

BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVI NO. 1 JANUARY 2, 1986

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019



A welcome home for Jack McCarty and Vic Amburgy.

(Photo: Rink)

Rock Hudson, AIDS Dominate News in '85

Movie Star's Death Sets Off Media Attention; Panic Follows as AIDS Becomes National Issue

Second of Two Parts

by Brian Jones

To see the resurgence of the gay community in 1985, one had only to be in United Nations Plaza the afternoon of June 30. A quarter million gay men, lesbians, and their friends were amassed for as far as the eye could see. It was a spirited and upbeat throng but remarkably a sober one. Despite all we had been through, we were capable of joy and celebration and in the midst of the teeming crowd one felt the exhilaration of being proud and free.

A United States Senator—Alan Cranston—addressed the crowd. It was the first time that a senator addressed a gay celebration. Earlier, politicians made the big parade part of their pathway to the mayoralty—as supes jockeyed for position in the two-hour-long procession. They knew that gay people here were still strong, still organized, and still likely to hold the balance of power in close-fought political contests to come.

(Continued on page 13)

LA Gay Chorus Sues to Save Name

Choral Association Bans 'Gay' from Program; Claim Title is Political, Controversial

by Gregory Douthwaite

The Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus has been told to drop "gay" from their name for a performance in San Jose next month. The gay chorus was selected by a blind audition tape to sing at the convention of the Western Division of the American Choral Directors Association on Feb. 15.

Convention directors say the word "gay" is too controversial. "We want their music, but we don't want their politics," said Sister Sharon Ann Breden, president of the association's Western Division and a Roman Catholic nun.

Gay chorus director Jerry Carlson said he is not about to censor his group's name without a fight. "We represent the gay community just as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir represents the

Mormons," he told *B.A.R.*

The L.A. gay chorus has enlisted the support of the American Civil Liberties Union, and they plan to file a lawsuit in San Jose this week.

ACLU attorney Alan Schlosser said the censorship is discrimination and a violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act. The lawsuit asks for a court order to keep the word "gay" in the group's name in the program.

(Continued on page 2)

2 Men Assaulted In Market Lot

Two Gay Men Protest Racial Slurs; Get Severely Beaten for Their Efforts

by Charles Linebarger

Two gay men were assaulted and brutally beaten in the parking lot of Petrini's supermarket at Fulton and Masonic Streets on Saturday, Dec. 21. The attackers were described as a gang of street thugs or punk rockers by the victims. In the aftermath, one man required hospitalization for a broken jaw and three broken ribs.

A full week after the attack, San Francisco police have yet to assign an investigator to the incident. The victims also charge that Petrini's had originally refused to call either the police or an ambulance for the wounded man.

"My lover and I were leaving the store after buying groceries for Christmas," said Matthew Holloway, 28. "I was waiting in the fenced-off area in front of the store while my lover went to get the car. There were two white punks standing nearby, harassing me. They were a boy and a girl in their late teens or early 20s.

They were yelling things like, 'You faggots are killing us all with AIDS.'"

When Holloway's lover, David Johnson, drove up in the car, Holloway explained to him what was happening. Johnson, 29, told him to ignore them. The men began putting their groceries in the car, while the two punks started throwing handfuls of dirt from a planter in front of the store at them.

The two men were about to drive off, according to Holloway, when the punks began threaten-

