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BAY AREA REPORTER

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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.

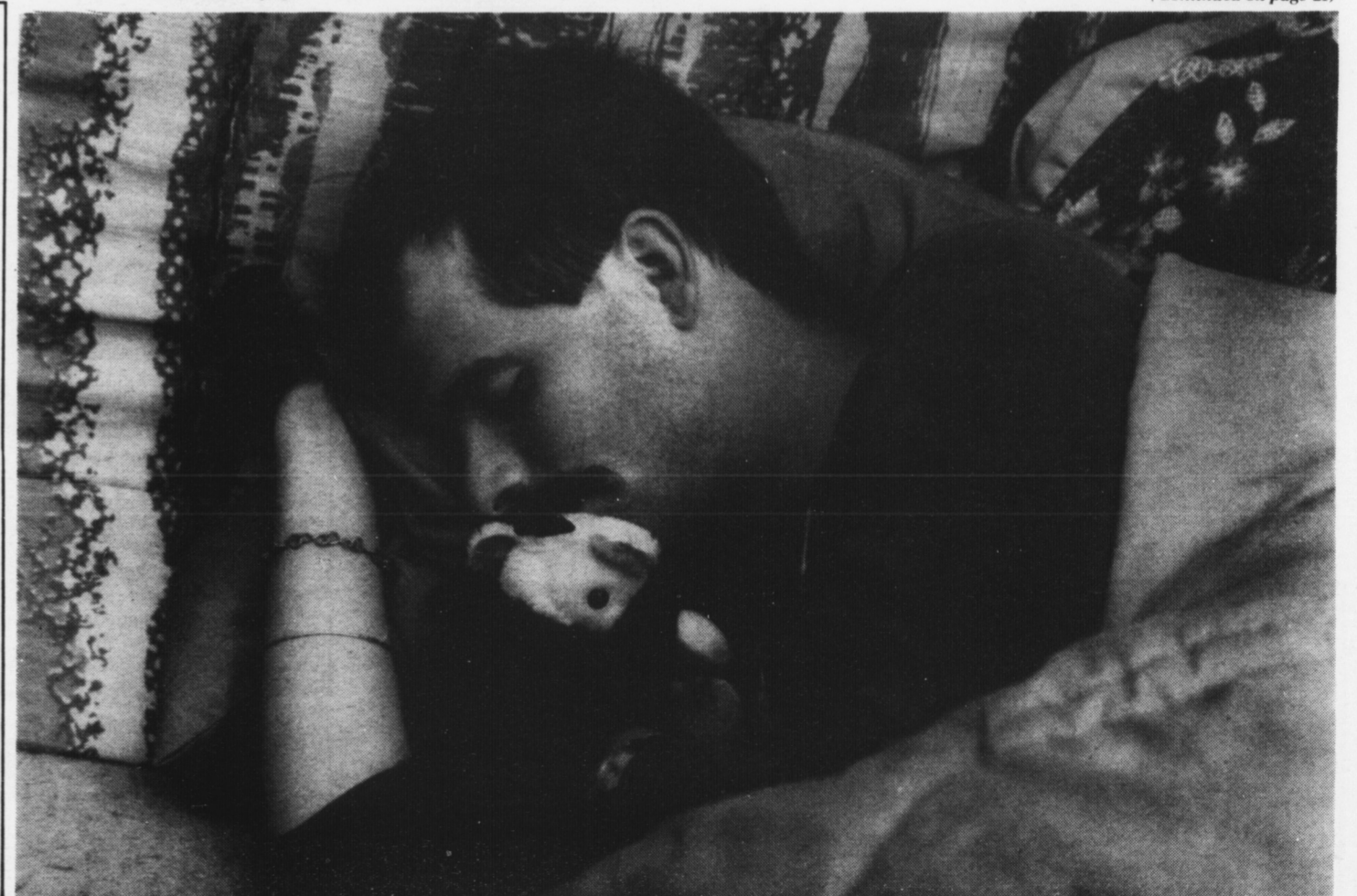
AIDS prevention campaigns have long promoted use of condoms. But, said UC AIDS researcher Dr. Marcus Conant, "It was time to put some science under the message."

(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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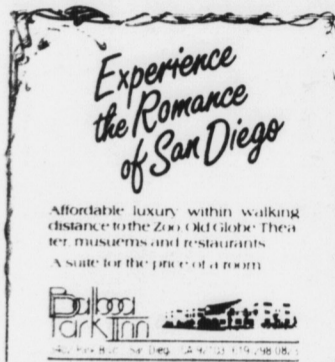
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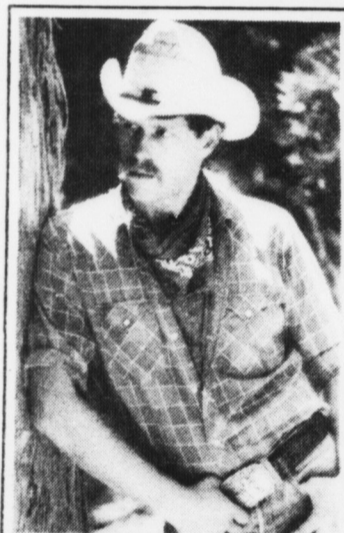
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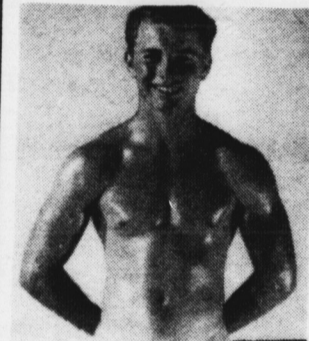
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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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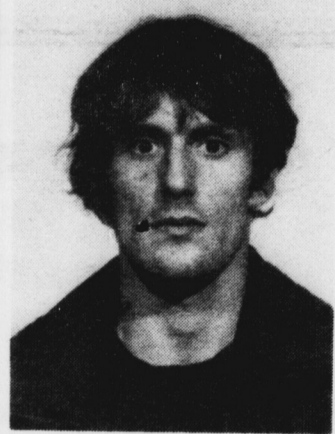
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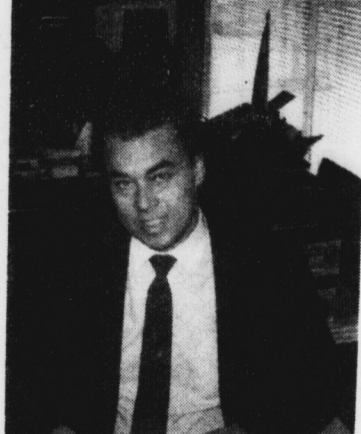
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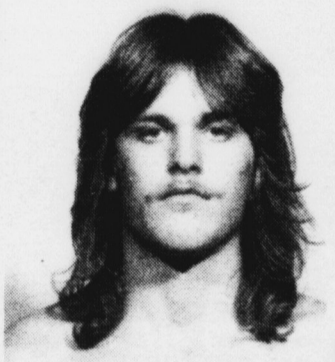
Timothy White



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.

