-in VD Clinic saw a record number of clients last year.

The Sunday Night Drop-in VD clinics are the core of the GMHC's activity. These clinics happen every Sunday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Avenue. The routine VD screening offered to men with or without

symptoms consists of testing for gonorrhea at three sites (throat, penis, and rectum) and a blood test for syphilis. Treatment is available for these infections as well as for NGU (Non-gonococcal Urethritis), Venereal Warts (penile and external anal warts), scabies, and pubic lice (crabs). The clinic does not offer screening for AIDS at the present time but provides counseling and referrals for men with AIDS-related conditions or concerns.

The collective also needs volunteers to staff its several activities. Both health care professionals (MD's, PA's, etc.) and others with or without health care experience are sought and training is provided.

For information on any of the GMHC's services or on volunteering call 644-0425, or write: Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA. 94704.

Summer Season '85

May 14th

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Visuals by Charlie Minor

May 17th, 18th, 19th

Mr. Russian River Finals

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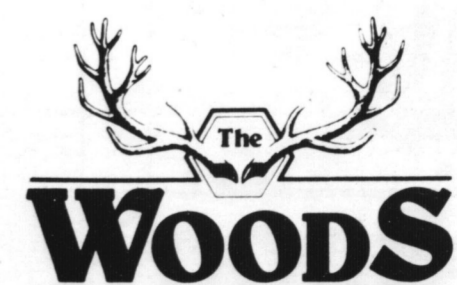
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Sacramento Kids Agency Drops Gay Discrimination

Threatened With Lawsuit
'Big Brothers, Sisters' Change Policy

The Big Brothers-Big Sisters organization of Sacramento has adopted a non-discrimination policy which will allow Gay men and women to apply as volunteers. The change in policy was a direct result of a lawsuit threatened by National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco-based public interest law firm. NGRA was representing Sharon Bee, a Lesbian who was turned away when she tried to volunteer in March 1985.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said, "We were not about to allow them to continue a blanket policy of excluding all Gay people from the organization. That is patently illegal. We threatened to sue them under the state Civil Rights Act. When we sent them a draft of the complaint, the issue was quickly brought before the Board of Directors." Graff noted that the board unanimously passed a non-discrimination policy at that point rather than face a lawsuit.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: "This is a complete victory. We forced an organization to end an irrational discriminatory policy just by threatening to sue them. As a result, we have vindicated the civil rights of Lesbians and Gay men in our community and opened a door that will allow them to participate in an impor-

'We forced an organization to end an irrational discriminatory policy.'

tant aspect of family life."

Although Ms. Bee has left Sacramento to attend graduate school the policy change is now in effect. Gay people will be judged, as others, by individual parents and not excluded as a class.

John H. Magee, a litigation specialist in San Francisco, was NGRA's volunteer attorney on the case.

From a press release provided by Gay Rights National Advocates.

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OAKLAND

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JUNTA II
(A Spectator Noge?)

NEZ PAS

The "Oakland" parade meeting in conjunction with a fund-raising beer bust was held at the Paradise on Tuesday, April 30. Sources tell me that the turnout could have been better, but those who were there are definitely encouraged and confident of supporting and contributing to a winning float. Over \$150 was raised at this gathering, and special thanks must be given to Fred Corella for contributing the beer for the bust.

The note of good news from the first meeting evaporated as quickly as the would-be donor absquatulated.

From the "readings and soundings" that I get, especially from Ann, much more concrete and solidified working unity is needed. Lip service is one thing, but when the design is accepted (and ideas are really needed) all those "lips" better have body, soul, and muscle ready, willing and able to work and produce.

Mama Chuckles had a Cinco de Mayo Celebration last Sunday at the Lake Lounge, in the continuing fundraising marathon. The next meeting of the "Parade People" will be at the Paradise on Tuesday, May 14. There will be a Cut-A-Thon at Revol on Saturday, May 18 (the Revol will open early for this shearing event). The takeoff on the Hollywood Squares is still pending, with the time and place to be announced. A "Bushel of Booze" raffle is ongoing through Monday, May 27, and is to be awarded that same night at the Revol, 9 p.m. Tickets are \$1. each or 6 for \$5.

Fliers for all these events and raffles are on "perpetual" display at supportive Oakland bars. The "Parade People" advise that you offer your support in return, and buy those raffle tickets and get involved. I might suggest that these meetings take a lesson from the "We Are The Children" recording session: outside the studio door was posted a sign stating, "Check your egos outside." It seems that one of our "locals" decided to become uninvolved because there were "outsiders" at the meeting. To him, an "outsider" is anyone who isn't a regular at his bar of employment. I guess to him there should be an "Insider's Oakland Float" and an "Outsider's Oakland Float." Obviously he has never heard of, or chooses to ignore all the themes of previous Freedom Day Parades.

GALLIMAUFRY
(A Pisticcio Nose)

Sunday, April 28, may have had musical merriment at Big Mama's (the next session is this Sunday at 3 p.m.), but there was a changeling consuetude at the Lake Lounge. A total of 15 "children" were christened at a fun and campy party. Mama Chuckles and Doug officiated the rites. Now I guess all the dolls are legal. (See Mike, I didn't mention Delmar Selby once!)

While there was M/M at BM and C/C at LL, a LL/L occurred at TC—Lower Limb logomachy at the Town and Country. Randi and Starr presented the first ever East Bay Legs Contest, and Bobby of the Lake Lounge won Mr. Legs. Trashy Trish was honored with MissLegsMissLegsMissLegs, and the honor of Ms Legs went to "red-legs Rose" aka Bob.

This Saturday, The New

Bill's The Eagle (hereafter known as TNBTE) hosts its Monte Carlo Night with the doors closing to the public at 5 p.m. Only 80 lucky ticket holders will be allowed to participate with \$25 worth of playing chips, reduced drink prices, a lavish buffet, and chances for a spectacular door prize. Oops, make that 78 lucky ticket holders—my spouse and I already have our two.

ACIE Mr. Cowboy/Ms Cowgirl of Alameda County will have a pre-ball party at Paradise, 8 p.m., on Thursday, May 10; "Dallas Strikes Back" will be at Ollie's Radcliff Hall, Friday, May 17, 8 p.m.

Sean and the Hayward Gay Sheriff Possee, in conjunction with the Spoiled Brat, presents a Gay Community Arts and Crafts Fair in the parking lot of the Brat on Sunday, May 19,

'Why not make it a day in Hayward Sunday?

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booths are available, so if you're interested, contact Sean or the Brat.

Why not make it an entire day in Hayward that Sunday? At 7 p.m., the Turf hosts its Comedy Night with top-notch entertainment, all of whom are well-known in the cabaret circuit in San Francisco.

Let's see: drinking all day at the Brat, drinking dinner at Big Mama's from 5 to 7 p.m., drinking and laughing at the Turf from 7 p.m. on, calling in sick on Monday morning...

Several "community members" received an epistle from Alan M. Rockway Ph.D., Director, Men's Mental Health at Pacific Center. In his three-page, single-spaced billet-doux, Alan explains why he is resigning from his 5th year of work: 3½ years of support from volunteer counselors and interns and 3¼ years of work job. (I don't understand it either, dear reader).

The fait accompli from the Jubilee was last Saturday, marked with a rousing hoedown and auction of memorabilia. The "Jube" was part and parcel of the Oakland scene for many years. Tears of sorrow should not be shed for the past; rather, tears of joy should flow for Val and Petty's new endeavours. A commencement isn't an ending; it's a new beginning.

Don't forget the Comedy Night at TNBTE on Friday, May 17. I understand from Rene that there will be an "open mike" session for anyone who wishes to partake of that talent.

A tip of Nez's nose to Bob Ross, owner and publisher of this paper. He invited his entire staff and their respective spouses to a celebration dinner in honor of the B.A.R.'s 14th anniversary. Sweet Lipps may boast of being the only original writer remaining, but I know of one writer who has never missed a single issue; monthly, bi-weekly, and weekly. The only time the column wasn't printed was when it was burned in a van accident. Don't take too many guesses on this one, dear reader!

Remember this at your next meeting: when the mouth opens, the ears tend to slam shut. I can smile at that. Love.

AIDS Forum Slated For Oakland Church

An educational forum for parents and friends of Persons with AIDS will be held in the Family Room of the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue (at Mandana), Oakland, on Thursday, May 9 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

This forum will provide up-to-date information on the AIDS epidemic. It will also show family and friends ways of supporting themselves and each other through crisis times.

Included among the speakers at this forum will be a local couple whose son recently died of AIDS, plus other family and friends of persons with AIDS.

The forum, sponsored by Pacific Center's East Bay AIDS Project, is free and open to the public. For further information, phone 841-6224.

Gay Fathers Conference

Fifteen experts and professionals have been invited to participate in workshops at the 6th Annual World Conference of Gay Fathers, sponsored by the Gay Fathers Coalition International, in Los Angeles Fri.-Sun., May 31-June 2.

Saturday's twelve workshop sessions represent a diverse agenda of counseling and self-help topics related to the issues of Gay parenting. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take part in a selection of panels dealing with legal, family counseling and practical child-rearing subjects. The conference is headquartered at the Marriott Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport.

One of the most popular workshops at last year's New York City conference, was a panel of children with a Gay parent. This year, seven children, aged 13-21, will tell the story from their own perspective during the panel discussion entitled, "Our Children Speak Out."

Register for the 6th Annual World Conference of the Gay Fathers Coalition International through the Conference Committee at 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109-346, Los Angeles, CA 90046. A 24-hour telephone in Los Angeles, (213) 871-1575, offers callers an opportunity to leave a recorded message requesting a registration package by return mail.

Employment Rights Conference

On Saturday, June 15, the Lesbian Rights Project, in conjunction with a coalition of Bay Area nonprofit organizations and labor unions, will sponsor a full-day conference on employment rights for Lesbians and Gay men. The conference, to be held at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, will provide information on existing employment rights and will discuss legal remedies for discrimination and strategies for establishing greater job protection.

Conference registration will be open to the public. Fees will be on a \$10-\$25 sliding-scale basis, including lunch and conference publications.

For more information, contact the Lesbian Rights Project, (415) 621-0674.

STATE NEWS



UC Regent Sheldon Andelson says 'no' to university investments in South Africa. He'll push the issue next month.

Regent Andelson Opposes So. Africa Investments

Gay UC Regent Will Push Divestiture At June UC Meeting

by George Mendenhall

"I will be supporting a move to divest our investments in South Africa. To many this may not be a 'Gay' issue as such, but someone's discrimination today can be someone else's tomorrow. It is all linked together when you talk about civil justice. We must join to protect one another."

Sheldon Andelson made this statement to the *Bay Area Reporter* this week in an emphatic rejection of the University of California's policy of holding stock in firms doing business with racist South Africa. The Gay appointee on the 28-member U.C. Board of Regents, added, "I will be supporting a move to divest." He said a May meeting of the regents will include a discussion but the regents vote will not be until June, when a treasurer's report on the issue is considered.

The West Hollywood banker joined 7,000 students attending a U.C. campus forum here on April 24. The following day, the U.C. Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) held an anti-apartheid rally at Sprout Hall.

Two Lesbian activists, singer Holly Near and educator Merle Woo, addressed one campus demonstration. They were joined by the UC statewide Lesbian and Gay coordinator, Professor Bob Anderson, and LGBA spokesperson Leora Goren. Singer Joan Baez spoke at a San Jose State Rally while Morris Knight led a group of Gay activists in a protest on the UC Los Angeles campus.

Numerous local Gay organ-

izations joined 50,000 marchers in an April 20 peace march here, partly in protest of apartheid. The coordinator of the march, Gay Activist Howard Wallace, later told 1,500 students at a San Francisco State rally, "All oppressed groups must stand together or we will be picked off one by one. We must not forget that the Black civil rights movement has helped pave the way for our movement and has legitimized mass movements."

Andelson called for the regents to consider "the moral and social consequences of financial investments" and added, "It is too bad that this was not done in the 1930s when we invested in the German government. We later invested in Iran in the 1970s and in Cuba and propped up governments in East Asia, Central and South America—to the detriment of a better world."

Andelson stressed that there might be some problems in divesting funds. He said the \$2.4 billion in U.C. investments in South Africa might include firms that are helping to end Black diseases, and that often a major firm may have only a fraction of its interests in the area. The banker said there are equally good investments in

California and "I do not see all of this as a major problem."

Committee for California, a group formed by Andelson, has become the home base for former Governor Jerry Brown. The banker has raised thousands of dollars for Brown and other candidates sympathetic to Lesbian and Gay rights. Last year, Andelson gained attention when he at first opposed the formation of West Hollywood as a city. He later became supportive. Steve Schulte, endorsed by Andelson, became one of the Gay majority members on the new city's council.

Andelson Set For Reception In S.F. May 15

The Alliance will be hosting a reception to honor University of California Regent Sheldon W. Andelson of Los Angeles Wednesday, May 15, 1985, from 6 to 8 p.m. The reception will be held in the home of George Stewart, 1737 Webster Street, San Francisco. The reception includes a sumptuous selection of hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

This event is a fundraiser for The Alliance. The cost is \$25 per person. Attending this event is one of the ways in which members can redeem their annual pledge to The Alliance. Please call 392-2800 or 552-5600.

Sheldon W. Andelson is an attorney and business executive. In addition to being a member of the Board of Regents, he is a founder of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, a member of Mayor Tom Bradley's Joffrey Ballet Committee, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Music Center Dance presentations.

Panel OKs \$7 M, State Plan on AIDS

Senate Committee Calls For Better Statewide Coordination

Senate President pro Tempore David Roberti's urgency measure (SB 1251), which would establish the California AIDS Program (CAP) to give added attention, focus, direction and funding for AIDS-related programs, was approved by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services May 1.

The committee voted 5-0 in favor of the legislation, which would require interdepartmental management to begin planning for a strategy to combat AIDS in the future.

The bill would appropriate \$715,000 for the Department of Health Services for operating expenses, data processing, surveillance, and state laboratory work.

The measure would also appropriate \$6.3 million, which would be distributed to grantees for information and education contracts, as well as for direct services to people with AIDS.

The measure now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Roberti, D-Hollywood, said, "I have introduced this legislation to address the lack of coordination and planning between departments and within the branches of the Department of Health Services relating to the complex issues associated with AIDS."

The bill would also require: • The Department of Health to develop a comprehensive plan to address issues related to AIDS, including information

and education, antibody testing, surveillance, mental health, treatment and care, and patient support needs resulting from the AIDS epidemic.

• Continued programs of health professional education and training.

• Continued emphasis on prevention through outreach campaigns to increased risk populations.

• Greater emphasis on information and education to the general public to correct misinformation about AIDS. The measure is also designed to promote broad-based support for AIDS programs by encouraging community level networking and coordination of efforts among private sector, nonprofit and public service agencies.

In addition, an AIDS Ombudsman would be established within the Department of Health Services to investigate and resolve cases of lengthy certification, claim denial, reimbursement, or other problems in Medi-Cal for people with AIDS.

From a press release by the office of State Sen. David Roberti.