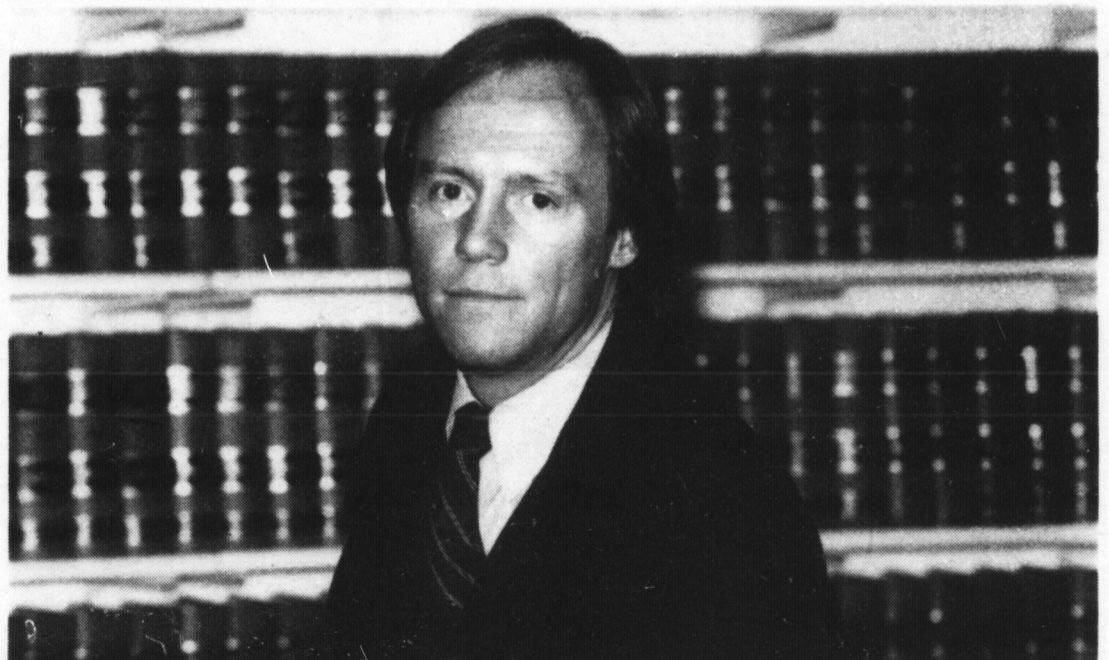
(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

AIDS Vigil participants plan to take their demands directly to Washington, D.C. Allen White reports, page 12.

Rapping on AIDS is a new rap record intended to raise consciousness about the disease in the gay black community. Charlie Linebarger explains, page 16.

Lesbian magazines are putting a new twist on 'Cosmo'. Dianne Gregory looks at women's publications and previews some new titles from Naiad Press, page 20.



'We represent the gay community just as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir represents the Mormons,' said Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus Director Jerry Carlson, who added his 75 chorus members would perform at a February choral directors' convention incognito, if necessary.

(Photo: Mick Hicks)

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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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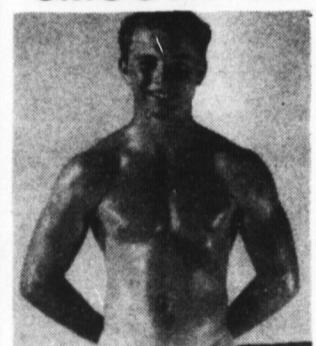
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Bashing

(Continued from page one)

ing two elderly black women who were leaving the store, calling the women "niggers."

According to Holloway, Johnson got out of the car and approached the punks. "The people in this neighborhood don't appreciate what's coming out of your mouths," Johnson told them. "And then the guy pushed David," Holloway said. "And David pushed him back. Then a third guy came out of the store with chains on his jacket that very conveniently snapped off. He came at David and hit him on the back of the head with a chain wrapped around his hand."

Johnson fell to the ground. According to Holloway, one of the original pair, the girl, began kicking him. "The other punk hit him on the side of the head with his skateboard."

All of this was happening right next to the door of Petri's, noted Holloway. One of the store's employees came out, and then he and Holloway ran into the store. "We yelled for someone to call the police, that there was an assault going on." When Holloway came out of the store, the third punk, who was described as being about 30, was running off in one direction while the two younger punks were walking away nonchalantly.

Holloway followed them. Suddenly, the two turned on him and the altercation began again. Holloway remembers putting out his cigarette on the girl's face as she came at him. Her boyfriend then ran off. Leaving her, the gay men went back to Petri's.

"I checked on David. [Johnson was now in the car. His jaw was swollen and knocked away from his face a good two inches. I went back into the store to ask if they'd called the police, and the assistant manager said, 'The incident is over. I don't think we need the police.'" When Holloway and a store employee said that an ambulance should be called, "the guy looked at David in the car and said, 'He doesn't look that bad to me.'"

Giving up on Petri's, Holloway



Petri's Market

(Photo: Rink)

way got in the car and drove off with his lover in the passenger seat. They were barely out of the parking lot when three men, including two of the original assailants, appeared from behind parked cars and pulled Johnson out of the vehicle. The fight continued with more attackers joining in.

The car, according to Holloway, was smashed-in with skateboards. Severely beaten now, Johnson made his way back to the supermarket, where two of the store's cashiers closed their registers and came out to protect him. This time the police were called, as well as an ambulance.

Johnson is now out of the hospital, but his jaw is wired shut. He and his lover are pondering whether to bring suit against Petri's for failing to call the police when the incident began.

Alonzo Reece was on guard duty at Petri's the afternoon of the assault. According to Reece, he knew many of the attackers of Johnson by sight. "Some of them live across the street," said Reece.

