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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XV NO. 51 DECEMBER 19, 1985

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Phillip Henderson of Headlines puts the finishing touches on the Polk Street store's Christmas tree. For more details of Christmas in other gay neighborhoods, please turn to page 14. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

3 Guilty in O'Connell Killing

Four Vallejo Men Face Second Trial on Assault Charges

by Gregory Douthwaite

Three Vallejo men have been convicted of second-degree murder for the fatal assault on John O'Connell near Polk Street last year. A fourth man was acquitted.

The men allegedly yelled, "motherfucking faggot queers" during the assault in which O'Connell, 42, was struck twice in the face, and fell, hitting his head on the curb. He died three days later.

Timothy White, 23, David Rogers and Donald Clanton, both 21, will be sentenced on January 9 by Superior Court Judge Edward Stern. The term will be 15 years to life in state prison.

A fourth man, Douglas Barr, 21, also of Vallejo, was found not guilty. He was eating pizza at the time of the assault, his attorney said.

(Continued on page 2)

Adopt-A-House For Christmas

by Charles Linebarger

As the Winter holidays approach, some people are concerned that Christmas cheer is shared by all. For 33 men living in eight Shanti residence houses holiday spirit means help from interested community organizations who want to make sure that Santa Claus doesn't forget them.

Helen Schietinger, director of the residence program at Shanti, explained that this will be the third year in which Shanti houses have been adopted by community groups. What that means, said Schietinger, depends very much on how people in each particular house are feeling when mid-December rolls around.

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

A gay basher says he's sorry for the pain he's caused his victims, see Phil Nash's interview, page 16.

Looking for Mr. Goodbuds is Atlas Savings as new investors line up to buy into the gay bank, page 18.

Christmas miracles grow on trees, reports Dot James from San Jose, page 20.

San Francisco schools still have no policy on AIDS though the deadline has passed, see page 22.

Study Shows Condoms Halt Virus

UC Study Verifies No AIDS Virus Transmitted if Condoms Used

by Brian Jones

Condoms block the AIDS virus. That is the result of a first-ever study in which researchers persistently tried—and failed—to force the virus through condoms. The University of California-San Francisco researchers used five brands of over-the-counter condoms, made of three different materials. All totally blocked the virus.

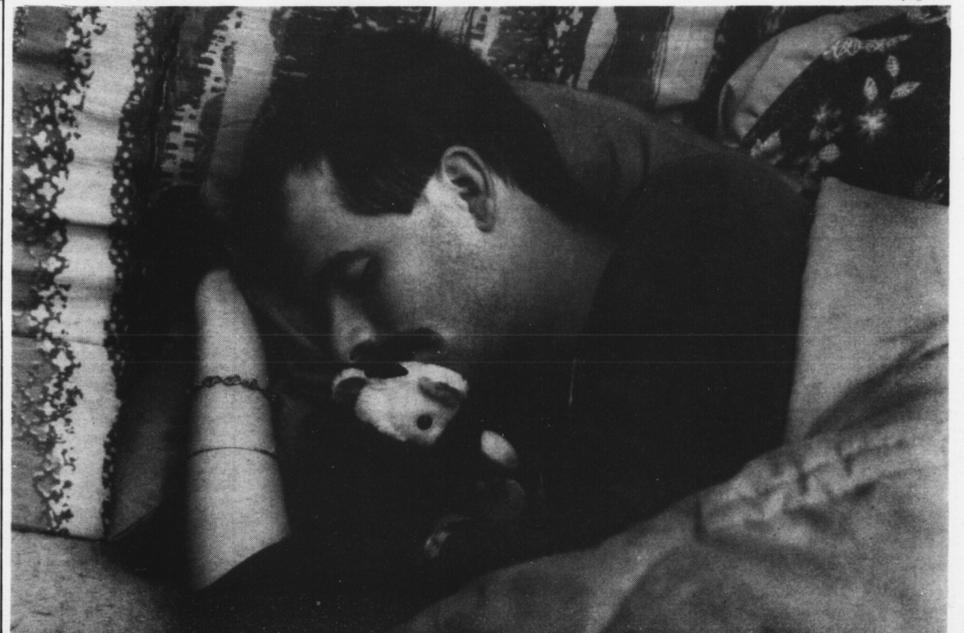
AIDS prevention campaigns have long promoted use of condoms. But, said UC AIDS researcher Dr. Marcus Conant, "It was time to put some science under the message."

(Continued on page 2)

A Peaceful Moment

His name is Buck Stuart. The 21-year-old native of Altamont, Ala. is one of the people taking part in the vigil outside the Old Federal Building. His Christmas wish is to make it to age 22. A teddy gives him support while he sleeps. For more on the vigil, please turn to page 4.

(Photo: Mick Hicks)



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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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Timothy White



David Rogers



Bill Fazio (B.A.R. Photo)



Donald Clanton



Douglas Barr

3 Guilty

(Continued from page one)

The convictions are an important victory for gays, said D.A. Investigator Ron Huberman. "At one time, beating up gays was laughed at," he said. "This sends a message to the punks; We are not fair game any more."

When the verdicts were read last Friday, White began sobbing and held his head in his hands. Clanton appeared angry, and Rogers sat motionless. Barr breathed a sigh of relief.

All four men still face felony assault charges for attacks on three other men that same night, July 29, 1984.

The jury of nine women and three men agreed on the four

unanimous verdicts after three days of deliberation. The jury foreman was an elderly lady with white hair who had said during jury selection that she knew some gay people.

The prosecutor, district attorney William Fazio, said the hardest part of the case was convincing jurors that O'Connell died because he was hit in the face. The defense had argued that O'Connell had stumbled due to drunkenness.

Fazio said he was pleased with the three convictions. "Not many people in the D.A.'s office thought I'd get a murder conviction," he said. "It's unusual to argue murder with only two blows to the face and no weapons."

Defense attorneys say they will move for a new trial. If that fails, they say they will appeal the verdict. They claim the assault was

not likely to cause death and that jury instructions were misleading.

D.A. Fazio said he was "delighted" by the three second-degree murder convictions. "I didn't want this to be another Dan White situation," he said, referring to the riots which followed White's conviction in 1979 on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

Fazio said he was sorry that he couldn't ask for more serious offenses. Fatal assaults on minority groups should be classified as first-degree murder, even if the death was not intentional, he said.

"We believe the second degree murder verdicts were appropriate under the circumstances," said District Attorney Arlo Smith in a prepared statement.

"The jury's verdict should tell the world that this city will not tolerate actions such as this," Smith said, adding, "William Fazio did an exceptional job prosecuting the case."

Diana Christensen, executive director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), said she plans to work with Fazio to determine how to make the criminal justice system more responsive to victims of "bigoted assault."

Christensen said she is "ecstatic" about the verdicts. But there is also a let-down, she said: "O'Connell is still dead." ■

G. Douthwaite

Shanti

(Continued from page one)

"The guys who are up and around," said Schietinger, "will probably make a date to go out and pick out a tree with the adopting organization. We have decorations here already. And if the people in the house want, they can have a tree trimming party."

Last year, according to Schietinger, one lucky house was adopted by players in the Gay Softball League. The athletes gave each person in the house a gift and bought them a television. Several members of the league invited the Shanti residents to their home for a meal and a relationship was developed which continued beyond the holidays.

But what the men in the Shanti residences really want, reported the residence director, was some community participation. "They want some Christmas and they don't have the energy to generate it themselves often-times."

"At one of the houses last year," Schietinger continued, "the Shanti practical support group came in and had a Christmas party for the guys in the house. One of the guys' mothers came over and cooked, there was a party and it was fun."

Schietinger noted, "it's really a hard time of year for these people. The thought comes to mind whether this is going to be my last Christmas."

Currently there are 33 men

staying in the eight Shanti houses, according to the residence director. Each house has 3-6 residents, with the average being four to a house. Some of these men, Schietinger said, are relatively well and are able to take care of their own needs. Others are very sick and are being cared for by the AIDS home care team sponsored by the Hospice of San Francisco. And in the middle are the men who are somewhat capable of taking care of themselves, but who need some volunteer help.

The purpose of the Shanti houses, noted Schietinger, is to provide a place where people can live. "So that with all the other chaos of an AIDS diagnosis and everything going topsy-turvy, at least they have a place where they know they won't be thrown out." The requirement for admission to a Shanti house is an AIDS diagnosis, or clear-cut symptoms of AIDS-related conditions.

"The residence program provides only housing," added Schietinger. "If someone needs home care they have to get that from the AIDS home team or from a private agency." So far Shanti has been able to avoid waiting lists for its residences by adding new houses to the program gradually, the latest was opened on Sept. 1.

This year six of Shanti's houses were adopted, and two chose not to be. Of the six adoptees three were adopted by Shanti support groups, one by the Golden Gate Business Association and another by the Parsonage, a gay Episcopalian organization.

"Last year," Schietinger said, "several individuals donated gifts to the residents, and then the staff took them around on Christmas Eve. One florist donated enough flowers so that each person had a poinsettia. There were gifts for everyone. Someone else baked a pie for each of the eight houses. It was wonderful."

Schietinger added that if anyone in the community would like to donate a gift this year, particularly eight of an item (one for each house), the staff at Shanti would be glad to distribute them. "But we have to have a few days notice."

Anyone interested in contributing to Christmas at the Shanti residences, should call the Shanti Project, 558-9644. ■

C. Linebarger

AIDS in the Lab

An interdisciplinary approach to the medical problems of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the timely subject of a course offered by San Francisco State University during its upcoming Winter Session. The course begins Friday, Jan. 3 and is held at the 19th and Holloway Avenues campus.

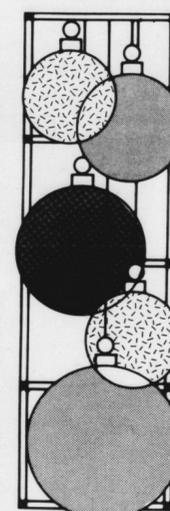
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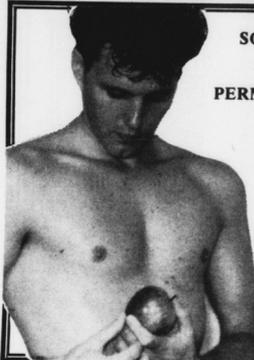


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Rev. Jim Sandmire blesses the people from the vigil and their bus before a trip to Los Angeles. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

SF Sups. Vote to Expand Services for ARC

30 Vigilers Testify at State Hearings in LA; Community Support for Vigil Growing

by Allen White

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors have voted to establish as city policy that people with AIDS-Related Complex be eligible for all services now available to people with AIDS. The action comes as a result of the Federal Building vigil, now in its eighth week.

A group of 30 vigil participants also travelled to Los Angeles this past week to testify before the California Senate's Committee on Health and Human Services.

Steven Russell, a man who 52 days ago chained himself to the doors of the old Federal Building, testified that after five years, there is still no accurate definition of AIDS-Related Complex (ARC). Using the federal Centers for Disease Control's statistics, he stated that there could be over 144,000 cases of ARC in the United States, every one of which could be fatal.

"Since we are diagnosed as people with AIDS-Related Complex instead of AIDS, we are not eligible for the benefits people with AIDS receive. We do not get Medi-Cal, Medicare, state disability or Social Security," he said.

Calling himself a "medically

indigent adult" treated like a "leper," he said, "Many of us have been fired from our jobs solely because of our diagnosis," Russell said. He told of loss of health insurance and the alternative of being forced to use overcrowded services to get treatment and assistance. He also told the

committee about discrimination because of AIDS/ARC hysteria and personally being evicted from his apartment, not served in restaurants and being refused dental treatment.

Russell also told the state committee (Continued on next page)

Dannemeyer Rebuked On SFGH Accusations

Says Federal Funds Used for Porn; Charges Labelled Despicable Opportunism

by Allen White

The San Francisco Grand Jury, District Attorney Arlo Smith and several members of the gay community are outraged at attempts by U.S. Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton) to exploit AIDS care at San Francisco General Hospital for his personal political gain.

Dannemeyer requested that the Grand Jury and the District Attorney investigate charges reportedly made at a Republican Study Committee of the House of Representatives. Those making the charges were not named by the congressman.

One charge states: "Three video recorders purchased with federal funds are used to show homosexual X-rated video tapes (30 of which are kept in the medication room)."

According to county officials, the charge is false. Three video recorders are at the AIDS ward of San Francisco General, but all were purchased through fundraising efforts in San Francisco's gay community. No federal funds were used.

One television unit was purchased by friends of Jon Sims following his death in 1984. Sims founded the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. A second set was purchased through fundraising activities at the south of Market bar, the S.F. Eagle. The third set is believed to be the

result of another fundraiser at the recently closed Chaps bar.

Officer Paul Seidler, of the San Francisco Police Department, said that a number of tapes are available which are "as varied as the tapes available at the Sunset District Captain Video store." These tapes are at the hospital because of people's generosity," he said, "not because of federal funds."

District Attorney Arlo Smith has dismissed all allegations by Dannemeyer as "despicable." Smith was visibly angered by what he described as "an attempt by Dannemeyer to use AIDS and the gay community as a scapegoat" in an attempt to make some political gains. The congressman announced earlier this week he was running for the

Republican nomination for United States Senator from California.

Martin Mattes, foreman of the Grand Jury, replied to Dannemeyer. He said, "The current Grand Jury has directed me to advise you that you would be well served by making your allegations more specific. A grand jury cannot indict a hospital; nor can it indict an entire medical staff. If you believe specific individuals may have violated specific criminal statutes, please provide that information."

"Otherwise," he wrote, "I would suggest that you permit this community to devote its limited resources to serving those who are afflicted with AIDS, free from what appears to be politically motivated harassment."

Terry Thompson, manager of the SF Eagle, said the charge is "absolutely ridiculous." Said Thompson, "We have raised over \$100,000 at the Eagle for AIDS in the past few years and it has been raised because there has been no federal funding."

Correction

In the Dec. 12 issue of the Bay Area Reporter, David Hummel was mentioned in an article as a member of the Committee to Stop the Moral Majority and Fascism. Hummel is a member of the All Family Coalition II. The Bay Area Reporter regrets the error.

Vigil

(Continued from previous page)

mittee of the support of U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson, Rep. Sala Burton and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. At the same hearing, Paul Boneberg and Dean Sandmire from Mobilization Against AIDS were also invited to testify regarding treatment of people with AIDS and ARC in prisons and the problems of experimental treatment protocols.

In San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors officially acknowledged the thousands of San Franciscans with ARC by voting to establish a city policy regarding the definition of ARC and treatment and services for people with ARC.

The board action directs the Health Commission to identify and delineate the symptoms and characteristics of ARC and develop a general policy of health benefits and treatment. AIDS-Related Complex would receive a health priority equal to AIDS in San Francisco and government officials on the state and national level were requested by the board to act with urgency on the issue.

The supervisors' action Monday followed a lengthy hearing last Thursday when over sixty people testified to the need for further action relating to AIDS and ARC. The board also passed a resolution urging Mayor Dianne Feinstein to approve a resolution for the Human Rights Commission to provide for investigation and mediation of AIDS related discrimination complaints.

When the group returned Tuesday from Los Angeles, they discovered there are now nine tents at the protest site. There are also three Christmas trees.

AIDS Spiritual Retreat

A one-day spiritual retreat for people with AIDS/ARC, caregivers and others doing AIDS-related work, and anyone seeking a spiritual involvement in the present circumstances will be presented by Dignity/San Francisco on Saturday, Dec. 7. The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. at St. Francis Church on Church St., opposite Safeway, and end at 5 p.m. People are encouraged to register early, by calling 431-3150 (eves), because of space limitations. There is no fee.

The theme of the retreat will be the autobiographical contributions of participants, especially how their faith has or has not supported them in this time of need. The theme was inspired partly by a person with AIDS who said, "The hardest thing isn't dying, but living."

The retreat will be conducted by Fr. Lou McKernan, CSP, a therapist; Fr. Chris Cartwright, SJ, a member of the USF Campus ministry; and Fr. Michael Lopes, OP, appointed by Archbishop John Quinn to coordinate the Archdiocese's ministry to people with AIDS.

Dignity/San Francisco is a chapter of Dignity, Inc., an international organization of Roman Catholic gay men, lesbian women, their friends and families united to promote spiritual development, social justice and the acceptance of gay and lesbian Catholics by the Church and society. Dignity/San Francisco celebrates the Eucharist at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays at St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.



Meanwhile, reports indicate Congresswoman Barbara Boxer was in her San Francisco office, three blocks from the vigil site, last weekend. For weeks her aides had indicated she had not visited the Federal Building protest site because she was in Washington. It was implied that when next in San Francisco she would be there. Her staff indicated that her schedule was too tight to permit a brief visit to the area. Boxer and Sen. Alan Cranston have yet to publically state they are aware of a protest at the Federal Building location.

The Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale will be caroling at the vigil site in front of 50 United Nations Plaza (east end of Civic Center, between Hyde and Market) on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 9 p.m.

On Christmas Eve, Old Roman Catholic and Celtic Catholic priests will celebrate an outdoor Midnight Christmas Mass.

Holiday activities began Saturday, Dec. 7, when Congregation Ahavat Shalom members brought a menorah for Hanukkah. They lit one new candle each night for the eight nights of Hanukkah in the old Federal Building doorway. By the last night, the menorah had been joined by a tree that Sup. John Molinari brought.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the first carolers appeared, the Seventh



Buck Stuart gets a tender hug from a friend.

(Photo: Mick Hicks)

Avenue Presbyterian Church choir, whose director had recently died of AIDS. Their pastor said that the church would send President Ronald Reagan a telegram supporting the vigil's appeals. Carolers from the Gay Men's Chorus were scheduled for the following night.

Vigilers would love other carolers, or any singers, musi-

cians or other entertainers who could share their time and talent with us, especially evenings, Saturday afternoons or holidays. Contact Ed Wyré at 864-1988 or 974-0325 if you want to arrange a time in advance, or talk to any Service Committee member at the vigil site. As always, they can also use hot food or drink, (no alcohol please), especially soup

for three fasters who can't eat solid food.

Holiday cards may be sent to the protesters at the ARC/AIDS vigil at the Federal Building. They now have their own mail box. Cards should be addressed to: ARC/AIDS Vigil, 50 1/2 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

A Christmas Gift

An early Christmas present came my way last week. A good friend called to say he'd recently been diagnosed with AIDS. But this friend wasn't just a friend. We'd been "boyfriends," erstwhile lovers, for half a year last year.

We chatted for a bit. He said he was doing well, was feeling pretty good and was concentrating his efforts on staying well, getting lots of rest, relaxation and ice cream. I work with words everyday but I couldn't find many right then.

After the call, I went back to washing the dishes—there will always be dishes to wash—and wrapped some Christmas presents. But I found myself at times just stopping and sitting there vacant.

I began the laborious process of once again sorting out all the fears. Fears for him and for me.

Every time somebody close to me is diagnosed, I somehow feel threatened. This time lightning struck nearer than usual. Suddenly, I was closer to this disease than I'd previously thought. The slight sense of security I'd managed to develop and the accompanying sense of comforting complacency I'd begun to lapse into, vanished.

Having reassured my friend that I was available for whatever he needed, I tried to reassure myself. For some reason, I slept very well that night. Life can be merciful.

Next morning, I woke up feeling energized and vigorous. It

was a crisp, cold sunny day. Partly, I guess it was just a reaction stemming from the realization of limitations, a reminder that all our days are numbered, AIDS or not. Trite and sentimental as it sounds, life becomes precious.

But there was more. A profoundly powerful sense of reality came over me. The reality of the disease and my own vulnerability to it; the reality of the beauty of the blood red mums on the kitchen table; the reality of this city and community; the reality of the renewed sense of cold dread in the pit of my stomach. All cut through the sheer banality that smother's "normal everyday life." Like a philosophy professor of mine used to say, "I'm talking about the real real."

It was a kind of freedom, I felt. I think I finally understood what Alison Moed, head nurse for Ward 5B, meant when she once said that when she walks onto the ward, she actually feels happy.

People with AIDS and ARC are giving us rare gifts by their presence among us. Reminding us not just of limitations and suffering, though there is that, they remind us that we are real—warm, caring, living beings.

I really don't know what words to use to describe what I mean. Maybe there are none. That's why we have Christmas, to chase away the cold dread with lights and gifts and friendly gatherings.

My friend gave me quite a Christmas present.

Ray O'Loughlin

LETTERS

The Tree Is Inappropriate

I am writing in response to the National Gay and Lesbian Christmas Tree that has been put up outside the Castro St. Muni Station at Harvey Milk Plaza. The banner for this tree states:

The Golden Gate Business Association presents The National Gay and Lesbian Christmas Tree In Memory of George Moscone and Harvey Milk

A list of sponsors follows, among whom are included the Bay Area Reporter, Bay Area Career Women, The Advocate, The Golden Gate Business Association and Plexus.

I am not opposed to memorializing Harvey Milk and George Moscone at any time of the year. But as a Jewish lesbian, I am offended by this particular memorial. Like myself and so many others of the gay and lesbian community, Harvey Milk was Jewish. A Christmas Tree or as it is alternately called in the article in the Bay

Area Reporter, a Holiday Tree is inappropriate because it is a Christian symbol representing a Christian holiday.

We live in a supposedly secular— the separation of Church and State—nation (although those of us who happen to be raised in non-Christian cultures can attest to the arbitrariness of this secularism). A memorial that transcends cultural differences and is dedicated to political figures should have no religious significance or use religious symbolism.

The power of both George Moscone's and Harvey Milk's politics was precisely that they were able to transcend the cultural differences of San Francisco's neighborhoods and communities and thus unite them. I hope that any future memorials put up in honor of Harvey Milk and/or George Moscone will neither be a Christmas Tree nor bear any reference to Christmas.

Teri Gruenwald
Berkeley

Letter Policy

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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.

VIEWPOINT

But You Are, Blanche

BRIAN JONES

The other night at the cinema we were watching *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. As the film opened, we were introduced to Molina, an effeminate homosexual. Molina's Argentine prison cell is a stage for him to act out a romantic movie starring himself as a sultry and seductive *Chantuse*.

Molina establishes character by extreme and compelling—that is, camp—mannerisms. He is the Spider Woman.

As this scene played, I heard grunts of disgust above the crumpling of popcorn from the row behind us. Then came the clatter of people rising from their seats, accompanied by derisive stage whispers.

Were they truck drivers perhaps? Maybe a Christian nuclear family had gone astray in search of *Gentle Ben Goes to Vegas*.

I have only walked out of a film once: *Alien*. The little beast bursting from the spaceman's guts was too much. I figured Molina must have been just as offensive to the sensibilities of these movie-leavers, as bursting blood and guts had been to mine.

Well they were a gay couple of course, dressed in Clonderella drag: button-fly Levi's, Castro Street ballet slippers (black boots), and the ubiquitous bomber jacket.

So anyway the Sissies in the audience were appalled at the Sissie on the screen. What was this all about?

The next evening I took supper at Without Reservations on Castro Street. I was hailed by one of my friends and joined him at his table overlooking the movable feast out front: button-fly Levi's, Castro Street ballet slippers and the ubiquitous bomber jackets promenading past.

"Oh, I hated it!" my friend ejaculated, when I mentioned the Spider Woman. "I hate the way they portray gay people. We just don't need something like that at a time like this. Why, Molina is nothing but a nelly raving faggot!"

My friend is an effeminate homosexual. So am I. That evening he was wearing a tasteful gold earring and a gauzy top with love beads. He works in one of the more avante garde hair salons on Upper Market.

"As one raving nelly faggot to another," I said, "What's wrong with that?"

The conversation devolved from there, and the evening was only saved by the arrival of one Humberto, who is The Most Beautiful Young Man in the Whole World. Humberto whipped out a gold compact and daubed seductive crescents of black liquid eyeliner under his grey-blue eyes. This created the effect that the penumbra does upon the moon two nights before it is full.

Anyway the point of this is that nelly raving faggots just hate Molina the nelly raving faggot in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. We seem compelled to label everything which is tres gay as a "negative stereotype." Oh, I can hear you now: "But gay people include a whole range of types, just like straights, and most are masculine . . ." Puke, puke, puke.

Gay people who are straight-appearing prove only one thing: the lengths to which we will go to hide our gay selves. You don't hide anything unless you are ashamed of it.

The big irony here is that a straight actor, William Hurt, has more of a handle on what are, indeed, some common gay characteristics, than many gay people do. We call them "negative stereotypes" only because we see them as such.

If we hate nelly raving faggots—and that is who we are—who do we hate?

"You wouldn't treat us this way if we weren't portrayed as being nelly," we wail and moan.

But you are, Blanche.
Gay is Good.

LETTERS

To Restore Unity

Information that the governing board of the annual gay parade considered dropping "lesbian" from its publicity was good news. It was a move to restore unity and end the sexism and divisiveness displayed when women are seen, falsely I trust, as insisting that they are so superior to homosexual men that they refuse use of a term that might indicate common issues, goals and strategies.

"Gay" is a valid synonym for "homosexual" and far less clinical. It will be a great help in furthering our successes when women and men act in unison as gay persons.

Let's end sexism irrevocably and move powerfully toward greater unity and collaboration.

Fred R. Methered
Honolulu

Mother-Child Pairs

I am currently collecting data for my dissertation. For this purpose I am recruiting 29 lesbian mother-child pairs, 25 single heterosexual mother-child pairs, and 1 additional married heterosexual mother-child pair. The lesbian mothers can be single, cohabiting with a partner, or married. The child of each mother should be between 12-22 years of age.

The task of each mother and child is to complete a 30-minute questionnaire. I am paying \$5 to each mother-child pair who completes a questionnaire according to the written directions contained in the questionnaire packet. I am also paying \$5 for each mother-child pair to the referring agency or publication.

The only stipulation on payment of either fee is that the questionnaire be completed according to the written instructions contained in the questionnaire packet. All postage will be paid by me. The questionnaire is confidential and data will only be presented in group form. Each mother and child who participates in the study will have the opportunity to request the results of the research study.

Teresa L. Giuliani
1988 Calaveras Drive
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(415) 458-6668

Taking Leave

This is to inform you that I am taking a leave from my position on the Service Team of the AIDS and ARC Vigil, in order to attend to some important professional responsibilities.

There are a number of capable and dedicated people in positions of responsibility at the Vigil. I hope that they remain involved as guardians of the immense contribution of love and resources entrusted to them by the community. From the outset this Vigil has inspired a warm and generous response from ordinary folks who want to do something about AIDS and ARC in a direct way. I wish to convey my deep appreciation for all they have done. I hope they remain committed and vigilant.

Bill Paul
San Francisco

Genuine Love

As people with AIDS directly involved in the AIDS and ARC Vigil, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Bill Paul for his valuable work in developing the Vigil, and in empowering us so that we have been able to make a national statement.