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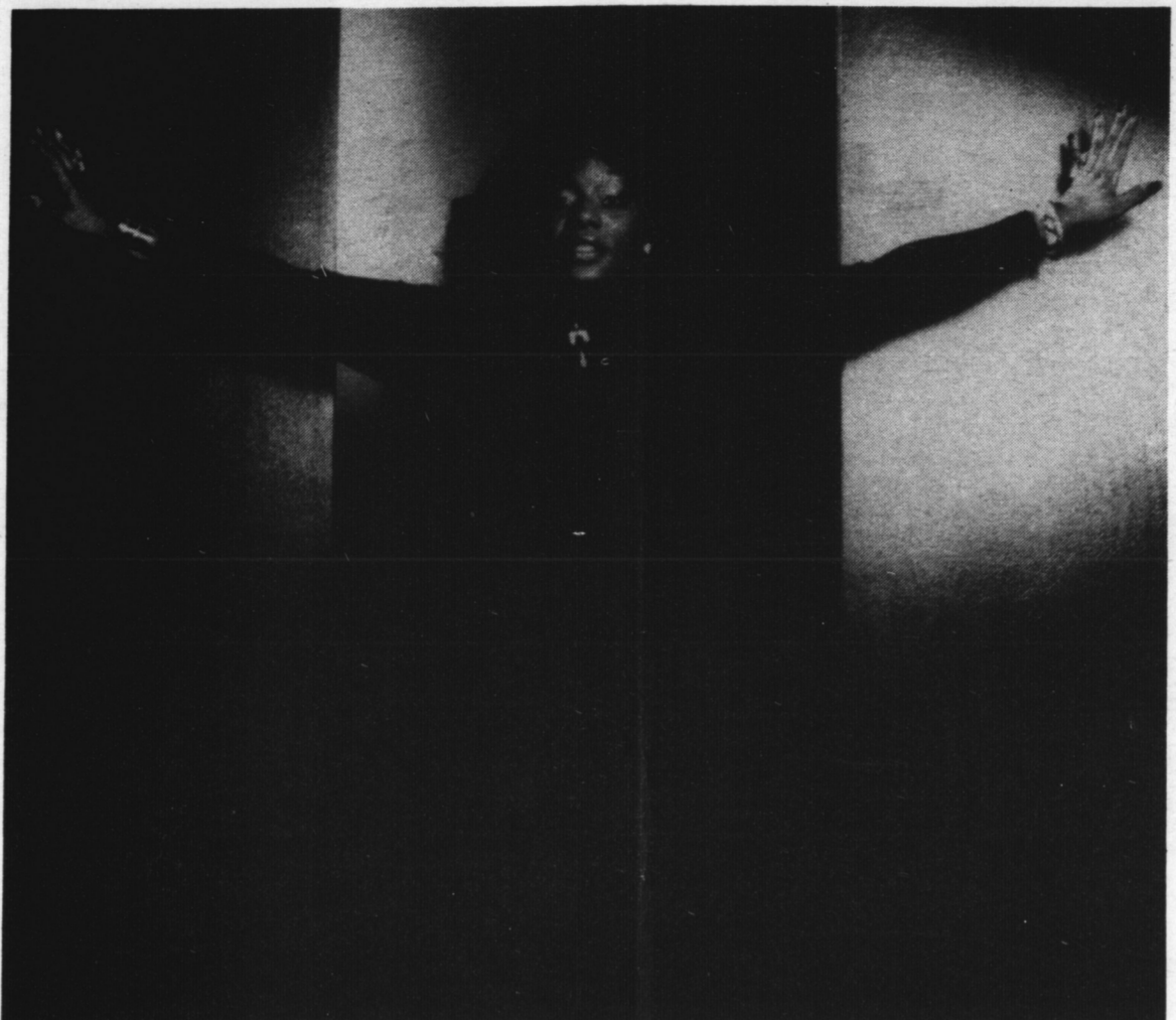
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THIS WEEK



Celebrate Mothers' Day with Loleatta Holloway with a Tea Dance at the Trocadero Transfer Sunday

- Women by Women:** reception, Galeria de la Raza, 2851 24 St., S.F., 6-9 PM. Recording artist Lydia Mendoza will appear at the opening of this exhibit by Raza women artists. The exhibit continues through June 1.
- Sometimes You Lose:** Discussion, Diablo Valley MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 7:30-9:30 P.M. This week's rap group topic is coping with failure and disappointment. Call 827-2960 for information.
- Sock Hop:** dancing, Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St., S.F., 9 PM. Join Traci Le Tress in celebrating her first year in the city.
- Ellen De Generes & Jake Johannsen:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6-8 PM.
- S'Kotiphola:** stage performance, Julian Theatre, 953 DeHaro St., S.F., 8 PM, tickets through BASS and STBS, or call 647-8098. A new musical on South African life written and directed by Selaelo Maredi.
- Deer Rose:** stage performance, Eighth Street Studios, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley, 8:30 PM, \$7. A play with masks by Tony Pellegrino. Original music performed live by Emily Klion. Reservations at 550-1819.
- The Matador Club:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. A comedy play featuring a bullfighter and a night club comic.
- Rearranging Those Deck Chairs Again:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 9 PM, \$6. Ginna Leishman's one woman show of musical and comedy delights.
- Two Queens in Search of a Motif:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$6. Tom Amiano and Doug Holsclaw team up for a whirlwind, madcap, dazzlingly vulgar show.
- Frontline:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros Studio, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. Four women in the U.S. Army in 1948 face charges of lesbianism. Box office, 861-5079.
- High Hopes:** stage performance (see Saturday for details).
- Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE):** women's support group, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 4:30-6 PM. Call Doty Fowler, 626-7000, for further information.
- Something Else to Do:** The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 6-10 PM. An alternative place to relax, have fun and meet people every Friday and Saturday.
- Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.
- Acupuncture Free Clinic:** for persons with AIDS and their Gay families, The Parsonage, 555A Castro St., S.F., by appointment. Call Mark Denzin, C.A., or Peter Betcher at 567-2315 for information.

SATURDAY 11

- East Bay FrontRunners:** Sequoia-Bayview run, meet at 9:30 AM in Joaquin Miller Park. Take Hwy. 13 to Miller/Lincoln exit; go 1.2 miles on Miller and left on Skyline to trailhead in park. For more information, call 526-7315.
- Felice Picano:** book signing, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 1-4 PM.
- Game Fest:** Fraternal Order of Gays, 8 PM, call 753-6786 for details. Join the FOG in playing monopoly, scrabble, risk, trivial pursuit and other games.
- Girth and Mirth Club:** meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month; call 680-7612 for details.
- Black and White Men Together:** BWMT celebrates its fifth anniversary with a Uniform Brawl from 10 PM to 4 AM at 10 Rogers Place, off Folsom, between 7th and 8th Streets, S.F. Tickets available at Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market, \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door.
- Weslia Whitfield:** cabaret, Buckley's Bistro, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, reservations at 552-8177.
- Stop Being Funny:** comedy, Faultline, Lipp's, 201 9th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5. Information at 668-9769.
- Ronnie Gilbert:** music, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7 & 10 PM, \$10.
- Sandy Van & Laurie Bushman:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6-8 PM.
- Gay Comedy Night:** laughs, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Marga Gomez, Monica Palacios, Danny Williams.
- The Matador Club:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Rearranging Those Deck Chairs Again:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- S'Kotiphola:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Deer Rose:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Frontline:** stage performance (see Friday for details).

SUNDAY 12

- San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike, Lagunitas Lake and Bon Tempe Lake on the north side of Mt. Tamalpais, meet at 9:45 AM at the Safeway sign at Market and Church Sts., S.F. Bring lunch, water and money to share carpool costs. Cancelled if rain.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** Mountain Lake run, 1 to 3 miles, meet at 10 AM at 9th Ave. and Lake St., S.F.
- Winchester Mystery House and Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum:** Fraternal Order of Gays, meet at 10 AM at 2038 22nd Ave., S.F. Return to the City about 6 PM. Call 753-6786 for details.
- Lesbian Mothers Day in the Park:** All women welcome; bring lunch and games to Elk Glen Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 12 noon to 5 PM. Sponsored by Wages Due Lesbians; information at 558-9628.
- Playwrights Collaboration:** script reading, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 3 PM, \$3. Members of Theatre Rhinoceros' Playwrights' Workshop present a collaborative effort.
- Big City:** dancing, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM.
- Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 4 PM, \$4. The acclaimed musical group re-creates the authentic sound of ragtime's greatest with style and showmanship.
- Chevere:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5-8 PM.
- Ronnie Gilbert:** music (see Saturday for details).
- Gay Wagner:** music, The Fickle Fox, 842 Valencia St., S.F., 9 PM.
- Molly Breen, Robert Erickson & Mikko:** cabaret, Big Mama's, 1125 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 3 PM.
- Roof Top BBQ with Mamma Leanna:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St., S.F., 12 noon, \$3.
- Bisexual Parade Contingent:** meeting to organize the bi contingent for the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade; call 626-4352 for details.
- Mothers Day Tea Dance with Loleatta Holloway:** Trocadero Transfer, 520 F 4th St., S.F., \$5, doors open at 7 PM, Troc ID not required.

MONDAY 13

- Nancy Shallman:** cabaret, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Einsturzende Neubauten:** music, I Beam, 1748 Haight St., S.F., doors open 9 PM, show at 10:30 PM. This five person Berlin group is not an industrial band!
- Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St., at 17th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Theatre Rhinoceros' highly acclaimed AIDS Show continues at a new time and place. Tickets at 861-5079.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Performer sign-up, 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY 14

- Women in El Salvador:** meeting, Radical Women, 523A Valencia St., near 16th St., S.F., 7:30 PM; dinner (\$3.50) at 6:45 PM. Laura Suarez from El Salvador will speak; call 550-1020 for details.
- Joe Ross:** cabaret, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6-8 PM, reservations at 788-8379.
- Merchandise Committee:** meeting, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, 335 Noe St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Help the Committee sell T-shirts, caps, buttons, wine and more. Call 861-5404 for information.

- Lisa Pawlak:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance (see Monday for details).
- Gay Freedom Day Marching Band:** practice, every Tuesday, Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral, S.F., 7:15 PM. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.
- Playwriting Workshop:** winter session, 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birmiss. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- Beginning Square Dancing:** dance, 2140 Market, S.F., 8:15 PM. Learn with the Bay City Ramblers. Call 474-1917 for more information.
- International Folk Dancing:** dance class, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2. No preregistration necessary. Call 552-8413 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 15

- Joe Ross:** cabaret, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6-8 PM, call 788-8379 for reservations.
- Hunter Davis & Julie Holcomi:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Joy Julks Band:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM.
- Female-to-Male Transsexual Support Group:** Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM, call (408) 293-4525 for information.
- Top Girls:** stage performance, Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St., S.F., 8 PM, \$16-\$18, tickets at 771-6900 and at all major agencies. Return engagement of Eureka Theatre's critically acclaimed production of Caryl Churchill's hit play.
- High Hopes:** stage performance, \$8 and \$9 (see Saturday for details).
- San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus:** rehearsal, Kassman Piano, 425 Hayes St., S.F., 7:30 PM. For information call 566-6496.

THURSDAY 16

- Tokens - A Play on the Plague:** stage performance, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., at 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10. Reservations at 621-7797.
- Top Girls:** stage performance (see Wednesday for details).
- Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Impulse F/Permanent Wave:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM.
- We Are:** reception, Cafe Soma, 1601 Howard St., at 12th St., S.F., 5:30-11 PM. Special exhibit of Lisa Kanemoto's photographs from her new book, *We Are*, to benefit Community United Against Violence (CUAV).
- Joe Ross:** cabaret, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6-8 PM, reservations at 788-8379.
- Talking With . . . :** stage performance, Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$8 general, \$6 students and seniors. Jane Martin's fascinating series of stories by eleven women returns to the stage.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** one to five mile run begins at 6 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park.
- Beyond - A Word:** poetry performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Leland Mellott encompasses mime, Mudra language, singing and glossolalia.
- S'Kotiphola:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- High Hopes:** stage performance, \$8 and \$9 (see Saturday for details).
- Beginning Square Dancing:** Foggy City Dancers, Rawhide, 280 7th St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Writing Workshop:** for men 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 431-6254 for details.
- All-Male Strip Show: Renegade,** 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, no cover.
- Yoga and Meditation Class:** for people with AIDS and their lovers, 7 to 9 PM. Call 921-4471 for more information.

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TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE	Tuesday Community League - 8:45 PM - League starts on May 28th - Cost is \$8.00 per week - 90% Handicap - 5 to A Team.
WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE	Wednesday Community League - 8:45 PM - League starts on May 29th - Cost is \$7.50 per week - 80% Handicap - 5 to A Team.
FRIDAY HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE	Hawaii Vacation League - 6:30 PM - League starts on June 14th - Cost is \$17.50 per week - 90% Handicap - 4 to A Team - EVERYONE goes to Hawaii in April of next year - Trip is included in evening fees.
SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE	Sunday Reno League - 6:30 PM - League starts on June 2nd - Cost is \$10.00 per week - 80% Handicap - 4 to A Team - EVERYONE goes to Reno in October.

Afternoon Leagues

THURSDAY AFTERNOON LEAGUE	Thursday Afternoon Community League - 1:00 PM - League starts on May 30th - 90% Handicap - 3 to A Team.
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Cri d'Coeur

A Warts-And-All Biography of Tennessee Williams

by Michael Lasky

So here's this tall man dressed Brooks Brothers-conservative in a grey pinstripe suit with maroon striped tie whom I barely said hello to, and he's telling me about the beautiful boy he met the night before. We are in the lobby of the Clift Hotel, and he presses his hand on my arm, like a close friend does when he's confiding in you. The man is Dotson Rader, who I have come to interview about his book of memoirs about Tennessee Williams. *Tennessee: Cry of the Heart* (Doubleday, \$16.95).

Rader, although into his 40s and suffering from angina, has a vulnerable, boyish face. This, together with his immediate openness and I-have-nothing-to-hide attitude, seduces whoever he's with instantly. Of course, it helps that he's a natural raconteur and has gobs of stories to tell about Tennessee Williams and his world.

But why, then, did he write such a warts-and-all, intimate book about the man he loved and cared for? Rader's answer is full of anguish.

"When Tenn died, I left the country. It was a zoo the way they were treating him so hyper-critically. For the last 10 years of his life, he suffered great indignities. He was vilified in the press and he was literally attacked in public. People would come by our house in Key West and yell, 'Get out of town, cocksuckers.' But even death did not stop the indignities.

"When I got back, my boyfriend, Richard, had saved all the obits and there was a stack of testimonial bullshit to read. All the people who had been bad to him the last years of his life talked about all the good they did. The press had begun the process of sanitizing him. We can't put anyone in the American pantheon unless we clean up their act," Rader noted.

Gay helped him to be the writer he was.

"I thought 'he has been dead only a few months and I'm losing him, they are reinventing him to fit the commanding culture. The God damn breeders are reinventing him.' I didn't want to lose the man that I had loved. I knew that sooner or later my memory is going to go, so I wrote what it was like to know and love this man," says Rader as he drinks his tomato juice at our breakfast table in the Clift Hotel.

"I have gotten so much shit for talking about the boys and the drugs in his life. Like it is shameful. I am supposed to be ashamed and not talk about it, to pretend it never happened. But I am not ashamed of one goddamned thing he ever did. I am proud of him and proud I was his friend."

Rader tells me his book was subject to legal editing more than the regular blue pencil process.

"A lot of names in the book had to be changed, especially stories about movie stars and other celebrities. Doubleday was not so much concerned that we couldn't win but that it would be expensive just to be sued, regardless of the merit of the cases.

"The reason Tennessee's own 'Memoirs' (published seven years ago) seems so jagged was the legal and moralistic editing. Two thirds of his book was cut. They forced him to cut the life out of his life. So he took what was excised and continued to write memoirs. Together they formed what he called 'my black pages' to be published after his death. He defined it as my 'Fix Their Clock' book and wrote all about the people in Hollywood and elsewhere around the world who screwed and betrayed him. Elia Kazan wouldn't read his plays anymore, Warren Beatty wouldn't take a phone call from him. Brando wouldn't talk with him. Liz Taylor wouldn't see him when she was in New York. The list goes on."

Much of what Tennessee wrote actually came from the hustlers he spent much of his time with.

"I said that he and I went through hundreds of hustlers, but I think now it was more like a couple of thousand," Rader said. "What he loved about all those boys was that they didn't know who he was. One hustler thought he did, but then it came out that he thought Tenn was



Dotson Rader with Tennessee Williams

the singer Tennessee Ernie Ford.