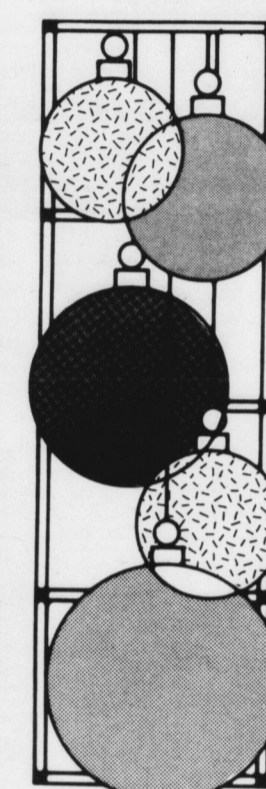
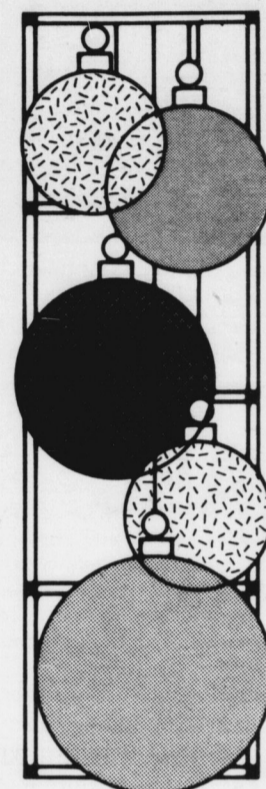
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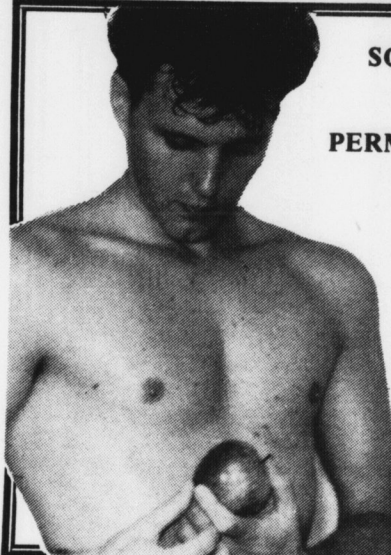


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Rev. Jim Sandmire blesses the people from the vigil and their bus before a trip to Los Angeles. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

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

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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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)

ula 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

SAINT FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Joy
CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST
24 DECEMBER 1985
11:30 P.M.
152 CHURCH ST.

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.
As soon as he gets Bushmills, buy him one. The next time you're in, he'll pour the Bushmills the moment he sees you. *Now*—you've found the perfect bar.

BUSHMILLS

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS

Gallo Optimistic About AIDS Drugs

WILL SNYDER

BRUSSELS—The National Cancer Institute released positive results from a new class of drugs designed to fool the AIDS virus.

Dr. Robert Gallo told the *Chicago Tribune* that "many people with AIDS have had a complete restoration of their immunological function and a great deal of clinical improvement."

Gallo, the chief of the NCI laboratory of tumor cell biology, made the announcement at the first international conference of African AIDS.

Gallo said the new drugs are not to be considered a cure-all, and that further studies were necessary.

—Windy City Times of Chicago

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Detroit Free Press OK's Classified Ads For Gays

DETROIT—The *Free Press*, long considered one of the most liberal of U.S. daily newspapers, followed the lead of its more conservative professional colleagues in San Francisco in accepting safe sex ads. As a result of the action, the *Free Press*, *San Francisco Examiner* and *San Francisco Chronicle* are the only three papers in the United States to run classified ads which could cater to gay men and lesbians.

In announcing the policy, *Free Press* publisher David Lawrence, Jr. said, "We are seeking to do this as naturally and calmly as possible. We're doing it because it's the fair thing to do."

Lawrence decided on the *Free Press*' new policy after conferring with David Piontkowsky, a prominent Detroit-area gay attorney and legal officer of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), Marvin Marks, president of Wellness Networks, and Sandy Berris, past president of the Motor City Business Forum.

Lawrence indicated that the *Free Press* decision wasn't without some difficulty. He said many members of the Knight-Ridder newspaper's hierarchy advised against the decision.

"It was difficult," said Lawrence, "because many opposed the decision; it was easy because no one was able to articulate a reason not to take the ads."

Piontkowsky said earlier meetings he had with *Free Press* attorney Herschel P. Fink didn't bode well. Fink had pointed out that the newspaper had to consider a double standard of law. The city of Detroit forbids discrimination because of sexual orientation, but the state of Michigan technically forbids gay sex acts.

However, Lawrence went ahead and made the decision for the *Free Press* on his own.

Piontkowsky said his next goal is to get the *Detroit News*, the city's evening newspaper, to join the *Free Press* with the same type of advertising.

—The Voice of Detroit

Pasteur Institute Wants Patent, Sues U.S. Govt

PARIS—The rivalry between American and French AIDS research groups hasn't died down. In fact, it is heating up with the French taking the offensive.

France's Pasteur Institute, which pioneered research into AIDS, said last week it has filed suit against the United States to establish its claim that it discovered the deadly virus before American researchers.

The suit was filed last Thursday in U.S. Court of Claims in Washington. Pasteur Director Raymond Dedondier's months

of negotiations with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over royalty rights "ended in the past two days with an unacceptable offer."

The United States has failed to grant the Pasteur Institute a patent for its AIDS test based on its isolation of the AIDS virus. Dedondier said Pasteur's discovery is "recognized throughout the world."

The discovery of the virus has also been claimed by researchers at the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

—The Associated Press

Florida Task Force Tells The Tubs To Clean Up Act

MIAMI—It's still legal for gays to go to the bathhouses in Florida, but Gov. Bob Graham's Task Force on AIDS endorsed a plan by Dade County Public Health Director Dr. Richard Morgan to contact such businesses about cleaning up their acts.

Morgan told a Miami group that "rampant anonymous sex is going on in those places... (which) may be transmitting this disease." Morgan also said he was unaware that anonymous sex was going on in Miami bookstores.

Morgan added that if businesses monitored themselves, they would learn to take actions to curtail the action. He said "anonymous sex is one of the most dangerous behavior toward communicating the AIDS virus." He said the Task Force decided against recommending closure of bathhouses, but instead voted to ask police and public health officials to encourage health club and peep-house owners to stop such activity or face eventual closure.