Contrary to some distorted reports, what we have seen in Bill is very hard work toward making this Vigil a responsible democratic body. He has done so with a lot of genuine love toward people with AIDS.

Wesley North
Buck Stuart
Michael Pritchard
Jay Young
San Francisco

Spiritual Crumbs

I was surprised and somewhat irritated to read Bernard Spunberg's vitriolic review of "An Early Frost" (B.A.R., Nov. 21). Bernard contends that the movie was little more than "spiritual crumbs" for gay people starved for honest television presentations of our lives (and deaths).

Bernard takes issue with the fact that the protagonist, Michael, is Middle America's "dream fag come true." He finds it sad that the network chose to present a portrait of a gay man who can be faithful to his lover for two years, a fact that Bernard finds barely plausible.

I take exception to this argument. If we have to choose between dramatizing the image that Middle America wants to believe is true of all gays, i.e. the highly promiscuous gay male incapable of love and commitment, and the image of a gay man who is in a loving and stable relationship, then by all means let's burst their bubble and dramatize the latter.

A case in point: last year I was quite emotionally upset over the end of a five-year relationship. My straight brother could not understand why. "I didn't know you guys had any feelings for each other. I just thought it was sexual," he told me. A movie like "An Early Frost" which depicted emotional love (granted, toned down for TV, could certainly prove educational to my brother's Neanderthal perception of what gay people are all about.

Tom Longland
San Francisco

I'm afraid Bernard's review did not take into account the great variety of gay men in the world—the closeted, the uncloseted, the successful career professional, the underemployed waiter/busboy, the promiscuous, the monogamous.

Bernard got angry with the network for presenting Middle America's dream fag instead of his dream fag. But Bernard is coming from the view-point of an uncloseted gay male in an urban environment. We who live openly in one of America's most liberal cities tend to forget that for every one of us who is out professionally, privately, and publicly, there are thousands across the country for whom, like Michael in the movie, it takes an AIDS diagnosis to cross that barrier.

It is perhaps more urgent to show Middle America that yes, someone you know and love may indeed be gay and be at risk for AIDS, than to dramatize the story of a relatively well-adjusted, San Francisco dreamboy of the '80s.

As far as NBC making money off an "An Early Frost," that's what television networks are in business to do. And in the process of making a profit on that Monday evening, they managed to convey some vital information to their viewers. So it wasn't Bernard's cup of tea. But think how angry he'd have been if NBC had dramatized the plight of a family in Iowa who'd contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion, in the process making them look like "innocent victims" of the "gay plague."

Let's be thankful they had the guts to take our side, and not crucify us like much of the media has done.

Jerome Moskowitz
San Francisco

Bernard Spunberg replies: "Non-urban gays were especially debased by the depiction of cowardly, closeted respectability among our best and brightest. Let straight people applaud. We need not."

Thanks, Mark

The brightly decorated storefronts of the Castro are sending a different holiday message to Bay Area lesbians and gay men this year. These shops are letting us all know the lights are back on—in the Castro and throughout our community. All these merchants deserve our hearty thanks and patronage for making this holiday a more memorable and festive time.

One individual, however, deserves special recognition for his singular contribution in brightening the Castro for the season. This is Mark Cristofer of the Obelisk and Ornaments who spearheaded the neighborhood beautification effort. Not only did Mark open the holiday store, Ornaments, he organized the merchants, offered to help decorate their windows, provided tree lights at cost and designed the 1st National Gay and Lesbian Holiday Tree at Harvey Milk Plaza.

We are all very grateful for Mark's determination and vision in helping the Castro come alive for the holidays. Because of him we can wholeheartedly say this year: "Welcome Home to the Castro for the Holidays!"

Cheri Bryant, President
GGBA Foundation
San Francisco

Sexist and Separatist

The recent flap about the use of "lesbian" in the name of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade has prompted me to write.

In 1980, the lesbian community took it upon themselves to declare the word "gay" to be masculine. It was true that the public generally associated men with the use of the word. In order to make the public aware of their presence and of their unique needs and social problems, they chose to use the label "lesbian" and have it attached to everything that they did in conjunction with the rest of the gay community. I think this was a mistake.

The term lesbian has only one meaning—homosexual woman. There is no such term for a homosexual man, other than the derogatory "faggot," "fili," "queen," etc. "Gay man" and "gay woman" were used to identify a male or female homosexual. Gay women had a golden opportunity to identify themselves as a viable sub-culture within the gay community, but chose instead to use the label "lesbian," identifying themselves as a parallel homosexual community, separate from male homosexuals. Then they had the term added as a prefix to any organization title where they participated. These titles now read like "lesbians and all other homosexuals." In this context, I find the word "lesbian" to be both sexist and separatist. I am very offended by its use.

Lesbian support groups and various community projects to promote lesbian rights or address their needs are right in using the label "lesbian" because they identify the group for whom the effort is intended. However, when the group is the entire homosexual community, separate labels indicate a lack of unity and even a division among homosexuals. The word "gay" used to apply to the entire community; I can't see why it shouldn't be used to again identify a united community. To say that gay applies only to men is wrong.

Lesbians have made their point and have shown that they are a significant force in the homosexual community. Now is the time for them to re-integrate themselves for the sake of unity.

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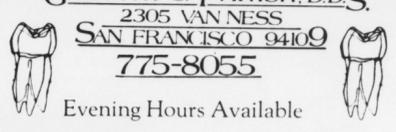
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LETTERS

The Most Oppressive Holiday

An Open Letter to the Women of Olivia:

★ The orange on the "Lesbian Concentrate" album must have withered when you released Chris Williams' "Snow Angel." No matter how it's justified, the fact remains that this is a Christmas album. It's being supportive of the patriarchal system to sing "It's the very best time of the year," about this most oppressive holiday. If you question the traumatic impact, just take a look at the suicide rate during the Christmas season. It's really unfortunate that this album was released at such a time as to not allow for response before the Christmas season was upon us.

Certainly the fact this may be a painful issue for many women didn't seem to count for much. To put out that this is a joyous time of the year, a family time, invalidates many of us who came from abusive families. Holidays in general, and Christmas specifically, are often used as excuses for even more abuse. Yet you have chosen to ignore that and go along with patriarchal society's oppressiveness around Christmas. Isn't that hypocrisy in action?

Including the High Holy Days in the message of seasonal greetings seems ignorant and manipulative. While I am not Jewish myself, it still angers me when the most holy time of the Jewish calendar (which is in the fall, not winter) is used to justify the blatant Christianity of this album. It's imperative that we remember that it was Christians in Europe who used both Christmas and Easter as excuses to carry out their pogroms against Jewish people. For many Jews, Christmas meant staying out of the way of the Christians or hiding altogether. To use reference to the High Holy Days is simply manipulating reality to fit your present economic strategy.

I'm sure that Jewish women will have their own responses to this quiet form of anti-Semitism. Many believe, are not yet aware of the album's existence. Still Christianity has been and continues to be used to oppress people, i.e. Jews, lesbians, witches, strong women in general, and indigenous people all over the world. My hope is that other non-Jewish women will also respond to the anti-Semitism of this album, along with sharing how they feel this in general.

By supporting Chris in this Christmas album you have been accomplices to the general move toward the right in this country. Every little bit of conservative capitalism hurts. The "Family Protection Act" was a legal threat to lesbians as well as other people. Olivia Records producing "Snow Angel" is a cultural and emotional threat to many of us.

I hope in the future you will consider the consequences of doing albums just because a "women's music" superstar wants to do it. While there may be many women who accept this album, there are probably a greater number who will find it offensive.

But let's not stop here. Let's start by listening to each other.

Diane Hugs
Oakland

Say No to the Salvation Army

★ In New Zealand homosexuality is punishable by seven years in prison. The government tried to decriminalize it but a door-to-door campaign to stop the government was led by the Salvation Army with the financial backing of U.S. fundamentalist groups. They gathered 50,000 signatures. Please stop giving donations of clothing and/or money to the Salvation Army and tell your friends.

Donald Dinelli
San Francisco

To Be Gay

★ The reason I am gay is that I am unable to be stupid and mean.

David W. Jones
San Mateo

Mediocrity, Triviality and Waste

★ What is it that enslaves homosexual men in San Francisco? What games of insecurity prohibit men from challenging and supporting each other in the pursuit of accomplishment and excellence?

Why do we constantly affirm the image "You're OK, I'm OK" when in fact our standards are banal and our accomplishments are an insult to our potential? Oh, there are those who dare to dream and work quietly with discipline and love, but set against them is the overwhelming energy (or lack of it) of gays in San Francisco. It is a public legacy and living tradition of endless mega-parties, carnivals, street fairs, camp and trivial social customs and affairs, and participation in identity events which do not challenge or enrich individuals, but sanctify their gayness.

It's time to commit ourselves not just to participation, but to excellence and accomplishment in the arts, in intellectual pursuits, in sports, and in public service. It's time for homosexual men in San Francisco to get off their fucking asses and create the accomplishments which their potential holds them accountable for.

Most men in San Francisco are abundantly free, affluent, and lazy. They have never worked or fought for any aspect of the public good. To do so requires more than muscles, a pretty face and the right social set. It requires personal responsibility, discipline, the pursuit of vision, and hard work.

All fine and noble causes support each other. There are many challenges. For starters in a city obsessed with

muscles and body beautiful. I could use the participation and support of 1/100th of 1 percent of the able-bodied men to create and enable physical beauty, vision, and skill in a fine performing company.

It is a challenge to make muscles mean something positive for yourself and those around you. It is a very demanding and important challenge to get beyond the cosmetic emptiness which pervades physical culture and our deepest illusions. It is a challenge to produce and perform with accountability to high ideals. It is a challenge to move out of the debasing popular values of gayness (which affect us all) and into the comprehensive human energies that we unconsciously waste. I challenge men to be part of a performing company that gets attention because it deserves attention based on the nobility of its vision and the excellence of its skill.

Work is where pretension stops and potential starts. There is no excuse! Yes you can.

Bob Murphy
Pro-Form
San Francisco

The Lavender Triangle

★ I remember at age 39, how astounded I was to discover that I had lived all those years not knowing of the Lavender Triangle. What a closet that was!

It is true that I am without fear of AIDS. I don't go to bed at night fearing AIDS. Why is this? But, then, I don't fear death. Perhaps that is explanation enough. I do, however, fear the evil in the human heart.

As an "older gay man," why haven't I already died of AIDS? It's not that I can't see the horror of this grimy path. I can even see a *Real Incinerator* at its end. Can't you?

If there was a table at 18th and Castro where Lavender Triangles were being distributed, how many of us would take one and wear it gladly and proudly?

You see, I along with several other gay men am convinced that AIDS is a man-made perpetration. The Lavender Triangle came into being because of the presence of a gay movement, not because of the absence of one.

But, then, how many gay men can see that the timing of AIDS is part and parcel of the timing of Star Wars as a first strike strategy?

Let's not only think the unthinkable, let's say it, loud and clear, and again and again and again!

The ovens are not a thing of the past, are they? Ask anyone who has AIDS.

Jeremy Stone
San Francisco

No More Vehemence

★ Where have the vehement letters gone? Why no more screaming and shouting about minor injustices, both actual and imagined?

Without the weekly ration of irrational writing in the *B.A.R.*, the magnificent blaze of originality which has lighted this section so brightly for the past many years will soon diminish into a tiny flame feebly flickering from lack of inspiration.

Shall the bubbling kettle of conflicting statements be left to cool and become covered by a stagnant film of mediocrity? Nay, I say, nay again! The inferno of intellectual conflict must be constantly kindled with fresh timbers of thought. Fuel that will burn within the brain, bringing brilliant insights even in slumber.

Jerry R. DeYoung
San Francisco

Deja Vu?

★ This is an open letter to those of your readers who knew William Reidy, who died of AIDS about eighteen months ago. The following may or may not be real to all of you.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, 1985 I was entering the place of business known as Star Magic on 24th Street when I got the thought that there was someone I knew inside. I promptly got caught up in the too-muchness of the place and forgot to look around.

Suddenly I realized that I had the attention of a sleepy little boy baby of maybe five months. We studied each other for a bit and I impulsively said, "Welcome back!" His mother turned around and I said "We've been flirting with each other." She said to the baby, "Did you find a friend, William?" She may have used another name, but I heard "William."

Meanwhile, he was alternately studying my face and breaking into quick flashes of a smile. Just as I walked away, I noticed that his jacket was made of rainbows and his knitted pants were covered with what appeared to me as stars and planets.

The following day was the first Sunday of what the traditional church calls the period of Advent, waiting for and preparing for the celebration of the coming into the world of Love under the appearance of a baby human child.

Make what you will of it. I know what it all means to me. I just wanted to share it.

Robert Batten
San Francisco

ON THE OFF BEAT

On Being Single



MIKE HIPPLER

An acquaintance I rarely see came up to me on the street the other day and asked, "So who are you dating these days?" "Nobody," I replied.

"Nobody?" he echoed, aghast. "You never have a boyfriend, Mike. What's wrong with you, anyway?"

What's wrong with me? Nothing that I am aware of, at any rate, other than a blackened front tooth—the result of a water-skiing accident this summer. But that alone shouldn't explain why I can't attract or hold a man—which is what my friend is implying when he asks what's wrong with me.

Actually, the reason that I can't attract or hold a man is that I don't try very hard to meet them in the first place. I never go out anymore—not for that purpose, anyway. When I do, I become so uncomfortable with once-familiar mating rituals that I leave the bar (or wherever) in exasperation and disgust.

It's not that I don't see anyone I like. I do, I do. It's just that it's been so long since I've tried to pick anyone up that I've forgotten how to do it. Besides, who's got the time or patience?

AIDS has a lot to do with it, of course. Once, promiscuity was the main way I met potential boyfriends. Now that promiscuity is a thing of the past (indeed, the very phrase, "picking someone up," has a quaint, archaic ring to it), I am left high and dry with few alternative paths to matrimony.

Had I listened to Mom and saved myself for marriage rather than giving it away for free, perhaps I would have learned some of the skills necessary to attract a man without sex.

But, like the slut I am, I threw myself into the fray and learned an entirely different set of skills—an education that is useless to me now, when I have only my videotape machine and a few nasty tapes for company.

Perhaps I'm selling myself short. I do know ways to meet people other than to thrust myself upon them in Buena Vista Park, after all. And periodically I will pull out all the stops and conduct a full-scale Husband Hunt.

But invariably, when I do, my efforts prove fruitless. I'll meet someone in the gym, say, or... well, the gym, and I'll ask him out. He'll say yes, and we'll have a great time together, whether or not we sleep together. Then I'll start building airy fantasies of our future life together. "Dave and Mike." "I'll say to myself, or 'Doug and Mike'" or Patrick and Mike."—I like to see how the names will look on the wedding invitation.

But then he'll tell me about this other man he just met who is too perfect to be believed. Or he'll remember an article I wrote years ago about the rather impressive list of diseases I've had, and that will be it. The romance—if romance it ever was—will be over.

My friends are no help whatsoever. You'd think that if they had any concept of True Friendship, they'd help me find a husband by setting me up with other friends of theirs. But no. They're so busy destroying their own relationships that they don't have time to help me build one of my own.

Wait. I take that back. I forgot Miss P. He brought a friend of his to the gym once to meet me, but



The Single Man.

(Photo: Rink)

it was a disaster. True, the man had tits as big as a house, but he had an ego the size of a barn and a brain the size of a pea—not my type at all.

In recompense, Miss P. invited me to meet another friend over coffee and *I Love Lucy* re-runs at his house. At first I accepted, but then I thought better of it. Did I really want to fall in love with a man who spends his mornings drinking coffee and watching *I Love Lucy*, or with a man who has a friend named Miss P. in the first place?

between them. Can you believe it?

I opted to go for experience and stability rather than for perfect physical beauty and so chose the older of the two. But as soon as I did, he unleashed months of suppressed resentment and paid me back by promptly deserting me. Ah me, True Love once again eluded my grasp.

You know, if truth be told, despite years of making a god of love and despite the

'Anyway, I did have a lover once upon a time, but he was a jerk. Unfortunately, it took me a year to figure that out and another year to leave him, and when I did, I vowed, 'Never again.' I was bitter, disillusioned, and determined to protect myself from the emotional trauma that serious relationships always seem to involve.'

Actually, I did have a lover once upon a time. Time out for definitions here: a lover, to me, is someone you live with, and you plan to spend the rest of your life with. Of course, some of my friends have planned to spend the rest of their lives with ten or twelve different people, but not me. I take this love business far more seriously than that.

Anyway, I did have a lover once upon a time, but he was a jerk. Unfortunately, it took me a year to figure that out and another year to leave him, and when I did, I vowed, "Never again." I was bitter, disillusioned, and determined to protect myself from the emotional trauma that serious relationships always seem to involve.

It took a while, but after a few years of independence—years which took their toll physically rather than emotionally—I finally decided to settle down again. As it happens, I was dating two people at the time—a 31-year-old actor and a 23-year-old porn star—and they actually had the nerve to ask me to choose

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POLITICS AND POKER
To What Depths They Will Go

WAYNE FRIDAY

The Republican contest for the U.S. Senate nomination to challenge Democrat Sen. Alan Cranston next year picked up its most reactionary candidate, Orange County Congressman William Dannemeyer joined the GOP primary pack last week. Dannemeyer, who has held elective office in the Assembly and Congress since 1963, has pitted his nomination hopes on an anti-gay, AIDS-hysteria campaign.

At first glance, the Dannemeyer candidacy seems a joke. Early polls show the Right Wing demagogue near the bottom of the Republican list in both name recognition and public support. But the fact that he is willing to seek votes using the AIDS epidemic shows to what depths the modern day politician (the Right Wing politician, at least) will go to win votes.

Having little else going for him, Dannemeyer announced, "I'm the only candidate talking about traditional family values." We all know what that means, don't we? He attacked gays, saying, "I do not want to elevate sodomy to a protected civil right." Lacking much else of a campaign issue, Dannemeyer hopes that his oft-repeated "God's plan for man was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" remark will raise Republican voter consciousness and hopefully gain him some homophobic votes next June.

Though the Republican U.S. Senate field is seen as essentially a conservative group, "Wild Bill" Dannemeyer has to be seen as the most radical of the bunch. Dannemeyer calls for outright banning of people with AIDS from working in the health care field, repeats his attacks on homosexuality, and knows as well as anyone that the only hope he has to gain in the polls is to continue his homophobic, anti-gay, far-right political campaign.

One well-known GOP statewide leader, scoffing at the Dannemeyer candidacy, commented that "this nut makes Mike Antonovich and Ed Davis look like liberals." Dannemeyer has called for constitutional amendments allowing for public prayer in schools, banning abortions, and promoting a return to the gold standard. Dannemeyer even formed his own committee to defeat the reconfirmation of Rose Bird.

While Dannemeyer vows that he is in this race "to win," most political observers see his candidacy as an early attempt to win statewide name recognition. Like Antonovich and some of the others, he will see the political reality and withdraw from the Senate race in plenty of time before next June's GOP primary to allow them to run again for the offices they now hold.

In addition to Dannemeyer, Davis, and Antonovich, Penin-



B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross (l.) and Sup. John Molinari (r.) were on hand to wish Rikki Streicher a surprise happy birthday. (Photo: Marcus)

sula Rep. Ed Zschau, Assemblyman Robert Naylor, and economist Arthur Laffer are announced candidates. Yet another half dozen or so Republicans are threatening to enter the race. In the event anti-gay candidates like Dannemeyer or Antonovich stick it out, it will be interesting indeed to see what the gay Republican clubs around the state do with these jackasses.

Chris Bowman was sworn in as the new president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) at their Monday night's meeting. Bowman took the reins at ceremonies presided over by his employer, State Sen. Milton Marks.

How's that again? When Jack Davis introduced Community College Board member John Riordan to Greg Day at Bill Maher's Christmas party, Davis, referring to the troubles Riordan has been having at the Board lately, jokingly said "this is the guy who votes against all the gay administrators." Riordan, already in trouble with gay and lesbian voters, corrected Davis by commenting "you mean all the 'faggot' administrators, don't you?" And with humor like that, you still want to know why this column is supporting attorney Paul Wotman for Riordan's job next year?

Outgoing Virginia Gov. Charles Robb, in an interview with the *New York Times* last week acknowledged that he is looking at the Demo presidential race. He got off a shot at another Democratic hopeful (Ted Kennedy) when he cracked, "I'm getting the most political attention I'm likely to get unless I take a wrong turn on a bridge." Robb, of course, quickly insisted that he was most certainly not making a reference to Kennedy's now-famous car accident at Chappaquiddick in which a young woman in the car was killed.

I don't know what, if anything, this means, but rumors abound this week that some politically active attorneys plan to speak with Sup. Louise Renne about a possible race against District Attorney Arlo Smith next year. Smith, incidentally, was busy this past weekend accepting praise for a "well-done" from his gay supporters for the second-degree murder convictions his office obtained last week in the trial of the Vallejo punks who killed John O'Connell during a fag-bashing spree on Polk Street last year. Assistant DA Bill Fazio gets the credit for that one.

Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, an unannounced candidate for the '88 Demo presidential nomination will announce in early January that he will forego a third term in the Senate to concentrate on another try for the White House. . . . Respected gay attorney Tom Horn was unanimously re-elected president of the board of trustees of the S.F. War Memorial & Performing Arts Center last week.

Comment of the week: "As far as we can tell, Jerry Falwell never met a foreign dictator he didn't like."

L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs discussing the city's landmark law, which he wrote, banning discrimination against AIDS victims, said "there are very few times in public office when you have the chance to do something that significantly affects the lives of people. I don't want the office if I can't do things that are right."

Wachs acknowledges the storm of hate mail and angry phone calls he has received, prompting some of his supporters to worry that it could cost him the office he has held for 14 years when he comes up for re-election. The councilman said, "Some were from bigots, the people who can't be changed, but the bulk were from people who didn't have enough knowledge."

Longtime gay GOP activist Gary Myerscough recently appointed to the Consumers Affairs Board of PG&E . . . L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley in town last night to appear as special guest of the Democratic Women's Forum Holiday Reception at the home of Mayor Dianne Feinstein . . . Former Mayor Joe Alioto busy raising campaign funds for daughter Angela Alioto's campaign for Supervisor.

In Oakland they are saying that Mayor Lionel Wilson is quietly raising bucks for a hopeful shot at Sen. Pete Wilson's seat in 1988 . . . Ken Kelley's interview with Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird in the December issue of *San Francisco Focus* is certainly worth reading . . . Republicans promise to make Sen. Alan Cranston's constituent mailings, on which he spent \$1.6 million in three months, a campaign issue next year.

Holidays for Seniors

If you are 60 years of age or older and are interested in knowing what is happening in San Francisco during the holidays, call the Senior Information Line at 626-1033. Information about a wide variety of holiday activities is available, and many of the festive events are especially intended for older adults. ■

Gay Mission Needs Help

The Gay Rescue Mission is in need of food, especially turkeys and hams for Christmas dinner. Most of the mission's food is donated by the Moscone Center and the Council of Church's S.F. Food Bank, but there are few conventions in December, so there is a food shortage.

Cash donations and volunteers to work on the feeding program are also needed. Left-overs from caterers and restaurants can be used for the weekend dinners. The mission's address is P.O. Box 421434, San Francisco, CA 94142-1434, or call 431-2188. ■

CUAV

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is one of sharing expressions of love and togetherness and a time of great joy. It is also a time of increased danger and risk of assault. The following article originally appeared in the volunteer newsletter The CUAV Dish, Dec. 1985. We would like to share it with the rest of the community.

You've just emerged from Macy's following a frenzied holiday shopping binge, loaded to the gills with packages of every size, shape and wrapping paper.

You're leaving your home enroute to that big party, just about to get into your car, but you can't help turning around and gazing proudly at your front window where your tree is ablaze with more lights than the Las Vegas Strip.

It's 2 a.m., the bar is closed, and you're holding up a wall, trying to slow your spinning head and collect your wits before starting that long walk home.

WHAT IS WRONG HERE?

Each time, you've put yourself in a dangerous situation. A little forethought could help reduce the danger. As the holiday season approaches and that all-too-typical sense of being rushed pervades everything, too often we forget basic safety tips. With that in mind, here is a refresher course in safety.

Carry a whistle! If you feel threatened, blow your whistle. If you hear a whistle, call 911 if you can identify the problem. Then blow your whistle, too, until help arrives.

Carry a minimum of cash/credit cards. If you must carry them, consider a second "dummy" wallet. Or hide them in your sock.

Keep one hand free for your keys and whistle. That way you won't be fumbling at the door for your keys, and you won't be perceived as such an easy mark. Some stores will deliver your packages to your home at little or no cost.

Try to walk with friends. If you do walk alone, try to get alert to your surroundings. Organize car pools so that friends don't end up walking alone.

Keep alert for your stop when riding the bus. Don't get involved in conversation, your purchases or that cute guy across the aisle that you end up in a strange neighborhood.

Don't walk or drive drunk. Encourage the host or bartender to call a taxi if you've partied a little too hard. There's no shame in safety!

Have a good time this holiday, but more important, be SAFE. ■

J. Veldkamp

Hippler

(Continued from page 9)

quiet moments spent reading rather than hallucinating.

Furthermore, my "career" is progressing much faster now that I have the time to devote to it. It's hard to write Pulitzer material encumbered by a lover interested only in baser things like sex.

Still, I do get lonely sometimes, and there are nights when I think it would be nice to come home to a pair of warm, loving arms rather than to a cold, empty apartment. Despite the compromises that must be made in a relationship, there is something about the idea of a shared life that I find particularly attractive.

However, as there's not a whole

lot I can do about it, and as I'm perfectly content with things as they are (most of the time, anyway), I'm not going to waste a lot of time wishing I were part of a twosome, especially when I'm not sure that the goal is at all practical or realistic for me.

And I'm certainly not going to make an attempt to answer my friend's question. What's wrong with me? Puh-leeze. It's those potential husbands out there who need to come around, not me. Until I find one who likes the things I like, but who still has the good sense to leave me alone half the time, I'll be more than happy to pay the rent by myself.

"With an attitude like that, girl," Miss P. said the other day, "you ain't gettin' nobody."

Maybe so, but fuck it—life's too short to compromise. ■

M. Hippler

Free Holiday Cab Service Provided

People who shouldn't drive because they've had too much to drink this holiday season can get a free taxi ride home courtesy of Marshal Hale Memorial Hospital Care Unit.

This service will be provided between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2.

This is the fourth year the CareUnit of Marshal Hale Memorial Hospital has offered CareCab service which is designed to stem the incidence of drunk driving in the Bay Area. The CareUnit of Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley and Starting Point at Hayward Vespers Hospital will serve their respective areas.