"Tenn was very vulnerable and if you had any heart at all, you responded by wanting to protect him. The boys responded that way. All those years, all those boys, and Tenn was never robbed, hurt, or abused by them. He talked to them about their lives and six months later he would show me a short story based on something one of them had related.

"Tennessee thought of America as one big whorehouse where the rich buy and sell the rest of us. What he liked about prostitutes was that they were the only people in the country that put an honest label of what they were. Most people don't like hearing that," says Rader, who is the author of a dozen other books, including *Government Inspected Meat and Other Fun Summer Things*.

"I think the one thing I say in the book which has caused me

the most trouble is that I think the majority of major artists in this country are either Gay or Jewish or both. Art is produced by outsiders, particularly oppressed outsiders, because they have to be quicker, more sensitive to shifts in the culture, to save their necks. Gays are in the same position as women in the U.S. They get the same, if not worse, treatment from straight, macho men.

"What it gives to Gay writers, like Tennessee, is a profound sensitivity. That is why he wrote some of the greatest female characters in our literature. When Stanley Kowalski brutalizes Blanche DuBois, Tenn had gone through the same brutalization at the hands of straight men. All the romance found in his work came out of his homosexual longings, and it was his brilliance to transform that into universal terms. Tennessee Williams was not a ghetto

(Continued on page 25)



Dotson Rader

(Photo: Rink)

BACK TO BATON

Viewpoints

PHILIP CAMPBELL

This year's symphony season is into its final stretch and with Edo de Waart gone and new director Herbert Blomstedt not due until the Beethoven Festival, you might think things are quiet at Davies Hall. Actually, two wildly differing guest artists have kept it pretty lively, and certainly proved how influential a conductor's personal viewpoint can be on both programming and the orchestra's sound.

Wolfgang Sawallisch, music director and general director of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, was first to visit and, while local audiences seemed mostly unaware of his prestigious reputation, they were quick to respond to the thoroughly Viennese finesse of his music making. The resulting sound was roughly equivalent to a strong cup of Austrian coffee topped by a double helping of rich whipped cream.

The Maestro's first concerts were conventional in programming and only satisfactory musically, but they afforded pianist Richard Goode the opportunity to regale us with a beautiful Mozart Piano Concerto in E-flat, K.482. His mastery and insight promise a good career, and I intend to investigate his recordings.

Sawallisch opened with Anton Webern's "Im Sommerwind," a slight but attractive early work that isn't encountered much. It's a bit schizophrenic in stylistic intent but that doesn't deter from its mild and evocative mood, graced occasionally by the more characteristic innovations of the composer's later scores.

Sawallisch's visit will be better remembered for his second concert series, featuring the music of Richard Strauss exclusively. He has a true understanding of the conflicting values found in almost all Strauss compositions. By downplaying any inherent vulgarity and bombast, and going straight for drama and humanity, Sawallisch emphasizes power and profundity, and turns up a fair amount of wit in several important pieces.

Baritone Thomas Allen made a strong impression singing four of the Songs with Orchestra. This is esoteric stuff, but Allen's power and beauty of tone soared over some of the ridiculously thick orchestral texture, and showed eloquently that Strauss could write for the male voice as convincingly as in his more highly regarded pieces for women. Conductor and orchestra were sensitive accompanists throughout.

"Metamorphosen" for 23 strings and the large scale "Death and Transfiguration" were the evening's heavyweight bookends. Both were well played, but it was the Songs and a delightful rendition of the Duet-Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon with string orchestra and harp that were revelatory. David Bredon on clarinet and bassoonist Stephen Paulson

were the able soloists, and their frothy playing made much of the music's liting humor, skillfully hiding the trickiness of the part writing.

Following Sawallisch to the podium, Polish conductor Kazimierz Kord, music director of the Warsaw Philharmonic and the Southwest German Radio Orchestra in Baden-Baden, left something to be desired. His note-for-note literalness and a refusal to give any shading between loud and soft, along with the appearance of Soviet pianist Andrei Gavrilov making a splashy and generally overwrought North American orchestral debut, gave an impression of a whole that was much less than the sum of its parts.

It took courage to open with his fellow Pole Witold Lutoslawski's "Livre pour orchestre." He is an important contemporary of Messiaen, Britten, Copland, and Shostakovich, with a musical language in later works that falls into the difficult listening of the "aleatory" style (a reliance on chance or unpredictability for unfoldment).

The audience was surprisingly receptive and I settled in, expecting great things from the highly touted Gavrilov and the snazzy Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand which was to follow. I should have sensed trouble earlier when an usher gave me a program insert, explaining that the pianist had made a change. It amounted to merely dropping a previously scheduled work by Franck, but it supplied an excellent opportunity for advertising all of Gavrilov's recorded repertoire.

It is more appropriate to speak of Gavrilov's assault on the keyboard rather than his attack. Ravel wrote his virtuoso piece for a man who had lost his left hand in the war. I'm surprised Gavrilov survived with his left intact. The music is aggressively assertive, but it is also tender and moodily expressive by turns; full of wonderfully nuanced color. This performance was very easy to hear, but it sounded more like a concerto for the left arm. The audience got a brassy display; the composer and the piano were the losers.

It seems dropping the originally programmed piece was intended to create time for not one, but three encores—two too many for my money and unnecessarily showy altogether. Banging the ivories can almost disguise missed notes and clinkers, but I remained underwhelmed in spite of the tumultuous approval by the crowd.

Kazimierz Kord may well redeem himself this week, when he returns to conduct the symphony's Michael Grebanier in Shostakovich's deeply moving Cello Concerto No. 2. I rest assured in assuming that Grebanier will forego encores, at any rate.

FROM FIFTH POSITION

The End of an Era

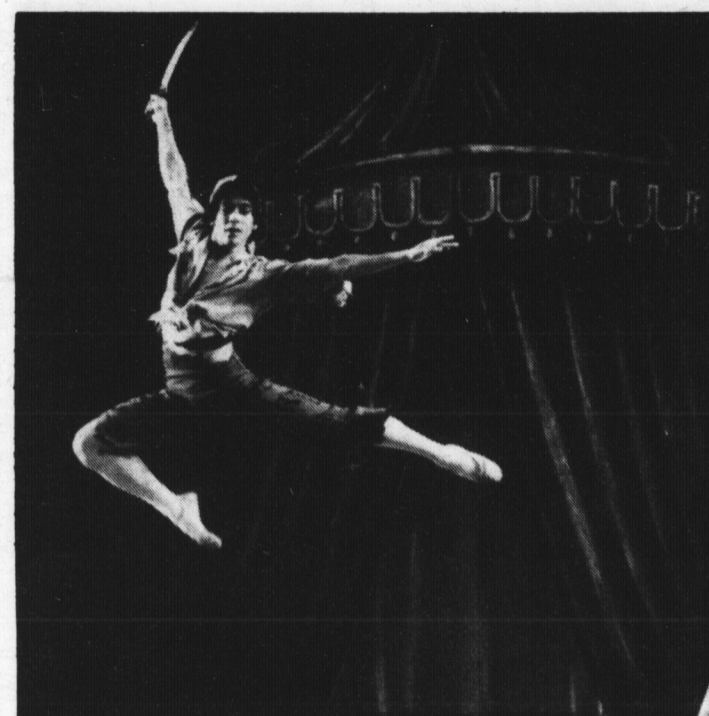
KEITH WHITE

For people on both sides of the proscenium, the final program of the San Francisco Ballet season was an emotional one. A film retrospective honored late co-director Lew Christensen, after which four of Christensen's repertory ballets were performed, including two important revivals. This was also the last program under the direction of co-director Michael Smuin, who will be succeeded by Helgi Tomasson in late June.

A number of dancers will not be returning next season. Half a dozen dancers, most notably principal Kirk Peterson, were dismissed by Tomasson in a peremptory sweep through the ranks. Others, like Attila Ficzere and Gina Ness, are retiring this year as honored veterans. Jim Sohm, after spending a year's leave of absence with the Berlin Ballet, has decided to stay there—against the hopes of many of his fans.

So many endings leave us with little awareness of what lies ahead. Tomasson's reticence probably has had more to do with decorum than administrative or artistic uncertainty, but his effect on the company can only be one of profound change.

Only a more seasoned viewer could say how representative were the four Christensen works which comprised his memorial program. They certainly displayed a broad stylistic range, from the neo-classic Vivaldi Concerto Grosso (1981), Christensen's last ballet, to the broad theatrical sweep of his *Don Juan*. The latter work is particularly good theater, supported by an effective selection of music by Rodrigo, an almost perfect setting by Ming Cho Lee, and beautiful costumes designed by Jose Varona. Attila Ficzere gave his farewell performance in the title role he created in 1973, inspiring tears and applause. The Vivaldi Concerto Grosso is a vigorous challenge in which the company does not always look comfortable. The allegro sections are built on a geometric cleanliness that displays every fault, while parts of



Andre Reyes in *Con Amore*

the central *pas de deux* are probably impossible to perform smoothly, requiring vice-like tension to maintain secure footing.

Airs de Ballet was repeated from last season, enhanced by charming performances by Nancy Dickson and Dale Baker, and Keith Schaeffer's vastly expanded confidence since he made his debut in the *pas de trois* last year.

As a child I saw *Don Amore* in the repertory of the Chicago

(Continued on page 26)



Williams with his sister Miss Rose, 1981

"He wanted to be buried at sea and wanted no public view of the body and no funeral. He had these wishes in his will. So his body was put on display for two days at a funeral home in New York. He didn't have a funeral, he had two. And he was buried in St. Louis, a city he hated, by a brother he despised and a mother he loathed.

"His lawyers did what they damn well pleased. I couldn't do anything. I didn't even get what was willed to me. I had no legal standing. I was not a relative. I was a loved one but not in the eyes of the law," Rader explains, becoming justifiably more intense as he verbally relieves the experience.

"I, like every other Gay kid, read about Socrates, Walt Whitman, Hawthorne, Melville, and I could never tell that they were Gay. Their lives were 'cleaned up' for acceptable mass consumption. Now I saw they were doing the same thing to Tennessee. In not a single obituary was it mentioned that he was Gay. Frank Merlo, his lover of 14 years, was referred to in *The New York Times* as his close friend.

"Then, Donald Spoto's biography comes out and admits that Tenn was Gay but says that he hated being Gay. It was a total lie, a slander against Tennessee. Here is a man who loved being Gay, who felt that being

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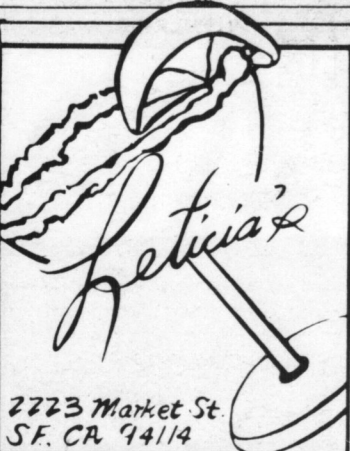
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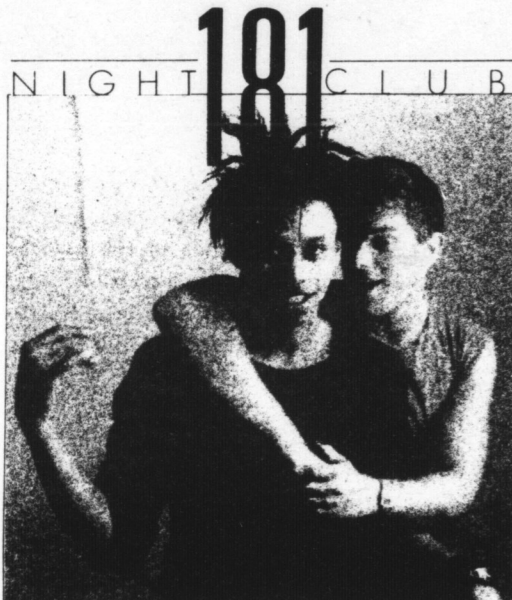
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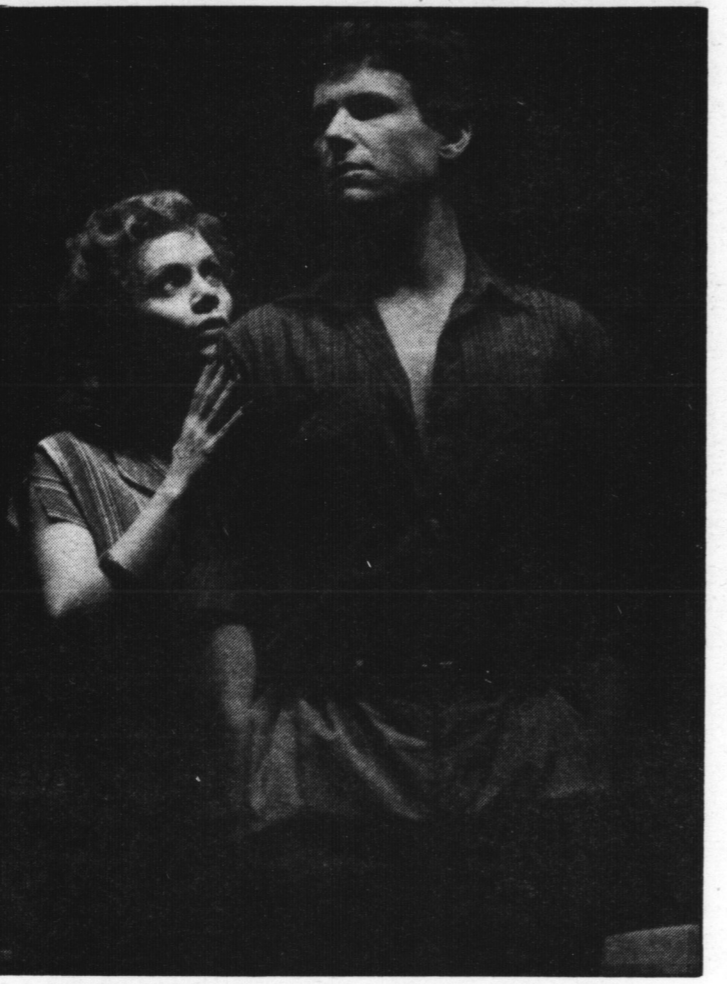
TALES OF TESSI TURA

Operatic Americana

GEORGE HEYMONT

If anything, the 1984-85 season has been particularly strong in giving audiences works which depict the American experience on the operatic stage. While the Met produced Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*, the Virginia Opera offered the world premiere of Thea Musgrave's *Harriet Tubman: The Woman Called Moses*. August Opera mounted Marc Blitzstein's *Regina* (based on Lillian Hellman's award-winning drama *The Little Foxes*) while the Opera Theatre of Rochester premiered *A Fine Agitation—The Woman Who Dared*. Zelman Bokser's opera about the trials of Susan B. Anthony.

Elsewhere around the nation, the Seattle Opera unveiled a new production of Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, while the Baltimore Opera produced a triple bill of one-act American portraits. Next month, Chicago Opera Theatre will stage Robert Ward's *The Crucible* at about the same time audiences in Charleston, South Carolina will enjoy Puccini's *La Fanciulla Del West*. All of this points to a growing literature of operatic Americana which reflects the cultural mores and sounds of our nation's history.



'Rip me, Frank! Rip me!' Cora (Maryanne Telese) becomes Frank Chambers' (Nick Karousatos) nemesis in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*.

A PASTICHE OF PROGRESS

Many musicologists are now locked in a ridiculous filibuster over whether any new work should be categorized as an opera, a musical, a piece of opera/musical theater or, perhaps a rhinoceros. This endless and constipated academic nitpicking is about as important as listening to a group of theologians arguing over how many angels can stand on the head of a pin. A more worthwhile exercise would be to take inventory of those sights and sounds which have dominated American stages during our nation's history in order to accurately assess the breadth and scope of an emerging literature of musical Americana.