Capt. John Diamond of the

SFPD Park Station informed the B.A.R. that the police report noted an unidentified witness had seen several of the attackers of Johnson leave a Central Street address before joining in on the assault. No arrests have been made.

The police department had in fact, at week's end, failed to assign an investigator to the case, even though the address of some of the attackers was noted by the police themselves. According to Holloway, he was told that nothing could be done by police investigators until suspects were detained. "I told them that didn't make sense," Holloway recalled.

Speaking for Petri's was assistant manager Paul DiQuattro, who was on duty at the time of the assault. "I didn't see nothing," explained DiQuattro, "because I had to be inside. I heard what was going on [from] inside. I had to be inside to cash checks. I don't know who called the police."

Store owner Frank Petri was unavailable for comment.

Charles Lineberger

Chorus

(Continued from page one)

Sister Breden told the San Jose Mercury-News, "We don't think the word 'gay' is appropriate because we are so tied in with school systems across the country." The national association is made up of 12,000 choir directors, mostly from churches and schools.

Carlson said there are about 40 gay choruses nationwide, and these choruses have a right to share in the musical benefits of the convention.

New Effort Launched By Black Gays

Through a series of board and membership resolutions at its annual convention held in St. Louis this past Nov. 29 through Dec. 1, the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG) took concrete steps to put into motion its "New Movement of Black Lesbians and Gays."

First the organization made good on its promise to change its name to reflect the participation of women in the organization and its leadership. The name change follows actions taken last year to insure that women were represented on the board of directors. As was the case last year, the current board has a total of eight women and six men. One currently vacant seat is to be filled by

a representative of the Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays, a chapter of NCBLG.

NCBLG moved to support the concept of increased mass actions in 1986 by endorsing a National Lesbian and Gay March in 1986, with NCBLG functioning as one of the key and major organizers of the march. NCBLG also endorsed the planned NOW march in support

men's chorus has already prompted a flood of letters from people "outraged that we are even talking to them," said Breden.

Carlson is urging supporters of gay choral music to write letters to Hugh Sanders, president, American Choral Directors Association, P.O. Box 5310, Lawton, OK 73504.

Carlson said that his 75 chorus members will perform at the convention even if forced to sing incognito. They will also be performing at a church in San Jose on Feb. 15, accompanied by the gay men's chorus of San Jose, the Leidemann Chorus.

Gregory Douthwaite

of the ERA and reproductive freedom.

NCBLG mass actions will reflect the call by Gwendolyn Rogers, NCBLG's secretary and a convention keynote, to launch a national Network of Lesbians and Gays in Solidarity with Southern Africa and an International Network of Lesbians of African Descent (INLAD). INLAD is a continuation of the work begun by black lesbians who were in Nairobi this past summer at the U.N.-sponsored International Women's Conference.



Midnight Mass Draws 1500 to Castro

by Allen White

The miracle of Christmas came to life last Tuesday evening on Christmas Eve at the Castro Theatre. Almost 1500 people, most of them gay, gathered to celebrate Midnight Mass by three Roman Catholic priests. Presented by Dignity, a group of gay and lesbian Roman Catholics, the event brought together the gay lifestyle and the Catholic church.

Before 11 p.m., it became evident that this Christmas event was to be different. The lines began to form in front of the theatre and would ultimately stretch down Castro and around the corner onto 18th Street. As people waited for the doors to open they sang Christmas carols. One side of Castro Street became a wall of human voices singing the songs of the yuletide season.

The program began with a short selection of Christmas carols. The congregation chose to sing and the multiple voices set the tone for the evening.

Just before the mass began, Jose Sarria, known to most as the Widow Norton, made her entrance. The seats which had been held were opened by an usher and down the aisle came the Widow Norton. Dressed to

the teeth in black the statement was made that this was indeed a gay event.

With the processional down the other aisle, Midnight Mass began. The remarks of welcome by Dignity co-chairs Sophie Miranda and John Salazar conveyed the joy of the season.

Mass was officiated by Fr. John Collins, a Paulist priest. The sermon was by Fr. Chris Cartwright, a Jesuit. The theme for the evening was "Come Out for Christmas." It served as the focus of the sermon.

Like the entire evening, the sermon was what could be considered "safe." In fact, throughout the entire program there never once was mentioned the words "gay" or "lesbian."