"Although we're in the business of helping people combat drug and alcohol addiction, we're realistic enough to realize that people aren't going to abstain completely from alcohol during the holidays," says Stephen Shearer, program manager of the CareUnit.

"But what we hope to do is prevent someone's Christmas or New Year's celebration from turning into a tragedy on the highways for themselves or others," he says.

Sandy Gasser, director of communications for Marshal Hale Memorial Hospital, explained that those who call CareCab will be picked up only from public places, such as restaurants and bars, and taken home—not to another party—within the city of San Francisco. Riders will have to make up the difference if they live farther.

"We don't pick up from private parties since the host bears responsibility for seeing that guests get home safely," Gasser said.

The San Francisco CareCab number is (415) 666-7404.

CareCab service will be handled in the East Bay by the CareUnit-Alta Bates Hospital and by Starting Point - The Hayward Hospital, (415) 540-1897. ■

BAPHR Honors Marks

Sen. Milton Marks (R-SF) received the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights' Certificate of Honor at BAPHR's annual Installation Dinner in "appreciative recognition of distinction and merit" for his pioneering work on AIDS legislation and funding.

At the dinner, Marks spoke about the state's response to the AIDS crisis and outlined an

agenda for 1986 and beyond. He emphasized that significant progress had been made and that the state is currently spending nearly \$15,000,000 for AIDS education, research, and patient services.

He outlined three of his AIDS bills—SB-292 (now law) which ensures the confidentiality of people participating in AIDS research, and SB-1327 and

SB-1328 (now pending) requiring Medi-Cal to pay the insurance premiums of people with catastrophic debilitating illnesses who become unemployed, and to increase the earnings patients can retain before Medi-Cal provides reimbursement for medical expenses. He also stressed the need to strengthen the protections contained in AB-403 dealing with the HTLV-3 antibody test. ■



Shanti Project extends its love and gratitude to our clients, volunteers, friends and supporters. Without you we could not continue to give the excellence of service for which we are known. We wish you the happiest of holidays . . . A healthy, love-filled New Year.

Shanti Project
 Affection not Rejection
 558-9644



"I really thought I needed drugs and alcohol. But without them, everything's better."

Many people who are dependent on drugs such as cocaine, alcohol or marijuana really believe that they need these drugs to key themselves up for work or to be able to relax or have fun with other people.

It's only when they have stopped using or drinking that they discover how wonderful life can be without them.

Pacific Presbyterian Recovery Center: the first step to recovery.

Pacific Presbyterian Recovery Center has successfully helped people overcome drug and alcohol problems for years. The professionals there will tailor a recovery plan to fit your own unique needs from a variety of programs:

- An inpatient program for patients who need full time support and care.

- A daypatient program that offers the same care as the inpatient program but allows the patient to return home at night.

- An outpatient program for people who have been treated previously or who are in the early stages of chemical dependency.

- Aftercare: A continuing relationship that every recovering patient needs.

Pacific Presbyterian also offers a free educational series to help you understand more about chemical dependency.

If you are concerned and don't know what to do, call (415) 921-7777.

Someone is there to help or answer questions 24 hours a day. Without obligation.

Pacific Presbyterian Recovery Center

at Garden Sullivan Hospital
 2750 Geary Boulevard
 San Francisco, CA 94118

You've found the perfect bar.
 (Except for a conspicuous absence of Bushmills.)
Now what?

If you don't see Bushmills, don't jump to conclusions. Bushmills drinkers are few and far between. Your first step: Ask for it.

If there truly isn't any Bushmills, explain why the bartender should have it. It's imported whiskey from the world's oldest distillery. It's triple-distilled for an uncommonly smooth taste on the rocks, with water, or with soda.

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Rev. James D. Claitor, Pastor



A punk Santa is all tied up on Haight Street. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

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Christmas Sparkles In Castroland

by Charles Linebarger

As Christmas approaches people all over the world start hunting for special gifts, and evergreen trees and rediscover a craving for tiny, multi-colored lights. And while sugar plums may dance in children's dreams, chocolates and spiked eggnog dance in those of their elders. In these respects, Castro Street is no different from any other. And to help last minute treasure hunters, we thought we'd provide a strategic plan to help find what you may be looking for.

There are three bookshops in the Castro. But only one of them is gay, the Walt Whitman bookstore at 2319 Market. Walt Whitman stocks everything a reader might be interested in in the way of gay and lesbian oriented fiction, non-fiction, newspapers, magazines and picture books. A stop here is necessary just to keep in touch with what's happening in the world.

Whitman's has a treasure trove of gay fiction including the Anne Rice trilogy *The Coming of Sleeping Beauty*, under the pseudonym, A.N. Roquelaur. This novel explores a planet where S&M is viewed as the pinnacle of that planet's value system. In the way of handsome coffee-table books, check out the paperback edition of *Down Under*. This gorgeous panoply of Australian pulchritude (lifeguards) goes for \$9.95. Every tree needs one. They, of course, also have Scott Madsen's huge poster book at the same price.

Looking for a gay department store? Look no further, because in Headlines, at 557 Castro,



Tom Riccobuono of All That Jazz in the Castro introduces a friend. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

you'll find a veritable Scheherazade of tasteful, brightly colored, or just plain funky goodies to choose from in all price ranges. They have—just to begin the list—clocks, porcelain dolls, vases, New Wave ceramics, face masks and new and used clothes. Right now there is a sale on of "vintage jackets" very much in the Madonna-inspired "fo-look." (fo as in phony) at \$10 apiece. Leather jackets are going for \$99, or \$35-50 off the usual price. And be sure to take a look at the ceramic, animal-head books which are going at three for \$10. These are usually sold for \$12.50 per.

Headlines also stocks Christmas ornaments, and if you buy two they give you a third for free. Teddy bears, key chains, toys for adults and a library of greeting cards to suit any and no taste are available.

And don't miss the calendar section, particularly the ones that feature Jim French's photos of southern California gods. Highly recommended. Headlines, a gay emporium, is a must

(Continued on page 19)



Bella of Castro St. Flowers displays a Christmas wreath and other beautiful things. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Special thanks to the merchants who are helping to make this a brighter, more hopeful Christmas for those with AIDS and their loved ones:

THE OBELISK, ORNAMENTATION, THE RIGHT LIGHT, HAAGEN DAZS ICE CREAM SHOPPE (CASTRO and POLK STREETS), HIDDEN GARDENS, THE MIDNIGHT SUN.

And our heartfelt thanks to the many businesses and organizations who have been supportive throughout the year—

- Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club
- All American Boy
- Ambush
- Amelia's
- Au Natural
- Awards by Chris
- ARTSPEC
- Academy
- Atherton Hotel
- ASTROLUBE
- Alamo Square Saloon
- Ampersand Graphics
- Atlas Savings & Loan
- Associated Students of San Francisco State University
- BALIF
- Big Mama's
- Bay Area Reporter
- Bank of America
- Bredwell Meyer
- Business Is Blooming
- BAPHR
- BAPHR Foundation
- The Balloon Lady
- Baybrick Inn
- The Blow-Up Lab
- Beautiful Bob's Used Cars
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- Cock-a-Doodle Do
- Casa Loma Hotel
- CUAV
- CALA Foods
- Casa de Cristal
- Castro Village Wine Company
- Club Baths East Bay
- Copy-Copia
- Castro Street Fair, Inc.
- Continental Savings
- CRIR
- Circus Vargas
- Chaps
- Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- City Democratic Club
- Community Bowling League
- Coming-Up!
- Castro Medical Clinic
- Castro Theatre
- Capricorn Coffee
- Community Thrift Store
- Different Spokes
- Distractions
- DRG Records
- Decker Communications
- Davryan Laboratories

- DeLuxe
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- The End Up
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- GGBA
- GGBA Foundation
- Great Earth Vitamins
- Golden Gate Performing Arts
- Great American Music Hall
- Hamburger Mary's
- The Highlands
- Haagen Dazs Ice Cream Shoppe
- Hidden Gardens
- The Holding Company
- Hob Nob
- Headlines
- Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club
- Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality
- Image Leather
- Indigo Video
- IXIA Florist
- Ivy's
- Just Desserts
- Kimo's
- Keystroke
- KPIX TV Channel 5
- KRON TV Channel 4
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- Levi Strauss
- The Loading Zone
- Landfeld Design Assoc.
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- Lee Printing
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- The Metro Bar
- The Midnight Sun
- The Mint
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- New York Native
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- OPT's Restaurant
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- One Act Theatre

- One Pass Video
- Orphan Andy's
- P.O. Plus
- Postal Instant Press
- Project 20
- Palate's
- Podesta's
- The Packaging Store
- The Poetry Center
- P.S.
- Pacific Bell
- Pacific Telesis
- Printmasters
- Pride & Unity Wine Cellars
- Pimiento Restaurant
- Patio Cafe
- People's Medics
- River Village
- Revol
- Rink Foto
- Russell Kassman Piano
- The Right Light
- San Francisco Opera
- San Francisco Symphony
- San Francisco Ballet
- San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project
- San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps
- Safeway
- Schmidt & Schmidt Insurance
- Sutter's Mill
- The Stud
- Scenic Highway Tours
- Sentinel-USA
- Set Your Table
- Seven-Eleven Stores
- Spoiled Brat
- Tony Plewik Photos
- The Tavern Guild
- Turf Club
- Trocadero Transfer
- Taste Catering
- Valencia Rose
- The Volunteers of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation
- The Volunteer Center
- Vally's Fireside
- ViaCom Cable Vision
- The Village Inn
- The Woods Resort
- The Willows
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Wildwood Resort
- Walgreen Drug Co.
- Warner Bros. Records
- You See Flowers
- Zuni Cafe



A Gay Basher Says 'I'm Sorry'

by Phil Nash

Lookout Mountain School sits on a desolate hill in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains in Golden, Colorado, almost within sight of Denver. Suburban sprawl has crept closer and closer over the years, but the old youth detention facility still seems remote. As I approached an auspicious turn of the century "institutional" building, I thought it looked like a setting for an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

For a facility that houses young men, the place seemed eerily quiet. I later learned that all the occupants are heavily supervised. Many are shackled and handcuffed as they move between classrooms and residential buildings called cottages. I was visiting Spruce Cottage, a 50s-era building that is home to the most dangerous and violent young criminals and sex offenders in the state.

I had come to interview 20-year old Steve (a fictitious name) who was scheduled to be released from Lookout Mountain School in early December.

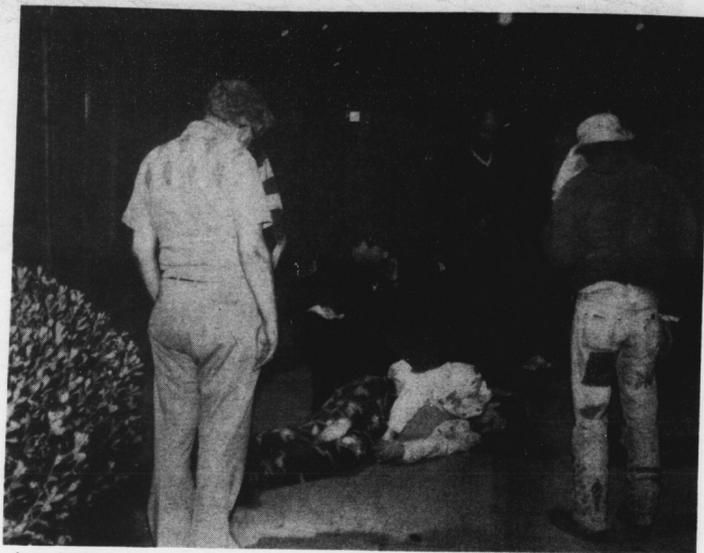
According to Janet Brennenman, one of Steve's counselors, he has done well in his rehabilitation program and is ready to try making a life for himself outside.

Like many young criminals, Steve has been in and out of youth detention centers. After a high speed car chase involving the exchange of gunfire between Steve and a police officer, he was sent to Lookout Mountain's highest

security unit. He was too young for prison.

Steve's counselors think he has a good chance of making a clean life for himself outside unlike the more than 90 percent of Steve's peers who turn out to be lifelong criminals.

Among Steve's many victims were several gay men whom he assaulted, sometimes with weapons. Part of his program includes making reparation, if possible, to victims. He and his counselors decided to seek an interview with a gay newspaper so he could explain why he attack-



A gay bashing near the Castro.

(Photo: Rink)

ed gay men and why he now regrets having done it.

Nash: Since I work for gay newspapers, I'd like to talk about the gay assaults you've done in the past. Maybe you can shed some light on why you did that. How long have you been assaulting people?

Steve: Ever since I was little. I used to fight a lot when I was a little kid.

Nash: Do you know why you did that?

Steve: I don't know. When I was younger, just to prove that I was tough, to prove I could beat up all the kids on the block, and stuff like that. As I got older, I felt really insecure. I thought I had to prove something to every-

body, you know, show 'em I'm bad, that I'm a bad dude.

Nash: Can you tell me about the times you assaulted gay people?

Steve: Yeah, I was in a boys' home near Cheesman Park (a central Denver park frequented by gays). That was the first time it really happened. I never seen, you know, gay people like the way

really feeling inside, I'll show the total opposite. That's what a lot of it was. I was scared of it, really.

Nash: Do you know any better about that now?

Steve: I guess I know I'm not going to be gay, you know, and I feel pretty comfortable with myself.

Nash: So have your feelings about gay people changed then?

'I'm sorry. I'm sorry for all the people I assaulted. I've learned about myself and I'm sorry I had to go through that, put somebody through that, for me to understand myself.'

they were around there. They were real open with what they were doing, and I just couldn't understand it.

Nash: How old were you when the first assault happened?

Steve: Fifteen. One time I hit one with a stick, a long stick. I hit a couple with bottles and one with a brick one time.

Nash: What was it you saw you didn't like, or didn't understand?

Steve: It was a lot of, you know, touching each other and stuff that I didn't like. It bothered me.

Nash: You actually saw them having sex?

Steve: Naw, but they were touching each other, grabbing each others' butts and stuff like that.

Nash: Did the assaults happen at night?

Steve: No, this was during the day. During the weekends a lot of gay people are hanging around there. One of 'em happened like in the evening, because I was with some other guys and we were sitting there drinking beer on the park bench, and we seen these two guys arguing. We thought it was pretty funny, so we made fun of them and callin' 'em names and shit like that. I threw a bottle at 'em and hit one of 'em, and they got pretty mad and stuff, so they just left.

Nash: You didn't deliberately go out then to assault gays?

Steve: No, I wasn't goin' out lookin' to assault a gay person. I didn't have that plan in my head. It came up and I didn't like it, and, you know, it bothered me.

Nash: What was the specific feeling that bothered you?

Steve: I was real scared of it. I wondered how do you become gay? Why were they gay? And I was real scared in myself of becoming gay, you know. That's not right, for me, in my mind, so I'll strike out and prove I'm not gay, you know. From what I'm

Steve: Yeah, I don't see them as an object, you know by categorizing them by what they did that I didn't like. You know, me saying that's not right so they're not right. What they do is their own business. They're a human being and they got feelings too.

Like you know, I been a criminal for ten years and I think I've done wrong, and I'm sure some people look at me like and say, "Hey, he's just a punk. Lock him up and forget about him."

Nash: Do you ever try to think what it might have been like to be the person you assaulted?

Steve: Yeah, I've come in touch with me, you know. I've had so many fronts and so many things that weren't really me, that I've come in touch with myself. It bothers me that I know I've hurt so many people, not just physically, but mentally too. I don't know what to do about it. That's why I'm doing this, so maybe it can help some people out. Help myself feel better.

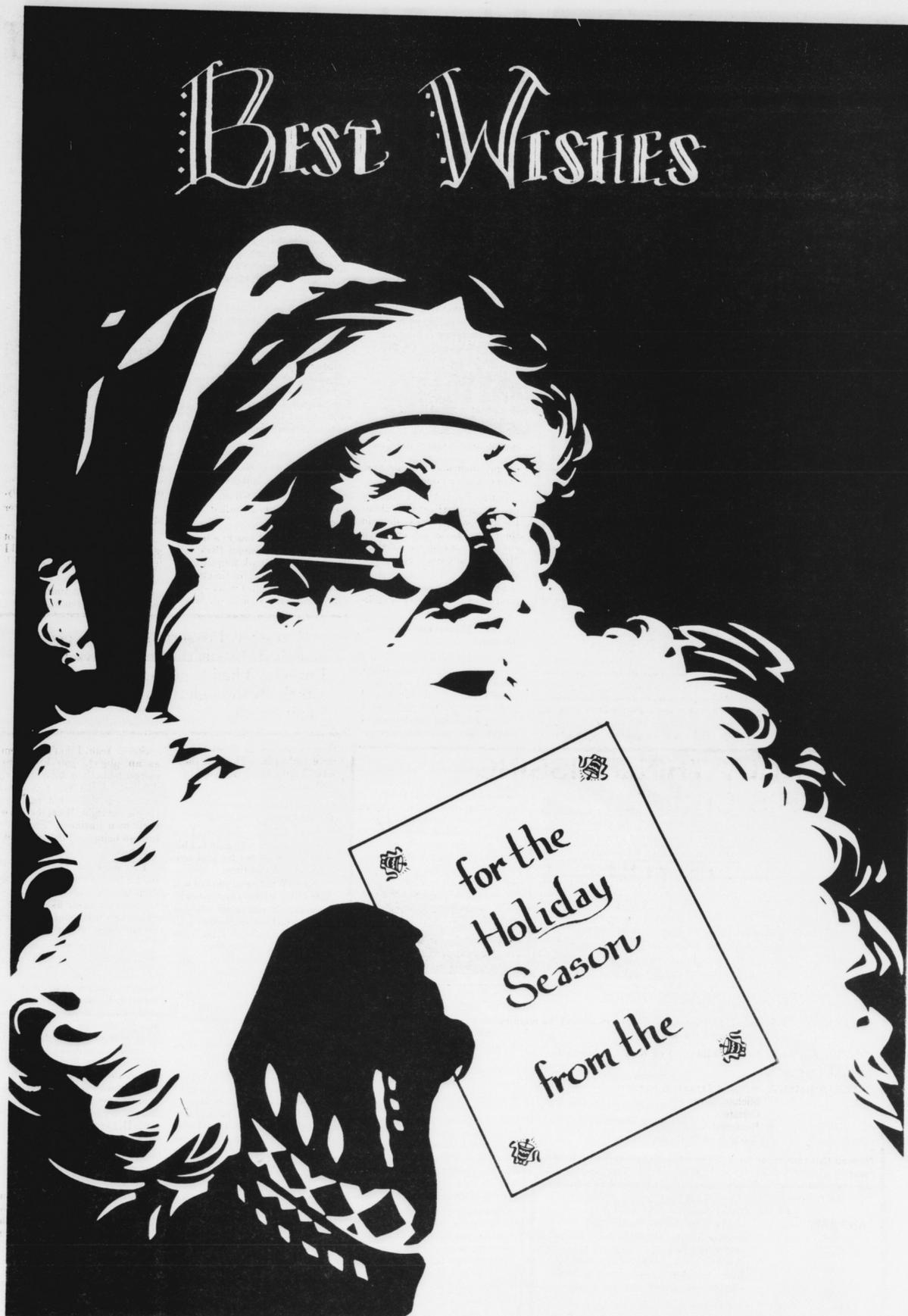
Nash: You think getting in touch with your own feelings helps you better understand how other people feel?

Steve: Yeah. That's what I'm going to try hard to do. You know, I'll always have the potential to be a criminal because I've been a criminal for so long. It's been a part of me for ten years and I really want to leave drugs alone, because I lose myself when I use drugs. So I have a potential to be a criminal, a drug abuser.

I hit my girlfriend one time—a couple times—and you know, that's a cycle for me. I got these cycles, you know, patterns. I have the potential to be all of those, you know, as an assaultive person, and I am always going to have to work against that all of my life.

Nash: Janet told me you saw the movie, *The Times of Harvey*

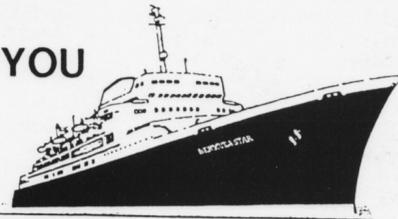
(Continued on page 19)



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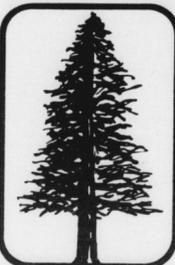


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Atlas Tries Again To Raise \$5 M

Negotiations Underway with Investors; Stockholders Concerned But Supportive

by George Mendenhall

Atlas Savings and Loan, the first gay S&L, announced this week that negotiations "did not produce the desired result" with its first group of prospective investors. Atlas President James Bowersox said negotiations are now underway with a second potential group and that two other groups are waiting in the wings. He is hopeful that an agreement may be reached by Jan. 1. Federal regulations require that the firm raise \$5 million soon to regain solvency.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board has chosen to give Atlas time to regain full solvency, and to retain its gay-orientation and current staff. Atlas stock value has dropped from an initial \$10 in 1980 to \$4 per share presently. Some stockholders who bought stock at its \$24 peak face substantial losses if the firm does not recover from its current negative financial position. Depositors are insured by the federal government.

"The strongest advantage that we have is our relationship with the gay community," Bowersox said. "We are sitting in the middle of Castro Street so our market is clearly identified. One of the reasons investors are now coming to us is because of the loyal relations we have in this market."

Rumors that federal regulators will soon take over Atlas are unfounded, according to Bowersox. "The federal and state agencies are very patient and they recognize the value of our negotiations. The last thing they want to do is take us over."

Atlas officials are disappointed that they have been unable to get cash from an investors group over a period of months. Bowersox explained that negotiations take time. "When you are getting ready to buy an operation our size it is a very complex transaction, involving numerous federal and state agencies as well as our shareholders. We are concerned with preserving the interests of our stockholders—preserving the stock that people bought initially to get our operation going."

The transaction is subject to the approval of the California Department of Savings and Loan and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

The principal terms under discussion provide that the investor group will make a substantial investment in Atlas common stock and will purchase Atlas' nonearning assets at not less than book value. Upon completion of the transaction, Atlas expects that its net worth would meet or exceed regulatory requirements and that it would return to profitable operations. In return, the investors would acquire control of the Association through the acquisition of approximately 80 percent of the outstanding stock.

Association President James H. Bowersox said that the prospective investors have stated their intention of retaining the character of Atlas. They recognize, he added, the value of Atlas to the community it was created to serve.

PATIENT STOCKHOLDERS

Atlas held a "briefing" for its stockholders Nov. 20 at the Castro Theater, postponing its annual meeting until an unspecified time next year. One hundred investors heard three Atlas officials explain why the company went \$4.2 million in the red during the 1984-1985 period. Board Chairman John Schmidt, Presi-



Atlas' James Bowersox

healthy financial position.

There was confidence within Atlas that the firm could turn itself around. "We are very much alive and it looks promising," assured Atlas branch administrator Rick Bargioni. The company continued to seek an immediate influx of a needed \$4 million from an outside investor. The savings and loan's board of directors has demonstrated its confidence by pledging \$1 million of the \$5 million that is being sought to satisfy the demands of federal regulators.

A major stockholder in Atlas told *Bay Area Reporter*. "If I lose some money, forget it. I am concerned about the gay community's image in all of this—that gays can't run a savings and loan. If Atlas does not work out, it is worse than not having done it at all."

President Bowersox emphasized this week that Atlas will continue to seek new capital, reduce expenses, and foreclose on bad loans. He stressed "We are moving in the right direction," and predicted that Atlas would be profitable again by the end of the third quarter next year. ■

DEATHS

Andy Klein

Andy Klein, of San Francisco passed through a peaceful, high-minded transition on Dec. 13. He leaves his lover Charlie and many dear friends.

Andy had 39 challenging, exciting and fulfilling years. Private memorial services were held. Donations preferred to Hospice AIDS Home-care Unit, 225 30th St., S.E. 94331.

Thanks to Andy and to all who are touched by this. *Amitabha Buddha.* ■

Robert B. Nall

Bob Nall passed away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 5 at Garden Sullivan Hospital.

Bob was raised in Southern California, graduated from East Los Angeles College, and moved to San Francisco in 1967. He was employed as a barber and also worked for a major San Francisco design show room.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Presidio of San Francisco where he will be accorded a full Navy military burial.

Bob's wit and sweet nature will be missed by many friends and associates in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Special thanks to the San Francisco Hospice and the American Cancer Society.

Please call 861-0700 for further information. ■

Where Credit is Due

The graphic illustration accompanying the *B.A.R.* story on new federal guidelines on AIDS transmission in the workplace (Nov. 28) was produced by graphic artist Trish Fabry courtesy of the *GLC Voice* of Minneapolis, MN. ■

Basher

(Continued from page 16)

Milk not long ago. What did you think when you saw that?

Steve: I guess the main thing it helped me see more is how they aren't just objects, and they're really humans, and they're more sensitive than some other people.

I'm a pretty sensitive person myself. You know, I've covered it

up for so long, you know, like trying to be real tough. But I wasn't becoming what I was meant to be, what I value, you know. All these things I didn't know about myself.

'It bothers me that I know I've hurt so many people, not just physically, but mentally too.'

Nash: Think about the guy you hit with the stick. If you could see him now, is there anything you'd like to tell him?

Steve: I'm sorry. I'm sorry for all the people I assaulted. You know, I've learned about myself and I'm sorry I had to go through that, you know, put somebody through that for me to understand myself. I can't really go back and change it.

Nash: What I have a hard time understanding is what it could be that is so threatening about seeing two guys together.

Steve: That triggers it? I guess a lot of it is, I see men, guys, you know, that should have a man's role, that you shouldn't be real feminine.

Nash: That a man should be a man and fill that role, and

shouldn't be like a woman. You think men are stronger or better or somehow superior to women?

Steve: I used to. I don't any more. I think they are just as equal.

'I was real scared . . . I was real scared in myself of becoming gay. That's what a lot of it was.'

Nash: If you could make the world a better place, what would you do?