Two months ago, an exciting multi-media presentation at the Montgomery College Performing Arts Center in Rockville, Maryland did just that. Despite Eric Salzman's rather cutesy script, *Toward a New American Opera* ran the gamut from Andrew Barton's "Yankee Doodle" (written in 1767) to Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park With George*. Directed by Ben Krywosz and backed by the kind of fast-moving visual flow familiar to most multiple-screen presentations, the production traced the growth of our musical heritage by drawing on familiar moments in conventional opera, Broadway musicals, and experimental performance pieces.

Onstage, a handful of appealing young performers sang excerpts from Little Johnny Jones, Showboat and many

more hit Broadway shows. Musical numbers from *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Cradle Will Rock* were interwoven with excerpts from *Vanessa*, *Susannah*, *The Consul*, and *Four Saints in Three Acts* to help chart the development of the American musical toward a more operatic format. Excerpts from Laurie Anderson's *O Superman*, Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*, and Stanley Silverman's *Elephant Steps* helped incorporate new dimensions of performance art into the proceedings.

I mention this event (which was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts) because, in addition to being a fine piece of musical pastiche, it is a show which deserves to be toured to college campuses, regional performing arts centers, and perhaps used as a national presentation at some future World's Fair.

It offers audiences a grand night of singing which is a helluva lot better than reruns of *Love Boat*.

SECOND TIME AROUND

Speaking of reruns, under the leadership of Dwight Boves, the Fort Worth Opera recently mounted a revised edition of Stephen Paulus' second opus, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. With handsome sets designed by San Francisco's Jesse Hollis and costumes by Marjorie McCown, this produc-

Circus Vargas to Benefit AIDS Foundation

On Thursday, May 30, at 8 p.m., Circus Vargas is returning to downtown San Francisco and has offered to donate all proceeds from its opening-night performance, "Night At The Circus," to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"Night At The Circus" will feature special appearances by Willie McCovey and Gina Mosecone, who are serving as Honorary Ringmasters for the Big Top which will be located at the corner of Fourth and Howard Streets, opposite Moscone Center, in downtown San Francisco. For information and ticket sales contact the City Box Office at 392-4400. Tickets are also available at BASS, Ticketron, Headlines, and All American Boy.

STAGE



Peter Newton (top) and Gary Aylesworth combine stand-up comedy and bullfighting in the *Matador Club*.

Male Experience

by Bernard Spunberg

Ferocious emotional intensity ignites *The Matador Club*, a play by Gary Aylesworth now onstage at the Valencia Rose. Aylesworth's richly textured, powerful work dramatizes the tragedy of men playing the game of life according to bankrupt rules. Too bad the players are unwilling to admit they can't win. They've all got too much invested.

Performed by Aylesworth, who also directed, and Peter Newton, the play uses bullfighting and stand-up comedy as interchangeable metaphors for the male experience. Both the bullfighter and the comedian achieve success by killing 'em. And as it is in the ring and on the stage, so it is in life. Men can play possum for a minute, but must always retain the upper hand. They may never confess vulnerability. Only anger and ego may be freely expressed.

The action caroms mainly between the dressing rooms of Manolete, the legendary bullfighter, and Cal "Biff" Packote, a comedian. Both are washed up—used up, really. Both are pushed out into the arena one last time. For that last performance, both Manolete and Biff break the rules. They drop their manly masks and allow themselves to be human. The price they pay for reclaiming their humanity is high.

The Matador Club requires multiple characterizations from both actors, and Aylesworth and Newton perform with dazzling virtuosity. Thin and wiry, Newton plays the two doomed performers with contrast as sharp as that made by two different actors. Newton projects Manolete's aristocratic, patrician public image with teeth slightly bared and skin pulled tight over high cheekbones. In private, Manolete's public persona proves soluble in alcohol. Newton gives Biff, the comedian, spiritual and physical fatigue sufficient weight to make the character cave in on himself.

Aylesworth plays boish newspaper reporters, a whole platoon of terrible comedians, and instructors at bullfighting and stand-up comedy schools

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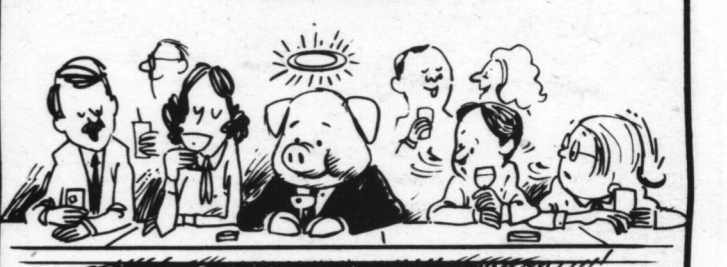
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STAGE

Evil Mother

by Terry Baum

When you're sitting in an audience and you hear someone behind you whisper during a blackout, "That's a wonderful metaphor!" you know you're at the Magic Theater watching its latest imitation Sam Shepard discovery.

According to the playwright, Tom Strelch, *Neon Psalms* is about "loss of loved ones, basically. Well, maybe not loved ones... but anything cherished," which by his own admission he has never experienced, but enjoys speculating on. *Neon Psalms* is not the worst imitation Sam Shepard I've ever seen. I almost always understood what the characters were talking about. Whether I cared was another matter.

It's difficult to care about this gaggle of failed American dreamers: the old desert rat who loves turtles, his fanatic Christian wife, their waitress daughter, and Ray, the propane delivery man. Actually, that's not true. I did care about Ray. Brian O'Sullivan gave the character a Teddy Bear cuddli-



Bruce Mackey as Luton Mears in *Neon Psalms*

sure there was, but the Magic people chose a play that would send people home with a bagful of metaphors and symbols.

Yes, we can all look down on Patina, the crazy Christian. Few of us think the world might end tomorrow. Few of us hears Jesus telling us what to do. And when

you saw one of those onstage?

Besides seeing an Evil Mother, you can also see an old pickup truck, two metal sheds, a small trailer, a picnic table, a child's swimming pool, some tumbleweeds, and 40 tons of sand. The set, designed by Peggy McDonald, takes up about three-quarters of an acre in an enormous, drafty pier at Fort Mason. While it's an admirable concept and impressive logistic accomplishment, all that space has a disastrous effect on the play. The actors must shout across the echoing land, and the audience needs binoculars to see their expressions. What the actors need is intimacy, in order to establish relationships with each other, despite the obstacles of the script. But the enormous playing area sabotages any attempts they might make. Meanwhile, the audience is freezing its buns off. If you do go to *Neon Psalms*, dress warmly, or you'll regret it. Perhaps the tenor of this review was affected by the fact that, through most of the play, I was thinking about my heated waterbed. ■

Neon Psalms
Through June 2
Magic Theater, 441-8822

'I know there are Evil Mothers in the world. But, damn it, there are Evil Fathers too.'

ness that was a great relief from the manic eccentricity that preceded him.

All of the actors handled their parts admirably and believably. Bruce Mackey, in particular, appeared to be the crusty old Luton Mears, rather than just acting him. Roberta Callahan created an interesting and unpleasant Bible-thumping Patina Mears. And Jacinta Gorringer did well as Barbara, the daughter who can't quite get it together but won't give up trying.

But what is there to say about a script that cares more about symbols than people? If it's not a withered Avocado plant, it's a man accidentally driving off a cliff. If it's not a squashed box turtle, it's a *Bonanza* rerun on TV.

The playwright has, for the most part, substituted interaction between people and symbols for interactions between people and people. Thus, his attitude towards these characters, and our attitude also, is a rather amused condescension as he manipulates them through a maze of metaphors in order to make points.

And what points are made? The usual fashionable ones: People are isolated; it's so hard to communicate; the family is a rat's nest of unresolved hostilities; the American Dream ain't what it's cracked up to be. So what else is new?

I am sick and tired of seeing plays by straight white men that have nothing to say except how awful life is. It seems this segment of the population, even though it has it made (Strelch is a computer programmer with a loving family), see only desolation and hopelessness. So why don't they shut up? Well, why should they, when they win all the prizes? *Neon Psalms* was selected by Magic from 1,500 scripts for the CBS Playwrighting Award. Wasn't there one script among the 1,500 that concerned something more relevant to the audience at Magic than a born-again Christian who poisons her husband's dog? I'm

she turns out to be the source of everything bad that happens in the play, from freeing box turtles to poisoning dogs to having said something (we never find out what) to her son that caused him to go off and die, then we have full blown that time-honored theatrical tradition: The Evil Mother.

I am also sick and tired of Evil Mothers. I know there are Evil Mothers in the world. But, damn it, there are Evil Fathers too, and when was the last time

Fifth Position

(Continued from page 23)

Opera Ballet, and remember loving it. Today I perceive the drollery that permeates all Christensen's humor. That it is Christensen's most performed work is stranger still, but there is the proof: people like a light ballet. The first scene involves the capture of a male thief by a regiment of Amazons whose militarism is demonstrated by their *grands battements* to the front and the side, a symbolism also favored by Balanchine as far back as *The Four Temperaments*. The captain of the

tinguishes every production it touches. That aspect alone led the program a grandeur we rarely see anymore.

The Christensen repertory seems to encompass every type of work being created in ballet over the past 30 years, but each ballet is marked by an unmistakable, sometimes incomprehensible individuality. Unlike ballet choreographers whose stimulus is almost exclusively musical, like Balanchine, or preponderantly theatrical, like Smuin, Christensen's inspiration seems to have come from everywhere, at random, and apparently not always based on the needs of the company or the au-

'The captain of the Amazons regards the diminutive thief as a pet and attempts to keep him, to his horror.'

Amazons regards the diminutive thief as a pet and attempts to keep him, to his horror. In the unrelated scene II, a flirtatious wife entertains a variety of suitors in her husband's absence and inevitably gets caught. Scene III mixes all the characters in a hilarious burlesque which is finally set right by "Amor": love conquers all. Both revivals, *Con Amore* and *Don Juan*, have wardrobes built by New York's Grace Costumes, an old-world house that dis-

ciency. Dance critic laureate Arlene Croce (the *New Yorker*) summed up an analysis by suggesting Christensen's ballets "hold a provocative secret." I know what she means, but I don't know the secret. Five more Christensen ballets are slated for next season, giving us all an opportunity to review the company's prime mover through the beginnings of its controversial new regime. ■

K. White

STAGE



'Tonight is going to be everything you ever dreamed of' — Joanna Miles (r.) tells daughter Ann Hearn before *The Debutante Ball*. Of course it's really the social-climbing mother who's been dreaming about it.

Successful Plays About Failure

by Steve Warren

One of the last places I'd expect criticism of U.S. Latin American policy is a grenade's throw from John Wayne Airport, in the shadow of the Orange County Performing Arts Center, under construction at a cost of \$65.5 million. But that's where South Coast Repertory, a company that doesn't shrink from expanding its audience's point of view, is presenting Keith Reddin's *Rum and Coke*, one of two current world premieres at its Costa Mesa complex. The other is *The Debutante Ball* by Beth Henley, best known for *Crimes of the Heart*.

Rum and Coke is billed as a "docu-satire," and it reminds us that satire isn't always laugh-out-loud funny. How many times, for instance, did you guffaw reading *Gulliver's Travels*? The Bay of Pigs fiasco is brought down to the personal level of a brother and sister. In the beginning she's an investigative reporter for *Time* and he's recruited by the CIA to train Cuban exiles in Guatemala for a counter-revolution against Castro. By the end he's lost his ideals after we cut off support to the rebels in the war we got them into, while his sister has been co-opted to become a government stooge.

I suppose right-wingers can take *Rum and Coke* as a condemnation of the weakness of Democratic President Kennedy and the need for a harder line and full military support to stop Communism in its tracks, while to those of us on the left it's a call to stay out of other countries' affairs. It takes a certain skill to write with an ambiguity that will please both sides—the movie *Patton* comes to mind, though we'd both like to think our message is the only one that can be gotten from the play. It's still

a valuable and entertaining history lesson, however you interpret that history. It's excellently staged by South Coast Rep's producing artistic director David Emmes with brilliant use of sound, projections, and simple sets. * * *

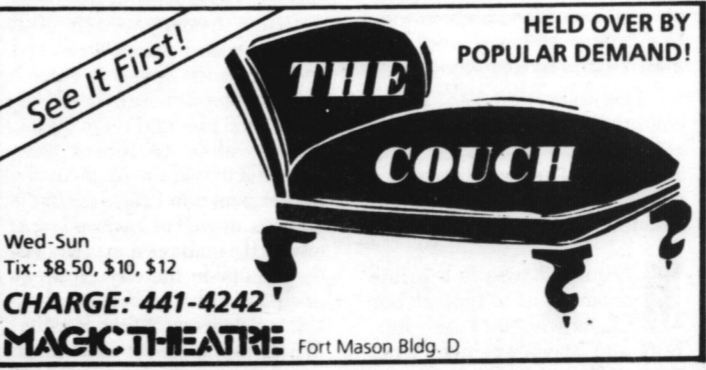
The Debutante Ball presents another of Beth Henley's Mississippi Gothic families, with the accent on the women. I'd love to see Joanne Woodward in the role, but Joanna Miles is fine as Jen, who marries repeatedly for money and is not above killing the occasional husband when the need arises. Her younger daughter is coming out—as a deb—at the expense of Hank, Jen's latest spouse, and a part Jack Nicholson should play.

Act One introduces the family and sets up the situations. The ball, "a complete and irredeemable failure" of Bay of Pigs proportions, takes place during intermission, after which everyone is brought to their lowest ebb but most find new strength, sometimes in surprising ways.

For about five minutes *The Debutante Ball* is a Gay play, as two women begin an unexpected physical liaison and a man is revealed as the "queer" in the family closet, unfortunately equated in the dialogue with being a murderer. These incidents are soon lost amid the melodramatic flood of events and revelations. In Henley's South, dogs are killed by watermelons rolling off checkout counters, and a legitimate child is as rare as a virgin birth.

When it's over we can say with the older sister, "It's all been very byzantine." ■

The Debutante Ball, through May 12
Rum and Coke, through May 19
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FILM CLIPS

Just One of The Guys

Seeing is Deceiving

With an infinite number of monkeys grinding out an infinite number of teenage movies, they were bound to come up with a winner eventually—but three so far this year is more than we dared hope for. On the heels of *The Breakfast Club* and *The Sure Thing* comes *Just One of the Guys*, which sugar-coats its message of sexual equality and never loses its spirit of fun.

As usual, the cast looks far too old for high schoolers. Two of the three leads can—and should—graduate directly to grown-up roles. Joyce Hyser, who acts at times like Barbara Harris, feels discriminated against in a school journalism contest because of her gender. Naturally she transfers immediately to a school across town which has a later deadline. Oh, and she enrolls as a boy, having been blessed with the androgynous name Terry.

Ignore about 75 implausibilities in that set-up and Hyser's performance will help you accept the premise. She's certainly more believable than Streisand's middle-aged teenager in *Yentl*. From then on the dialogue is mostly funny and the situations mostly silly. Terry befriends the handsomest guy in school, Clayton Rohner, and

helps him overcome his shyness, then lives to regret it when she falls for him herself.

Terry's 15-year-old brother, Billy Jacoby, is constantly horny: "I've had lots of sex. It's just that now I'd like to try it with a partner." In a cute scene he teaches her to scratch her crotch, and when she stuffs a pair of socks down her pants to help the illusion he says, "Maybe I oughta try that."

Other than a couple of insensitive, overdeveloped hunks, all of the characters are treated with respect by first-feature director Lisa Gottlieb. Even school bimbo Sherilyn Fenn, other-worldly

Arye Gross and Robert Fieldsteel, and reptile freak Stuart Charno are presented non-judgmentally as representing alternative lifestyles. Because a woman directed we get more female (rear) nudity than female—Hyser bears her chest briefly to make a point.