The Weekly News of Miami

Mississippi Grants State Charters To Gay Groups

JACKSON, MS—Intense pressure from a gay political organization forced the state of Mississippi to cave in and grant state charters to the Mississippi Gay Alliance and the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The decision by the Magnolia State's legal office culminates an 18-month campaign by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Previously, the LLDEF had run into a brick wall trying to get Mississippi to grant the charters. The state's Attorney General's office always fell back

on the Mississippi State Code, which states that "every person who shall be convicted of the detestable and abominable crime against nature with mankind or with a beast, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not more than 10 years."

The Attorney General's office opined that a chartering of the MGA proposal would be tantamount to endorsing an illegal lifestyle.

However, with the LLDEF constantly talking of the legal rights involved for gay people, the state finally gave in and granted a charter.

Gaze of Memphis, TN.

TV Station Under Fire for 'Using' AIDS Victim

HOUSTON—An end to a sad story came on Nov. 17 when Fabian Bridges, a 30-year-old gay black man died of AIDS in a Houston hospital. The biggest sadness, of course, is that Bridges died of the dreaded disease. But some of the other sadness came from the information filtering to the public how a Minneapolis television station exploited Bridges for the sake of a story.

WCCO, the television station, found Bridges in Cleveland after an Indianapolis judge learned he had AIDS. Bridges had been arrested for stealing a bicycle, but once his physical condition became known, the judge gave him money and told him to leave Indianapolis.

During this time, WCCO was trying to find some material for a documentary on the Houston gay political scene. While in Cleveland, WCCO allegedly paid Bridges in return for help in the filming of the documentary.

Soon, Bridges and a WCCO news crew were in Houston. Bridges informed Houston's Director of Health, Dr. James Haughton that he was having sex.

Houston vice officers followed Bridges around, trying to entrap him into sex, but all efforts failed. During this time, WCCO was paying Bridges \$15 per night while he remained on the street.

Journalists in Minneapolis were critical of the station for its alleged part in actions with Bridges. Nick Coleman, the television writer for the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, called WCCO's ethics "a dumb mistake," while Claude Peck—who produces a gay radio show in Minneapolis—demanded that WCCO delete information concerned with Bridges from its documentary.

—The Montrose Voice of Houston

Midnight Mass At the Castro

by Allen White

Christmas Eve at the Castro Theatre is gearing up to be a special night for the gay community. Dignity, the group of gay and lesbian Roman Catholics, will present Midnight Mass for a crowd that could rival any church in the city.

Dignity's Midnight Mass is not a first. By its presentation in the huge Castro Theatre, it does become a dramatic statement of religious freedom for gay men and lesbians. The statement demonstrates that the alternative to the self-righteous church is now gaining more attention than the institution from which it springs.

The doors open at 11:30 p.m. for Christmas carols sung by the Dignity choir. It is the same choir that sings every week at Dignity's Sunday mass at St. Boniface church.

The Roman Catholic Midnight Mass will be conducted by three priests. Communion will be served to any who wish to partake. The primary celebrant will be Father John Collins, a Paulist priest.

The sermon at the mass will be delivered by Father Chris Cartwright, S.J. Also assisting in the service will be Father Chris Peck. Two women will participate in the mass.

The primary difference for this Christmas Eve event is that it is geared for the gay community. Organizers of the event said that everyone is welcome to join in this religious celebration. Most gay religious organizations in the area have announced the service and many members of the gay community will bring their families.

Dignity has been planning this night for several weeks. The choir will be under the direction of Steve Jelen who will also be at the console of the pipe organ at the Castro. In planning the event, Dignity chose not to make any modifications in the look of the theater. The altar will be located on the stage and the area will be surrounded by flowers.

Whistle Hop Night

Remember Halloween and the folks in yellow painter's caps who saved one Sandra Dee and countless others from eminent danger? Those bright caps will be sported by CUA volunteers all over town this Friday night, Dec. 20 at your favorite bars. This time, though, they won't be looking for danger, blades or Sandra Dee's assailants. They'll be looking for the non-whistle wise people who have yet to buy their whistle, the wise ones who have lost their whistle and the generous wise ones who want to stuff their beloved Sandrats's Christmas stocking this year with her/his own whistle for whenever danger rears its ugly head.

Be whistle wise. Every whistle bought Friday night means we get one more individual prepared to involve themselves in the work of protecting our community from homophobic violence. Sometime this year or next on any given street in San Francisco, that whistle could save you or someone you love the pain and anguish of an assault. It could save a life. Buy a whistle, stay alert—and safe Holidays to all.

Safety Tip

During the Christmas shopping season don't become the victim of a pickpocket. The San Francisco Police Department advises that you carry your wallet in an inside jacket or front pants pocket. Carry purses under your arm and never carry more money and credit cards than you need that day.



Dignity's Midnight Mass will be at the Castro Theater.

(Photo: Mick Hicks)

the gay community has a responsibility to serve the larger community.

Following the mass there will be a reception in the mezzanine level with free coffee and all the home baked cookies you would expect to find at Christmas.

Father Collins is eagerly anticipating the event. He sees this

service as an opportunity that is unique and an event that indicates a dramatic change in the value systems of the people of the church. "What excites me most is going to be the moment they change the marquee on the Castro Theatre," he said. "It will read: 'Dignity, Midnight Mass, San Francisco: What a Christmas card that is going to make!'"



We wish to extend our warmest wishes to you during this holiday season and thank you for your support throughout the year.

Why not join us for
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER
SERVING FROM 1 TO 10 PM

and
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
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SPECIAL: Children's Drama at 11:00 AM
Worship on Sunday, December 22nd —
Worship with us!
Rev. James D. Claitor, Pastor



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

AIDS: A Devastating Reality Testing: A Personal Choice

MEDITEST: A medical diagnostic studies service is now offering HTLV-III AIDS antibody testing at our San Francisco clinic.