Steve: I guess I could try to

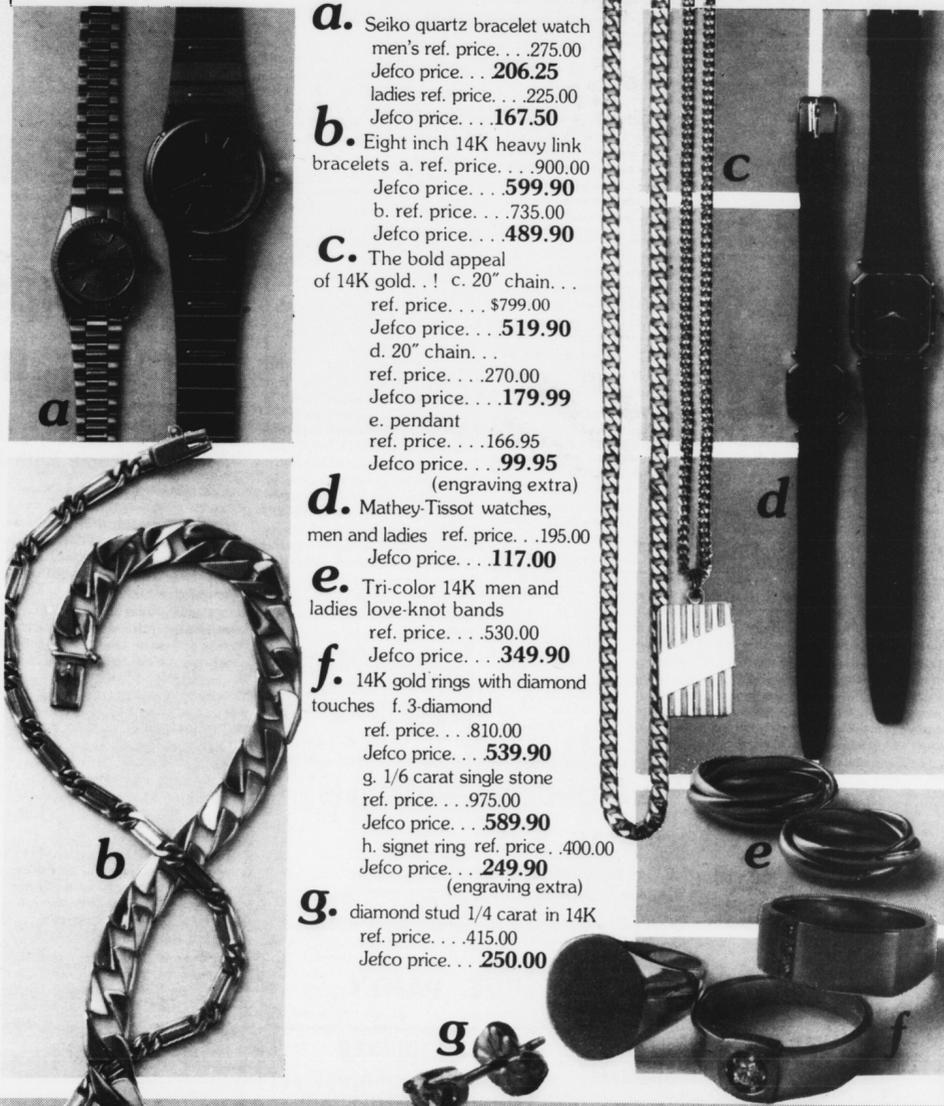
help kids I know who are getting in trouble, who are starting that way. I know from everything I've gone through.

Nash: What about a gay kid? What if you met some young gay person? Anything you'd say to him?

I guess I'd just say to be themselves, be what they want to be. You feel all that anger because you can't do all those things you feel inside that you want to do, you know—that freedom of doing what you want to do. The longer you keep it in, the harder it is to get it out. You go through misery learning that.

P. Nash

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G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Hayward City Council Reneges on AIDS Bias Bill

Author of Bill Withdraws Legislation; Says There Is 'No Pressing Need'

by Charles Linebarger

A city councilwoman who had led the fight for a Hayward AIDS-bias law held a surprise press conference last Friday (Dec. 13) to announce that she was tabling the item which was due for a second and final council vote this week.

Councilwoman Barbara Bradley, who also sits on the Alameda County AIDS Task Force, told reporters that, "there is not a pressing need to pursue the adoption of the ordinance at this time. Unless I am informed that AIDS discrimination has become a reality in Hayward, calling for immediate action, I will postpone further proceedings on the ordinance."

Instead, Bradley said she wants the state Attorney General's office to determine whether Hayward residents are already protected from anti-AIDS discrimination by state statutes regarding equal opportunity in housing and employment.

East Bay gay activists and others who had supported the ordinance immediately denounced Bradley's action as "an abandonment" of the gay community and a "buckling under to political pressure."

"She's abandoned us," said Tom Brougham, president of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club. "It blows me away."

"She's damaged her own credibility," he added. "You don't start the parade and then call in the police to stop it. This was her bright idea to have Hayward lead the way like this. She did it without telling any of her supporters, so it was a shock to everyone. She says that she is still behind it and will pick it up again later but I don't know how realistic that is."

The only other council member who appeared at Bradley's hastily called news conference was Mayor Alex Giuliani. Brougham speculated that Bradley may have been pressured into pulling the bill from the calendar by Giuliani who will be up for re-

election next April.

Of Bradley's action, Brougham said, "It certainly doesn't help us at all in the south county. But I don't think it will affect Oakland or Berkeley. It makes it much harder in the south in that Hayward is a key city there because it's the center of the gay community in the south county."

Bradley's statement at her news conference that AIDS prejudices haven't surfaced yet in Hayward was contradicted by what Rick Gettman had told the Hayward City Council at the hearings preceding the first vote in favor of the ordinance on Nov. 26.

Gettman told the council three weeks ago that he was diagnosed with having AIDS on July 1 and was fired from his job with a Hayward company a week later. According to the Alameda County Health Department, there have been approximately 150 known AIDS cases in the county and of these 10 have been in Hayward.

At Bradley's news conference, Mayor Giuliani mentioned the concerns expressed by several citizens about the proposed AIDS-bias bill. He told of particularly a funeral director who had claimed that the proposed law would prevent him or his employees from taking special precautions when embalming those who have died of AIDS.

"We've heard the feelings of this man who runs a business in this town," Giuliani said. "He and others have raised some questions. More research needs to be done into how the disease is transmitted."

The Hayward ordinance would have made it illegal for landlords, employers, and those providing goods and services from denying services to anyone solely on the basis of AIDS or the fear that someone might have the disease.

Talking about the progress of similar AIDS-bias legislation in Oakland and Berkeley, Brougham said, "In Oakland, we wish it would go a little bit faster. But given that there were two different proposals, the San Francisco one being much stronger than the LA one, it needed to go to committee to be worked out. So it depends on how fast the committee moves. They probably won't be meeting till January. The committee is very favorably disposed toward us and I think a February vote is a reasonable expectation."

In Berkeley, according to Brougham, an AIDS-bias bill will be voted on by mid- to late January. "I think the Berkeley law will be much stronger than the one in LA," Brougham said, "as strong or stronger than the one in San Francisco."

C. Linebarger



"Where're the nails?" drag show star, Toby Nelson (l.) asks. Bernie Greer (r.), IAF treasurer, and PWA Gary Givens bring a tree to Toby to nail a stand to. (Photo: Dot James)

Christmas Joy Grows on Trees

San Jose Community Unites to Buy Trees And Help People With AIDS

by Dot James

Christmas miracles grow on trees. At least that is what San Jose resident, Gary Givens, has discovered in the past two weeks. Gary, 35, is one of Santa Clara County's 94 diagnosed cases of AIDS, learning in October that he is in the third stage of Kaposi's sarcoma.

"AIDS is a real fright," Gary says. "It's a very ugly thing. I wish I were the last person who had to suffer from this disease. So I've learned to love life a lot. And that's making me strong, giving me energy. I've never had so much energy in my life."

Gary, who is a professional fundraiser and promoter for non-profit organizations, has been putting that energy into a personal project for the past two weeks. Shortly after he was diagnosed with AIDS, he decided to put his expertise to work fundraising for other people with the disease.

He went to the Imperial AIDS Foundation (IAF) in San Jose and asked them to bankroll his idea: a Christmas tree sales lot. Not only did the IAF loan Gary the \$2,500 he needed to purchase 160 trees, but its members, along with others in the South Bay gay community, have been working alongside Gary twenty-four hours a day since the lot opened Dec. 7.

The owners of the Interlude restaurant and lounge on Stevens Creek Blvd. have given up their parking lot so that Gary's trees can have a prime location.

Jim, one of the Interlude owners, states, "We've been a distribution point for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive every year since 1980. Gay people, just like everyone else, like an opportunity to give at Christmas time. Gary's tree lot just seems to fit in with the Christmas spirit around here."

Kair Thorne, of Daisychain Florists in Sunnyvale, heard that Gary had run out of tree stands,

(Continued on page 21)

Trees

(Continued from page 20)

John, like Gary, has turned his energy to the AIDS project. Using the contacts he made as a dietician, he has formed Necessities and More, a nonprofit organization which coordinates with traditional service agencies, such as the Food Bank and Catholic Social Services.

Yolanda Perez, president of IAF, formed the nucleus of the organization eight months ago with her mate, Bernie Greer, and Ray "Empress Rachel" Aguilar.

"If you'd merely said the word AIDS to me a year ago, I'd have backed away from you," Yolanda admits. "I was really paranoid about it. Because I don't know anything about it."

"Then Jonathan, my friend—my brother, as I thought of him—got sick. He had AIDS," Yolanda says. "Jonathan died. When he died, I told myself, 'No one else with AIDS is going to go through what Jonathan did if I can help it.' That's when I formed the Imperial AIDS Foundation."

Yolanda is licensed by the state as a care provider for abused children, with a contract from a local Catholic church. She is concerned that recent publicity about the IAF will jeopardize her license.

Yolanda notes that Gary's tree lot has led to several opportunities to educate the general public about AIDS.

"One lady, a really adorable



PWAs, John Landis (l.) and Gary Givens (r.), demonstrate their belief in the power of hugs to Yolanda Perez, President of the Imperial AIDS Foundation of San Jose. (Photo: Dot James)

elderly lady, was very concerned when we told her we were fundraising for AIDS. She said she didn't want a tree after all."

"You can't catch AIDS from trees," I told her. "And you can't get AIDS from people working here, either. She bought the tree!"

We've had a few unpleasant incidents," Gary adds. "Guys driving in by vans and hollering out 'faggots.' But you know how it is," Gary laughed. "Yell 'faggot' at a faggot, and she'll stand up and applaud!"

Gary is both appreciative and amazed at the "miracle" his tree lot has wrought. The South Bay gay community has, in the past, often been less than unified and cooperative. Gary's project, which he was willing to go alone if need be, has brought out the best in the community within the true meaning of Christmas.

"This has been very exciting for me. I didn't realize this was going to happen. I hoped to sell the trees, but in the beginning I was really sweating it," Gary says, "then all these people came forward to help."

Gary has this wish for Christmas, "I want all of you who read this article to stand up, as silly as it may sound, and hug the people near you, and tell them you love them. That's what I want you to tell them, Dot."

You got it, Gary. And love and joy to you, and John, and all our other brothers and sisters with AIDS in this Season of New Hope.

D. James

Condoms

(Continued from page 1)

Conant and colleague Dr. Jay Levy, both highly respected AIDS researchers, sought to do just that. First, they randomly selected condoms. "We just went out to the drug store and bought them," Conant said.

The researchers used three brands of latex condoms, a natural membrane condom, and a synthetic membrane condom. These they fitted onto a large syringe. The researchers sought to pump a fluid containing the AIDS-related virus through the condom material.

"This created a similar force as that found during actual intercourse," Conant said.

The amount of virus present in the experimental fluid was several times higher than that found in nature, Conant said—as high as one million virus particles per cubic millimeter of fluid.

In one part of the study, condoms were "pumped," then suspended inside a beaker for 30 minutes. The beaker contained culture fluid uncontaminated by virus. In no instance did virus from the infected fluid inside the condom, escape to contaminate the culture fluid outside the condom.

"This research proves that using condoms, using them carefully, and using them every time you have sex, will effectively prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus," Conant said.

The key phrase was "using them carefully." Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said much work needs to be done to educate gay men in the proper use of condoms.

Studies conducted by the AIDS Foundation have shown that most gay men believe condoms will block AIDS transmission. At the same time, nearly nine out of ten respondents say they shy away from using condoms because of difficulties with using them properly.

For example, choosing lubricants to use with condoms is

critical to maintaining the effectiveness of the condom. Petroleum-based products—such as mineral ("baby") oil and vaseline—chemically break down latex condoms. Water-based lubricants, such as K-Y jelly, must be used instead with latex condoms.

Jackson Peyton, education director of the AIDS Foundation, said the group will soon launch a new campaign on proper condom use. By demystifying condoms the foundation hopes to encourage their use, he said.

Meanwhile, Wolfred said that the AIDS Foundation is negotiating with a major condom manufacturer to include safe-sex literature inside the packet sold with every condom.

Despite the results of the condom study, which were announced Tuesday (Dec. 17), anal intercourse with a condom remains on the "possibly unsafe" list. That's because a rupture of condoms due to poor quality or improper use could allow passage of the AIDS virus, Wolfred said.

B. Jones



AIDS Healing Service

The Metaphysical Alliance, along with the AIDS Interfaith Network and the Metropolitan Community Church, will hold a Metaphysical AIDS Healing Service, Monday, Dec. 23. The service will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, at 6:30 p.m.

This second, in a series of monthly services will include an empowering sermon, enlightened readings, and an inspirational healing meditation. Please come and participate in this celebration of healing, through unconditional love, support and inspiration.

EAST BAY MY WAY

NEZ PAS

Have a Mary Time

NOEL SOIREE
(A Raffling Nose?)

Don't forget that this Saturday, Dec. 21, Count VII Jim Malone and Emperor V Don present a raffle for ACIE's Memory Fund (founded by Val Sousa).

The Christmas party starts at 8 p.m. (ahem!), with a show at 9 p.m. (double ahem!), and the raffle at 10:30 p.m. (triple ahem!). Raffle tickets, selling for a buck a piece, may entitle you to win a first prize of a portable color TV, a second prize of a 35mm camera with flash, or a third prize of a Sanyo stereo cassette. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win these prizes, but for the mysterious fourth prize, attendance will be mandatory.

The flyers announce that munchies will be provided by court members of ACIE. Perhaps having dinner before might be a word to the wise?

SIP-SUP-SWIRL-SHUTTLE-SLEEP-SNACK
(A Packaged Nose?)

How's this for a New Year's Eve Gala: motel room, shuttle service, party favors and champagne, bloody mary breakfast, disco past down—all for \$20!

The Spoiled Brat has reserved the Hayward Travel Lodge, and rooms are on a first come basis. No reservations accepted after Friday, Dec. 20.

Continuous complimentary shuttle service will be provided between the Lodge and the Brat from 7 p.m. New Year's Eve through 1 a.m. New Year's Day.

Filet mignon dinner (optional) will be served New Year's Eve from 6-8 p.m., or until it runs out. It's a 10 oz. prime barbecue for only \$5.

Hats, horns, and all the hoopla for a "Mary" time will be provided with champagne at mid-

night. A continental breakfast, with a complimentary Bloody Mary, will be served from 7-10 on New Year's Day.

The Brat's DJs will be providing continuous music and lights from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Contact the Spoiled Brat (415) PUB-BRAT for further details.

OMNIUM-GATHERUM
(A This 'n' That Nose)

Ed Paulson's auction for people with AIDS and the needy at Christmas last Thursday, Dec. 12, at Big Mama's, drew a fantastic and spending crowd! Ed managed to glean new merchandise from several merchants, and he reports a tidy sum raised in excess of \$2,100. Many a person's Christmas will be brighter because of his—and all the participants—generosity.

Check out your favorite spa for its Christmas festivities. But please remember to be extremely careful if you are driving. The local "finest" are coming down hard this season. It would be worth the extra dollars to depend upon taxis.

Look for a new menu in Revol's dining room after the first of the year. Also, there's a possibility that the lounge may contain an organ bar in the very near future.

Tonight (Dec. 19) is Bob Ross' annual Christmas party for B.A.R. staffers. I should like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere and deepest apologies for any and all of my actions that just might not be accepted as proper etiquette. Lord knows, I do TRY to behave!

Most people travel to the end of the rainbow only to find that the pot of gold is at the other end. I'm smiling. Love,

Nez.

Beware!

San Francisco police are once again making arrests in popular cruising spots around the city. Reports have come in that arrests have been made in Union Square restaurants and in a number of downtown office buildings as well.

Police have also reportedly stepped up patrols in city parks such as Buena Vista, Golden Gate and in the Land's End area. City Jail is no place to spend the holidays.

"Being a Shanti volunteer can be hard"



Al Harris
Shanti Practical Support Volunteer

Because dealing with AIDS is hard, I came to Shanti angry. I came afraid of sickness and death and isolation. People with AIDS don't have the option to get involved like I do.

As a Practical Support Volunteer I do little things that make a difference. I do laundry or clean an

apartment; I run errands or read; I hold a hand and I listen. Little things for me can be major for someone with AIDS. I've learned to appreciate the value of little things. I feel like I'm doing something and that helps me.

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By Age Group			
Age Group	Cases	Percent of Total	
0 - 4	4	.3	
5 - 12	0	0	
13 - 19	4	.2	
20 - 29	228	14.5	
30 - 39	813	51.8	
40 - 49	373	23.8	
Over 49	146	9.3	
Total	1568		

By Race/Ethnicity			
Race/Ethnicity	Cases	Percent of Total	
White	1380	88.0	
Black	78	5.0	
Hispanic	87	5.5	
Asian	16	1.0	
Other	5	.3	
Unknown	2	.1	
Total	1568		

By Patient Group				
Patient Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent of Total
Homosexual or Bisexual Men *	1531	0	1531	97.6
IV Drug User	8	3	11	.7
Homophilia	2	0	2	.1
Heterosexual Contact **	2	1	3	.2
Transfusions	8	4	12	.8
Child of high-risk/AIDS mother	0	3	3	.2
None of Above/Other	4	2	6	.4
Total	1555	13	1568	

* 20% or 13% of these also have history of IV Drug use
** with a person with AIDS or at risk for AIDS

AIDS Stats Maintain Plateau

The growth rate of AIDS cases has slowed in San Francisco and officials in the Department of Public Health say statistics indicate a plateau may have been reached.

"There's definitely a plateauing of AIDS cases among gay men," Dr. Dean Echenberg, director of communicable disease control, said.

Echenberg said the slow down in new cases is partly due to the safe-sex guidelines and AIDS education campaign carried on in San Francisco.

In November, 69 new cases of AIDS were reported along with

36 AIDS-related deaths. During 1985 the highest number of new cases reported came in March and November, which tied with 69 cases. The lowest month was June, when 53 cases were reported. But the other months clearly signal the plateau with new cases remaining around 60.

So far this year, 69% cases of the disease have been recorded and 47 people died of AIDS.

S.F. Schools Still Have No Policy on AIDS

Policy to be Developed by New Committee; District Criticized as Slow to Act on Gay Issues

by Charles Lineberger

San Francisco's public schools have yet to adopt a system-wide policy on AIDS despite prodding from both the gay and medical communities in the recent months. The San Francisco School District has reactivated the Health and Family Life Committee and assign it the task of providing the district with an AIDS policy. And on other issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community—harassment of gay students and anti-gay violence—there has been progress but critics say it has been spotty.

"At this point we just don't have a policy to apply when someone has AIDS," said JoAnne Miller, a member of the school board. "In terms of children, (with AIDS) they are the ones at risk. They are more likely to catch something from the other children than another child is of catching AIDS from them. And in terms of adults employed by the school district, people have to understand that it takes sexual contact, not casual contact, to spread AIDS," Miller explained.

What would the district actually do in the case of a student or employed adult coming down with the disease? According to Miller, that would have to be decided on a case by case basis. "But I believe we would apply the same rules as in the Brit ordinance," she said. (The ordinance outlawing discrimination against people with AIDS was recently passed in San Francisco after being introduced by Sup. Harry Britt.)

Felix Duag, Superintendent Carlos Cornejo's spokesman, explained the district's failure to formulate a plan to deal with the eventuality of AIDS among its students or staff. "The superintendent," said Duag, "had recommended to the board that rather than have an isolated policy on AIDS, they should reform the Committee on Health and Family Life to review all the policies pertaining to infectious diseases."

According to Duag, the committee will be made up of about 20 members, including up to 10 appointees made by each school board member. At least three representatives from the gay community have already been

appointed to the committee. They are Greg Day, Hank Wilson and Hunter Morey. All three are members of the Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocacy Council.

But Duag noted that not all of the committee members have yet been appointed and a date has not yet been set for its first meeting.

"It's fine to have a committee," said committee appointee and gay activist Hank Wilson, "but many of the proposals submitted by the superintendent don't need a committee's approval." On other issues of concern to the gay community, Wilson added, "Policy-wise things are OK, but now it's time to implement the policy. And the next thing to see is how long it will take to implement it."

Among policies accepted by the school board but still in need of implementation relate to the handling of sexual orientation slurs, the distribution of the teacher's resource book *Demystifying Homosexuality*, the assignment of a school district staff person to work as liaison with the city's gay and lesbian community, and the provision of peer counselors in the schools who are sensitive to the needs of gay and lesbian youth.

"That was just accepted at a board meeting a week and a half ago," said Duag of the policy that outlaws sexual orientation slurs. "It's an administrative thing. It will probably be presented at a meeting of the district's principals," he said. Duag noted that the principals meet about once a month but he was unsure when the issue would be brought up with them.

"The school board has passed a resolution that its policy is to

use my book," said Hunter Morey, author of *Demystifying Homosexuality* and also on the new Health and Family Life Committee. "They have agreed to provide every principal, assistant principal, counselor and family life teacher a copy of the book. That totals about 386 books. About 100 of those will be donated by San Francisco Sex Information with money provided by the Golden Gate Business Association. But so far I have neither received an order form for the 286 books they were supposed to order, or a request for the 100 donated books," he said.

Apparently, the order and request for the books was in the mail, according to school board member Libby Denebeim. "We've accepted the books," said Denebeim, "and we've ordered another 85. The order has already gone out to Hunter Morey." Denebeim noted that 185 books was less than half of the 386 books that would be necessary to provide them to everyone designated to receive one in the school's policy statement.

As Greg Day of the Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocacy Council explained, "It's too early to tell really," when asked whether the school district might fail to implement these policies. He added, "We're in this for the long haul and we have quite a few more areas of concern we haven't brought before the school board."

The next meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocacy Council will be on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. For more information call Greg Day at 673-0915.

Rights Commission Asks More Staff

Backlog of AIDS Complaints Cited; More Cases Expected With New Ordinance

by Charles Lineberger

The AIDS epidemic is weighing heavily on a number of city services but particularly hard hit has been the Lesbian and Gay Unit of the Human Rights Commission. Already burdened with a three month backlog of AIDS discrimination cases, the unit has now been assigned the task of handling anticipated complaints arising from the recently enacted San Francisco AIDS-bias ordinance.

Jackie Winnow and Eileen Gillis are the two staff people with the Lesbian and Gay Unit of the Human Rights Commission. They talked about the crisis that the AIDS epidemic and the newly passed AIDS-bias ordinance have created for their unit.

"In order for the ordinance to work," said Winnow, "we're going to need more staff. Right now we have just two staff people—ourselves. We've stretched ourselves as far as we can. We need someone to deal with this AIDS-related backlog."

Already both Gillis and Winnow are working hours of overtime, according to Winnow, the

AIDS discrimination cases even before the passage of the San Francisco AIDS-bias bill. "The backlog grows out of the fact that AIDS complaints have increased dramatically over the past year," said Gillis.

"We had 20 investigated AIDS discrimination complaints in the first quarter of this fiscal year (1985-86)," she said, "as opposed to 20 for the entire fiscal year 1984-85. And we expect a further increase of reported complaints as people gain knowledge of their rights under this law."

Already both Gillis and Winnow are working hours of overtime, according to Winnow, the

Lesbian and Gay Unit also has three part-time graduate interns. To bring in more volunteers wouldn't solve the problem, according to the two staff people, because training time for new interns would begin to decrease their own effectiveness.

"We're urging the mayor to appropriate adequate funding to carry out the mandates of the ordinance," explained Winnow. "We're looking for a full-time staff person, more office space and written materials addressing AIDS discrimination and rights."

A resolution to that effect has been introduced by Supervisors Harry Britt and Nancy Walker. It was passed by the Human Services Committee on Dec. 11.

Said Winnow, "I know they're working under a budget crunch, but this ordinance (the Britt AIDS-bias law) is going to save the city money because if people are employed and housed they won't require the city's social service resources."

And added Gillis, "when you have complaints from people who have AIDS or AIDS-related conditions, it's especially important to get help to them in a timely manner. Please ask everyone to contact the Board of Supervisors and the mayor on behalf of this. It's real important that people communicate with the mayor. She is the key."

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Example: Here is an example of how a nonmember might mark the form if he considered the AIDS category to be his **10th** most important category.

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THIS WEEK



Marga Gomez plays the N' Touch Dec. 23 (Photo: Rink)

FRIDAY 20

- **Claire Mix:** music, Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 8 PM. Also Starring storyteller Ardy Tibby.
- **Tom Ammiano:** comedy, Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park.
- **Buns Contest:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **Femprov:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8-9 PM.
- **Cindy Herron:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 cover, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- **Laola Jiles:** music, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 9:30 PM. With Joe Barrett.
- **Deathtrap:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 9:30 PM. A comedy/thriller by Ira Lewin. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

SATURDAY 21

- **Claire Mix:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2-4.
- **Trocadero Transfer:** Flirting with Santa (Christmas Party), 10 PM-Dawn. Troc ID \$5, valid for 6 months, available at the door. Call 495-0185 for details.
- **The Healing Order of K'thar Sissies:** Winter Solstice Ceremony of Wands, 195 Mississippi (at Mariposa), 8:30 PM, \$10. An erotic celebration for the long night, which will include sacred spectacle, J/O mysteries and blessings of renewal. Call 921-7314 for details and reservations.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** Holiday Open House, 11 AM-2 PM, 1853 Market St., S.F. All seniors and their friends are invited to attend. Call 626-7000 for details.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** Christmas Drop-In Social, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 4-11 PM, non-members' fee: \$6. A splendid display of lights and decorations. Enjoy our elaborate train display with its authentic European village. Try our special Fog Nog.



Join the K'thar Sissies in a Winter Solstice Ceremony of Wands Dec. 21 (Photo: M. I. Chester)

Sing Christmas carols at 9 PM. Enjoy our buffet table. Call 641-0999 for details.