Even after deducting points for naming the little brother Buddy and making Phoenix look like Southern California, *Just One of the Guys* comes out a winner. It shows that some girls want to do more than have fun, and they're capable of pulling it off. ■

(Northpoint, Plaza) S. Warren

Maria's Lovers

The Dear Hunter

When half the people at a press screening laugh at a film's big dramatic scene, there's not much point in opening the movie locally. Just past the midpoint of *Maria's Lovers*, Nastassja Kinski confronts her husband John Savage, who has been impotent with her, with the news that she's seen him making love to Anita Morris. Savage takes his dick out and waves it at her, yelling in his Brando-est manner that she should cut it off and indicating a knife buried in a watermelon on the kitchen table. If one person in the theater laughs, everyone's going to laugh.

That's not the picture's first mood-breaker. Kinski, who should be seen but not heard, scores that the first time she opens her mouth and sounds like a valley girl with a trace of a European accent. It's okay, as it turns out, be-

cause Maria moved to Pennsylvania from Yugoslavia as a child. Savage was her childhood sweetheart and carried her memory through a Japanese prison camp in World War II.

The first American feature by Russian emigre Andrei Konchalovsky, who gave us the sprawling bore *Siberiade*, *Maria's Lovers* is beautifully photographed and features some excellent acting within the limitations of the script. Savage is better in some scenes than he's ever been, and Kinski's good when she keeps her mouth shut.

Cannon, the company that gave you *Bo-lero*, relieves the melodrama with occasional steamy, R-rated sex scenes—Savage on Morris, Savage on Kinski, Carradine on Kinski, and Kinski on herself.

Lovers of arty trash will love *Maria's Lovers*—as long as nobody laughs. ■ (Mercury) S. Warren



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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Women in the League

The San Francisco Pool Association And the Women Who Could

by Dianne Gregory

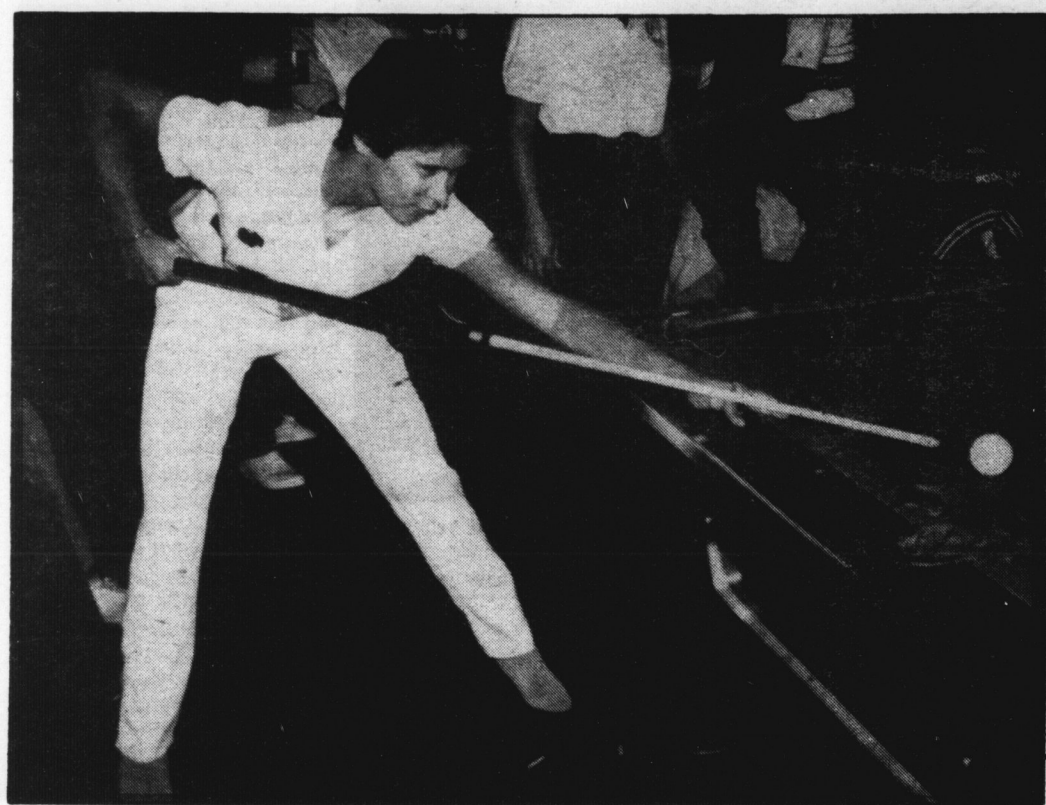
All eyes in the smoky room are on the pool table. Some watch with mild interest and others with an intensity that borders on the hypnotic. The chalkboard carries a long list of names that represents a two-hour wait to play. Some of the players on the list are the equivalent of Sunday morning duffers, while others sink their balls with a sureness and authority many envy.

This scene is repeated in women's bars across the city and across the nation every night and some afternoons. A casual observance of this activity might lead you to believe, with the expenditure of all this psychic energy, that these women must be some of the most zealous pool players around.

But it's not true, if membership in the San Francisco Pool Association is any gauge. There are only two all-women teams in the league—both sponsored by the same bar—and only 22 women members altogether out of 155. Yet two of those members, Lisa Duncan and Marquita Booth, are currently ranked among the league's top-ten players. Lauren Ward, Lisa's



Lauren Ward (l.) and Lisa Duncan at home (Photo: Rink)



Marquita Booth

(Photo: Rink)

lover, is ranked 13th.

"There is no reason in pool for women not to be as good as men," said Ward, who is head referee for the league. "Women can get discouraged if their capability is not as advanced. Others feel being exposed to better players helps them improve. It's a matter of women wanting to go outside their cliques at the bars. Alot don't feel the drive to do that." Duncan agrees.

"I used to watch the guys, to learn strategy," she said, "and now I'm kicking their asses."

Lisa and Lauren met over the pool table at Peg's Place a little more than three years ago. They now have a table of their own at the house they share on Page Street, and Duncan's game has benefited by her association with Ward. As late as the Fall '83 season Duncan finished at the number 72 spot in the league's rankings. Since then she has come in second in the Fall '84 Most Valuable Player tournament, fourth in the Fall

'84 9 Ball Championship, and second in the Spring '84 Class "A" tournament. She recently qualified to play in the Spring '85 8 Ball Championship and is ranked fourth in the league.

"I'd been playing quite awhile in the bars in Healdsburg (California), but when I came to the city and started playing at Peg's I got real serious," said Duncan. "You can always learn pool. It's one of the most basic games to learn."

'You can always learn pool. It's one of the most basic games to learn.'

"There are certain levels in pool," said Ward, explaining that making sure the cue ball ends up where you want it after a shot is the single most important ingredient to a good pool game. "Very few women can control the cue. I don't understand why. Pool is the only sport I can think of where there is no reason for women not to perform equally."

But perform they don't, at least in the form of league play. Both Duncan and Ward are concerned about this.

"Players in the league are extremely supportive and encouraging," said Ward. "No one (in the league) would qualify as a professional player, . . . but, like any skill sport, there are some with natural talent. It is highly competitive. All good players want desperately to win. I've beaten the best and I've been beaten by the worst."

"The main ingredient in becoming involved in a team is to get along with the players," said Duncan. "The best teams are people who know each other and decide to form a team."

Marquita Booth is a prime example of a typical bar player who has found support and encouragement from the San Francisco Pool Association.

She began playing the game informally three years ago, and only got serious about it two years ago. She started playing pool for "entertainment, getting out and trying to meet people." Then she started habituating the Town and Country billiards hall in Daly City and the men there "showed me alot of the basics."

"I'm trying to get my whole mind into it," said Booth, "to block everything else out. I want to put everything into it."

That concentration has certainly payed off. In her first season, the Spring of '84, she won 14 games and lost 16. In the Fall of '84 she won seven and lost 11. At the end of this season she is ranked sixth with 21 wins and seven losses. She is also making a name for herself among league players.

"I've never been in a position where people notice me," Booth said. "It's kind of freaking me out, but I can't say I don't enjoy it. I think it's important for the ladies. Pool is such an intense game. People expect you to win."

Actually, Booth should be used to the recognition, or at least notoriety. She was one of the first girls allowed to play in Little League baseball, and still plays for a softball team in Larkspur. She is also concerned about the lack of women in the pool league.

"I know there are women out there who want to play," said Booth, "but there's really nowhere to go. (The league) is a blast. I love all the people—they're great."

One way for women to get more involved in the game will come next summer with the Gay Games. There will be open competition between men and women in individual 9 ball, and separate men's and women's competition in team and individual 8 ball and team 9 ball. There will be qualifying tournaments to win the opportunity to represent San Francisco in the Games, as well as various larger cities. If you have a mailing address outside the city, you can probably just send in an application to represent that locality. Watch this space for more information.

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Another Opening Another Season

The Community Softball League 1985 season opening day festivities, held April 28, were definitely the most successful in many years. The theme for this year's opener was "We Are The World—We Are The Child-

ren," and we certainly were. As I looked up at the crowd I couldn't remember ever seeing a more diverse crowd.

TGWEDNESDAYNBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

A League is Born

At Park Bowl two Sundays ago at 9:30 a.m., a brand-new, bright-eyed, bouncing baby bowling league was brought into being. It weighed in at eight 4-person teams, and will not be sanctioned. The before brunch bowling bunch responsible for this happy event has chosen to name it The Rent-A-Lane League. Kinda catchy, isn't it?

There were no natal complications to speak of, except, shortly after the birth, a few concerned participants did verbalize their fear the infant league was a bit under weight, while other were quick to reassure them the new addition to the Gay bowling world was simply petite. In either case, the feisty little devil shows no signs of being bothered. Just to be on the safe side though, the Lilliputian league's creators have decided to encourage swift weight gain by proclaiming open membership.

The newborn RALL's older brothers and sisters (the TGMBL, TGWBL, and TGTBL) are just proud of their new companion and promise to do everything they can to ensure the fledgling league grows up to be healthy and strong, just like them.

So, dear ones, if any of you would care to share in the Rent-A-Lane League's Sunday morning dose of fun and competition, you need only be present at Park Bowl before 9:30 a.m., or contact Mal Garcia at 776-1324.

While we are on the subject of the new, there are a few new teams in the TGWBL about which a couple of words of caution may not be out of order. For instance, watch out for the Pretenders—they are not kidding! Also, keep your eyes on For Your Eyes Only, for their eyes are on first place! Finally, Hazel's Precision Bowlers jumped up seven team standing positions in only two weeks. Do you think their name really means something?

This summer season displays all the early symptoms of evolving into an all-out, nose-to-nose, winner-take-all finish. To give you an idea of just how stiff the competition already is, here are the 200+ Club members for May 1.

Rob Mallin (636 srs.) 214 243
Keith Ray (602 srs.) 204 238
Tandy Belev 228
Hank Givan (619 srs.) 220 204
Ray Padua 220
Ralph Bremner 220
Frank Cloutier 216 202
Whirl Grey 208
Jack Hiatt 204
Allan Winkle 204
Gary White 204
Randy Peterson 202
Allen Price 202
Les Farr 201

Also, a special congrat is extended to Gary White. It's not every Wednesday a bowler with a 147 average bowls a 200+ game.

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings and Personal Achievements

SUNDAY RENT-A-LANE LEAGUE

(Week 1 of 16 - as of 4/28/85)

League Average: 548

1. The Krewes	3	1
2. Jerry's Girls	3	1
3. Hangover Harlots	2	2
4. Lane Sleepers	2	2
5. Battle Zone	2	2
6. Trax	2	2
7. Haight-Ashbury	1	3
8. Nads	1	3

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE

(Week 4 of 19 - as of 4/29/85)

League Average: 744

1. Grand Central	12	4
2. Unknown Bowlers	12	4
3. Capricorn Coffees I	11	5
4. Transfer	11	5
5. Park Bowl	8	8
6. Capricorn Coffees II	8	8
7. The "F" Pins	7	9
8. Welcome Home	7	9
9. Pilsner Inn	6	10
10. San Francisco Gym	6	10
11. Bag Ladies	6	10
12. Pilsner Pointless Sisters	2	14

TAVERN GUILD WEDNESDAY LEAGUE

(Week 3 of 22 - as of 4/24/85)

League Average: 725

1. Ram's Head Bar	11	1
2. Play With It, Ltd.	9	3
3. PWIL Empire	9	3
4. Pilsner I	9	3
5. For Your Eyes Only	9	3
6. Park Bowl	8	4
7. Cafe San Marcos	8	4

8. Eagle II	8	4
9. Pilsner Potlickers	7	5
10. Pendulum	6	6
11. Pilsner Pointless Sisters	6	6
12. Animals	6	6
13. Maud's Marauders	6	6
14. Hazel's Precision Bowlers	6	6
15. Capricorn Coffee 3	5	3
16. Pretenders	4	8
17. Slaughterhaus 5	4	8
18. Pilsner II	3	9
19. David Kelsey's Unmentionables	2	6
20. Team #21	1	11
21. S.F. Eagle I	1	11
22. Company	0	12

THURSDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE

(Week 4 of 22 - as of 4/25/85)

League Average: 550

1. Summer Sluts	12½	3½
2. Queen Mary's Pub	12	4
3. Park Bowl	10	6
4. City Gardens	10	6
5. Team #15	10	6
6. Mental Midgets	10	6
7. Eagle Snacks	9	7
8. Circuit Breakers	9	7
9. Pilsner Pin Ups	8	8
10. Pegasus	8	8
11. Trax	8	8
12. Play With It, Ltd.	7	9
13. Ron's Records	7	9
14. Fourplay I	7	9
15. Ward 86 Bacterii	6½	9½
16. Festus Good Ole Boys	4	12
17. Ward 86 Viruses	3	13
18. Four Keeps	2	14

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

Ginger's Wins 17-12, Festus Keeps Rolling

Ira Clark's gutsy Ginger's team put together its best game of the year in a 17-12 win over the Rookies. Ginger's had lost two tough games, but had enough to pull this one out. Watch out, Phone Booth.

The Rookies then played the Cafe San Marcos, and despite Bob Clary's pitching, hung on for an 18-14 win. In its first game of the day, the Cafe was surprised by the surprising Hamburger Mary's, 8-7. Mary's is tied for fourth place in the Gay Softball League, with a 4-1 record. The producers defeated Amelia's 21-1, and the Village downed Steve Pratt's Maniax 23-8. Ken Smith has a winning team with Trax, even though its record doesn't indicate it.

Bob Viereck hit a grand-slam home run to pace the Pendulum Pirates to a 14-1 win over the Phone Booth. Ray Chalker's Rawhide put forth a supreme effort, but came up short and lost to Chaps, 11-10. We in the G.S.L. send Jeff Stone of Chaps our deepest sympathy on the recent loss of his companion and friend.

I hear Cha Cha is smiling this week even though his Kokpit team lost to Festus, 11-5. One seven-run inning outburst won it for Cliff Wilson's Rowdies. The Vagabond played its best

game of the season and handed the Pilsner a 15-5 thumping. May 14 the Vagabond will really play in the game of the day as the team faces its arch rival, the Kokpit. This is one of those "must see" games.

Don't Forget Sunday, May 12, at 6 p.m., the Kokpit will play the cast of 42nd Street in a benefit game at Lang Field, Turk and Gough Streets. There is no admission charge, but donations will go to a worthy AIDS organization. If you want to have a good time, go out and watch the game.

There are no games scheduled this week.