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1528 15th Street San Francisco, CA 94103

26 Issues \$35.00
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DOMESTIC RATES

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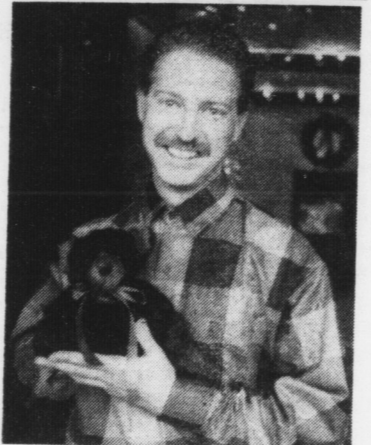
by Charles Linebarger

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
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- BALIF
- Big Mama's
- Bay Area Reporter
- Bank of America
- Bredwell Meyer
- Business Is Blooming
- BAPHR
- BAPHR Foundation
- The Balloon Lady
- Baybrick Inn
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- 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
- Duplications Corporation
- Die Mannerstimmen
- The End Up
- Fontana Film Services
- Fife's
- Five Fingers Poetry
- Front Runners of San Francisco
- Folsom Gulch Book Store
- G & R Vending
- Graphic Solutions
- Goat Hill Pizza
- 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
- Luisa's
- Leticia's
- Levi Strauss
- The Loading Zone
- Landfeld Design Assoc.
- The LAB
- La Rosa Vintage Clothing
- Lee Printing
- Maude's
- The Metro Bar
- The Midnight Sun
- The Mint
- Molly Brown's Saloon
- McCune Audio-Visuals
- Mid Town Stationers
- Man-to-Man Condoms
- Tede Matthews Productions
- National Sanitary Labs
- New Bell Saloon
- New York Native
- Networks—The David Society
- Obelisk
- OPT's Restaurant
- Ornamentation
- One Act Theatre

- One Pass Video
- Orphan Andy's
- P.O. Plus
- Postal Instant Press
- Project 20
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- P.S.
- Pacific Bell
- Pacific Telesis
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- Revol
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- San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps
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- 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.

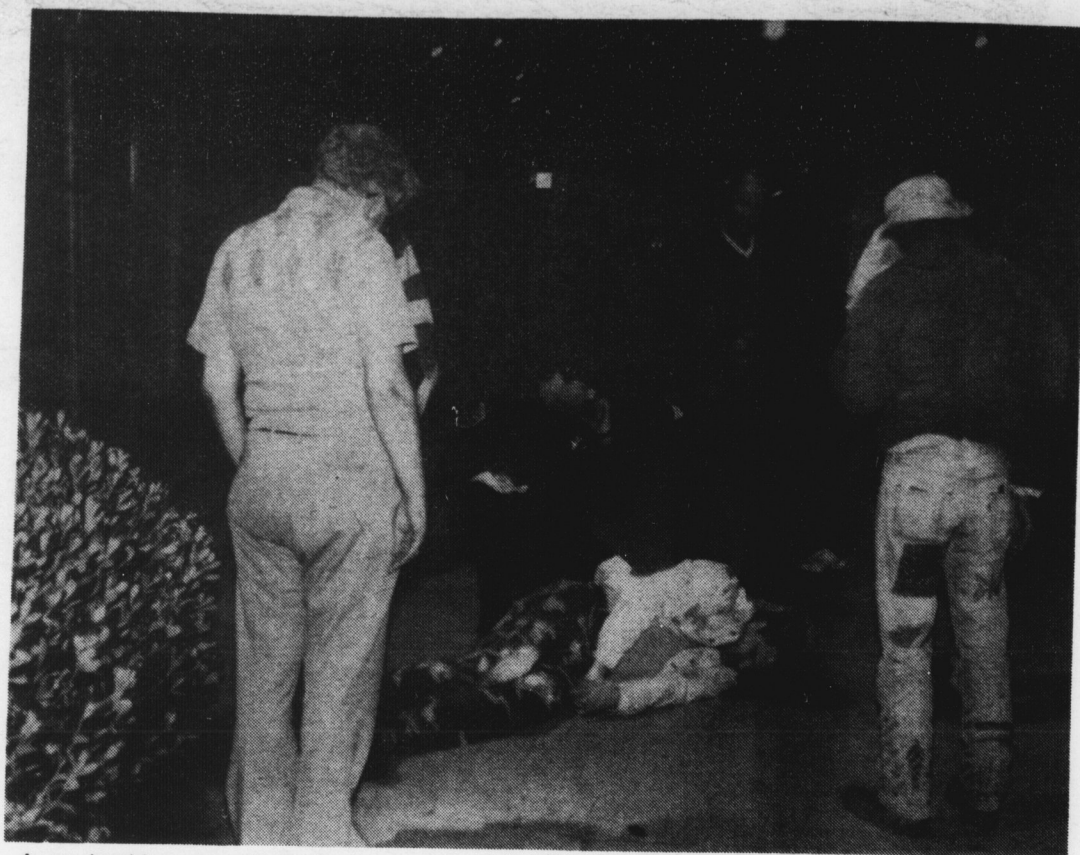
According to Janet Breneman, one of Steve's counselors, he has done well in his rehabilitation program and is ready to try making a life for himself outside.

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.

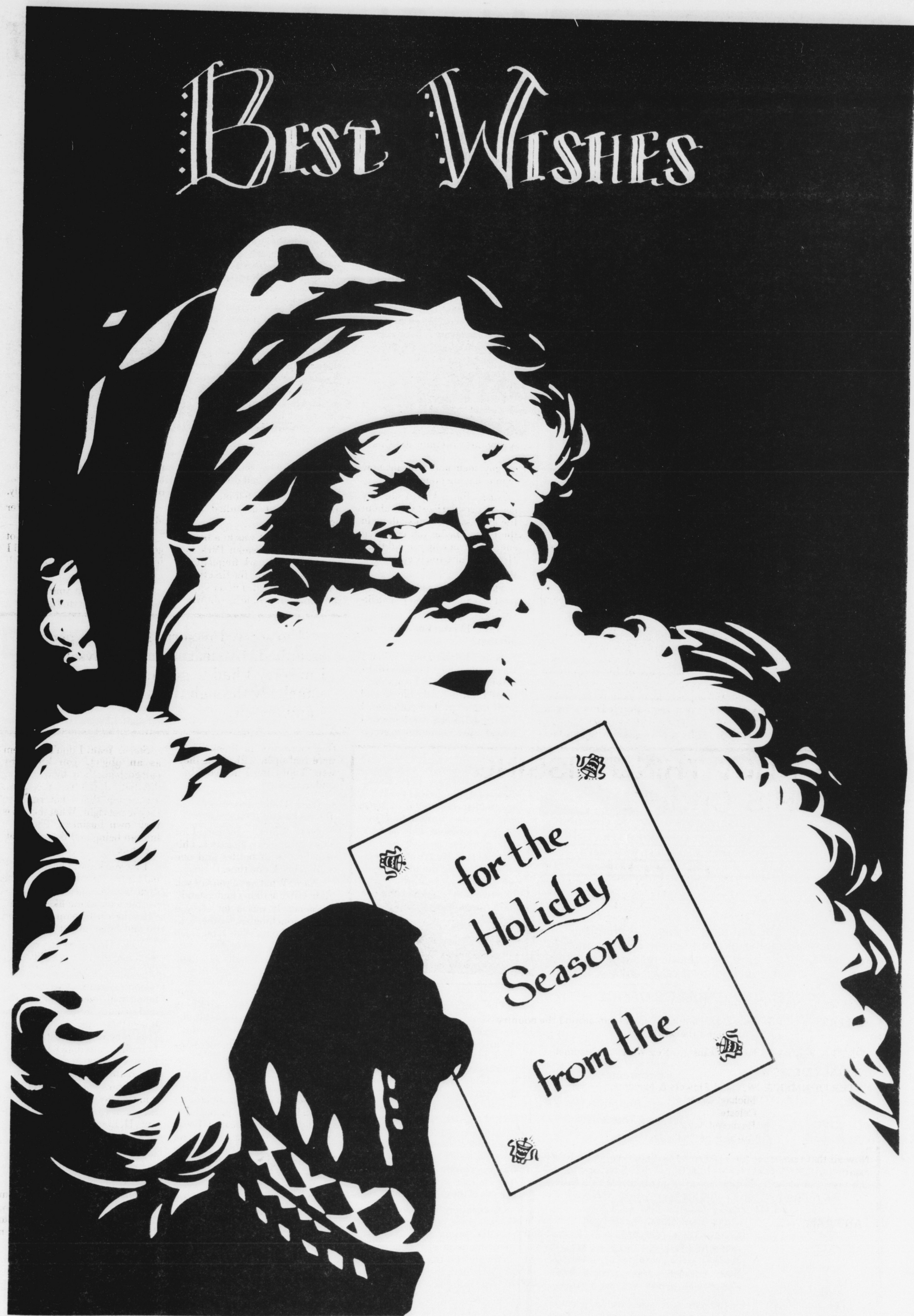
Nash: You think getting in touch with your own feelings helps you better understand how other people feel?