- **Chanticleer:** music, St. Ignatius Church, Fulton and Parker Ave., S.F., 8 PM, \$12 (\$9 to season subscribers). America's foremost male vocal ensemble presents a program of Gregorian chants, medieval carols, French, German and Spanish music of the Renaissance, a selection of international songs and a medley of traditional Christmas spirituals. Call 392-4400 for more ticket information as well as Ticketron, BASS, and STBS.
- **Our River City Family:** Winter Solstice Potluck, 1244 Morse Ave., Sacramento, 7-11 PM. Call (916) 971-9695 for details.
- **The Cabaret Bar:** Christmas Country-Western Floor Show, The Cabaret Bar, 9435 Hiway 20, Glenhaven, CA.
- **Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** bowling at Diablo Lanes, 1500 Monument Blvd., Concord, 6 PM. Open to the public. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Snow White Look-a-Like Contest:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **Affirmation:** discussion on myths, traditions and fables of Christmas, 16089 Carolyn St., San Leandro (Carolyn/164th St. exit or BayFair BART), 7 PM. Call 276-2298 for details.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Decide-and-Ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 1 PM.
- **Deathtrap:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).



Claire Mix will be at Mama Bears Dec. 20 and the Artemis Cafe Dec. 21

- **Wesley Whitfield:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 cover, show only, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- **Writing Workshop:** for women 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 12 noon. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, call 626-7000 for more information.

SUNDAY 22

- **Explorations in Magic:** Van Ault and Friends host a Winter Solstice Celebration with visualization and ritual, 7:30 PM, \$7, \$3 PWAs. Reservations: 864-1362.
- **Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** worship service, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **A Christmas Gala and Dance Along Nutcracker:** Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 5 PM, \$15, \$12, \$10. Tickets available at All-American Boy, Castro St. or call 621-5619. Featuring the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, Twirling Corps, Flag Corps, the San Francisco Tap Troupe, City Swing-Pamela Brooks, Jose Sarria and Gail Wilson.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Paradise Drive. Meet at McLaren Lodge at 9 AM. A 40-mile, briskly-paced ride around the Tiburon Peninsula. Moderately

hilly. Call 648-2618 for details.

- **Linda Tillery:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5 cover.
- **A Whole Lot of Bessie In Me:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$6 cover, \$4 dinner guest cover. Starring Aldo Bell. The songs and story of Bessie Smith.
- **Robert Coffman:** a reading of Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*. Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM. Call 861-3078 for reservations.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Decide-and-Ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 10 AM.
- **Santa Rosa MCC:** worship services, 7 PM. Call (707) 546-8106 for details.
- **Deathtrap:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, S.F. (see Friday for details).
- **Slightly Younger Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 1-3 PM. Call 293-4525 for details.
- **Gay Volleyball:** pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Dehara, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- **Le Jazz Hot:** cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- **Drop-in VD Clinic:** sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.

MONDAY 23

- **AIDS InterFaith Network and the Metropolitan Community Church:** AIDS Healing Service, MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 6:30 PM.
- **Marga Gomez:** comedy, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Hosted by Joseph Taro.
- **Sapphron Obois and Julie Homi:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8 PM.
- **AIDS Writing Project:** writing workshop for people with AIDS, 3 to 5 PM. Call 861-2385 for more information.

TUESDAY 24

- **Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** Christmas Eve service, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Dignity/San Francisco:** Midnight Mass, Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F., 11:45 PM.
- **Santa Rosa MCC:** Christmas Eve Service, Guerneville Russian River MCC, Community Church, 1420 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville, 11 PM.
- **Cindy Herron:** music, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 5:30 PM. With Robert Bendorff.
- **ARC/AIDS Vigil:** Old Roman Catholic Midnight Mass, Old Federal Building, 50 1/2 U.N. Plaza, S.F., 12 AM.
- **Meditation and Healing Circle:** meditation, Haight-Ashbury Community Center at Park Branch of the Library, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5483 for details.
- **Gay and Lesbian Diabetes Support Group:** Liberator bookstore, 1800 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-2398.



Gail Wilson will appear at the SF Band Foundation's Dance-along Nutcracker Dec. 22 (Photo: Rink)



Van Ault celebrates the Winter Solstice Sunday (Photo: M. Krostue)

- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, The Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, San Jose, 7 PM. Call 293-4525 for details.
- **The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana (at Durant), Berkeley 7 PM. For details, call 465-7388 or 655-3825.
- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7-7:30 PM, request dancing 7:30-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 552-8413 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.

WEDNESDAY 25

- **Lesbians and Gays Potluck:** 437 Webster St., S.F., 2-7 PM. Liquor welcome, but must be accompanied by a dish.
- **Fruit Punch:** gay radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, 10 PM.
- **Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWAs. Call 864-1141 for details.
- **San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus:** rehearsal, All Saints Church, 1350 Waller St., near Masonic, S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 334-6542 for information.

THURSDAY 26

- **Integrity/San Francisco Bay Area:** Christmas Eucharist (mass) services, Church of Saint John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St., near Valencia, S.F. (16th St. BART or 14 Mission bus). Call 227-8054 for details.
- **Feathers 'N' Flesh:** music, comedy and male strippers, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, \$1, with alternating comedy hosts Danny Williams and Karen Ripley.
- **Mitch Bandanza:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, \$6 cover, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- **Men's Support Group:** Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM.
- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.
- **GLDE:** writing workshop for gay male seniors 60 and older, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 431-6254 for details.
- **Deathtrap:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).
- **Western Star Dancers:** beginners square dance class, YWCA, 620 Sutter St., S.F., 7:15 PM. Call 864-6134 for details.
- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St. (at Fell), S.F., 9 PM. Call 552-7100 or 563-3031 to pre-register. Danny Williams is the MC.

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

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MUSIC

Band's Muse

Lesesne van Antwerp Says The Show Will Go On

by Bernard Spunberg

Get well, Lesesne. Lesesne van Antwerp, musical director of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, has been in Kaiser Hospital since Nov. 21. Nevertheless, this year's SF Band Foundation Christmas concert will go on. Scheduled for Dec. 22 at the Gift Center, the concert will feature the band, City Swing, the SF Tap Troupe, the Flag and Twirling Corps, and several surprise performers. Tickets can be reserved by calling 621-5619. Speaking from his hospital bed, conductor van Antwerp described a somewhat unusual section of the program.

"You've heard of sing-along *Messiahs*," van Antwerp said. "Well, ours will be the first ever dance-along *Nutcracker*. You're right. It is absurd. I hope it comes off absurdly. People are encouraged to come in costumes. You'll also be able to rent a tutu at the door from our Rent-a-Tutu booth."

The whimsy of a dance-along *Nutcracker* complements the discipline and dedication with which van Antwerp has built a solid musical ensemble. Musical director of the band since July '82, van Antwerp also served as director of the Los Angeles gay marching band for two years, during which time he became close friends with Jon Sims, our band's founder. The two conductors even brought their ensembles together for joint performances. In February 1982, Sims began a leave of absence from the SF band to take a trip around the world, and van Antwerp was invited by Sims' roommates to sublet his space in their household. As he was no longer leading the LA band and his personal and professional lives were flexible, van Antwerp decided to move to SF, at least temporarily.

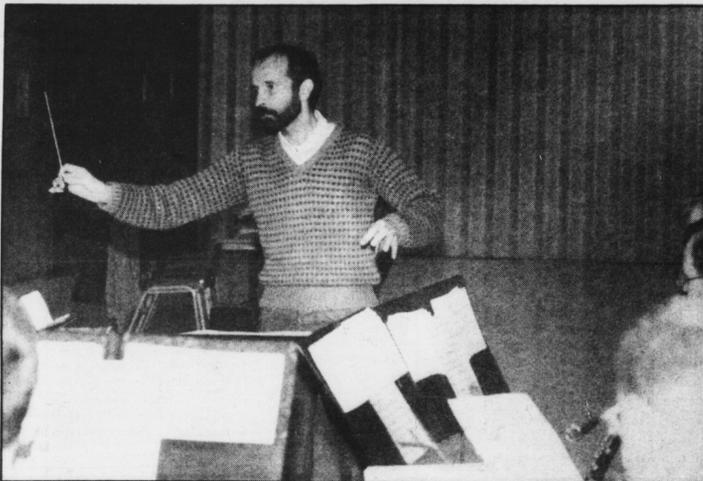
"My SF roommates were both in the band," van Antwerp said, "and they dragged me to rehearsals to play oboe. There already was a replacement director in John Smith, so I wasn't coming up from LA for that purpose at all. Smith resigned in July of '82, and I offered to do the job until Jon Sims returned. When he came back, Sims no longer wanted the job, so I said, 'All right, I'll keep doing it.' I'm still at it."

Now 37, van Antwerp completed his undergraduate work in music history in his native state at the University of Alabama. He has also earned a master's degree in composition from the University of Southern California, where he has a doctorate of musical arts degree in what he terms "very, very slow" progress. van Antwerp's academic achievements reflect tenacity characteristic of his temperament as conductor.

"I've gotten to be a real nag," van Antwerp said. "I make the band do things over and over again. Then they'll play it right, and I'll say, 'Oh, that's great. Now do it again.' A long time ago, a piano teacher told me, 'You can practice something 19 times and get it right the 20th, so what do you do? You go on to the next passage. In a performance, what's going to win out, the 19 times you played it wrong or the one time you did it right?' The hard-nosed approach really pays off."

"I believe in challenging musicians to play better than they think they can. At our last concert, we played *Finlandia*, which ends with a big, loud chord. It came out beautifully. I just looked at them—it kind of took my breath away. The knew it, and their breath was taken away, too. They couldn't believe they'd done it."

As a gay ensemble, the band serves a more than purely musical purpose, van Antwerp acknowledges the band's role as a medium through which musicians can exercise and improve their skills. He emphasizes, however, the band's societal



Lesesne van Antwerp at a rehearsal of the Band

(Photo: Rink)

function. "The band reaches out to the straight community by providing a positive image of what gay people are all about. When people attend a parade and hear a band playing a Sousa march down the street, they think, 'Oh, how nice. It's all-American music.' Then they see we're gay, and that adds a new perspective not only to Sousa, but to gay people, too. Because music evokes such a powerful visceral response, I think the gay musical organizations have done more to improve the image of gay people in the world than just about anything."

Despite his current health problems, van Antwerp remains strongly committed to his ensemble. "I figure I'll be out of the hospital in two weeks at the latest. I fully intend to lead the band's Christmas concert. "I do not have AIDS. You can say that. I checked myself into the hospital because I've had a mouth infection since March. It's been very painful, and I haven't been able to eat, so of course I've lost weight. The back of my throat is being treated for candida, and my mouth is being treated for herpes. The treatment is helping, but it's going to be awhile. What I have is AIDS-related, but I guess it's not AIDS. I'm reluctant to use the

term ARC, because that sounds like it's going to turn into AIDS. A couple of days ago, I had a CAT scan to test for toxoplasmosis, which did not turn up.

"The longer I've been with the band and the other wonderful people I've dealt with, I've just learned an awful lot of secrets of life—the value of perseverance

and creating a wonderful world for everyone through whatever means, in our case, through music. It can all be an amazing, truly wonderful, transcendent experience for everyone if you know how to do it." Lesesne, you know how to do it. Please get well so you can continue to teach the rest of us. ■

High Spirits

by Bernard Spunberg

Rituals are among the building blocks of culture. Now Sing with Hearts Aglow, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Christmas concert, given Dec. 14 and 15 and scheduled for Christmas Eve at Mission High School, has been presented for the last six years. Sometimes, quality is not the point. We always hope for the best, of course. In this case, however, what really matters is that Now Sing has become a local tradition. Enthusiastic, near-capacity audiences suggest that, for many in our community, Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without the SFGMC.

Not every thing about the concert was familiar. Gregg Tallman, the chorus' brand-new music director, made his debut. Tallman only began working with the chorus last October, so he's hardly had time to shape it. Old problems with sagging pitch and anemic, emaciated tone still persist, and they were nowhere more destructive than in Mark Rhynsberger's new work, *Christmas Canticles*.

Rhynsberger's piece is simply grand. Mixing 16th and 20th century modality in a richly varied homo- and polyphonic texture, *Christmas Canticles* has a melodic sweep and color that more than justify future performance. Though the undue length of one flute solo distorts the overall structure of the work, Rhynsberger exploits flute, percussion, and piano colors most effectively. Fleet, deft passages of two-part counterpoint recall Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, the coda has an Impressionistic transparency, and there's also a brief evocation of the massive and exotic crowd scenes from *Turandot*. But those stylistic

references are only for the sake of description. Rhynsberger is a real composer with an original voice.

When a small solo ensemble stepped out from the Chorus in the *Canticles*, something peculiar happened. The small group, only about a tenth the size of the chorus itself, made more sound than the whole body. The members of the solo group were obviously chosen for their musicianship; could it be that, when integrated with the chorus, they feel constrained to hold back their richest tone for the sake of blend? Intonation among the small group was also better than among the whole, which seemed to droop into a different key in passages that alternated voices and instruments.

The problem of tone and pitch among the SFGMC was also underlined by the performance of the Redwood Empire Glee Club. Led by Jane Ballou, the ensemble, composed of only 11 voices, projected brighter, richer sound than the entire SFGMC. Though the glee club's eight pieces represented diverse styles, their interpretations had a certain sameness that would have been less marked if presented in smaller groupings before and after intermission. With one soprano piercing the texture more clearly with each succeeding piece, blend was also a problem. Nevertheless, conductor Ballou's singers performed with rare musicianship. Their intonation and warm, supported tone were an inspiration.

The chorus excelled in the traditional and campy Christmas music that filled out the concert. Nothing, however, was more ex-

(Continued on page 36)



Pam Brooks performs with the Band at its Dec. 22 concert

(Photo: Rink)

ART

Dreams, Hope, Faith

by Kim Anno

Sometimes it's the reason behind an exhibition that takes art to a whole other plateau in this life. In this case it is the place where 22 local photographers have their work on display, Ward 86 and 5B at San Francisco General Hospital. The show runs through Jan. 6. Photographer Joe Altman was taking apart frames the other day when the idea occurred to him. Why not contribute what he does best? And get others to participate? So he did, and the result is a warm spot in a season of cool commercialism.

Nurse J.B. Molaghan says "The patients love it. There's so much traffic in the hall with people looking at the photos. We have to keep them moving. It makes everybody feel like the community's there with them. External forces give people encouragement to live."

The work itself is a broad selection of subjects that each artist chose to include. Most successful are the photos that reflect a conscious decision on the photographer's part to deal with the essence of life and/or death. I am relieved to see there are no pretty little still lifes and only one orange sunset photo. As Nurse Molaghan says, "There's nothing fake about it." Most photographers chose the affirmation of life whether it was comedy, sexuality, or whatever. One outstanding photo is of Harvey Milk shaving. The picture was taken by Guy Cory, who himself died from AIDS. Harvey has a very goofy look on his face and huge, bugged-out eyes. It's a very funny side of Harvey. And with all our memories of him, the photo emanates a great deal of warmth.

Another picture about the spirit of living is Greg Day's "Young Woman on Her Family Land, Coastal South Carolina." The picture is of a young black woman close up to the camera lens. In back of her is a stretch of grassy flat land. What is most intriguing are her hands. They are caught in a curious movement that suggests a kind of power. She communicates joy as well as a strong sense of her identity. Her identity is an affirmation of life. But it's not an idealized portrait either. Her struggle is there, too. She wears the kerchief of a peasant. In Day's piece, as in many others, it is the conflict in and of living that fascinates me.

Beauty certainly has its place among these photos. Joe Altman contributed a photo of a young, white, muscular man. The figure is idealized, but Altman's eye offers us something else beyond his pretty physical appearance. The body position of the male nude echoes the gesture of the classic female nude. The change in gender is refreshing.

Crawford Barton also gives us beauty in his "Sergio 1973." Sergio has a classic Italian face. But he also has two Marmosets sitting on each of his shoulders. Barton leaves me wondering just what is Sergio up to with a couple of monkeys?

Stephen Savage's nude male is less a human figure than it is an apparition or spirit. The photograph conveys a transition from life to death. The man's whole body is caught in an upward thrust. His arms suggest wings. It is as if Savage is in search of the place where afterlife begins, or perhaps even God.

On the more visceral or painful side are two works, one by David Smith, the other by Nina Glaser. Smith's piece in reality is a mass of roots poking out from the ground at the base of a huge tree.

The longer you look at the photo the more the roots come alive. They are lizard-like, they slither over the tree and devour it. Frankly, the photograph is frightening. I am reminded of those things one has no control over, things like death and disease. I commend Smith's audacity in the choice of this picture. So much of life is so unglossy, and David Smith communicates this.

Nina Glaser gives us a picture of a person covered in muslin. The figure is seated on a shelf in a stucco wall. It is only recognizable because of a tiny hand clutching the cloth. Above the covered figure is a construction of an animal skull. The skull is a religious or shamanistic object. The tones of photograph are all very subtle grays, but the detail is so clean and sharp the result is a study in richness. You can make up your own mind about her metaphors. My preference is to see both the irony and the tragedy. It takes guts to present both Smith's and Glaser's photographs in an exhibition at the AIDS ward. They are not pretty

pictures. They come from a dark place, but they are just as real, just as valid as Mark I. Chester's hunky man in an attic, or Mick Hicks' soft focus "Wildwood." These two works are also on view. It seems people with AIDS can respond to both lovely idealism and the gritty stuff we are all desperately trying to escape.

Mischa Kitain has a color photo with a science fiction bent. The color is the most saturated fuchsia I have ever seen. The landscape is from some other planet. Here too, the contrast of textures is a plus.

One historical gem is from the collection of Walter Jebbe. Jebbe believes the photographer to be Arnold Gente. It is of the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. There are two smiling women dressed in their finery, posing for the camera. The two men with them watch as the city burns. Jebbe's collection is on display at the library downtown from time to time.

There are many other pieces I enjoyed. But I have to say the experience of the whole exhibit at the ward is the most exciting thing about it. Who ever said art had to hang only in galleries or museums to be important? I don't know, but if I ever run across him, I for one would spit in his eye.

Nina Glaser's contribution to the Ward 86 and 5-B holiday photography exhibit



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EVEN IN BABYLON

Gimme Gimme

JOHN F. KARR

Herewith, the things I wanted to find when I opened my Christmas presents, and some things I thought I wanted:

FOLLIES

Broadway fans were atwitter for months between the announcement of the event and its execution. Thomas Z. Shepard, the RCA executive and producer who found a raison d'être in the documenting of Stephen Sondheim's works, proposed a new, complete recording of *Follies*. The original cast album on Capitol records, he alleged, is not only incomplete, but does not offer a clear picture of *Follies* as a show. The economics of recording being prohibitive, Shepard (who was prevented on economic grounds by RCA from making an original cast album of Richard Rodgers' *I Remember Mama*, clearly the master's last show) decided to subsidize his recording of *Follies* by hiring bankable stars from opera, Broadway, and television, and recording them live in concert with no less a back-up ensemble than the New York Philharmonic and taping the whole thing for cable television. This paid for the recording, and on Sept. 6 and 7, 1985, Broadway moved to Avery Fisher Hall. Those present will boast for years, and those who weren't will claim they were. The rest of us must be content—not difficult at all—with the overly exciting two-record album of the concert, and with the video, which will be broadcast at an unspecified future date.

Now, Barbara Cook and Mandy Patinkin sang Sally and Buddy Plummer. Lee Remick and George Hearn sang the Stones. Elaine Stritch, Liliane Montevecchi, and Comden and Green performed the vaudeville turns. Phyllis Newman led the mirror routine, and Carol Burnett was Carlotta "I'm Still Here" Campion. Opera star

Licia Albanese sang the diva of the past, whose warning "Never look back" is the central lesson of Sondheim's exploration of the false allure of the past, as well as a credo for his art, and veteran Sondheim collaborator Paul Gemignani conducted. If you were there you would have *plotted*.

Listening on records is a different experience, though, and the blazing intensity of the evening, despite stunning (it's an overworked word, but true) performances, makes for a recorded document that doesn't coalesce into the unified entity Shepard had in mind. The Capitol album, shorn of too much material and more dully recorded, has a reflective, calm heart that is more representative of *Follies* than this parade of glittering, hyper performances.

This *Follies* certainly is enjoyable cut by cut, from the ineffable beauty of Barbara Cook's voice, perfectly matched by the quicksilver shimmer of Patinkin's, to the drop-dead panache of Stritch. And it is not complete, offering 32 minutes more than the Capitol album. Only the "Tango" instrumental is deleted, most likely because (my guess) it was not composed by Sondheim but by the show's dance music arranger, John Berkman.

Facts surrounding this concert will become Broadway lore. Angela Lansbury was asked to sing any role she wanted, but was committed to her TV series. Mary Martin and Gwen Verdon were asked for "Broadway Baby," but it fell to Stritch, who should have had "I'm Still Here." Stritch's music was transposed—any surprise?—down, while both the lustrous Cook and the quivery Remick took theirs, surprisingly, up. And so on.

The book numbers have no applause at their conclusion, while the show-within-a-show numbers justifiably do, with mass

hysteria. This clearly demarks the musical's separation of reality from showbiz, but even when not sounded, the evening's excitement is palpably and disturbingly present. With nary a word of continuity, the alternation of styles is confusing. This alternation makes it difficult for any record to clearly represent the musical. But a concert-goer said that what sounds hectic on the record was brilliant on stage. So although this record is the only gift for show queens this year, Shepard's vision of the ultimate *Follies* document may not be fulfilled until the video of this concert matches the sounds to visuals. Meanwhile, overdoze on this delirious recording.

La BABS

I needn't recommend Barbra Streisand's *The Broadway Album* because you probably already have it. If you don't, you are no longer a homosexual and shouldn't be reading this paper.

Babs has been around for so long we cannot pretend to be unfamiliar with her faults as well as her perfections. Yes, some of the ballads on the album are over-performed. Gloriously so. And when she makes a mistake, it's a large-scale doozy—her "Tomita inspired, outer space 'Somewhere' is el stinko. But no other performer could have envisioned or executed the album's opener, Sondheim's "Putting It Together." My God, right there on a pop album—content and unmatched voice. It's a triumph, as is the bel canto perfection of vocalizing she brings to dramatic passages, like the finale of "Ladies Who Lunch." Most performers follow this, but Babs scores the same dramatic effects without ever distorting her voice.

The only complaint is the sameness of the ballads, which are all in the Rodgers and Hammerstein mold. But when sung like this, who could complain? Many of us

WAITING FOR THE VIRGIN



NEW POEMS BY

GAVIN DILLARD

have stood by Babs for years as she played among the wastelands of the *Billboard* charts. Now, the Prodigal Daughter, she's back. She's the Streisand we remember: the excess, the high art, the glory of that voice. Nobody else can put it together like she can.

Operetta fanciers ostensibly have two presents this season, but one bombed. Lehar's strange amalgam of verismo and show tune, *Giuditta*, has a new recording, but, oh my, Star Edda Moser is hard-voiced and shrill instead of alluring, Nicolai Gedda's elegance is betrayed by age, and conductor Willi Boskovsky (concert master at the show's premiere in 1934) is just a drag. Seek out Hilde Gueden's fiery recording, or ask me for it, but steer clear of this *schreckliche* failure.

There is, however, a happy recording of Offenbach's *La Belle Helene*. With star Jessye Norman, the billing could have been "Helen Is Troy," but her Helen of Troy is the most alluring one on record. This is a more symphonic *Helene* than we are accustomed to, but not lacking in style for that. Norman, lightening her voice for allegro passages and ensembles, makes Hellen an Ariadne with a wink in her eye, and she has a fine partner in the Paris of John Aler. Hang on to your old Rene Liebowitz performance for its idiomatous point and bright voices, but savor the beauties of this one. It's a tres belle *Helene*.

IN HEAT

The pin-up cover of Larry Mitchell's *In Heat* (Gay Presses of New York, \$6.95) led me to postpone reading it, as I anticipated yet another of those glum porn novels gay publishers have been stuffing between covers faster than Jimmy Dean can stuff pig into sausage skins. How mistaken I was, and what a major surprise *In Heat* is.

Though billed as "A Romance," there's nothing old-fashioned or sugary about *In Heat*. It's a picaresque and slightly macabre romp, written in a style as original yet secure in its voice as last year's *Family Dancing* or *Why We Never Danced the Charleston*. Only the author's gleeful insistence on being thoroughly gay keeps the book from "crossing over" as those books did, receiving mass

edition paperback reprints.

This is not a porn novel, although it is obsessively, scandalously sexual. The hero of *In Heat* and his friend-perhaps-lover Jonathan live in a palpably hot and physical New York, where they cope as best they can with contemporary problems: desire and death, sexuality and sickness, loyalty and love. A third party, the 60-year-old Samuel, joins their circle. Amidst their mysteriously shifting liaisons there arises sex of the most novel variety, repeated calls for Martinis, an ingenious murder plot, and the need to dispose of a corpse in mid-town Manhattan.

The madcap plot is matched by Mitchell's freewheeling use of words. Together, they make *In Heat* a novel of hard-boiled sexual heat and mischievous moon-dappled delight. The Walt Whitman bookstore has *In Heat* mistakenly placed with the porn novels on a secondary table. It ought to be moved up front, with the "serious" stuff, as it happily bridges porn and literature.

Last year's first book of poems by Gavin Dillard, *Notes From a Marriage*, alerted me to his terse, perceptive, illuminating writing. Those earlier poems looked like greeting card slogans, but invariably packed the shock of recognition into a novel form of expression. I looked forward to more work by the young, attractive poet. (That's him in the nude on the cover of his new book.) I wasn't at all let down by his recent *Waiting for the Virgin* (Sea Horse Press, \$5.95), which contains longer, more lyric poems than the haiku-like takes of his first book. Although there is no plot here, a connecting thread of event and emotion links the poems, which are dated to cover a period of time to offer a journal of the imagination. They offer striking looks at a poetic soul who muses on an unobtainable man's smile and the disturbance of his relationship with a woman. Dillard distills our emotions in the midst of a swirling world and stops the eye and ear repeatedly with the Circe-like call of mysterious yearnings, unnameable fears, and memorable lines. Although the book is thin in pages, it is rich with daydreams, night calls, and the dark song of memory.



TALES OF TESSI TURA

Rain Checks

GEORGE HEYMONT

Opera companies must rely on their subscribers to deliver a large percentage of their annual earned income. These faithful ticket buyers continue to lay out large amounts of money well in advance of opening night after having been assured that, after holding onto their regular seats and taking advantage of an opportunity to make a sizeable donation to their local opera company, they will be able to hear the stars they love. Yet every opera company prints a standard disclaimer warning patrons that casts and repertoire are subject to change. The Met no longer even prints the name of the opera scheduled for an evening's performance on its tickets. Is management trying to tell us something we don't know? Indeed they are.

The bottom line, subject to artistic cancellations, is that you pay your money and take your chances. I mention this because, with increasing regularity, impresarios and opera fans are becoming madder than hell about cancellations by major artists. General directors who have carefully laid out their rehearsal schedules and marketing campaigns are spending too much time scrambling for second, third, or fourth-choice replacements who will inevitably deliver a less satisfying artistic product than what was initially planned. The growing legions of angry subscribers who demand to know why they are not entitled to a refund when a major artist cancels are learning that, rather than an evening with the superstar whose popularity originally impelled them to purchase an expensive subscription series, they have bought a rather vaguely defined

"operatic experience."