STANDINGS

CABLE CAR DIVISION	
Festus	5-0
Producers	4-1
Vagabond	3-3
Chaps	2-3
Kokpit	2-3
Phone Booth	2-3
Amelia's	2-4
Rookies	0-6
GOLDEN GATE DIVISION	
Village	6-0
Pendulum	6-0
Hamburger Mary's	4-1
Cafe San Marcos	4-2
Ginger's	1-4
Pilsner Inn	1-4
Trax	1-4
Rawhide	0-5

STANDINGS

Jack McGowan Division	
George Zepp Division	W L
Heinbaugh Legal	2 0
Rockin' Robins	1 0
Overflo	1 1
Ramshead	1 1
Bunkhouse	0 1
Purple Hayes Gang	0 2
Empire Sales	2 0
Everett's	1 0
Cinch	1 0
Nap's Investigators	0 1
Beake Bros.	0 1
Rainbow Cattle Co.	0 2

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DeLuxe D.U.C.K.S. Top Rated

Any way you sort 'em, the Ducks can squawk the loudest. We've all seen the final standings showing the Stallion International with 100 wins and the DeLuxe D.U.C.K.S. with 94, but the best gauge at this point is to add up the records of each team's starting line-up. This puts the Ducks on top. That's because the Stallion's biggest gun is shooting in Texas—Colin Bradley has moved to Houston, and the team's top four (Dave

Chua, Ron McKay, Gino Smith, Bill Von Prillwitz) have a combined total of 80 wins against 41 losses for a .661 winning percent. The starting line-up of the Ducks, however—Lisa Duncan, Soni Sowder, Lauren Ward, and E. Z.—are 83-37 and .691, giving them the edge. The point spread is so thin among the top four, however, that this sort of comparison may prove to be meaningless. To find out, phone J-O-E P-O-O-L

(563-7665), the league's 24-hour information line, and if you hear the report that Eagle Creek Chaos beat the Spare Tires, Festus beat Festus Farmhands, the Ducks beat Shag's Rogues, and the Stallion International beat the Park Bowl Roadrunners, the higher-ranked teams have prevailed. The computer can print out "I told you so," too, if the championship comes down to the Ducks vs. the Stallion with the Ducks taking

home the chips. But you don't have to look back any further than a couple of weeks for the kind of dramatic upsets that prove the unreliability of statistics.

EAGLE CREEK FLOODS OVER

Look at the amazing Eagle Creek Chaos on the final match of the season: they walloped the higher-ranked Festus Farmhands 14-2. Look at their first playoff match: A 9-2 trouncing

of Chaps Outlaws. That's an incredible 23-4 performance in two weeks of competition against tough teams, and it underscores the unpredictability that comes with every post season. Isn't it funny how the balls roll?

Maud's Squad: Nobody in the league would have expected them to finish ahead of both the Transfer Attainable Treasures and Chaps Outlaws, but neither was anybody expecting such improvement from Marti Taylor (up 28%) and Marquita Booth (up 36%).

Completing our starting line-up strength ratings, Festus is third at 71-41 and .633, Eagle Creek Chaos is 4th at 75-45 and .625, followed by Festus Farmhands (.621), DeLuxe Spare Tires (.611), Park Bowl Roadrunners (.601), and Shags Rogues (.545).

First-round match results: Festus Farmhands 9, Maud's Squad 1; Park Bowl Roadrunners 9, B.A. Stallions 1; Eagle Creek Chaos 9, Chaps Outlaws 2; Shags Rogues 9, Bear Bottoms 5.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

E. Z., already the winningest player in the league, set an unbeatable high-water mark at the annual 8 Ball Championship, April 27-28: He won all five matches 3-0. Fifteen straight wins in a major tournament. What more can be said about such an amazing performance? It's never been done in this league before, and probably never will be done again. Simply amazing. He drove all night from Arizona to make it to Chaps for the tournament—"It was snowing in the Grand Canyon," he told us during his warm-up—and suffered with a headache both days.

Congratulations to John Schou, finishing 2nd, Charles Dossett in 3rd, and Billy Kazee (still on crutches) in 4th.

Here's a new challenge for E. Z.: Win a tournament in your sleep. E. Z. C'mon, let's see it.

People With AIDS In Bay to Breakers

The Bay to Breakers run will see two entrees from the People With AIDS group. John Lorenzini, who heads People With AIDS, ran last year's Bay to Breakers. He will be joined this year by Dr. Hal Dillehunt. While they don't anticipate finishing first, they don't plan on being last either.

This year's event is also a fundraiser to support the activities of People With AIDS. Included in the activities of the organization are educational forums for the community, providing speakers for other organizations, a switchboard for people with AIDS, and coordination of social activities. People With AIDS is looking for sponsors of the run. You may give from one dollar a mile to as much as you like per mile. The course is seven and one-half miles long.

For more information contact People With AIDS, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

GENE MILLER

BAY AREA REPORTER
B.A.R. BAZAAR



MR. MARCUS

Success, We Like Success!

Carl Berry, who staged and directed the Closet Ball last Saturday night, pulled out all the stops for this year's edition of "S.F.'s Most Outrageous Coming Out Party." A glittering audience of people who are into high camp converged on what may be the last BIG Gay function at the Japan Center Theatre. The casual observer may have thought the contest was in the lobby and in the audience, so fluffily was the off-stage action.

Nevertheless, the glitz and gaudiness of the show itself carried over into the final judging and led Tony Taboada—in a screaming crescendo of red satin, ruffles, castanets, and feathers—to the title of Closet Ball Queen 1985-86.

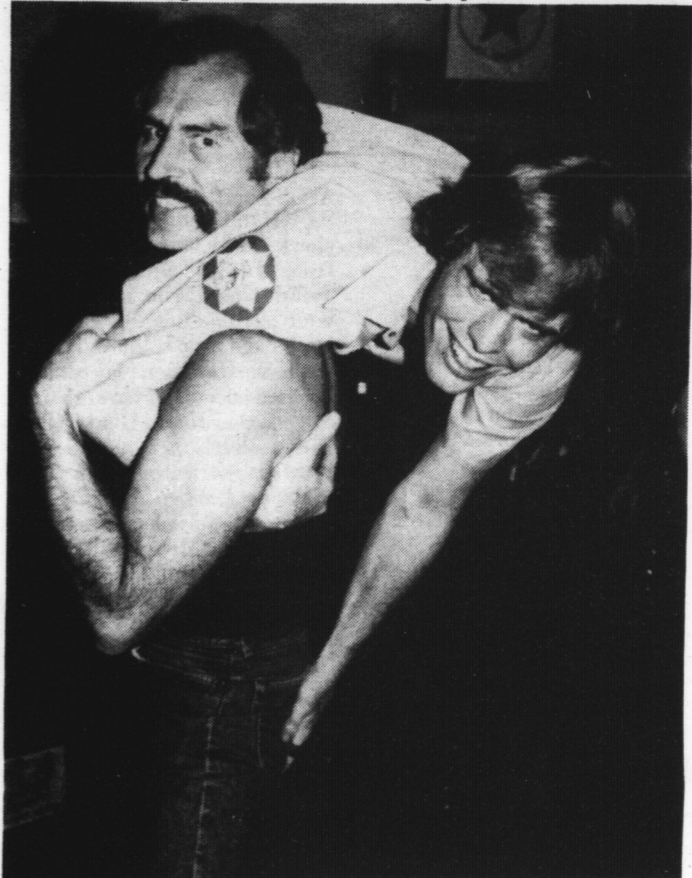
The winner first appeared in faded Levi's, a brown leather jacket (sans shirt) and a black cowboy hat, showing off a hairy, ripply chest and an Emiliano Zapata moustache. Later on, the audience applauded him with screams of delight as he cascaded all over the 22-step staircase enroute to the title that has no official obligations.

Michelle, the Mistress of Ceremonies, wasted little time getting the split-timing of the show off to a good start, which was preceded by a lengthy medley of show tunes lip-synched by the "oldies but goodies" of yesteryear, drag entertainers who have deserted the bright lights for some years now, including Faye, Mavis, Brandy, Dale Evans, Nancy, Lova Lei, and Pat Montclair. In this tribute to Broadway shows, the clear show-stoppers were Mavis miming Streisand's "I'd Rather Be Blue," roller skates and all, and the outrageous Shannon, a la Dolly Parton, that shook, rattled, and stomped the stage to

tumultuous ovation.

Oh, it was grand all right. In the final production number, it was Pat Montclair, The Queen of all drag queens in SF would have had the original cast of La

transition of a man into an authentic illusion (the key word, illusion) of femininity gets lost in the emotion of the audience's unending quest for glitz, and the true purpose of the Closet Ball



Chris Noll gets carried away by Richard Locke at the benefit for the Committee to Preserve our Sexual and Civil Liberties at Chaps last weekend (Photo: Rink)

Cage Aux Folles in shock with his presentation.

As usual, no complaints on this year's production. The show was fast moving, ended promptly at 2300, and everyone seemed satisfied with the winner.

But as in all previous years,

gets lost when the judges yield to the crowd's reaction to glitter and the classic "drag" ensembles always lose out to the glitz. With all due respect to the contestants and their very talented and gifted creators, the Closet Ball queen should always be the man who makes the transition most effectively from a macho man to the epitome of femininity—and femininity in the Closet Ball context should clearly be classic drag, not show-biz costumes. Carl Berry surely deserves the highest accolades for his efforts this year—it was a blast!



Tony Toaboda, Closet Ball Queen '85, with her creator, Carter (Photo: Rink)

Mexican Independence (from the French) was celebrated around town; the biggest bash was the Cinco de Mayo parade in the Mission last Saturday; they were cracking pinatas at the A.S.S. on Fillmore and in the patio of the SF-Eagle Sunday with the Barbary Coast Cloggers and other clog groups stomping out the floor boards as well. Over at Chaps Bar that night, they raised some \$800 with Sister Boom-Boom MC-ing for the Committee to Preserve our Sexual and Civil Liberties with a big crowd on hand.

Last Wednesday, a big crowd convened at the Kokpit to "party" in honor of the late Empress VI Cristal, and on Thursday the entire staff of B.A.R. gathered at Rooney's on 9th Street for a sumptuous banquet in celebration of our 14th Anniversary.

A few short blocks away, that cute David Freeman managed

to get more than 200 people to pose for a Gay Freedom Day poster photographed by Tony Plewik and garnered the SF Papparazzi and TV coverage.

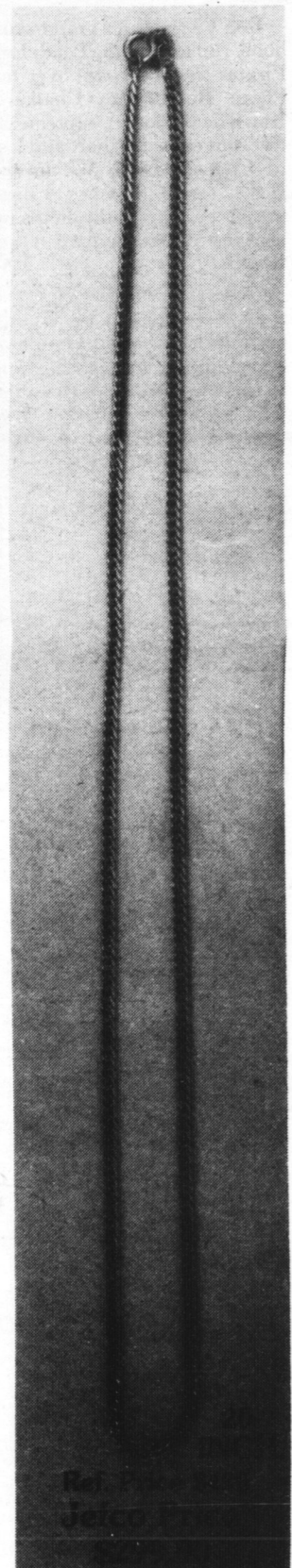
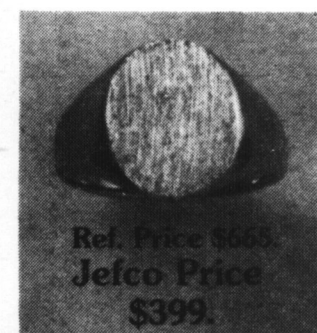
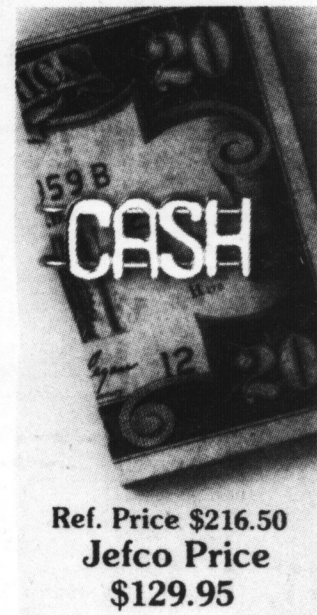
It was a busy week all right, and it doesn't look like it will slow down either.

So what's coming up that may interest you? The 1st International S&M Run takes place in Seattle this weekend (May 10, 11 & 12) with our own Knights Templar, the Seattle Dungeon Guild, and the Vancouver Activists in S&M celebrating the

"Rites of Manhood." You can still make it by calling Jim at 863-0476 or if you're in Seattle, call Lance or Jim at (604) 324-1636.

If you find yourself in the Big Apple next weekend, May 19, the GMSMA is having its annual Leather County Fair at the Mineshaft from 1500 to 1700. This Sunday (May 12) is Mothers Day, and they're having a tea dance at Trocadero beginning at 1700 and featuring Loleatta Holloway for a \$5 tariff. Ms. H. makes an exclusive West Coast appearance at (Continued on next page)

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MARCUS

(Continued from previous page)

the Troc before her European tour; Sunday the Constantines stage its annual Twelve Incher one-day run—check in at Febe's between 12 Noon and 1300 for the run (Cost: \$6) and a beer bust at the SF-Eagle afterwards.

The annual Bartenders Bash at the WOODS on the RushRiv is Tuesday, May 14, with Ms. Peckerhead Mc-ing and buses leaving 18th and Castro at 2 p.m. (\$15 round trip) and featuring JO-LO and Marga Gomez onstage.

On Thursday, May 16, the untiring Rita Rockett is throwing a party to raise money for dinners on Ward 5-B at the Castro Station from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. And on Friday, May 17, we have Dinners on Daddy, a fundraiser by Mr. SF Eagle Leather Pete Pettine. Win a dinner with Mr. Carnival David Stoll, Mr. Chaps Patrick Toner, or Mr. Detour James Hamrick, to be auctioned off, including Sonny Cline. David Stoll will MC and entertainment by David Andez, the

Four Tops and A Bottom, Tito and Billy Carter—don't miss this one! It's a benefit for the Food Supplement Program of the SF AIDS Foundation.

On Saturday, May 18, the Cable Car Awards present the one-hour video of this year's awards at the Trocadero Transfer at 8:30 p.m. (\$5 tickets) on the Troc's new GIANT screen and spectacular sound system. The Cheaters M/C three-day run is scheduled for May 24-27, the theme this year being "Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes" at a site in Calaveras County. The tariff for the season's opener is \$80 and includes everything, as usual. Call Ed at 621-3152 for more info. That should keep you out of trouble for the next few weeks!

True to his word, Allen Carr, the movie producer and theatrical genius, forwarded his check for \$10,000 to the Board of Directors of the Cable Car Awards, earmarked for certain charities and seed money for next year's presentation which will take place in the Herbst Theatre of the War Memorial



The royal court turned out for Empress Cristal's wake at the Kokpit May 1 (Photo: Rink)

Building next year—a great place!

DISH DISHTURBER

Most Eagerly Awaited Display of Camp is Sonny Cline's vow last week that he will "step down" from his current title in FULL DRAG. Ken Bergquist will fly in from Florida to be his Lady-In-Waiting! . . . Most Dishconcerting News From A Los Angeles Leather Bar: The Phoenix, after staging two competitions already, has decided it cannot afford to send a contestant to Chicago for Intl. Mr. Leather. Result: JC Corbett resigned in much "agida" and is now looking for a job here in Mecca; Most Surprising News About a Leather Man: John Ponce, the former leather title holder now living in Los Angeles, has announced a June 1 wedding to a WOMAN. I heard it in the basement of MACY'S, where one of John's admirers was shopping for a dinnerware set in the expensive section!