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*

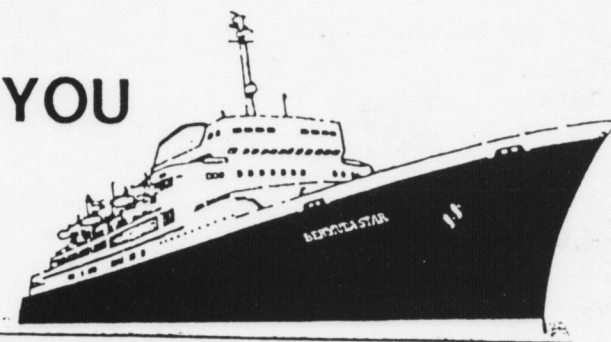
(Continued on page 19)



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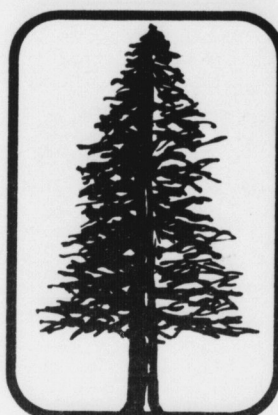


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Atlas Tries Again To Raise \$5 M

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

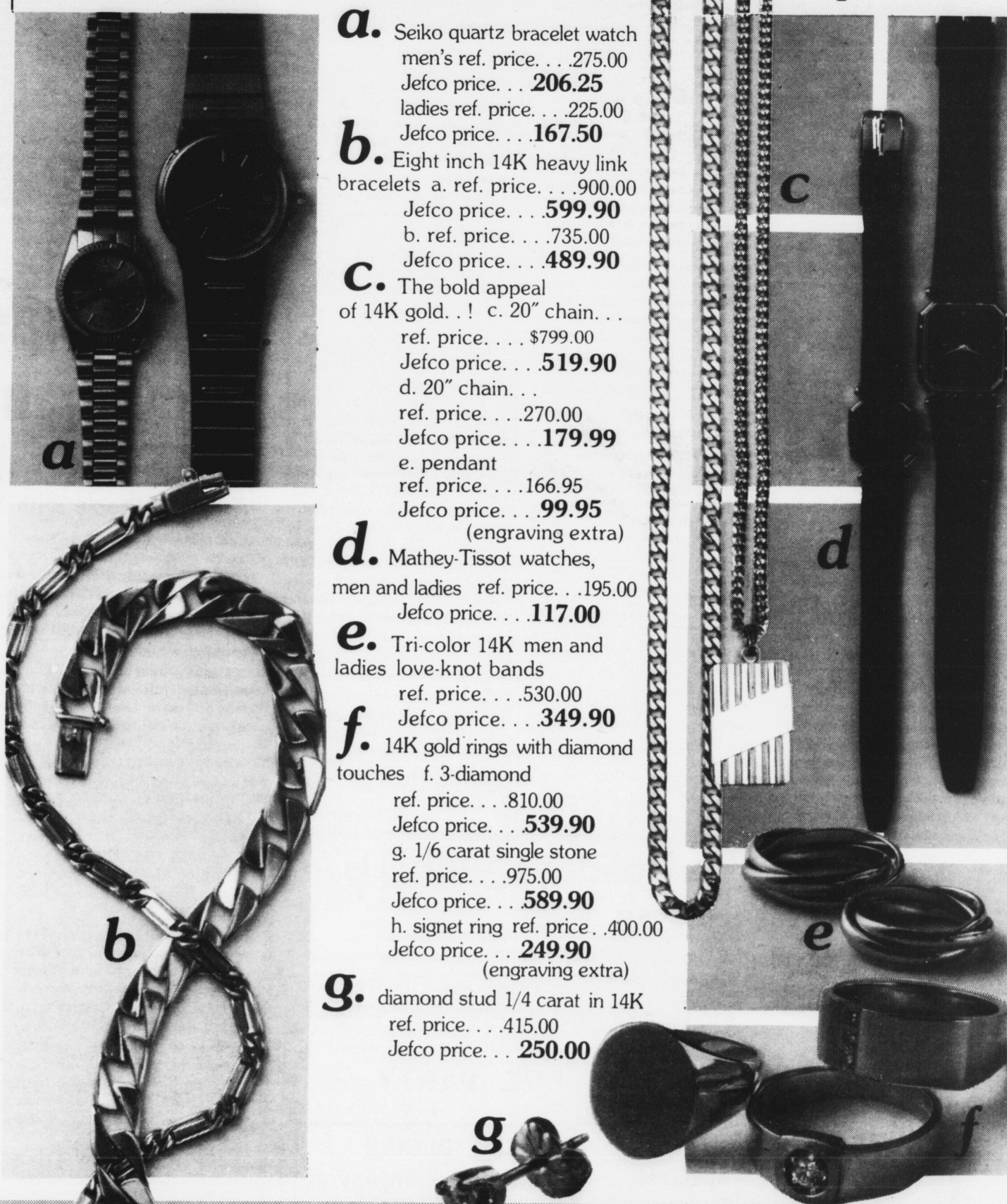
help kids I know who are getting in trouble, who are starting that way. I know from everything I've gone through.