It was on July 23, in Sydney, Australia, that I first learned Placido Domingo would be cancelling his appearances this fall with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Houston Grand Opera, and the San Francisco Opera so that he could make a film of Verdi's *Otello* with Franco Zeffirelli. Upon returning to the United States I discovered that the managements of these three opera companies had yet to make Domingo's cancellation public. The Spanish tenor (who is remarkably healthy) was about to embark on a national tour with a Mexican zarzuela troupe and, because Domingo was making headlines which would help them sell tickets, the last thing these impresarios wanted to face prior to the opening of their fall seasons was a run on the box office by angry patrons demanding refunds. Does their insistence on allowing Domingo's name to keep selling tickets constitute fraudulent advertising? A touchy question if ever there was one.

Luckily, September's devastating earthquakes in Domingo's home town of Mexico City provided all three impresarios with a convenient, if tragic, excuse by which they could explain the superstar tenor's sudden cancellation. Meanwhile, timely and newsworthy pictures of Domingo emanated from Mexico City, landing his concerned face on the front pages of several American newspapers. While his management plea-bargained with the angry impresarios Domingo had left in the lurch, the popular superstar continued to gain plenty of valuable media visibility. The fact that a serious breach of contract may have been involved

was, to most observers, a matter of trivial importance.

Where does that leave the injured parties? Ample consideration had certainly been given by the subscribers, single-ticket buyers, and impresarios who contracted Domingo's services.

Many are now complaining bitterly that they have been ripped off and, after successive seasons involving cancellations by Pavarotti, Caballe, and Domingo, some have become so furious they are refusing to renew their subscriptions. The San Francisco Opera has announced that Domingo will "make amends" by starring in a new production of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* in 1987 shortly after his September appearances with Los Angeles' newly founded Music Center Opera Association in Puccini's *La Boheme*. Grow up, people! Domingo's schedule is booked four years in advance and a new production of *Tales of Hoffman* (a work which has never been performed by the San Francisco Opera's main company) doesn't get scheduled for production without an important tenor.

HALF-BAKED HASH

Therefore, I'm going to try not to be overly caustic in describing this season's *Un Ballo in Maschera* because, although I have always admired John Conklin's sets and costumes, this revival did absolutely nothing to improve the San Francisco Opera's sorry reputation as a house which cannot do Verdi justice. For those who had banked on hearing Placido Domingo and Margaret Price, the evening had the words "artistic rip-off" written all over it. Despite Jerry Sher's excellent supertitles, Sonja Frisell's clean direction, and John Pritchard's able conducting, this revival was a bit of a dud.

Originally planned with Domingo and Price as the romantic leads, this *Ballo* ended up with 61-year-old Carlo Bergonzi singing opposite a soprano who had to learn the role of Amelia in four days while being rushed through rehearsals. Having seen



The sadness of Carol Neblett's plight was readily apparent during her last-minute appearance as Amelia in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

Carol Neblett perform very well under better circumstances and, knowing she is an exceptionally intelligent and stage-wise artist, I cannot blame her for sounding shrill and woolly throughout most of the evening. Neblett was obviously under stress and, because her voice was not at its best, her performance suffered greatly.

Bergonzi sang relatively well but could not save what was basically a doomed show. Although Kevin Lagan's Count Horn and James Patterson's Count Ribbing were sturdy enough portrayals, Fiorenza Cossotto's Ulrica demonstrated a fierce and ugly vocal beat. Silvano Carollo's Renato was quite impressively sung, all things being relative. The best performances of the evening came from Eric Mills' pert and sassy Oscar and David Malis' likeable fisherman, Christian.

DEADPAN DANCING

Brief mention should be made of *Tango Argentino*, a variety show currently on display at the

Mark Hellinger Theatre in New York. While this presentation contains some fierce and fascinating footwork, those who expect to see a full evening of tango dancing with all its sexual innuendo, are in for a dismal shock. One third of the program is devoted to vocal selections which are painfully amplified and frighteningly mundane. I had the distinct suspicion that these singers are usually booked for overly melodramatic weddings. Another third of the evening is filled with instrumental numbers played by a band which includes piano, flute, bass, strings, and four men playing bandoneons (the Argentinian equivalent of an accordion).

While Juan Carlos Copés' choreography leaves audiences begging for more, his tangos are interspersed with vocal and instrumental selections which are almost as discouraging as the San Francisco Opera's revival of *Un Ballo in Maschera*. It's on nights like these that I fear I may be pitted against a tidal wave of diminishing returns.

BACK TO BATON

PHILIP CAMPBELL

The New Deal

The San Francisco Symphony's sixth annual New and Unusual Music series opens Friday, Dec. 20, in the elegant surroundings of Grace Cathedral with a concert designed to celebrate the spirit of the holidays.

New composer-in-residence Charles Wuorinen will assume first-time leadership duties and also conduct three of the five scheduled events.

The question is less whether Wuorinen can match the previous successes of founders Edo de Waart and John Adams, but rather can the series continue to warrant its name, let alone funding.

Glancing at forthcoming programs reveals a distinctly conservative trend which to many minds seems sensible and positive.

The series has grown increasingly experimental in recent years and, while a certain daring must be exercised, the line dividing radical art and amateurish self-indulgence has been crossed too many times. Anyone who suffered through the agonizing opening night debacle perpetrated by Robert Ashley must remember the feelings of annoyance and disappointment it evoked.

No one at the symphony ever believed it was their business to legitimize the half-baked posturings of musicians who have something new to say, regardless of artistic merit. Inroads must be

made with audiences for the appreciation of modern writing, but judicious editing is also in order. The world is full of (Continued on next page)

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KEITH WHITE

Mixed Nutcrackers

Christmas isn't the only reason we keep going to see *The Nutcracker*. With its richly imaginative Tchaikovsky score, this most popular of classic ballets takes fantasy and romance from the familiar to the magical and back again. The extensive participation of children in the first act party scene delights the children in the audience, and has inspired many a career in ballet. Act II, with its fanciful character dances and grand pas de deux, delights us all. But various versions of the classic differ considerably.

Ronn Guidi's small-scale *Nutcracker* for the Oakland Ballet succeeds with neither children in its first act nor a large corps de ballet in the second—capitalizing instead on intimacy, acting, and bravura. Another new production in which the children's parts were taken by younger adult dancers is the version the Cleveland Ballet brought to inaugurate its partnership with City Center Ballet of San Jose. A sizeable troupe at around 40 dancers, Cleveland's corps dancing was a strong suit during its auspicious debut over the Thanksgiving weekend. Principal dancers are cast in the roles of *The Nutcracker* prince and "Maria" ("Clara," in most versions), who take part in each of the international divertissements in Act II. Artistic director Dennis Nahat has altered the period, setting, and the score, interpolating Tchaikovsky's "Capriccio Italien." In spite of these innovations—which struck me as harmless redecorating, but something hardcore traditionalists wouldn't countenance—Nahat's *Nutcracker* is at heart a traditional one, conceived as pure holiday entertainment with its focus on fantasy.

Some recent productions reinterpret the E.T.A. Hoffman fairytale to include psychological twists, but none of these has really proven theatrically sound. The strangest one, televised several times each season and widely available on videotape (MGM Home Video), is the version Mikhail Baryshnikov made for American Ballet Theatre in 1976. Conceived as a vehicle for himself and Gelsey Kirkland, both then in their dancing primes, Baryshnikov's revisions include an expanded role for

Herr Drosselmeyer (Alexander Minz), who foreshadows the events of the ballet during a puppet show he presents during the party scene. The plot proceeds according to tradition up through the transformation of the Nutcracker into the Prince (Baryshnikov), whereupon Clara quickly sheds her childishness and matures into a woman in love before our very eyes. The Prince orders the usual divertissements to entertain Clara, but there is no Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier. Instead, Baryshnikov has Clara and the Prince dance the grand pas de deux, minus the adagio, which is placed at the end of the ballet as a pas d'action in which Drosselmeyer returns to reclaim Clara and return her to the cold world of reality. Her dream—or Drosselmeyer's, we are never quite sure who's dreaming what in this production—disintegrates and we find Clara alone in the snow, staring into the window of

'But in every other respect, the San Francisco Ballet *Nutcracker* is a wonderful one.'

her home, presumably older and wiser. Besides these confusing plot elements, Baryshnikov's choreography (his first attempt at creating a ballet) is so routine and passionless the wonderful cast often seems wasted in it. This most frequently televised version of *The Nutcracker* is thus the least commendable.

For those wishing to see the original Lev Ivanov choreography, Thorn EMI/HBO Video has just released a new videotape of the 1984 Peter Wright production for England's Royal Ballet. Large portions of the choreography were newly reconstructed from Stepanov notation, and of course the production includes the unbeatable original grand pas de deux, regally performed by Leslie Collier and Anthony Dowell. Performers from three generations appear in the first act cast; here, the older characters are older. Period detail abounds, and the acting throughout is superb. The very lovely Julie Rose convincingly portrays Clara



A dancing bear livens up the SFB's version of *The Nutcracker* (Photo: M. Sohl)

as an adolescent, neither petulant in the first act nor precocious in the second. The plot adheres closely to Hoffman's fairytale.

This brings us to Lew Christensen's venerable *Nutcracker* at the San Francisco Ballet, the first American company to stage it. S.F.B.'s newest ballerina, Ludmila Lopukhova (formerly a Kirov soloist), made her debut as Sugarplum on opening night, partnered by Australian Simon Dow. A strong technician with a quality of charming graciousness, Lopukhova looked vaguely uncomfortable in Christensen's grand pas de deux, but then everyone does; it's one of those awkward, oddly-phrased duets Christensen was sometimes guilty of devising. But in every other respect, the San Francisco Ballet *Nutcracker* is a wonderful one. Fantasy is foremost in Robert O'Hearn's designs, with a Victorian setting and enchanting snow scene in the first act and a gleaming Candy Kingdom in the second. There is more real comedy in Christensen's staging than in most others, including a hooty dancing bear and a campy Mouse King who consistently bring down the house. Three casts worth of children from the San Francisco ballet school—as professional and well-rehearsed as any children anywhere—take their rightful place in both acts. The entire company looked especially fine on opening night.

The videotapes of *The Royal Ballet Nutcracker* and Baryshnikov's *Nutcracker* are available at Captain Video.

Baton

(Continued from previous page)

wonderful new writers who can thrill us without resorting to vocalizing the phone book while standing on their head.

The New and Unusual Music series seemed so desperate to appear au courant that too many worthy pieces were sidestepped. Diamanda Galas is an interesting entertainer, but how tiresome her antics seem when compared with the illuminating performance given by Reinbert de Leeuw's Schoenberg Ensemble.

A special highlight for me is Jarrett's essaying of Lou Harrison's Piano Concerto. Harrison seems unjustly neglected, perhaps due to his essentially traditional approach, but his music is often beautiful and always exciting.

Boulez is sure to attract everyone from the intelligentsia to the curious. The Civic Auditorium is the unfortunate site for this internationally important event. I suspect it was the only place in town that had the sound capacity for Boulez and his complex array of instruments and electronics.

Opening night will surely not be sold out if you are pondering last-minute attendance. Grace Cathedral has a vast interior, and tickets will be sold at the door as well as at the symphony box office. I can unhesitatingly recommend this imaginative way of celebrating the season. The program ranges from Stravinsky to Schoenberg, with organist John Fenstermaker tackling the exquisite difficulties of excerpts from Messiaen's "Birth of the Lord." Soloists and members of the symphony orchestra and chorus will also perform when Charles Wuorinen takes the podium. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. and I look forward to this event in particular as an escape from the commercialism of the season.

The New and Unusual Music series earns its title again this year. It's not as bold as years past, but it looks like a brave new beginning.

Sweet Inspiration

The *Bay Area Reporter's* photographer Rink is presenting an exhibition of Political Photography and More at Sweet Inspiration on Market Street through Jan. 30. The 40 images sweep from City Hall to the streets, from uplifting to quite the opposite.

Rink began steadily contributing to the *B.A.R.* in 1979 and has continued to be what Armistead Maupin calls "absolutely ubiquitous" when it comes to newsworthy events and individuals.

Rink met photographer Imogen Cunningham in 1969, when Imogen was only in her 80s, and

things were running out of steam.

This year will see some more adventurous performance locales. From the architectural beauties of Grace Cathedral to the Future Schlock of the Gift-Center Pavilion, the series will include three world premieres, six West Coast premieres, and an appearance by avant garde icon Pierre Boulez, "crossover" star pianist Keith Jarrett, and the West Coast debut of the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble.

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Christian McNazis on Parade

by Mark I. Chester

I have just broken a golden rule of reviewing—the revelation of an integral piece of the jigsaw puzzle. But if it caught your attention, and piques your interest to see *The Shape*, Bill Talen's new solo performance work, I think my guardian muse, The Fool, dancing blindly on the edge of the cliff, will forgive me.

Talen's great skill is as a monologist, a spellbinding storyteller of strange truths couched in comically absurd yet pointedly descriptive language. Working from a minimalist perspective (minimal set, minimal lighting), Talen creates a world of images, flashes, and impressions with a trunk-load of vocal and physical impersonations. It is difficult work. There is no safety net, no other performer to rely upon if you draw a blank or need a breather.

Talen's conceit is a truly Los Angeles story—he has a film script he wants to sell. He pitches the story to the audience, first telling the story and then becoming so involved in telling his story, he literally becomes the film. Talen not only plays all the parts (including a faithful dog), he includes all the shooting directions, so that in the end you "see" the film he is trying to pitch.

Talen is an adept actor with the unusual voice of a '30s movie star, and a nimble, multi-jointed body. The story of his film script is a preposterous labyrinth that sucks you in deeper and deeper, with no way out in sight. To try and synthesize it down to a few sentences is something even too foolhardy for me, and not nearly as important as the process involved in creating it. Not in my wildest dreams, or drugged nightmares, could I have fashioned this wild chase through—well, that is what makes *The Shape* zing.

Talen has a wry, dry humor that incisively and wickedly thumbs its nose and cuts to the heart of the folly of the whole of American culture. Talen takes on everything and everyone from Bess Truman and Rogers and Hammerstein's musicals to Classic Coke and Versatellers. It is a look that spoofs the very pro-

cess and methods of movie making at the same time it portrays it.

Talen's scalpel, for example, describes Hollywood sightseers as "override boulevard geeks," or a beautiful woman as a "pre-Garbo agricultural goddess." They are images that start a flood of personally related memories and ideas. Probably his most funny/sinful creations are holographic images of missing children that speak to us from milk cartons like Princess Leia's holographic plea to Obiwan Kenobi in *Star Wars*. It is hilarious and bitterly angry at the same time.

Talen has a strong partner in Ellen Sebastian. As director, Sebastian, who is known for the creation of unusual exploratory theater pieces in the Bay Area, has finely tuned Talen's ideas and script, pacing the flood of ideas smoothly and rapidly from start to finish. Equally impressive is Sebastian's spare but potent evocative lighting design that proves a little can sometimes be more substantial than a lot. The stage design with just a single



Bill Talen in *The Shape* (Photo: D. Day)

chair and a couple of movie lamps in the background is just right.

The Shape is engaging and fulfilling although it may not have the raw, frenetic punch of

some performance artists, like The Blake Street Hawkeyes or John O'Keefe's Elan Vital. My only discontent is Talen's total absorption in the film script. It leaves the piece hanging for me, incomplete. And Christian Mc-

Nazis? Well, it would take me too long to explain, and it's worth the price of admission.

The Shape
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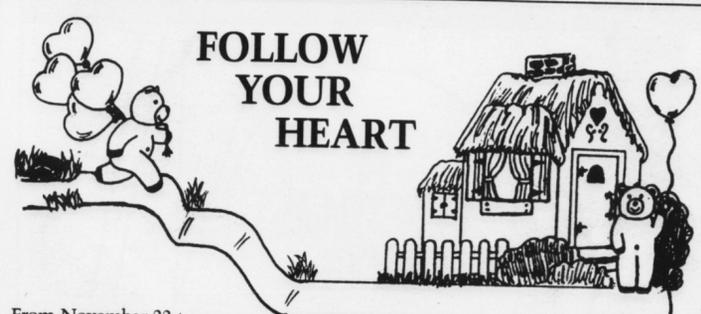
Christmas Day Fundraiser

Dec. 25 the Midnight Sun, 4067 18th St., will donate all the proceeds from its bar to the S.F. AIDS Foundation. The personal working that day will also donate their tips to the fundraising effort. This is the second year that the Midnight Sun has given a Christmas Day benefit for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Congratulations to David and all the employees for their generosity this holiday season.

Leather and Blues

Sunday Dec. 22 Leather and Blues, a Bay Area women's motorcycle club, will sponsor a run to fight AIDS. Between now and Dec. 22 canned goods, non-perishable food items, bath goods, toiletries, books, and other Christmas gifts can be dropped in boxes at the following locations: Amelia's, the Baybrick Inn, Maud's, Peg's Place, The Eagle, The Powerhouse, and Our Bar in Vallejo.

Dec. 22 meet at Amelia's at 2 p.m. Following the run there will be a party at Amelia's with a dj beginning at 6 p.m.



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"You feel nothing?" — Director Richard Attenborough jokes with Yamil Borges, who plays Morales, during the filming of *A Chorus Line*. Second from right is Cameron English as Paul, the former drag queen.

Sometimes in Winter

The Christmas season started out as silly-as-summer, with *Clue* and *The Jewel of the Nile* making *Young Sherlock Holmes* look mature by comparison, but things turn serious tomorrow with the openings of *Out of Africa* and *A Chorus Line*.

CLUE

You don't have to worry about anyone—least of all the critics—revealing the ending of *Clue*, the first motion picture based on a board game. (I can hardly wait for *Monopoly*.) The denouement covers six murders in such rapid-fire fashion you'll have to see it twice—or wait for the video and run it in slow motion—to begin to understand. The press was treated to all three possible endings in one sitting (A and C are the best—avoid B), which reduced us all to babbling wrecks.

Six people are invited to dinner at a New England mansion on the proverbial dark and stormy night. Butler Tim Curry explains that all are being blackmailed by Mr. Boddy, and reveals at least some of their secrets. Mr. Green (Michael McKean) is a homosexual working for the State Department (it's 1954); Miss Scarlet (Lesley Ann Warren) runs a call girl business; psychiatrist Professor Plum (Christopher Lloyd) was disbarred for molesting female clients; Mrs. White (Madeline Kahn) lost her fifth husband under mysterious circumstances; and so on. Mrs. Peacock (Eileen Brennan) and Col. Mustard (Martin Mull) round out the guest list.

The lights go out and Mr. Boddy dies. The guests try to solve the murder while five other bodies join Boddy's. It's all played for laughs, too many of them cheap. The first five minutes offers nothing but dogshit jokes. The three women, all rather bland with the exception of Curry, who is frequently obnoxious, substituting volume for speed to create the illusion of farce. Just when I was about to give up on the picture, a cameo by singer Jane Wiedlin provided a wonderful surprise.

The script by director Jonathan Lynn goes for quantity rather than quality in the gag department, but his pacing is frequently excellent. I guess *Clue* is an okay dumb movie. Just don't go to it for intellectual exercise. (Royal, Empire, Century Plaza)

THE JEWEL OF THE NILE

What do you fantasize about when your fantasies have all come true? That's the premise behind *The Jewel of the Nile*. After living through a real adventure in *Romancing the Stone* and ending up with the hero, novelist Joan Wilder (Kathleen Turner) has run out of ideas. She wants to return to New York while Jack (Michael Douglas) wants to sail on from the Riviera to Greece: "Crete, Mykonos, Lesbos, ouzo, olive oil . . ."

They separate but both end up in Africa in the middle of a civil war between the spiritual leader of the Arab peoples, "the jewel of the Nile" (Avner Eisenberg), and an oily would-be usurper, Omar (Spiros Focis), who in real life would probably have CIA backing.

But this isn't real life, as the cartoon characters and situations constantly attest. The only hint of reality comes through an irritating quality in Douglas's manner, especially in lovers' quarrels. But the idea of a sequel is that you've already bought the people and the premise and come back for more, so here it is.

Danny DeVito returns as the hapless crook who pulls Wile E. Coyote stunts to outfox Douglas, with results that are always catastrophic but never serious. He's got most of the funny lines. "No sheep is safe tonight" being a typical example.

Eisenberg is ingratiating in a silly way, much like Richard Libertini in *All of Me*. Juggling clowns the Flying Karamazov Brothers play Sufi tribesmen and keep the screen alive with flying flames and blades while they pepper the soundtrack with pidgin Arabic. The rating board's double standard is apparent in the bare black breasts of Nubians with whom the fully clothed Turner dances. If the Americans were taken seriously, the film's attitude toward Third World People would be really offensive.

The Jewel of the Nile has the mentality of a fraternity party and should be popular with the same people. (Coronet, Grand Lake, Stonestown)

A CHORUS LINE

Not many Broadway musicals make it to the screen these days. Few enough make it to the stage. *A Chorus Line* is a one-in-a-

million show, the best stage musical ever. If the movie is just one in a thousand, those are still pretty good odds. It was unrealistic to hope for Richard Attenborough to create the screen equivalent of what it was on stage.

Arnold Schulman's screenplay subtly shifts the focus so that the 16 people trying out for eight chorus slots in a Broadway show become the background for the love story of Zach (Michael Douglas), the director, and Cassie, the former featured dancer who left him to go to Hollywood. Schulman has added a few excellent lines to the scene where they finally discuss their relationship, but most of his work has been in chopping everyone else's part so the camera can cut to Cassie in the basement or the prop room or the past, until Zach finally allows her to audition.

The other 16 are the same as they were, with close-ups to compensate for less time in the spotlight. There are still three gay men—or two gay and one "bizarre"—out of eight men counting Zach and his assistant. Matt West plays bizarre Bobby, who has the classic line, "To commit suicide in Buffalo is redundant." Justin Ross is Greg, who describes "the moment I realized I was gay," while making out with a girl. Cameron English is less effective than some I've seen on stage as Paul, the Puerto Rican who got his start doing drag in the Jewel Box Revue, "the asshole of show business." His monologue, the show's emotional highlight, is shorter with fewer queenly details, but it still evokes tears.

Several songs have been reduced in length with one ("Sing") cut entirely. A new addition, "Surprise, Surprise," lets Richie (Gregg Burge) sing about sex instead of basketball in the adolescent segment. "The Music and the Mirror" has been changed to the more direct "Let Me Dance for You," with the song's excitement shifted from the orchestration to Cassie's vocal. This is Alyson Reed's best dramatic moment, but it falls short as a dance showcase because of hyperactive editing. "Let her dance for us!" I wanted to scream. "I Can Do That" is also spoiled and "What I Did for Love" thrown away, but "One," "Nothing," "Dance 10 Looks 3" and "At the Ballet" maintain their impact.

(Continued on page 36)

ALCOHOL, DRUGS... AND AIDS

There is growing evidence of a significant connection between AIDS and alcohol and drug abuse. Substance abuse is an issue we can no longer afford to ignore.

Drugs and alcohol don't cause AIDS. AIDS is caused by a virus. But there are at least three ways in which alcohol and drugs can increase your chances of getting AIDS.

First, alcohol and drugs depress the immune system and make you more susceptible to disease. Alcohol, marijuana, speed, cocaine, poppers, and other recreational chemicals lower your resistance to disease. In some research studies, poppers have been implicated in increasing the risk of KS. Drugs and alcohol weaken your health. They increase stress rather than relieve it and help the AIDS virus overcome your body's defenses.

Second, alcohol and drugs reduce your ability to stick to judgments about what's safe and what isn't. A huge majority of gay men in San Francisco have given up Unsafe Sex. For the relatively few who haven't yet, studies demonstrate a strong correlation between

alcohol and drug use and Unsafe Sex.

Third, sharing IV drug needles transmits the AIDS virus directly from the bloodstream of one infected person to the bloodstream of another. If you do take the risk of using IV drugs, don't share needles! It's a direct route for the transmission of AIDS. There are thousands of IV drug users in America with AIDS, and probably other thousands who are still incubating the virus and who are contagious. Don't share needles!

According to experts who treat substance abuse among gay men, we have had a major epidemic of substance abuse in our community for years—so much so that most of us have accepted substance abuse as a routine part of gay life. What was once routine, however, is now deadly.

If you want confidential and gay-sensitive information about substance abuse for yourself or for a friend, help is available. Contact Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic (drug-focused) at 621-2014, Operation Concern (alcohol-focused) at 626-7000, or call the AIDS Foundation's

AIDS HOTLINE, 863-AIDS, for a referral.

Remember:

- Sharing needles is dangerous. Don't share needles.
- Alcohol and drugs depress the immune system. Protect your health.
- Getting high can lead to Unsafe Sex and exposure (or re-exposure) to the AIDS virus.

Now is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your own use of alcohol and drugs—and to get some help (often free) to find out if you have a drinking or drug problem that may increase your chances of getting AIDS.



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S BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS S

FITNESS EIGHTIES

Two for the Games

Celeste Carrington and Daj Oberg
Hit the Track for Gay Games II

by Paul Trefzger

Celeste Carrington and Daj Oberg, two outstanding members of the SF Track & Field team, are as different as night and day. Celeste is very pleasant, a bit self-deprecating, and rather businesslike. Daj is a Type A personality if there ever was one. But as different as they appeared on the surface, they shared a camaraderie and a love and devotion to their sport.

CELESTE CARRINGTON

"My specialty is shot-put," Carrington said. "I got into track and field in high school because it was something to do after basketball (season), which is my main sport." She was a weak-side

forward at Savannah High School in Anaheim. "I needed something else to keep me going," she said. "I talked to the coach and he said, 'You look like you can throw' so I gave it a try.



Daj Oberg (l.) and Celeste Carrington

(Photo: Rink)

I ran, high jumped, and threw and eight-pound ball 35 feet. The boys threw 10 and 12-pound balls about the same distance. Mine was regulation size for girls.

"Between high school and college, I took a year off," Carrington continued. "Then when I entered Cerritos Junior College in Norwalk, California it was interesting how I got back into track. My counselor happened to be the track coach. I majored in physical education recreation. He looked at my size and said, 'Have you ever thrown shot-put?' I threw discus and javelin as the season progressed. It was difficult getting back into it, getting my form. Also, I was dealing with people's attitudes. Everybody was new and very competitive and I was the only female shot-putter. I wound up doing pretty well. I competed in the third meet and fared well with the shot-put because I had had one-on-one coaching."