The Bound and Determined Award of the Season goes to Dean Gibson, who, failing to win a berth to the Intl. Mr. Leather Contest from his own stomping grounds, went to L.A. and entered the Regional California Leather Contest at Greg's Blue Dot (NOT a leather bar) and came in FIRST. The blonde, tanned, blue-eyed Daddy's Boy of 1985-86 is ecstatic, as are all his loyal supporting swans, ducks, vultures, and black birds, and perhaps a silver eagle!

You know the honeymoon, or the marriage, is over when you get kicked out of your love nest and have to sleep in your car in the parking lot of the bar you work in—that's what happened to a San Francisco leather maven who recently moved to LAX for "True Love" and found instead "True Grit" and will soon be back in his digs in Bernal Heights and in the loving arms of Marilyn, Jane, and Sarah. Have you seen the newer SF-Eagle T-Shirts with the bird's head and FOUR stars? On sale any day now. . . Don't forget the Bare Chest Contest to name Mr. June at the Eagle too on Thursday, May 16 (next week) and a chance to be in the 1986 South of Market Men Calendar!

Tentative candidates for the Wet Boxer Shorts Contest at the Eagle Sunday, May 26 are finding it difficult to buy boxer shorts—something you'll never find at GAY clothing stores. Call 969-0611 for shopping tips and details of the contest being put on by the Bay Area Brigade of A.U.A. as a benefit for the SF

AIDS Fund. . . Speaking of the SF AIDS Fund, they just got a check for \$1,000 as a donation from Judith Gould. Who's Judith Gould, you ask? If you were paying attention some six weeks ago, you'd know Judith wrote the television play Sins to be aired on a major network this fall starring Joan (Alexis) Collins. Judith is, in fact, a macho, tattoo-laden leather man who plays out his own sins in South of Market enclaves and is rather attached to Mike McNamee. Thanks, Judith! I can't wait to

see how Joan reacts when she finds out Judith Gould is a San Francisco leather man!!!

You may now cut this out and place it in the bottom of your bird cage. Until we meet on these pages again next week, remember: Show me someone who never gossips, and I'll show you someone who isn't interested in people. See you 'round the campus, boys and girls. ■

Mister Marcus



Jim Cvitanich was a contestant at the Closet Ball too, even if he has appeared in drag before (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Self-Esteem For Large Women

Radiance, a new national publication supportive of large women, is sponsoring a special two-day retreat. Large women throughout California are invited to attend the Radiance Retreat, to be held at Meadow Lake Camp in the central Sierras the weekend of June 14-16. "We want large women to celebrate their bodies, experience their beauty and power, and really live their lives now—rather than waiting until they lose weight," said Radiance publisher Alice Anfield.

Retreat participants will enjoy this restful setting along with workshops on health, fitness, and self-esteem. A Saturday evening performance has also

been scheduled, which will be of special interest to participants. Morning movement sessions led by San Francisco Bay Area movement teachers for large women will start off each day.

The registration fee for the retreat is \$45. Sleeping and meal accommodations are available through Meadow Lake Camp.

Meadow Lake Camp, a campground/resort for women, is four hours from both the San Fernando Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information about the retreat and to register call Radiance in Oakland at 465-5246 or the Meadow Lake Camp, Auberry, CA at (209) 855-8994. ■

EVEN IN BABYLON

Life in the Old Cabaret Yet

JOHN F. KARR

Tune the Grand Up is a nicely entertaining evening's revue, built upon the chipper songs of Jerry Herman. While the composer of Mame, Hello Dolly!, and La Cage aux Folles has neither produced a seminal work that would change the face of the American musical, nor endured long enough for a retrospective to be revealing, he has produced a body of work that is the perfect accompaniment for a summer evening and a gin-fizz. The songs in Tune the Grand Up fizz merrily by, performed buoyantly by a bright cast, and (for half the evening at least) strongly staged by Paul Gilger and Barbara Valente.

Gilger has grouped the songs under generic headings. Since Herman produces generic show-tunes, this seems an admirable idea. In practice, though, it produces a pleasant but stillborn first act. Such headings as "Optimism," "Harmony," and "Romance" strip the songs of their original context, character, and arrangements without re-envisioning them in any way. The results are generic medleys, skimming the surface of an all too frequently surface composer. Where is the bubbling top and dark underside of Mack and Mabel? Where is the sunny bounce of Hello, Dolly!, the sharp razz-ma-tazz of Mame?

In the second act, that's where. In the evening's latter half, a smiling spin, the relentless flow is stopped. The

reformers are allowed to step out as personalities and suddenly both the music and the show come alive. Act Two features a silent Keystone Cop movie; a tap-routine; the swell sound of four-hand piano; some bitchy, some low-brow, and some witty comedy; and, finally, those quiet moments that touch the heart and open it to that cornball yet lovely outlook on life that is Jerry Herman's gift. Act One of Tune the Grand Up cracks a Venetian blind on the world of Herman's tunes, but Act Two throws open a new window.

John Nockels and Darlene Popovic stand out in the cast of five, he touching the listener with direct emotion, she being her irreplaceable (and ever-more musical) self.

Accompanist/arranger James Followell shines in those capacities, as well as stepping out as an effective singer/narrator. This multi-talented Kewpie is revealed, finally, as a performer, and he's mighty pleasing—as well as adorable in a pair of suspenders.

Your favorite Herman tunes are here, plus a few you didn't remember. Tune the Grand Up is slick, snappy, carefully mounted, and handsomely dressed.

If it's hard to be overtly excited by the Herman revue, it's easy to shout an emphatic



Catch Billy Barnes and Jane A. Johnston when they come back through town.

Hockney to Receive Honorary Doctorate

David Hockney, the internationally celebrated Gay painter, draftsman, and photographer, will receive an honorary doctorate at the San Francisco Art Institute's 107th commencement exercises Sunday, May 19.

Born in Yorkshire, England,

in 1937, David Hockney studied at the Bradford School of Art and the Royal College of Art where, during the early '60s he was a prominent member of the British Pop Art movement. While primarily based in Los Angeles, he now divides his time between Los Angeles, New York, and London. ■



Alma Sayles (l.) and Darlene Popovic in Tune Up the Grand

"huzzah" for the show which preceded it at the 1177 Club. Billy Barnes and Jane A. Johnston are two show-biz vets who are also "Old Friends," which is what they called their show. They did a test-run of one weekend, and I'll crawl on my knees to Los Angeles with this review if it would bring them back. One just doesn't see and hear talent and material like this in many places. Nob Hill becomes Mecca when Billy and Jane A. are around.

Billy Barnes provided star turns and comedy material to the hey-day of television, particularly Laugh-In, and

Johnston has played leads in umpteen Broadway musicals. Alternating their specialties with each other and then joining in duets, they were a lexicon of the cabaret arts and a deluge of musical delight and verbal wit. Barnes' "special material" poked wicked fun at Dynasty and Cyndi Lauper, in tricky rhyme and pert melody. Finian's Rainbow will never lack an "Og" as long as Barnes is around—with his round face, twinkling eyes, and mischievous wit, he's the leprechaun of my dreams.

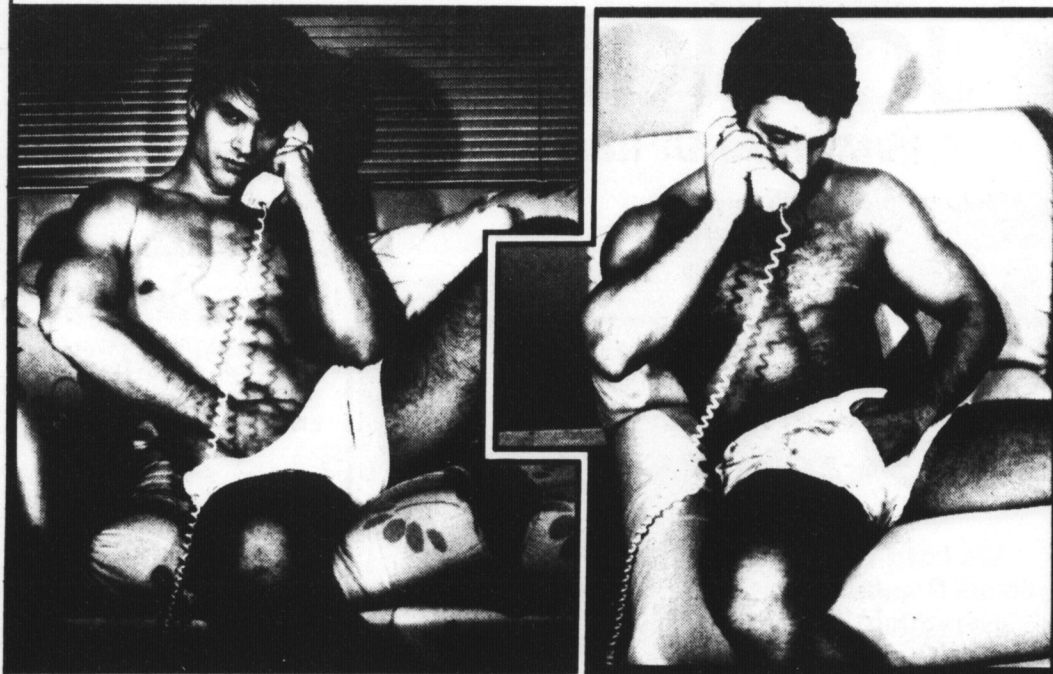
Johnston proved what a solid background musicals offer a

singer by bringing strong acting to bear on her sophisticated song bag. My favorites were Vernon Duke's "What Is There To Say?" and the Dietrich lament, "Das Lied ist aus" (performed, ala Dietrich, in a tux and in German). And "Our Little Den of Iniquity," so wholesomely risqué, made a swell duet.

Please, everyone, hope this pair returns with more songs, and for a longer stay. ■

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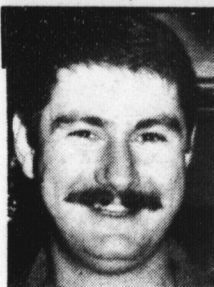
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FRIESE FRAME

As the Press Turns

MARK FRIESE

As the world turns, by a children spend the days of S.F. is not lacking in the talents their lives deciding it they are the young and the restless. Will we have one life to live? Or will we find the young and the restless waiting at the door of the Closet Ball in what appears to be yet another unmitigated success for the producers of said entertainment? The 1985 Closet Ball was just spectacular, what with the entertainers from days past and the new girls who have made their mark on San Francisco history. It is certainly apparent S.F. is not lacking in the talents

that have made us what we are today. Deena Jones, the 1985 Closet Ball Queen, along with Sandy Sorrele, Tawny Gold, and her fine male entourage, gave future C.B. Queens something to live up to. But in the words of Michelle, "Closet Ball is the only title in town that you can win and forget about till next year." It is fortunate for our community that Deena decided to help out so warmly with many endeavors throughout her year. Good luck and best wishes to Deena in all of her future endeavors.

To the new C.B. Queen, Tony Toboada, I will say you were stunning and had to be pretty hot to beat the rest of your stiff competition. Of those, there are many I know for a fact are stiff, and the rest I would like to find out about. Nonetheless, I do congratulate you and your creator, Carter. Carter was the man on the poster of last year's Beaux Arts Ball. May the force be with you.

If you happen to be out and about on the Polkstrasse this evening, be sure to drop by the New Bell Saloon for the Bon Voyage party for John Robertson and myself, which all begins around 9 p.m. and will continue till about 2 a.m. Featured are Fresh Orange Daquiri's with parasols and the whole nine yards, in theme with our vacation to Florida the very next day. See ya there.

The David Information Network will present a party this evening for Gay Games II at the Village in the Castro, from 6 to 10 p.m., with a buffet, videos of Gay Games I, representatives of various sports, and Tom Amiano at 9 p.m. Don't miss this party, and for goodness sakes don't miss Rodger at the Castro Station whenever he is working. The reason is that he is such a zany addition to the great staff of the Station. You can hardly help but feel good after a session with this bearer of fun tidings, and sometimes a bitchy one. Carry on girl!

The party for Empress Cristal at the Kokpit was a party he would have enjoyed, what with Sweetlips and Jose getting in the deep piles of shit over the microphone and the crowd getting off on it just as much, but not half as much as Wayne, John, and myself got off on Sweetlips giving the wrong waiter a \$5 tip at our recent B.A.R. staff banquet at Rooney's. Thank you, Bob, for a fine evening, and also for having John Molinari as our special guest. Once again, thanks to all for raising more than \$300 for AIDS Hospice on behalf of Cristal/Dick Nelson at the Kokpit.



Some of the wilder members of the Band at the Closet Ball (Photo: Rink)

A fond farewell was what happened at Festus last Friday evening, when the city turned out for the going away party for Naomi del Rey, who moved to Des Moines, but will not ever be forgotten in this town. Thank you, Sophie and Naomi, for including the New Bell in your stops while saying goodbye to

and dinner served at 8 p.m. Tickets are available through Sissy, 552-9614, Trixie Trash, 552-4465, or Marlana, 621-6283. Who hasn't Monte done a favor for? Thank you, Monte, for all.

This Saturday, beginning at 4 p.m., there will be a benefit for the AIDS Food Bank of the San

'It is fortunate for our community that Deena decided to help out so warmly with many endeavors throughout her year.'

this fair city. The one thing your visit does bring to mind is how many people this city has that you know, but really don't! Thanks for coming in and the best of luck to you in Iowa. Also, don't miss out on the grand opening of Festus, this Sunday, starting at 12 noon and featuring Linda Lane and the Western Electric Band.

This Saturday evening will be a Thank You dinner for Monte Reddick at Sutter's Mill starting at 6:30 p.m. with a no-host bar

Francisco AIDS Foundation hosted by Michelle, Cowgirl of San Francisco, and John Ewing. The M.C.s for this occasion will be Empress XIV Ginger and Madame Collette Le Grand. There will be judging of country main dishes and desserts, which are to be supplied by the participants of the party. Raffles for a basket of booze will take place during the day. Get your main dish ready, Ronny Lynn, ya here me?

Of course this Sunday is Mother's Day, and for all of you who forgot this memorable occasion, be sure to send something to your mother. I'm sending myself, which I am sure is more than enough for her (no comments please), and if you have taken care of your loving duties, be sure to stop by Lang Field at 7 p.m. on the 12th, when the Kokpit softball team plays against the cast of 42nd Street. This should be fun!

I return on the 19th, and hopefully will have a swell column about the city that Bob Golovich, (congratulations on your Board of Supervisors Award), calls Taaaaaaampa. Don't forget the Bench & Bar in Oakland starts its Strip Delight contest that evening, with cash prizes and a donation to the AIDS charity of the winner's choice. Also that day, the fourth auction of Little Mother and Ed Paulson's will be at the Kokpit, starting at 4 p.m.

Thanks to Steve Suss and Mame, of Portland, for setting up the bar for one hour during the party for Cristal. Mame, of course, will never forget the time I had to call him David, three. I said three times, at the old Bulldog. Thanks to all of you for reading, but most of all, thanks for being you!

Compiled by Karl Stewart

Alternate Philately

Paul Henefeld's award-winning stamp exhibit "Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People" garnered two more prestigious awards at WESTPEX '85, held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel on the weekend of April 26-28. The exhibit received a Vermeil Award, ranking between Silver and Gold, for all-around good marks as a philatelic exhibit, and was further honored with the O'Neill Memorial Award for Best Topical Exhibit.