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, 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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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., 8-8 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 552-4100 for reservations.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

SATURDAY 21

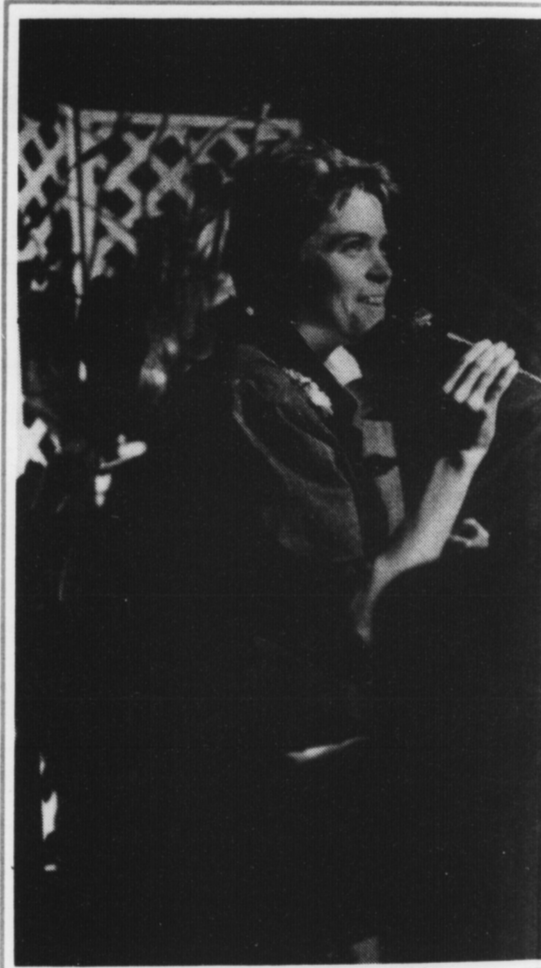
- **Claire Mix:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2-4.
- **Trocadero Transfer:** Flirting with Santa (Christmas Party), 10 PM-Dawn. Troc ID \$5, valid for 6 months, available at the door. Call 495-0185 for details.
- **The Healing Order of K'thar Sissies:** Winter Solstice Ceremony 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 Christian 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 Deharo, 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:** Liberatorian 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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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

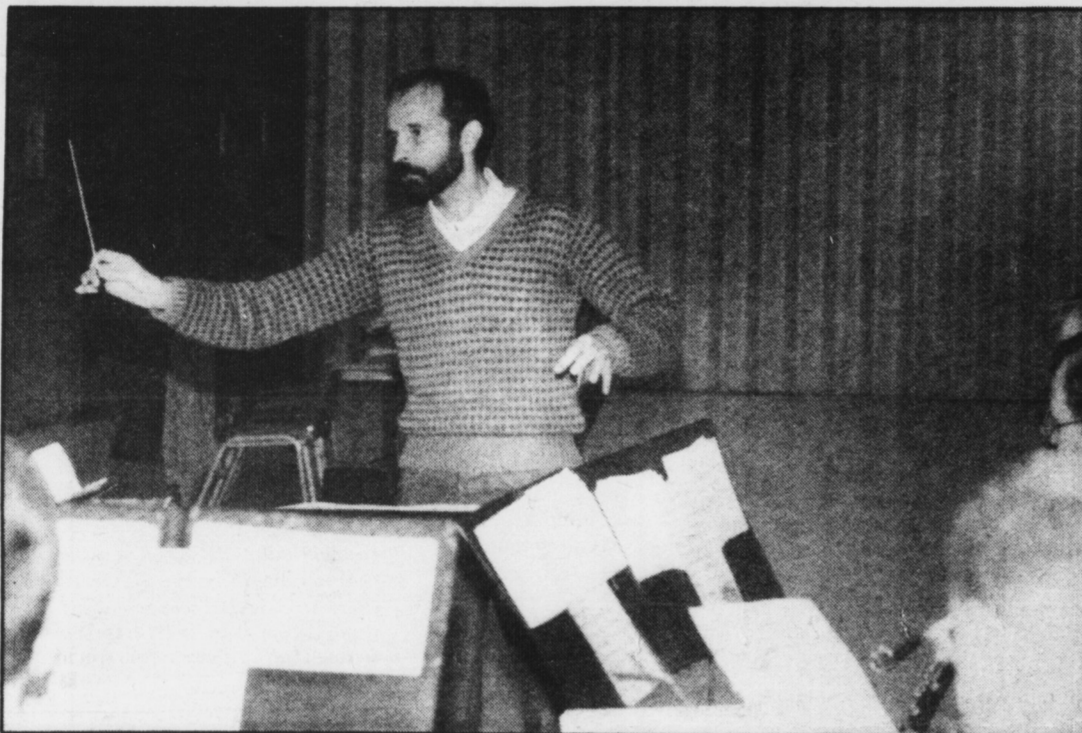
"My SF roommates were both in the band," van Antwerp said, "and they dragged me to rehearsals to play oboe. There already was a replacement director in John Smith, so I wasn't coming up from LA for that purpose at all. Smith resigned in July of '82, and I offered to do the job until Jon Sims returned. 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

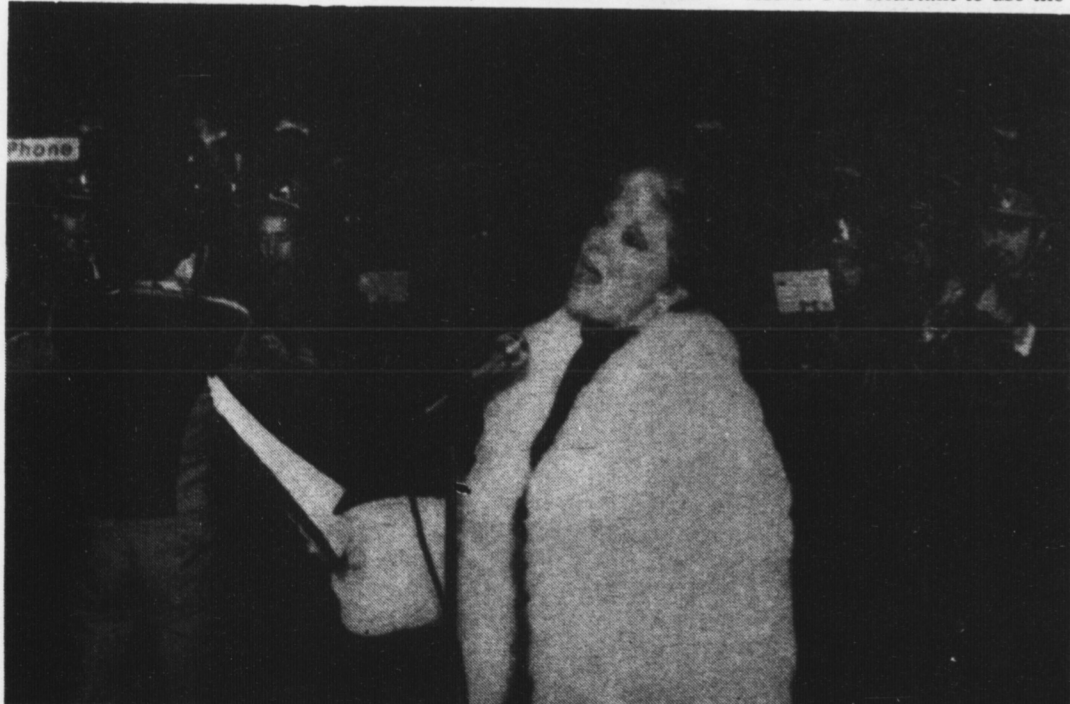
references are only for the sake of description. Rhynsberger is a real composer with an original voice.