Carrington was born Feb. 24, 1962 in Philadelphia. She and her family moved to California when she was about 15. She had an active youth, "runnin' the streets with the guys." She would also race with the guys and skateboard and bicycle. She lived in southern California at the time of the first Gay Games. "I wanted to compete but I wasn't quite ready for it. I wasn't that involved with the gay community." She came to San Francisco in November 1984.

"Right now, I do a little weight training at home, a lot of squats and leg exercises, leg curls, and extensions," Carrington said. "Oh, and I dance a lot on the weekends." Then the subject turned to SF Track & Field and their coach, Bernard Turner.

"I really respect him, his ethics about track and field," Carrington said. "People can come in at any level, any age, and he works with them and encourages them, no matter how they're doing, to go on. In my estimation he's a damn good coach."

Carrington's employer is CILCTP Emeryville. "I'm working with disabled students," she said. "I'm like an aide. I help

them with their homework."

DAJ OBERG

"I divide my time between track and field and bicycling," said Oberg. "Sprinting is my favorite, but I also attempt to do shot-put and of course Celeste is coaching me in javelin too. In the past, I've competed in hurdles." She was active in track and field at Salinas High School.

"I did fairly well," Oberg continued. "I was consistent. I was sort of an 'all-around' person. I did field events and short distances. I was also a member of the Salinas Valley Track and Field Club. I wasn't involved in sports in college because we moved around too much. I missed it. I swam during track season, and I always bicycled."

Daj was born in Seattle on Feb. 18, 1960.

"We moved to Moraga and then up and down California for the past eighteen years," said Oberg, due to the nature of her father's business. "That made it difficult to be on a team." In 1976, she moved with a lover to Berkeley and is currently living in Oakland. "Right now, I'm recuperating from bronchitis and cracked ribs," she said. "I'm trying to reduce the amount of

atrophy to 'get back into it' by riding my bicycle up and down Telegraph in Berkeley and to work. A group of us meet at the MacArthur Station in Oakland. A Caltrans van that accommodates about 14 picks us up—and takes us to Main and Folsom in San Francisco and then we bicycle to wherever we work. I work in the Civic Center, two blocks from City Hall." Oberg's a law clerk.

"I like to swim," she continued, "and play softball. Time's a problem. They have pick-up non-league teams, and scheduling makes it difficult. I go to school at night and my free time is very limited. I'm picking up a business management degree." She did not compete in Gay Games I.

"I was working and couldn't and I hadn't joined the team," she said. "I had friends who went and they'd come see me at work and tell me what happened and how exciting it was. I was very envious. I joined the SF Track & Field team in '83 and have been a member ever since."

"I also mountain bike and river raft," Oberg continued. "The Sacramento River was the last I did. The next one I have my sights on is the Klamath." ■

GayRun '86

July 13 has been confirmed as the date for GayRun '86 produced by San Francisco FrontRunners. San Francisco FrontRunners is a running club whose purpose is to provide encouragement and support to lesbians, gay men, and others who are interested in running. GayRun '86 will be the seventh annual GayRun held here in San Francisco, and looks to be the most exciting yet. Work is already beginning on this annual event, with an all-new scenic course winding past various lakes and landmarks, and views the Golden Gate Bridge as it rolls through Golden Gate Park. This year's event will once again feature both 5 and 10 kilometer running

events, a 5k race walking division, and a new 10k wheelchair division. This year's proceeds will also be donated to a local charity organization to be determined by the FrontRunners at its January business meeting.

GayRun '85 proved to be a huge success with more than 800 runners participating and \$9,034.16 being raised for the San Francisco AIDS Fund to be distributed to those with financial needs.

For further information on GayRun '86, or information about the San Francisco FrontRunners, please call or write Mark Indihar, 1040 Dolores #302, SF, CA 94110, 641-9051, or call Mary Ann at 821-4690. ■

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

Phone Booth's Linda Pancost: A Great Sponsor

Around this league of ours we disagree on many subjects, except one, and that is Linda Pancost, owner of the Phone Booth. A Gay Softball League sponsor for eight straight years, she has become the matriarch of the league.

In the early years of the league, her team spirit was what made it successful. Who could ever forget those cheerleading teams lead by Sut and Granny! Nobody ever had so much fun, or laughed so much. The number-one fan of the Operators has got to be Gracie. If the Phone Booth fell behind during a game you could always hear her words of encouragement, like, "What the hell kind of team is this?" You know it got attention.

The Phone Booth sold more tickets than any bar to our first-ever Mr./Ms. GSL contest. Henry Suarez of the Fickle Fox and Debi Kimes of the Phone Booth won the first contest, with more than \$4,500 in total tickets sold. Then the magical pair of Magnolia and Jerry Walker, both from the Phone Booth, swept the title. Between them they raised \$2,000 and the contest reaped another \$4,500. How times have changed. We're lucky if we make a profit now.

Linda has been providing people with a fun bar for many years, going back to the Tower Lounge days. Her current bar is a popular local pub filled with lots of memorabilia collected over the years, especially telephones.

It seems that for the last couple of years we have heard that the Phone Booth is not going to sponsor a team. It may come to pass someday, but if and when it does, the GSL will have lost the best we have to offer. Thanks to Linda and her staff, friends, teams, and fans for many wonderful memories and good times.

Saturday, Dec. 21, at noon there will be a benefit showing of *Lust in the Dust* at the Castro Theater. Admission is by either a non-perishable food or toiletry item, with all donations going to the SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Call 661-5039 for more information.

The Cable Car Awards are set for Saturday Feb. 15 at Fashion Hall, Pacific Center, 22 Fourth St. at Market. For you sportspeople who would like to sit together at a table for ten, call me at 753-0740. I have reserved four tables, all up front.

The next GSL meeting is Saturday, Jan. 11, at Amelia's. ■

FOOTBALL



Looking at this photograph you might think the Trojans won their football game with the Sheriff's Deputies Dec. 8, but everybody was a winner at the team's awards banquet last weekend (Photo: Rink)

Trojan Awards Banquet

The San Francisco Trojans held their awards banquet Saturday, Dec. 14, at the home of sponsor Ed Fardee of Incredible Edibles. They celebrated their impressive showing against the San Francisco Sheriff's Deputies. They lost 25-13, but this was a vast improvement over last year's first Charity Bowl in which the score was 46-6. As was apparent in the videotape of the game that they enthusiastically watched, the Trojan team is becoming formidable.

Glenn Burke lead the team in running and scored the Trojan extra point and so was named Most Valuable Player on offense. The team's defensive award went to lineman Stacy Davis, who played a very aggressive game. Steve McDonnell was named the team's Most Improved Player.

It was definitely a fun event and after the video, filmed by Dick Benold, coach Ron Herzog presented such team awards as Miss Congeniality (Abe Silva, Best In Uniform (Lavoy Thompson), and Best Hands in a Free-For-All (Joe Lucinski).

Thursday evening, Dec. 19, at the San Francisco Eagle, Herzog will join Rick Drocco of the Sheriff's Deputies and Patrick Toner, producer of the game, to present more than \$1,000 each to the charities, S.F. AIDS Fund, Gay Games II, and Meals on Wheels.

"The gay community deserves a lot of recognition for its support of this event," said Herzog. "And next year, it'll be even better." ■

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings and Personal Achievements
(The League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 8 of 20 - as of 12/08/85)	
1. Split City Rollers	26 6
2. 300 And Won	21 11
3. Sassy	20 12
4. Pin Pistols	20 12
5. Deadwoods II	18 14
6. High Rollers	15 1/2 16 1/2
7. Rocky's Boys	13 1/2 16 1/2
8. Strange Interlude	15 17
9. Four In A Row	15 17
10. S.G.F.H. & Biff	15 17
11. Alley Cats	14 18
12. Lucky Strikes	14 18
13. Vagabond	13 1/2 18 1/2
14. Miss-Splits	13 19
15. Not Again	12 20
16. Spikers	8 1/2 23 1/2

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE (Week 23 of 40 - as of 12/06/85)	
1. Versatiles	11 1
2. Capricorn IV	10 2
3. Whacky Keystones	7 5
4. Maui Wovies	4 1/2 7 1/2
5. Hawaii Bound	4 8
6. The Eruptions	4 8
7. Yacht Club I	4 8
8. Wonder Women	3 1/2 8 1/2

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 8 of 32 - as of 12/02/85)	
1. Damaged Goods	22 10
2. Kim's Therapy	22 10
3. Bow-K	20 12
4. Play With It, Ltd.	19 13
5. Belew Meanies	19 13
6. Agency Rent A Car	17 15
7. Bench & Bar	17 15
8. Vagabond	16 16
9. The Poppers	16 16
10. Scentuals	14 18
11. Diner Dogs	14 18
12. One's Still Up	13 1/2 18 1/2
13. Foote Plumbing	13 19
14. Pacific Coast Glass	12 1/2 19 1/2
15. Tina's Weenies	12 20
16. Pin Pals	9 23

COMMUNITY BONANZA LEAGUE (Week 11 of 32 - as of 12/02/85)	
1. 6 Not So Ezy Pieces	31 1/2 12 1/2
2. PG Gutter Girls	29 15
3. El Rio	23 21
4. Oh! So Close!	22 1/2 21 1/2
5. The Smooth Operators	19 25
6. Spare Me!!!	17 27
7. Team #2	12 1/2 19 1/2
8. Team #8	1 1/2 30 1/2

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 9 of 32 - as of 12/03/85)	
1. Five Big Balls	24 12
2. Strikes 'N' Spares	23 13
3. 5 Inner Pieces	23 13
4. The "69" Club	23 13
5. Housewives From Hell	21 1/2 14 1/2
6. La Cage Ah Balls!	20 1/2 15 1/2
7. Sorority Bitches	20 16
8. Number Won	20 16
9. The D.P.'s	18 18
10. "Guys N Doll"	17 19
11. Teddy Bears	16 20
12. Tramps R Us	15 21
13. Steering Committee	15 17
14. Bottoms Up	14 1/2 21 1/2
15. Strangers In The Night	12 1/2 23 1/2
16. Team #16	0 32

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 9 of 32 - as of 12/04/85)	
1. Play With It, Unld.	26 10
2. Publio's	26 10
3. Taco Tycoons	24 12
4. Double D Dixie Do Das	23 1/2 12 1/2
5. Contours Gals	22 14
6. Male Image	21 1/2 14 1/2
7. Mother Nature	21 15
8. Thing II	20 16
9. Gutter Girls	20 16
10. Brunswick Beauties	19 13
11. Unsis Dragon	16 20
12. Geri's Kids	16 20
13. Team #18	16 20
14. Stud City	15 21
15. Alley Ops	15 21
16. Mix Ups	14 22
17. Peaches & Creams	13 23
18. Crystal Sisters	12 24
19. Team #20	10 26
20. High Gear	4 28

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 8 of 32 - as of 12/05/85)	
1. Hunks	22 10
2. Old Rick's	18 14
3. Vagabond	18 14
4. Pendulum	17 15
5. Penguins	17 15
6. P.S.-One Mo' Time	14 18
7. Twin Peaks 9er's	13 19
8. Gangway	9 23

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

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Screening

(Continued from page 32)

Anyone who's never seen *A Chorus Line* before should love the movie. The rest of us can get off on quibbling about how it could have been better. (Metro)

OUT OF AFRICA

Like many a classic screen epic, *Out of Africa* is long, romantic, beautiful, and slightly boring.

Meryl Streep plays Karen Blixen who, as Isak Dinesen, wrote the memoirs on which this film is partially based. "In Denmark," she begins, "I knew two brothers. One was my lover and one was my friend." The lover dumps her so she marries the friend, Klaus Maria Brandauer, and they move to Kenya to start a coffee farm.

"The world was made round," Karen writes, "so that we would not see too far down the road." Movies, alas, are not round, and we stay well ahead of this one. Marriage being the best way to ruin a friendship, Streep is soon left pretty much on her own. She is drawn ever so slowly to Redford, a rugged adventurer with the soul of a poet; but despite her matter-of-fact approach to sexuality—she treats it as just another bodily function—they don't make love for the first hour and three quarters. They're in buffalo country where she's gone with him on safari and, suicide in buffalo country being redundant, they get it on instead. Conflicting concepts of independence come between them long before the dual tragedy that causes their final separation.

Streep's performance is on the dependable-but-not-outstanding level of those of Hollywood's other major actresses (including Streep herself in *Plenty*) this season. For the male lead they might have found an English actor or someone who could pretend to be, or they could have changed the man's nationality to American and only a few readers would have been the wiser. Instead, they've cast Robert Redford and let him be himself, which is all he can do—and it's very nearly enough.

With a shortage of epic romances this season, *Out of Africa* has the market cornered. There have been a lot worse films in that corner. (Regency II)

BETTE AND BOGEY

Bette Davis and Humphrey Bogart star in many of the 55 films in the Castro Theatre's Warner Bros. Diamond Jubilee Tribute (1925-1985), which starts Sunday for four weeks. The accent is on melodrama, but the program includes everything from Busby Berkeley musicals and Bugs Bunny cartoons to Shakespeare (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Errol Flynn swashbucklers, and the classic gangster films of Cagney (*White Heat*, *Public Enemy*) and Robinson (*Little Caesar*).

If you arrive early for midnight mass on Christmas Eve you can see Cary Grant in the zany *Arsenic and Old Lace* plus Jack Benny in the less zany *George Washington Slept Here*.

S. Warren

Naiad Vs. Hurricane Kate

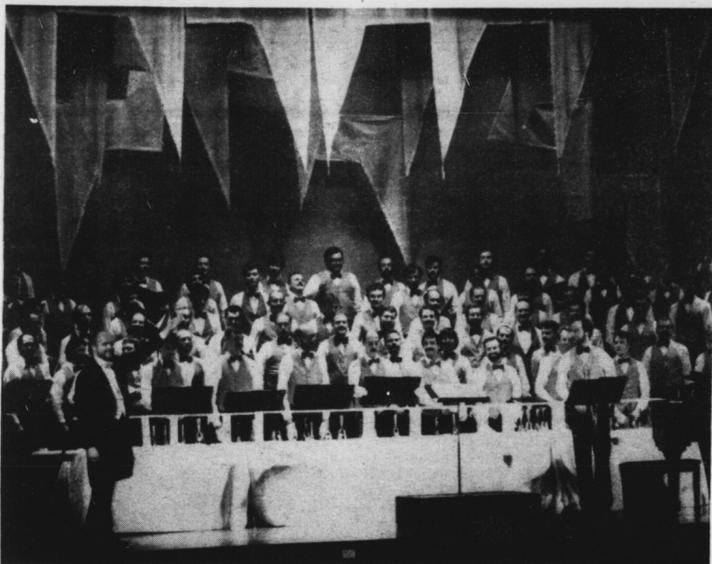
When Hurricane Kate struck the Florida panhandle on the evening of Nov. 21, the twisters it spawned took a seemingly direct path through the four heavily wooded acres of Naiad Press.

Huge pines 30" in diameter, ancient and majestic and irreplaceable live oaks, fell everywhere—except, miraculously, on the buildings housing Naiad Press.

But, the main roads everywhere were blocked by trees, and the women of Naiad Press were five days without water or phones, six days without power. When the women of the community and other towns along the Panhandle could get through, they pitched in with hard physical labor to dig them out.

In their 14-year existence, Naiad Press has never been late with their shipments. By working night and day, through Thanksgiving, they finally caught up Nov. 29.

The women of Naiad Press want to assure all their bookstore, their customers, their friends everywhere, that although they are heartsick at the devastation to their land and their lives, they are well—and they are fully back in business. ■



Gregg Tallman conducts the Gay Men's Chorus at its Christmas concert (Photo: Rink)

Chorus

(Continued from page 26)

citing than bass-baritone John Musselman's performances of "Thus Saith the Lord" and "But Who May Abide" from the *Messiah*. My friends didn't all agree with me, but I thought Musselman was thrilling. The man let loose a tidal wave of gorgeous tone that negotiated the coloratura with ease.

The Men About Town were also wonderful—as always. Staged by SFGMC music direc-

tor Tallman and led by Al Cherry, the men performed two numbers from *She Loves Me* and one from *Starting Here, Starting Now* with musicianship enriched by a sense of fun. A little hammy, maybe, but fun.

The big production numbers opening and closing the second half of the concert found the chorus radiating the highest of spirits. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "Sleighride" were sung in wintery street wear that gave the performance an informal, festive feel. "Babes

in Toyland" brought on the traditional grand finale featuring elaborate costumes and staging. Santa and his huggable reindeer, Little Bo-Peep, Jack and Jill, and a cast of seeming thousands cavorting on Gilbert Baker's beautiful set brought the spectacle to a closing flourish that was the SFGMC at its best. They're not necessarily the greatest musicians, but they sure know how to create a tradition. And that's good. ■

B. Spunberg

Acting Workshop

The San Francisco Intergenerational Program is sponsoring an acting workshop for beginners of all ages. It will include scene study from original plays, improvisation, and body movement. It will be conducted by director, actor, and playwright George Birimisa, who has directed *Off Broadway* in New York. His *Georgie Porgie* ran for 110 performances. Birimisa also conducts a writing class for lesbians that is sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, a program of Operation Concern.

The Acting Workshop for Beginners will start Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. The location is the Live Oak School at 18th and Diamond in the Castro district. Payment will be on a sliding scale. For further information call George at 431-6254. ■

Were You There?

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society will present a panel discussion on the infamous California Hall incident of 1965.

Panel participants will include members of the community who were present at the raid. If you were there, please come and join us for a reunion, to share your experiences and insights, and to evaluate the situation 20 years later.

Everyone is welcome. General admission is \$5, free to society members, memberships available at the door, Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St., San Francisco, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. For further information write SFBAGLHS, Box 2107, San Francisco, CA 94126. ■

BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR



MR. MARCUS

A Wonderful Night For A Wonderful Woman

If you noticed the traffic jam in front of the War Memorial Building around 1900 hours last Sunday night, Dec. 15, it wasn't because of any opera, ballet, or symphony event. I'd be the first one to apologize for a faux pas and I really nearly blew it and caused about 300 copies of the *Bay Area Reporter* to be hidden, or otherwise destroyed at both Maud's bar and Amelia's. I got an invitation to a surprise birthday party and didn't read it correctly and consequently it was in this column, causing at least a dozen and a half women to shriek in dismay. Rikki Streicher, one of my favorite women, had her 60th birthday party in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building and everybody who is anybody, male or female, black or white, lesbian or gay, ex-lover, future lover, etc., etc., was there, including Supervisor John Molinari, Supervisor Louise Renne, a rep from Sen. Milton Marks' office, and several sports, drag, political, leather, athletic, mothers, grandmothers, and you name it were there for the affair. With City Swing doing a magnificent job with the oldies but goodies in the Glenn Miller genre and beautiful people all over the place, La Streicher was absolutely one of the most surprised people this side of the Bay. She received certificates of honor from the State Senate and the SF Board of Supervisors and at least 300 voices singing Happy Birthday. It was indeed a surprise party!



Rikki Streicher surprised by 300 well wishers at her 60th birthday party last Sunday (Photo: Marcus)

for anything so many times in all my gay and straight life. Rikki was 60 but she doesn't look a day over 45 and all the beautiful men and women were there beaming for the celebration. It couldn't have been a more beautiful night. Whoever put that party together was together! Hope you all had a blast at Maud's last night for their Christmas party and the Pussies in Pajamas (a singing group to all of you who just got off the bus from Modesto and don't know who they are!).

Last Friday night, Dec. 13, Mr. CMC Carnival Ernie Viola and runners-up Richard Ruggiero and John DiMeo presented checks to the charities for which they raised money at the CMC Carnival last month. The SF-Eagle was festooned with Christmas decorations as CMC President David (Saranwrap)

Sarahain MC'd the event. Ernie Viola was presented with the traditional leather vest proclaiming his title, then John DiMeo presented to SF AIDS Fund chairman George Burgess a check for \$418.36. Second runner-up Richard Ruggiero was unable to be there, so Powerhouse manager Matt Newman stood in for him and presented a check for \$627.55 to Men Behind Bars, and Ernie presented checks of \$522.95 each to the Gay Men's Chorus and the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. Prior to the presentations, a video tape of the carnival by Steve Russell was shown and the DJ for the carnival, Rob Kimball, was on hand to recapture his thrilling musical moments. I know it's confusing to many, so one more time I will repeat the procedure used to distribute the funds: All monies

(Continued on next page)



Connie O'Connor busses Rikki Streicher at her 60th birthday party last Sunday (Photo: Rink)

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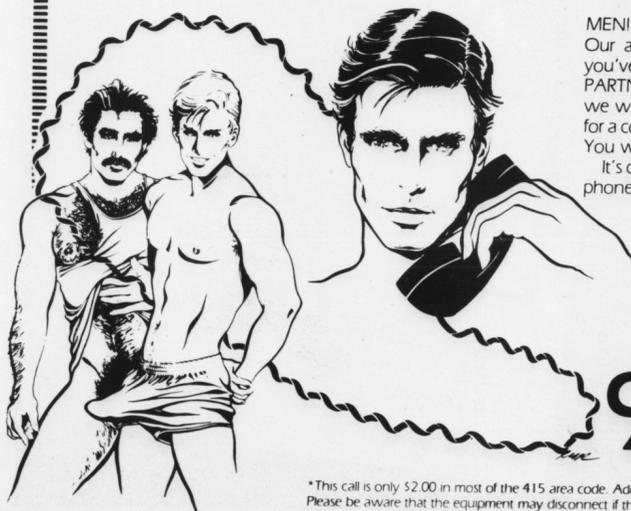


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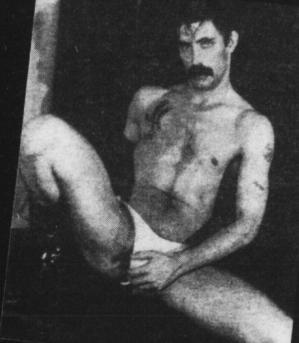
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Rikki Streicher surrounded by her loyal minions at her 60th birthday party last Sunday (Photo: Marcus)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

raised by all the Mr. Carnival contestants is divided three ways in the final analysis with the winner of the title getting 50% for his favorite charity, the 1st runner-up getting 30% for his favorite charity, and the 2nd runner-up getting 20% for his favorite charity.

Saturday night, the Warlocks M/C had their annual Christmas party in a North of Market hall. Since I couldn't make it, one of the officers of the club bought me a drink at the Eagle the night before. If you want to know more about it, call Parkay or Larisse. They were invited and can give you a full run-down on the whole thing.

If you were wandering around the Castro around 0600 hrs. Sunday morning and saw the SF Rescue Squad near the corner of 18th, let me tell you he was a straight man who had an alcohol reading of 1.90 who staggered into the vicinity of the Special where they were holding their annual Mother's Party and a truckload of drag queens with wigs askew, makeup plastered on with a trowel, and raggedy dresses were convening to have cocktails with "Bubbles" Abramson. When the drunk saw this crew, he had a slight stoke and had to be hauled away in an ambulance. David Sarathain eschewed the fem bit and showed up in White Top Hat and Tails (that takes balls for a person like Saranwrap) after having spent the night in carnal bliss with Ms. Parkay (Scan-dell, horrors!). See what happens when you drink too much? They tell me "Mother" had the pool table covered with dresses, wigs, and jewelry, and the poor unsuspecting souls who wandered in had their choice. I tell you, the Special has turned out more drag queens than the Closet Ball ever hoped to.

Trocadero Transfer turned eight years old last Friday night. The Troc staff was all spiffy and the place was awash with fun-makers. Stanley Walker and Dick Collier were in a festive mood, and everyone had a good time. We wish the Troc many more, and don't forget their Christmas party, "Flirting with Santa," this Saturday, Dec. 21, and their big New Year's celebration, where it will not cost an arm and a leg to get in—only \$15, with tickets on sale all over town.

Hope you caught TV coverage of the big benefit for the SF AIDS Fund at Neiman-Marcus on Tuesday night. Some \$20,000 was raised with lots of top-drawer support. Great!

The Bare Chest Calendar at the SF-Eagle didn't make it out of the print shop by the weekend, but manager Terry Thompson promises that by the time you read this, it will be on sale at \$10 a copy—all proceeds to AIDS charities. Do you have yours yet? They're hot!

By now, your Xmas shopping should be done. If it is, fine; but if not you can intersperse your shopping with these parties coming up: This Sunday, the Closet Ball people are having a gala at the GiftCenter Pavilion from 1700 to 1900 as a benefit for the SF Band Foundation. The feature of this one is a dance-along Nutcracker. Tutu's will be available for rent if you're interested in being a fairy, sugar plum or otherwise. Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10 at All American Boy and you can reserve tables of four or ten by calling 621-5619.

Sanford Kellman and Bradley Wise announced their New Year's Party at the GiftCenter Pavilion too last week. The tickets are only \$19.86 if you buy them before Dec. 25 at all the regular outlets. They're \$25 after that and \$35 at the door. The "So Many Men" theme will feature "Lime" and Robert Gurenbert, the Venice Chainsaw Juggler (don't get too close!) and Michael Garrett and Mark Ryan on the discs.

Needless to say, all the bars will be featuring their own parties as well. Saturday night, the 21st, they're having a Snow White look-alike contest at the Alamo Sq. Saloon (in that neighborhood?) followed by their bubble

gum blowing contest on Sat., the 28th. Since you'll be inundated with party invitations anyway, I'll save some space for "dish."

THE DOTLESS DISH

Jimmy Miller of the 1808 Club says he'll not be outdone by the competition so on Jan. 5, you're all invited to come in and join the SF Hot Rodders Ass'n, which is a new J/O club. Members meet on Sunday and Monday nights and you need only know how to handle your hot rods in a safe way. T-shirts will be given out that will not embarrass you when you ride the buses and BART. Call the head Hot Rodder at 431-1931 for more info.

And the few remaining members of the Golden Gate Troopers shout a vehement not true! to any and all who say their uniform club has disbanded. Their treasury is intact and will stay intact and they are still trying to collect an amount for damaged blue crystal.

Glenn Terrio married to a drag queen named Blair-ess?

Some of the guys are wandering around looking glum because Roz Abrams left KRON Channel 4 for the Big Apple and I hope the queens there appreciate her like we do/did/always will!

If you're from Washington, D.C. and I'm still talking to you that means you're not the one(s) I was talking about a couple of weeks ago.

Glenn McIlhenny, one of the leaders of the original Dykes on Bikes, is single again and the painted lips are moving rapidly trying to snare that prize!

I don't care what anybody says, I still love Jonna Harlan and so do all her friends, so knock off the bad-mouthing and you know who you are, don't you?