Paul's collection depicts known or presumed Gay and Lesbian historical personages on stamps, covers, cachets, and other philatelic material. Divided into historical periods, it traces Gay existence from ancient Greek myths through Leonard Matlovich's contemporary fame. A fuller inventory of Paul's collection presents material and notation on Apollo and Hyacinth, Sappho, Alexander the Great, Julius and Augustus Caesar, Popes Sixtus IV and Julius III, Botticelli, da Vinci, Michaelangelo, Carravaggio, James I, Queen Christina of Sweden, Gregorius III, Frederick the Great, Col. Friedrich von Steuben, Alexander Hamilton and Col. Lawrence, Mme de Stael and Mme Recamier, Lord Byron, President James Buchanan, Walt Whitman, Stephen Foster, Horatio Alger, Saint Saens, Tchaikovsky, and Willa Cather.

Popular and philatelic

response to the collection was very enthusiastic, and interest has been expressed in the formation of a local Gay stamp club.

While visiting San Francisco from the greater New York metropolitan area where Paul is men's historian for the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps philatelic study unit, he was the guest of Les Wright, director of the newly revived Gertrude Stein Philatelic Society. Anyone interested in forming a west coast chapter of the GLHS to meet on a regular basis as a Gay stamp club is urged to contact Les, c/o GSPS, P.O. Box 14665, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Variety of Mime

San Francisco comes to entertain Los Angeles in a performance to benefit Aid for AIDS May 23, at 8 p.m. The San Francisco Mime Troupe will perform its critically acclaimed show at the historic Variety Arts Theatre located at 940 South Figueroa St.

Tickets are \$15 per person and include a wine and cheese reception in the luxurious garden room high atop the Variety Arts Centre. Ticket holders can enjoy the refreshing spirits of the no-host bar, as well as meet the cast of the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Tickets for this event may be obtained by calling (213) 658-6028, 467-8331 or the Aid for AIDS office at (213) 461-6959.



Randy Johnson and Kenny Morgan

Armory Classic

Atlanta, GA — Greg Troia, Tournament Director of Armory Classic 2, announced that registration forms for the Annual 4th of July Softball event are now available. There are still seven weeks left before registration closes and because the facilities of Southside Park with all four diamonds will be avail-

able, the sponsors will be able to handle all entrants. However, it would be a good idea for any interested teams to make plans soon. Low plane fares have made it possible for teams from everywhere to come to this year's tournament. San Francisco is only \$129 away and New York, Houston, and Chicago

are even cheaper. If there are any teams who still need a registration form, they should contact the tournament office at Armory Classic 2, 336 5th St. N.E., Suite 3, Atlanta, GA 30308. (404) 873-4332.

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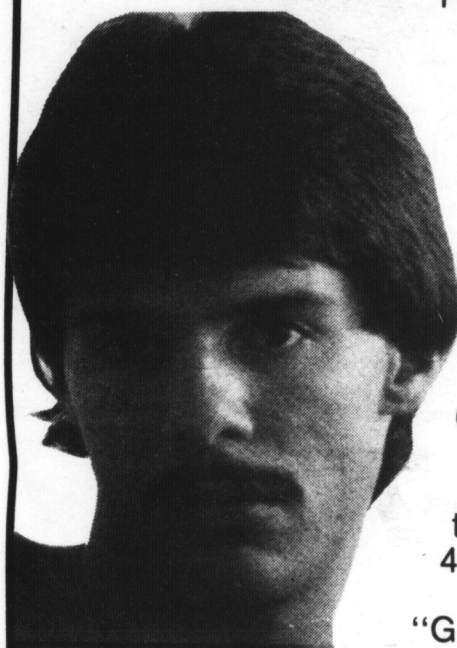
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The ACLU of Northern California is seeking a Membership Coordinator/Fundraiser to work on a permanent, full-time basis under the direction of Associate Director for Development and Public Information.

JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Membership Coordinator 50% New Membership Recruitment Arranges production of all direct mail materials, works with outside contractors for design, printing and mailing, arranges list acquisition, researches direct mail strategies and examples. Also, works with ACLU organizer to design and organize grassroots membership recruitment campaigns.

2. Development Officer (50%). Annual Campaigns. Assists in organizing volunteers in annual high dollar direct donor campaign and annual phonathon.

Events: Responsible for arranging fundraising events and meetings, including annual membership meeting and annual donor recognition dinner.

Research: Assists in researching and identifying prospective individual donors and grant making foundations.

COMPENSATION Salary approximately \$25,000/yr. (depending on experience); four weeks annual vacation; medical, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance; pension plan.

The ACLU is an affirmative action employer. Women, third world men/women, Lesbians, Gay men, disabled people, and people over 55 are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION Please submit a resume and one page cover letter explaining interest in this position to: Development Department, ACLU of Northern California; 1663 Mission Street, Suite 460; San Francisco, California 94103.

Deadline: May 27 (inquiries welcome after this date). Candidates selected for interviews will be notified by telephone. E20

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*P.S. AND CASA CHEFS "GO FOR THE THROAT!"

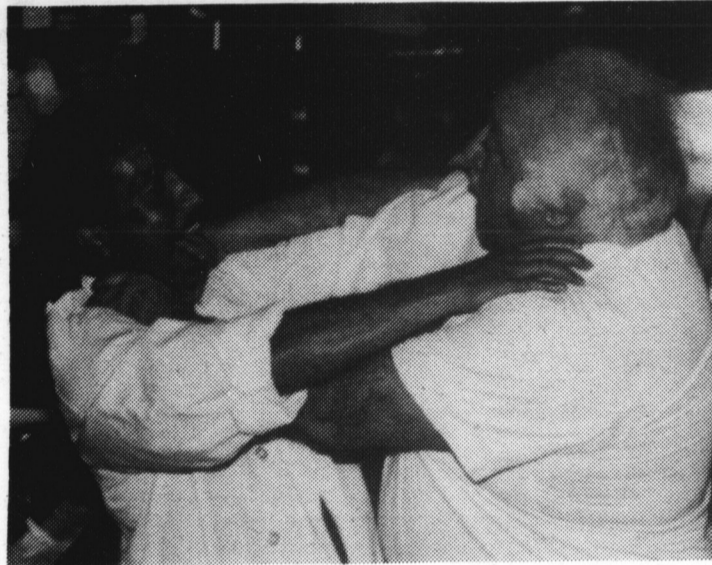


PHOTO BY RANK

"Repetition is reputation!" "No, No! It's 'Reputation is repetition!'" "No, No..."

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—For several weeks now we have been reporting the news about the **half-price madness** at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal restaurants and in a new development today it was learned that the **Head Chefs** of both establishments were at each other's throats fighting for space in the kitchen facilities they share. However, at press time, both chefs had survived and were **on the job** whipping out those marvelous **half price entrées!**

In case you have been sequestered watching old *Dynasty* reruns and haven't heard the news, the owners of the famous *P.S. and Casa de Cristal restaurants in response to the **depressing conditions** in the City by the Bay, declared a celebration to take effect immediately. For an undetermined period of time, all the *wonderful and delicious* dinner entrées only on both menus would be **half price!** Hard to believe folks? But they both said

half off on all dinner entrées!!! When interviewing both Mr. Waddell and Mr. Adinolfi they both appeared rational and both confirmed our report concerning the *half off* offer.

They pointed out a need for people to be able to dine in comfort and enjoy a good time without creating their own **national debt**.

We add our congratulations to both and hope the idea has *universal appeal*.

For those interested several rules apply during this *craze*.

One—No reservations. **Two**—Anyone wishing to charge his or her dinner will have to add a service charge (due to the greatly reduced prices). Visa/MC add 3%. Diner's Club add 4%. American Express add 4.5% to the final reduced amount of the bill. **Three**—Half price offer *does not* apply to Sunday and Holiday Brunch.

So that all of you don't think that these two men have gone completely mad, the reduced prices do not apply to any liquor or wine.

One additional note before we end this strange but true press report. Mr. Adinolfi wanted me to remind everyone about the valet parking which begins at 7:30 p.m. and for those who are early there is a new parking garage next to the Casa de Cristal.

We do hope you don't miss this **wonderful celebration!**

ASK ALICE

J'accuse!



Dear Alice:

I heard some women gossiping at the Closet Ball the other night that you aren't a *real woman* but actually a *man* in disguise. I have always looked up to you as a *role model* and the main inspiration in my life and I was *shocked* to hear this gossip. Oh, Alice! Put my mind at rest. Say it ain't so!

Debbie Devastated
Daly City

Dear Debbie:

Put your mind at rest girl! And never pay attention to cheap gossip! Believe me, Alice is as much a woman as anyone has a right to be, regardless of gender. And right here I just want to congratulate all the wonderful contestants at the Closet Ball. You're all winners in my book!

Dear Alice:

I have missed your pretty face (sic) the last few weeks, but have made sure, however, that I didn't miss the fine food at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal restaurant. It's hard to believe that they are still continuing that fabulous half price celebration but I saw by the ad Saturday Night at the Closet Ball that it is still on. Do you have any idea how long the owners there plan to continue this???

Mad Lee Waiting
Pacifica

Dear Lee:

Alice has done some inside checking and it seems that management at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal have put their heads together once more and come up with an even better idea than the half price scheme. I can't reveal the details at this time but stayed tuned! And oh yes, thanks for the "pretty face" line, sweetie.

Dear Alice:

My friends said to ask you so here goes. Will The Mint still have the famous Trickel (sic) Race this year? It is always so much fun! I know it must be a lot of hard work putting it together, but Tommy Turner always does such a great job... Is it still on???

Wood B. Winner
Tenderloin

Dear Wood:

Not to worry, sweetpea. Miss Turner is riding on the rim and all the info will be out soon. But yes the race is still on. Thanks to Tommy and The Big Three, all looks like an even bigger and better Memorial Day Race... See ya at The Mint!

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Health Officers Discuss Quarantine

Copyright 1985 Bay Area Reporter
by Brian Jones

Local health authorities from various California counties have begun to seriously discuss quarantine and AIDS. Formal discussion on quarantine took place April 18 at a statewide meeting of the California Conference of Public Health Officers. At issue was the case of a sexually active East Bay man with AIDS. Of concern was what could and should be done to halt presumed carriers of AIDS from spreading the disease.

"We raised the concern over this case and other people in other cities started talking about

similar cases," said Dr. Bob Benjamin. Benjamin is chief of the bureau of communicable diseases of the Alameda County Health Department. As such, he is a leading medical officer involved in the East Bay response to the AIDS epidemic.

Benjamin met with a group of Gay leaders from the Bay Area on April 25 to solicit responses on quarantine. He said he opposed quarantine as "inappropriate."

"I'm here because we need your help and we don't know what to do," Benjamin said. Benjamin pointed out that public health authorities have great power to isolate or quarantine individuals, groups or places to deal with an epidemic such as

'We are reluctant to do it, but we can.'

Dr. Bob Benjamin
Alameda County Health Dept.

AIDS. "We are reluctant to do it, but we can," Benjamin told the Gay leaders.

Attending the April 25 session were Mitch Bart, San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Larry Bush, Assembly Member Art Agnos staff; Mike Housh, Milk Democratic Club; Bill Kapla, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights; Jeremy Landau, People With AIDS and the Mobilization Against AIDS; Ralph

Payne, Stonewall Democratic Club; and Brian Jones, *Bay Area Reporter*.

Invited but not attending were Paul Boneberg, Mobilization Against AIDS; and Sal Rosselli, Alice Democratic Club.

Most of those attending agreed that the quarantine meeting was the most serious forum in which they had participated since the onset of the AIDS epidemic. It came as

several European nations and the state of Connecticut activated quarantine laws—in some cases a century old—to respond to the AIDS epidemic.

And as the April 25 meeting made clear, the law is already on the books in California to initiate an AIDS quarantine—if state health authorities decide one is needed.

EAST BAY CASE

Discussion of quarantine by state authorities began with an East Bay case. Benjamin, citing client confidentiality, would not reveal the identity of the Gay man in question, but did discuss the case.

(Continued on page 4)

Sheriff's 'Sting' Recovers Art

The Artists Pose as Buyers For Raid on SF Apartment Bldg.

by Ray O'Loughlin

It was an operation right out of the film *The Sting*. There was stolen artwork—booty from the Gay community's biggest ever art heist. And there was creative casting by the Sheriff's Department. Deputies recruited the artists who had been ripped off to pose as "buyers." The artists were awounded to walk into a San Francisco flat and find the stolen work on display—artworks they had given up as lost forever.

When the sting went down last week, deputies had recovered seven of the 32 artworks stolen from the Pride Center last August. Armed with a search warrant, deputies raided a Western Addition flat May 6 to recover the paintings, photographs and drawings identified in an earlier investigation. Although no arrests have been

made, police are hoping that additional leads will soon bring about the recovery of more of the stolen artwork.

The break came in the case when a prisoner, convicted in the theft and being held at the San Francisco County Jail, told Senior Deputy Rich Caserta the whereabouts of the stolen pain-

(Continued on next page)



Recovered art, now in police storage. Artists thought it was gone for good. (Photo: Rink)

IN THIS ISSUE

CATHOLICS FIGHT court ruling which upheld New York's order on Gay job rights. But a Gay legal expert doubts the anti-Gay effort will succeed. George Mendenhall reports on page 3.

GAYS PROPOSE a new agency to serve men with drug problems. The agency would fill a gap in city-paid services. Charles Linebarger explains on page 5.

SUMMER TIME, and the livin' is easy—especially up Russian River way. Charles Linebarger and Rink scoped it out this weekend, and their season opener begins on page 17.

Straights Stand By Friend With AIDS

Give Him His Last Home—Fight Attempt at Eviction

by Will Snyder

A home was never a steady thing for David Cohen. He always had a roof over his head, but where the roof was located was sometimes uncertain.

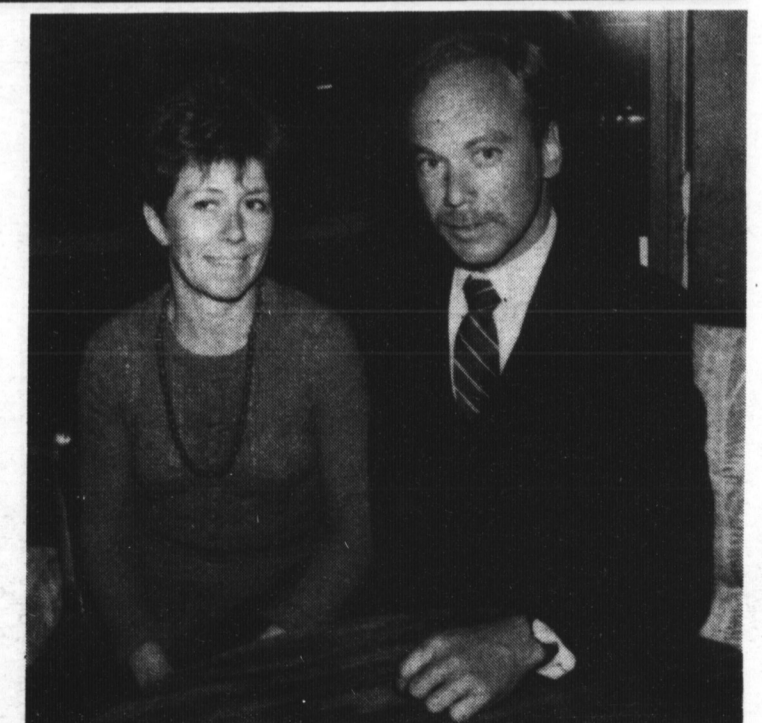
David was the product of a broken home. His father abandoned the family early in his life. His mother, a Lesbian, loved him but reportedly could never quite feel comfortable around him. He spent much of his childhood in foster homes.

When he became an adult Gay man, David moved some more. His job as a flight attendant kept him on the go.

Last September, David found out he had AIDS. He knew he wanted to die in a loving home situation. He wanted to die in peace.

Thanks to a straight friend, Bob Vogel, David died in a loving home. But the last days of his life were hardly peaceful.

(Continued on page 14)



Paula Chiotti and Bob Vogel came to the aid of a homeless friend who had AIDS. (Photo: Rink)