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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"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 (ten 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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Major funding for the educational programs of The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

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

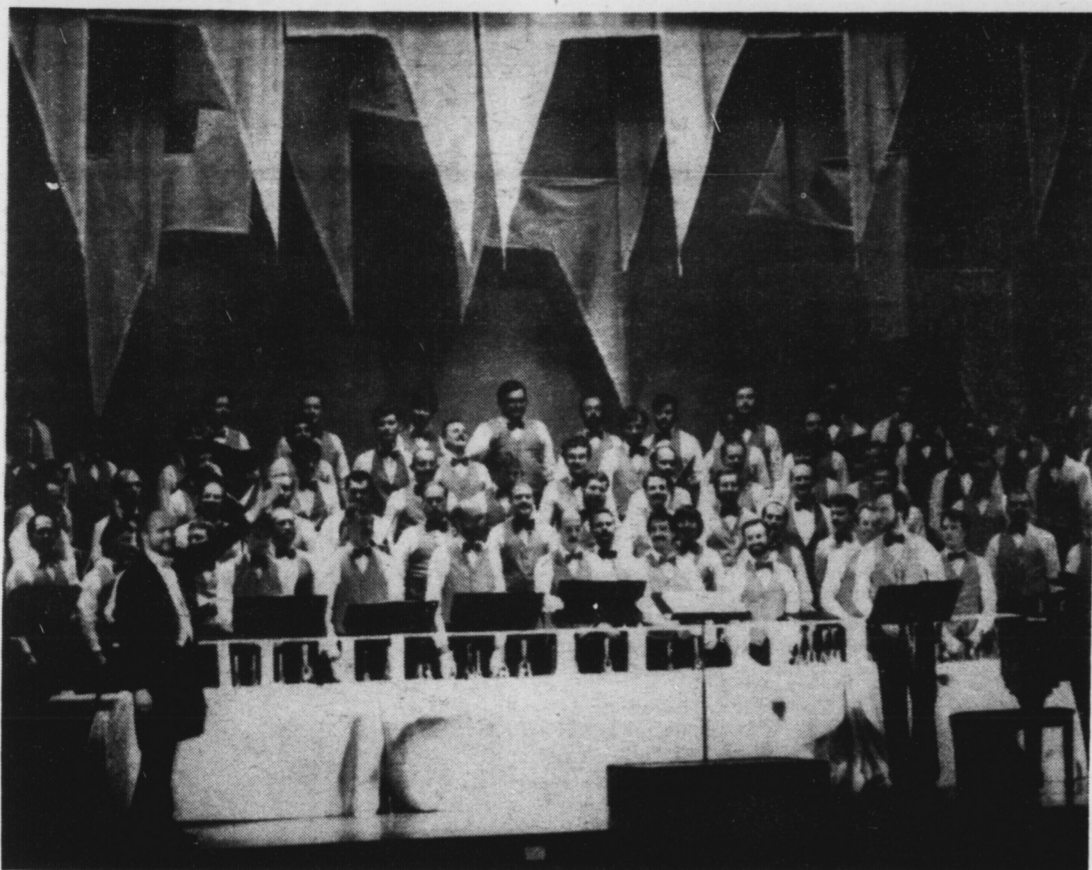
When Hurricane Kate struck the Florida panhandle on the evening of Nov. 21, the twisters it spawned took a seemingly direct path through the four heavily wooded acres of Naiad Press.

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. ■

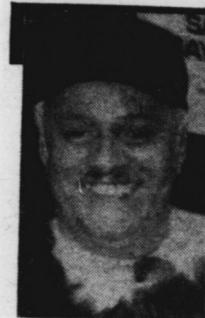
Were You There?

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!

Frankly, I didn't know it was a surprise party and I printed it in last week's issue and unknowingly and unwittingly caused several women to blurt expletives that begin with letter A and end with letter E. I never apologized 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!).



Rikki Streicher surprised by 300 well wishers at her 60th birthday party last Sunday

(Photo: Marcus)

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)

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Fri.—BUSY AND INTERESTING

Sat.—BUSY AND INTERESTING

Sun.—OPEN AT 6PM

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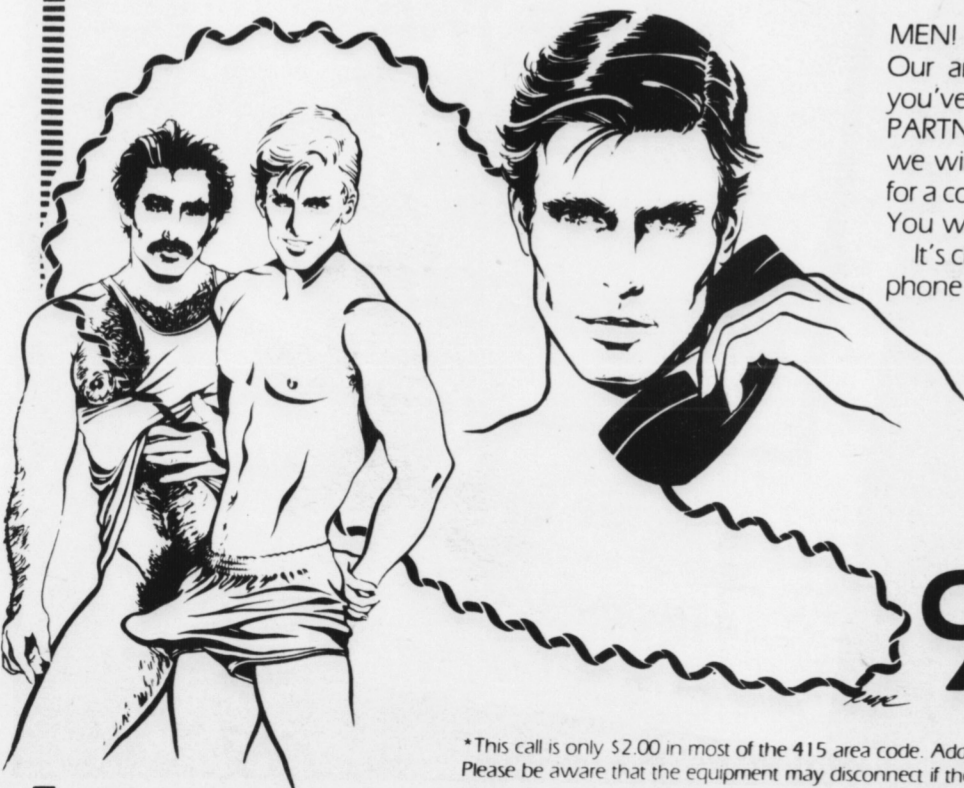
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Connie O'Connor busses Rikki Streicher at her 60th birthday party last Sunday