Hey, it's too crazy this Xmas season; know that the Motorcycle Awards, Men Behind Bars III, Cable Car Awards, and the Coronation for the next Emperor and Empress are all on tap in Feb., so be ready. Until next week, darrrlings, remember: Tomorrow is just a fiction of today! And don't forget to call 666-7404 if you're out and tipsy and can't drive from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. They'll send a cab to pick you up!

Mister Marcus



Duke Armstrong accepts a check from Mr. CMC Carnival Ernie Viola at the distribution of monies at the Eagle Dec. 13 (Photo: Marcus)

FRIESE FRAME

Holiday Wishes

MARK FRIESE



Chestnuts roasting on the open fire—phooey I say. I don't care for chestnuts and unfortunately the only open fire I can get a hold of this year is my inadequate space heater, unless of course my sister's home in beautiful Whittier is equipped with one by the pool! I say give me egg nog heavily laced with the holiday spirits and let my Christmas wish for our community be a universal wish among us all—hope and the answer!

Trocadero has done it again with another new look for the season which was unveiled at their anniversary party last weekend which featured Thelma Houston singing what Thelma Houston sings. This Saturday evening is their Christmas party, "Flirting with Santa," from 10 p.m. till dawn. This party will cost \$10 and Troc I.D. is required.

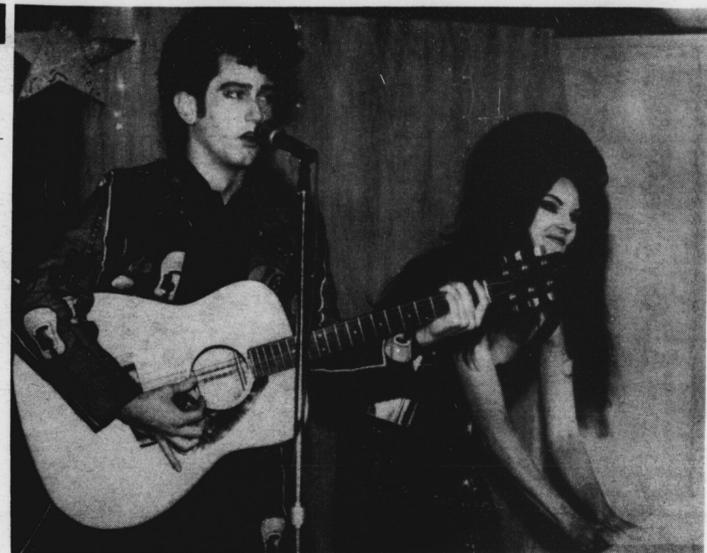
An interesting item sent to me from one of the yeehaa kids to pass along to my readers is that radio station KBLK, 601 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA 94710, has more than \$8,000 in merchandise

including toys, groceries, and microwave ovens, that they want to give away to your favorite charity, and they will also send you a free t-shirt just for doing so—not a bad deal!

This Friday evening members of CUAUV will be conducting a "Whistle Hop" at the bars in town. They will be selling whistles for \$1 each. Make sure to pick one up because they do help if you are in trouble, and they also make great stocking stuffers!

Now for the Saturday afternoon flurry of activities. If you time it just right by all my calculations you can make all three of these next events by going to *Lust in the Dust*, then buying a plant, and then giving blood. Read on for more specific details.

Grand Duke Tony Treviso and Grand Duchess Deena Jones and the Grand Ducal Council will present a showing of *Lust in the Dust* as a benefit for the SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. with the show starting at noon.



Elvis and Priscilla Presley at Doris Fish and Robert Ford's Happy Hour X-Mas Special at the 181 Club last weekend (Photo: Rink)

There will be a guest appearance by the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and admission will be the donation of canned food or toiletry items. When Tony and Deena get a chance to sleep is something I don't know, but I do applaud them for all their wonderful work that they are constantly involved in!

The Women's Blood Drive will be at Amelia's from noon to 5 p.m. that day, also with a Mobile Blood Unit, courtesy of

(Continued on next page)



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

(As recited by the SF Bike Club Presidents at their Xmas Party)

'Twas the night before Christmas all through the camp
The presidents were smiling, knowing the F.L.U. are all tramps!

The Hot Lube was placed by the tents with great care
In hopes that the ladies would soon all be there.

The First Ladies were meeting, but please have no fear
Nothing accomplished... Maybe next year!

Miss Piggie was wading in mud to her knees
While Danny and Paulette were exchanging their keys

And Bill, with one L, his eyes oh so big
Had just strapped Marino into sling and a rig.

When out by the camp site there arose such a clatter
Allen Dale pulled off his condom...

"My God what's the matter?"

Away to the John, Bill Woods flew like a flash
And saw Mattie May smiling and wiping his ass.

Gene Dennis lay prone on the new fallen snow
While Toby grabbed ass, moving fingers below.

When what to Demarest's blotty eyes should appear
But Michael and Al Allen, both nude in the rear!

With a hand on the driver, jerking lively and quick
David S thought aloud... "Another cheap trick?"

More rapid than Smay, Phil's gushes they came
While Carl counted and called them by name.

Now Cheaters, now Warlocks, Constantines, and CMC's
On Eagles, on Runners, on Knights and BC's

To the top of the GDI's, you Guards stand tall
Look away, look away, there's Force 5, Hail them All!

And then in a twinkle he heard of the F.L.U.
And saw Jonni giving them all a good screw!

As Leuer pulled out his fist and then looked around
Marcus fell down the chimney... no pencil around!

Tessie Thompson was covered from his head to his foot
We're sure it's snow—He says it's soot!

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back
We know what the toys are, Alan Selby has that!

Remy's face was astounded... She insists she's a cherry
But Karl says different... She's only a fairy!

So up to the bar, Rocky bounded and flew
With a sack full of toys, and a Butt Plug or two!

The mirror on the wall was sparkling... aglow
Tony Treviso thought he was part of the show

But the BC Awards were next in sight
No one could win... especially tonight!

Some presidents tried, like last night
But now that it's over, let's all get real tight!

Enough of this chatting, we're here for good fun
'Tis the Christmas Season, we've all just begun!

We are your Presidents, it's that time of year
Merry Christmas to all and a Healthy New Year

Before we close, a thank you tonight,
Without any doubt, it's the independents
we couldn't do without!

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Frame

(Continued from previous page)

the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. Thank you in advance to the women of our community who donate their time to this cause and so many other wonderful ones throughout the year. This blood drive benefits the SFTG and the Godmother Blood Bank. For more information call Amelia's at 552-7788.

Camille and friends will be hosting a Christmas plant auction at the New Bell Saloon from 2 to 6 p.m., which will benefit the "Open Hand," a program similar to "Meals on Wheels" ex-

cept for the fact that their service is offered exclusively to persons with AIDS and AIDS Related Complex. Because this might be the first time most of you might have heard of this program, you can be assured we will have information available at the New Bell. In the meantime you can call Ruth, who is heading up this program, afternoons at 771-9808 or evenings at 474-8313. Sunday the New Bell will be having their Christmas party with surprises by Colonel John, John Darker, Roger, and the rest of the New Bell staff. The fun starts at 2 p.m. \$1,065 was raised to help with the travel expenses of the men from the ARC vigil at a recent auction at the Bell which wouldn't have been without the fine work of June Starling, Botch, Gloria, Randy Johnson, Ron Ross, and others who spent their money in such a wise and loving way.

My first, and my mother's first, and so far only, coronation was when Tessie was crowned Empress de San Francisco. One thing I know to be true about this much-loved man is that with or without the "title" he would have worked just as hard as he always did for our community and the community of San Francisco. I for one will miss this true friend.

This Saturday night will be yet

another zany contest when the Alamo Square Saloon hosts a Snow White Look-a-Like contest, not that kind of snow, and the action starts at 9 p.m. Merry Christmas to all of you at the A.S.S. and I'm looking forward to seeing what you will dream up for your calendars in the coming year. Someone has to be hitting the sauce once in a while.

They got the Sing-Along Messiah, we got the Dance-Along Nutcracker. This Sunday Robert Michael Productions in association with the San Francisco Band Foundation presents just that along with a Christmas gala at the GiftCenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St. There is limited reserved seating for \$15, \$12, and \$10. You can call 621-5619 to reserve tables for four or ten. Unreserved tickets are \$10, and are available at All American Boy. The doors open at 4 p.m. and the show starts at 5.

The Christmas dinners that Empress Tessie coordinated will be continued this year with the dinner being held at the Rathskeller restaurant, Turk and Polk, on Christmas day from noon to 2:30 p.m. They are in need of turkeys, hams, and tax-deductible cash donations. Checks should be made payable to the Gay Rescue Mission Community Dinner Fund and should

be dropped off or mailed to the Kokpit, 301 Turk St., S.F., 94102. If you would like to help or donate call Phylliss at 621-0304, Rick Hanson at 441-6929, or Mr. Lee-Ona at 775-3260. Remember, this dinner is open to all.

Newsbits. Paul Parker and Pamela Stanley are coming out with two new duets, "Running Around in Circles" and "Stranger in a Strange Land," mega hits is the rumor! Rose of 18th Street has the right choice of subject matter on Pearl Harbor

Day? Hot and Hunky II will open after the first of the year at the Mint. A display of the photographic works of Rink opened at Sweet Inspiration last Sunday, with a big crowd of well wishers, and is on display daily! Reba was being watched suspiciously at a Polk Street lounge last Saturday.

Off to Whittier for the holiday, off to an office party this evening, and the best of holiday wishes to all of you!

M. Friese

First Safe Sex Video

His Video, a division of VCA Pictures, is releasing the very first safe sex video in December—*Life Guard*. Officially endorsed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, *Life Guard* draws the line between risky behavior and truly safe sex.

Life Guard contains graphic scenes that demonstrate exactly what sexual acts are safe. Prominent male stars like Leo Ford and Rick Donovan lend their talents to these erotic and informative sequences.

His Video has provided the regional AIDS Foundations across the country with copies of *Life Guard* at a reduced rate for fundraising. The tape is also available to the general consumer for \$39.95, so the message of

"playing it safe for fun" reaches everyone.

As a final bonus, a special safe sex brochure is included in every copy of *Life Guard*. Already causing excitement among video distributors and gay publications across America, *Life Guard* will be available in mid-December from His Video.



A Holiday Greeting

by Jay Noonan

Hello again, it's that time of year To bring goodly wishes in rhyme with some holiday cheer So for Charlotte and Margret, Merry Ellen an x-mas bow get Plus a gala rematch of Hans the Hun and Lenny Mollet Feliz Navidad Sweet Jorge, Eric Neisi, Andy Rodriguez, a bright sugar plum Also a new downtown stadium for us and Dianne plus her man Dick Blum

And to Juanita and Edie please Mr. Santa don't fail Bring lots of Hi Hos and Ho Hos for Paul and Glenn and Durwood and Dale

Please a wassail of hot rum to Mike Greer to toast his Scott And some icy Stoli for Keith to skoal to yet another Great Scott Much love to Howard, the Hipper, and Robert called Ross Bon natale Bob Frank, Bill Snyder may the days shine with a gloss Mistletoe and holly Carrot Top and Wayne Friday don't tarry Bring Christmas cheer to Char and John, and a new pair of dice cups for John Molinari

Holly leaves Delia/Dale and Danny aka Birdy Festive treats of love Jed and Marvin, my Chet and Hi Ho James Purdy

Merry bells and jingles Emp. Sissy and Ginger some gorgeous new lace Happy Hanukkah Doug, Esther Cohen and the good Bobby Pace Bon mots Russ and Totie, plus Rocky and Donald; that gay port-a-gee Candy canes Jack South, Randy Johnson, and Mikey and Harold St.

Five presents for F. Scott, T. Logan, and Angel as you skip down the wall Great spirits John Wise, Daddy Joe, and the good Roger Hall Now my dear Santa, err you fly into a rage Smile sweetly on June and Mike Banda and Elf George the old sage Salutations Bette Bonko, Bob Tangway and Polk St. Sally Special wishes to Kenny A., Mel Squire, Ms. Florida, all stars in our alleys

To wee Paul Walliker and big Mike Dooley Fill your stockings full, but no Tom Foolery And please Kris Kringle, don't by-pass these stars Bring yuletide joy for Randy H., Ron Ratch, and the chic Jack Baar Bon noel sweet Lasagne and Daryl who are hard acts to follow Also to Russ and Jim, Mr. Gary and Jerry, the gang at the Swallow For my Modesto and his Bill x-mas cheer to the brim To Larry Rush, T. Allan Smythe, more bodies to trim Merry bells to Lucy and Jeanne, keep frost on their noses Sweet dreams dear Mamie, Steve Suss, Sly Dennis to the North in the Land of Roses

While here Santa dear give Blanche and Edna a hug as Rock and Darcelle do a festive holiday turn Much peace Pat and Dwayne, plus the kids Gregg and Jana, out on S.E. Thornburn

Merry thoughts Antonucci, Mike Winnings, you both are a gas As is J.C., Steve Bushey, Jack Thompson, and big Greta Grass On Tammy, on Rosa, Mama Billy let's watch Marty noon Shy Russell

Mazeltov Mitch and Tina, Earthmother Craig, Larry G., and Sandy Super Bowl joys to the Niners and sweet David called Candi So now my dear friends, if I forgot to mention you one and all You must believe it wasn't intentional at all

And now Mama dear all the cookies are baked Merry Christmas from my heart, may you mix With peace and joy in the days that are left in '85 And let our dreams and wishes be fulfilled in '86

J. Noonan

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We'll Miss You

DICK WALTERS

Happy 50th Birthday greetings on the 11th to Tony (Consuello Pigg) Mendoza of the popular Embers/Avenue bar in Portland. How did you like your roasting, Tony?

The one and only Doug Twist was in town for a few days, and yes he is still bartending in Reno at the Five Star Saloon at 132 West St. So when you are up there drop by and have a drink with Doug.

The place to shop, the place to donate, the place to volunteer, is the Community Thrift Store at 625 Valencia St., so if you need something or want to donate

something take it there or call 861-4910 and they'll be happy to pick it up.

Festus on 18th Street has the great Robert Tanguay on the planks days so drop out and have a drink with him and enjoy this pleasant bar.

Googie's on Geary now has the popular Frank Banks on the keyboard playing your favorite songs Sundays from 5-9 p.m., so come on down and join in the festivities, right Rene? Nooch, Nooch, where are you now Nooch?

Have you seen Bella's decor at



Timothy Sockett, Craig Daley, Metz, and Harry Azevedo celebrated Sutters Mill's 20th anniversary last weekend (Photo: Rink)

the Twin Peaks and at Googie's on Geary? Sometimes you do amaze me with all of your wonderful talent, Bella.

Happy 59th Birthday to Seaman Russ Saturday the 14th. You really don't look it Russ, but Totie has added a few gray hairs on you—only kidding, Frankie.

Christmas Plant Auction from 2-6 p.m. The hostess will be Camille, and it is a benefit for The Open Hand, which is a meal program for people with AIDS and AIDS Related Conditions, so drop by and join in this worthy benefit.

Robert Michael Productions



Rikki Streicher received commendations from SF Supervisors and the State Senate on the occasion of her 60th birthday last Sunday (Photo: Marcus)

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Bob Golovich aka Robert Michael Productions had a fabulous Thanksgiving Dinner for a few intimate friends (100) at the very lovely Raggs on Fourth Street just off Market. The dinner was catered by Sutter's Mill, and they and their staff did an outstanding job. There was even a mariachi band, and of course after dinner we had Bill Ward on the piano. Thank you Tim and Metz, your staff, and Bob for a great afternoon, right Dolly Dale?

Don Shadle of Ambush fame is back doing his Met Opera broadcasts Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. They are also conducting free bridge lessons on the 2nd floor every Saturday until 3 p.m., so if you want to learn contract bridge drop on down to the Ambush and join in.

The New Bell Saloon on Saturday the 21 is having a

in association with The San Francisco Band Foundation will be presenting a Christmas Gala and Dance Along Nutcracker at the Gift Pavilion Sunday the 22nd at 5 p.m. For tickets and information call 621-5619. This should be a spectacular event, so don't miss it.

Scott Rankine is singing at the Mason Street cabaret, at Mason and Geary, Dec. 23 and 30 at 8:30 p.m. with Doug Trantham at the piano. Join them for those holiday eves. Call 981-3535 for reservations and more information.

In closing I would like to say, Empress Tessie you will be missed by so very many in this city, especially the many, many senior citizens you did so much for all of these years. You were loved by many.

Bazaar Calendar

Thursday 12/19: An Eagle Christmas, SF Eagle, 8 p.m., buffet, Lites for Life (tree lighting) benefit for Ward 5B.

Campaign Meeting, Tatiana, 265 Fell #508 (between Franklin and Gough), 8 p.m.

Open Mike Comedy Night, Casa Loma, 9 p.m., Host/MC Danny Williams.

Friday 12/20: Mele Kalikimaka, Kim's, 8 p.m., show MC Empress Sissy.

Buns Contest, Casa Loma, 9 p.m., MC's Dolly Levi and Bruce.

Saturday 12/21: Snow White Look-a-Like Contest, Casa Loma, 9 p.m.

Sunday 12/22: Gay Recluse Mission Benefit, SF Eagle patio, Beer Bust 3-6 p.m., \$6.

Tuesday 12/24: Christmas Eve Party, Kokpit, 7 p.m.—2 a.m., John and Empress Char man the boards.

Compiled by Karl Stewart

Coits

The Coits of San Francisco, celebrating its 23rd year of service to the gay community, would like to announce the election of this year's officers. Paul Johnson has been elected president for the coming year. Also elected were Ed Durity, vice president; Monte Reddick, recording secretary; Larry Nielsen, treasurer; and

Warren La Follette, corresponding secretary. The Coits of San Francisco has been a dedicated service club and looks forward to many more years of service. The next big social activity is the famous "Skidzle" trip to Lake Tahoe on March 7, 8, and 9, 1986. The Coits look forward to serving you.

Leather Weekend

"Leather Weekend," the season's first major event for the leather/levis community, will take place in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 17, 18, and 19, 1986. Last year's run brought more than 350 registrants from the eastern United States and Canada. Run functions include a welcoming party at the Exit bar of the DC Eagle, a Saturday brunch, a formal leather evening buffet and open bar at Dick's Bar, and a Sunday lunch at Dick's. The Saturday ceremonies include entertainment by Leatherella, Washington's foremost comic commentator on the leather/levis scene, as well as the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest. The winner of this contest will represent Leather Weekend and the Centaur MC at the International Mr. Leather contest to be held in Chicago in May. Clubs and associations are encouraged to provide registrants for this contest. The Centaurs will inaugurate new officers at the Sunday event, at which time the winner of the contest will be announced.

Ample time will be available during the weekend for visitors to sightsee in Washington. The nation's capital is home to a large and active gay community, with many facilities for entertainment.

Pre-registration is possible by mailing a check for \$6 payable to The Centaur M.C., P.O. Box 362, Arlington, VA 22210. On-site registration (\$10) will take place at the DC Eagle, 908 7th St., N.W., on Friday evening, from 9 p.m. until midnight and

'Ample time will be available for visitors to sightsee in Washington.'

on Saturday, from noon until 3 p.m. Registration will resume at Dick's, two blocks away, (639 New York Av., N.W.) from 7 until 9 p.m. Pre-registration for the run is \$6, \$10 at the door.

Housing is available at a special rate at the Holiday Inn at Thomas Circle. The rate is \$45 per room plus taxes for up to four persons per room, Jan. 16-19. Call Mr. Cherry at (202) 638-0163 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Be sure to indicate: Centaur MC Leather Weekend block.

Video Show

Video entertainment is everywhere. Gay video entertainment, produced by and for the gay community, has been conspicuously absent.

Now, the first five-hour video show produced explicitly for viewing in entertainment establishments catering to and seeking to attract a gay male clientele, is now available in Southern California, after several months of testing at two of Dallas' largest discotheques.

The concept of a gay-oriented and gay produced video program, which is not pornographic and contains no scenes which may cause concern for licensees of establishments which serve alcoholic beverages, resulted from frustration with current video programming in gay and non-gay establishments nationwide, said producer Jimmy Bartlett, a native of Texas.

With the knowledge obtained from his degree in computer science, combined with more than seven years experience as a leading disc jockey for various gay clubs in Houston and Dallas, Bartlett began experimenting

with video programs oriented to a gay audience about five months ago.

Since last June, Bartlett has been preparing the continuous three-hour pilot program containing a total of about 25 minutes of scenes featuring attractive men, from athletes to ballet dancers, boxers to surfers.

These images appear at irregular and unpredictable moments during the show, and are dramatically enhanced with computerized graphics and other special effects mixed into and with the clearly recognizable pictures.

Other elements in the programs include comedy, cartoons, clips from vintage newsreels, and portions of classic movies, with much of the older black-and-white material appearing fresh and new when enhanced with color graphics and special effects.

Although each of the three one-hour tapes is and can be used as a complete one-hour show, the three-hour pilot program can be extended to five hours with the inclusion of two hours of computer-generated graphics and special effects which can be mix-

ed with the three-hour program at almost any time.

Vidbar Productions, of Dallas, Texas, in association with Y-FM of Los Angeles, will be offering test screenings of portions of the three-hour show at no cost for two weeks beginning on December 12, 1985.

For more information or to arrange dates for test screenings, contact either Vidbar Productions at (214) 522-8372, or Y-FM at (213) 466-7875.

West Hollywood Bake-Off

A senior citizen of West Hollywood, Christine Beavers, mother of advertising executive Don Beavers, entered and won first prize in the cake baking contest sponsored by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, celebrating the new city's first birthday. Mrs. Beavers is going to donate her \$150 first-prize money to AIDS Project Los Angeles, in the spirit of the holidays.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XV NO. 52 DECEMBER 26, 1985

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New Poll Shows AIDS Backlash

Bar, Baths Closure, Quarantine Favored; But Majority Disapprove of Job Bias

by George Mendenhall

The disapproval level of homosexuality has not increased since 1973 even in the era of AIDS, according to a new *Los Angeles Times* poll. However, 42 percent of respondents would enact laws to close gay bars and 48 percent would withhold federal funds from any city that allowed gay steambaths to stay open. When asked, 51 percent favored quarantining AIDS patients and 48 percent would require that anyone who tested positive on the AIDS virus test to carry an I.D. card. A surprisingly high 55 percent said they favored allowing homosexuals in the armed forces although government regulations still prohibit gay people from serving.

A large 73 percent of the population believed homosexuality was wrong, according to the *Times*. However, its pollster commented, "there is no convincing evidence of the much-rumored puritanism in the United States. Many key moral attitudes are unchanged since the sexual revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s."

MORE SYMPATHETIC

San Francisco was predictably the most liberal city in attitude toward gay people with 49 percent saying being gay is not wrong and 44 percent disagreeing. Los Angeles and New York had over 60 percent calling it wrong. When asked if they were sympathetic to the gay community, 30 percent said they were two years ago but that figure, probably reflecting the AIDS epidemic, has now risen to 41 percent. The number who were unsympathetic dropped from 63 percent to 52 percent.

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Saliva is unlikely to transmit the AIDS virus, according to a new research study. George Mendenhall reports, page 2.

Dance out the old year, dance in the new year. Allen White tells where to celebrate on New Year's Eve, page 3.

Lesbian and gay students at S.F.'s Community College are organizing themselves through the GLENA Project. Jay Newquist explains on page 14.



'The finances were definitely being drained. The best word which describes my situation is exhaustion. I was mentally exhausted from having to read all the time about AIDS. But also, I was just plain physically tired. I think this is the first time in four and a half years that I have had two days in a row off.'

—Tom Post

They 'Broke the Silence,' Now NGN is Broke

by Will Snyder

A very curious thing happened to Tom Post two months ago. At that time, Post suspended operations for the National Gay Network (NGN), his news agency which sends gay news to radio stations around the world. When he sent his last tape to KNON, an FM station in Dallas, he got an unexpected response.

"KNON called me to say people were crying over the phone when they heard on the tape that I was stopping operations," Post remembered. "That very same day, I started getting calls from people in Dallas offering to send \$25 here and \$35 there if that would help defray our costs."

(Continued on page 2)

Wasn't That A Year!

Spies, Quarantine, Gay Banks and Gay Bashers; Allegations, Accusations, Denials, Convictions and More

First of Two Parts

by Brian Jones

Maybe the worst is over. Maybe we bottomed out in 1985. Maybe the year now ending will mark a turning point. Maybe our long run of tragedy and despair has hit its depth and will begin to lessen. Maybe. Who can blame us for hoping so?

A number of profound changes marked 1985. They were subtle and incremental but they were profound changes. In 1985 in San Francisco, the growth of new AIDS cases hit a plateau. It was the first time anywhere that happened.

Doctors worked with anti-viral drugs long common in Europe and reported marked success for people with AIDS. Americans went over the border to Mexico to buy Ribavirin and Isoprinosine. Some of them reported that the drugs helped.

Rock Hudson died of AIDS. The tragedy of the popular leading man put the national spotlight on AIDS. In January, Pres. Ronald Reagan asked for only \$89 million to fight AIDS. In December, the Congress gave him \$234 million.

In California, Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed \$11 million in funds to fight AIDS. But outrage throughout the state was great. Deukmejian was forced to

restore nearly \$6 million of those same funds two months later.

In October, a determined band of people with AIDS-Related Conditions—whose only affiliation was hope, spunk, and a disease—began a vigil. At Christmas, they were still there, chained to the old Federal Building. They had turned despair into hope, powerlessness into defiance, and so became a symbol to—and of—our community.

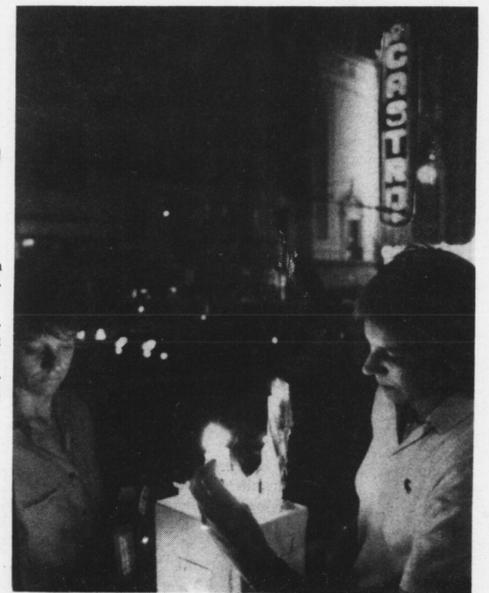
They got a mailbox and tents, and the feds got the impression that these AIDS activists were there to stay.

They were there to stay. Even as the dread disease pulled one or another of the activists from the vigil, two took their place.

There was a profound message of hope there.

In other areas, 1985 demon-

(Continued on page 12)



They lit candles for Rock Hudson on Castro St. (Photo: Rink)