(Photo: Rink)

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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

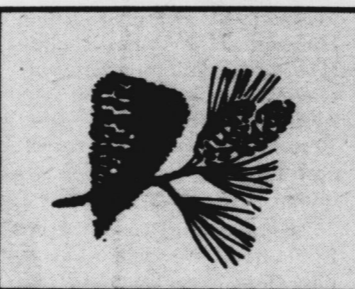
His Video, a division of VCA Pictures, is releasing the very first safe sex video in December—*Life Guard*. Officially endorsed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, *Life Guard* draws the line between risky behavior and truly safe sex.

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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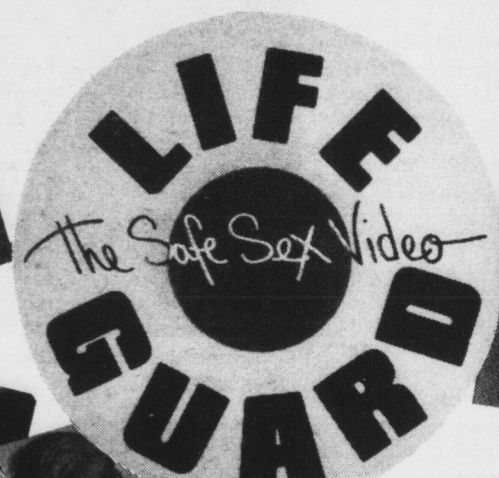
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We'll Miss You

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.

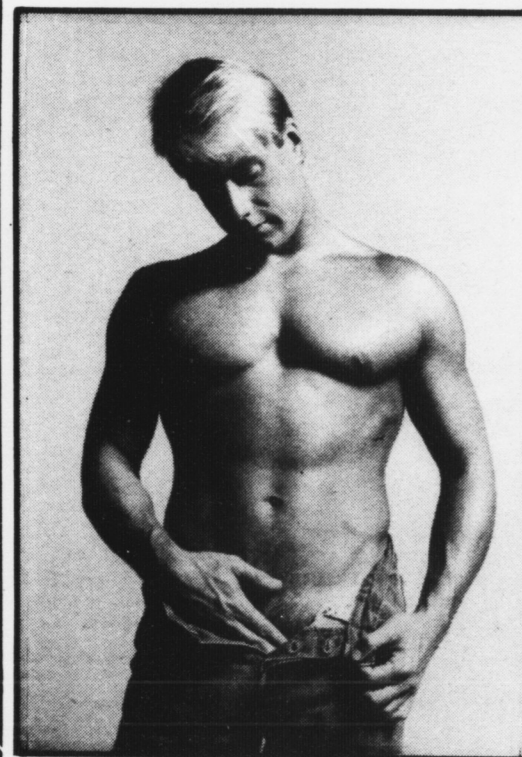
Christmas Plant Auction from 2-6 p.m. The hostess will be Camille, and it is a benefit for The Open Hand, which is a meal program for people with AIDS and AIDS Related Conditions, so drop by and join in this worthy benefit.

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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Leather Weekend

"Leather Weekend," the season's first major event for the leather/levi 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/levi 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 for visitors to sightsee in Washington.

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.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

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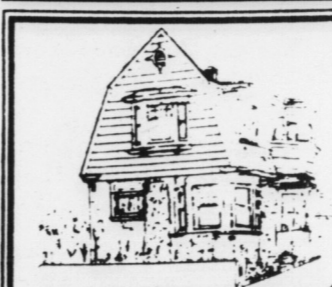
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New Poll Shows AIDS Backlash

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.

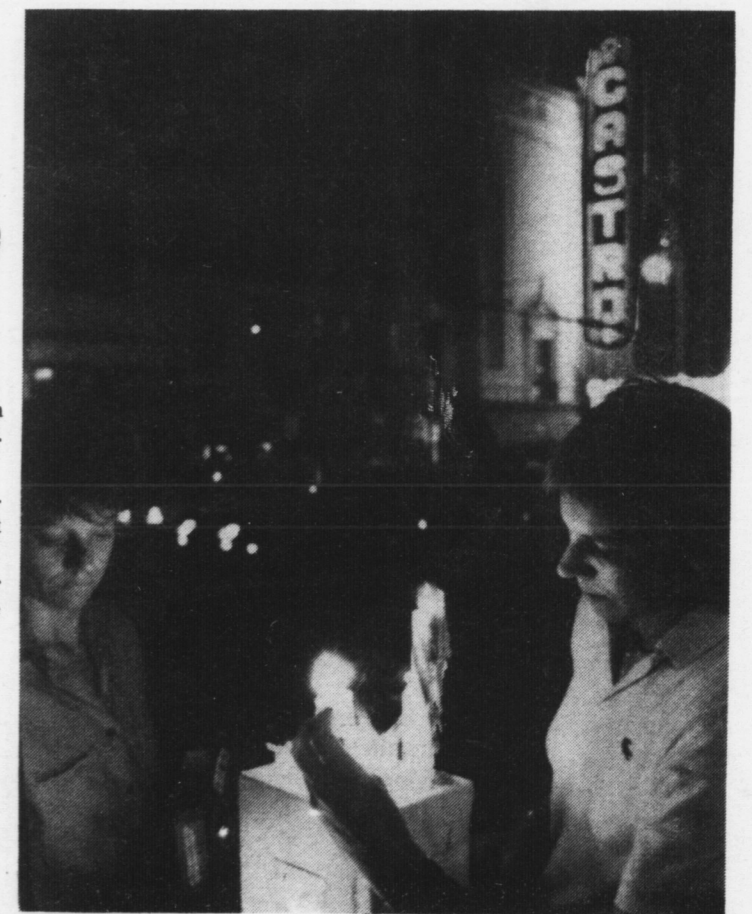
They got a mailbox and tents, and the feds got the impression that these AIDS activists were there to stay.

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)