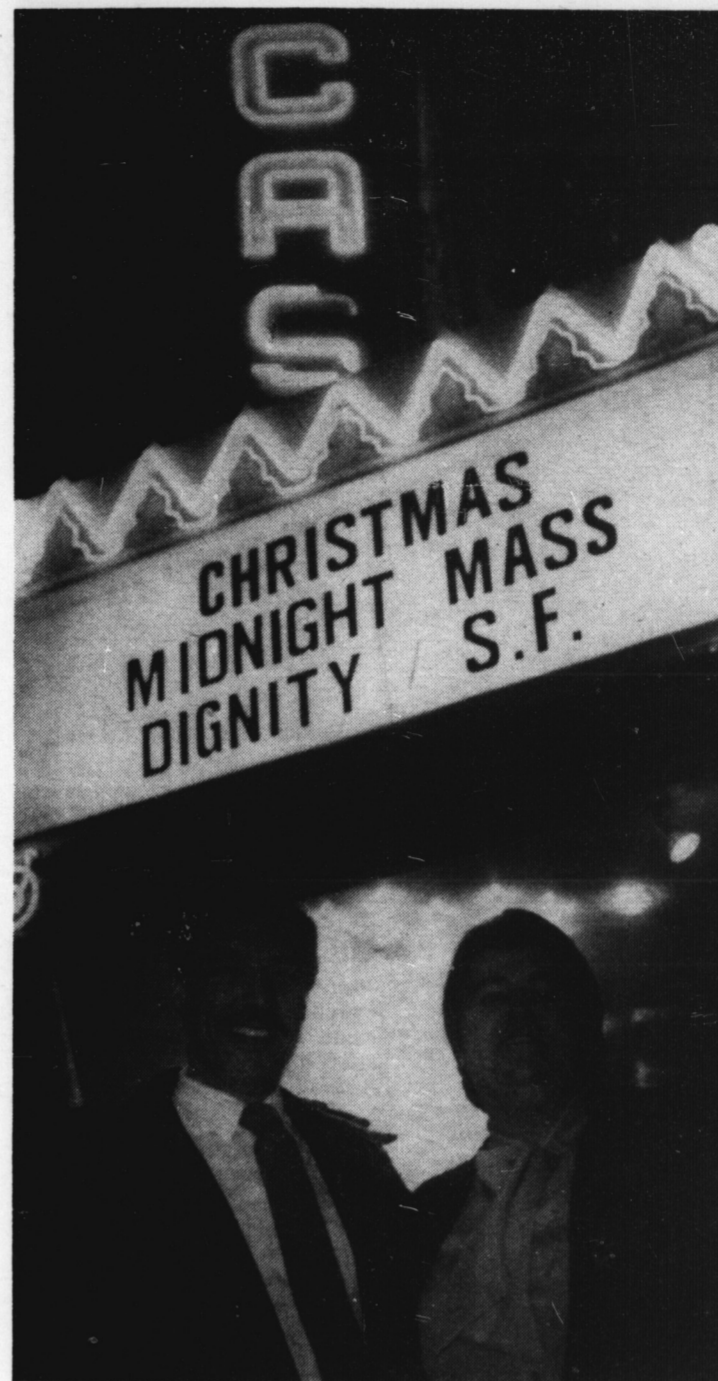
The emphasis was primarily on coming out as it relates to Christian values and not as it relates to coming out as a gay person.

Father Miles Riley, spokesperson for Archbishop John Quinn reacted to the news of the Midnight Mass at the Castro. He was refreshingly enthusiastic to hear of its success. "I am always happy to hear when people worship God through Jesus Christ," he said.

He added that he had a qualifier. He wanted to know where those people who would worship on Christmas Eve are the rest of the year.

Discussing the mass, he was careful to neither condemn nor give absolution. What he did was to attempt to project an image that the Catholic Church is slowly changing in practice to welcome the gay community.

He noted that Dignity says mass every Sunday at St. Boniface Church and Riley pointed out that the only real difference between those services and the Castro Theatre service is that one is held in a building designated as a church. Speaking directly about the service at the Castro Theatre, Fr. Riley refused to be judgmental. His comment: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."



Dignity/SF co-chairs John Salazar and Sophie Miranda. (Photo: Martin Colucci, Jr.)

College Counselors

At the annual convention of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), the executive committee voted to recognize a new group within the association, the Task Force for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness. ACPA is a branch of the American Association for Counseling and Development and is itself a major national organization of

professionals in the areas of college student development, college counseling, and student services administration. Organizers of the Task Force have been working together toward ACPA recognition for the past two years.

The Task Force has identified four major goals directed toward education, support, resource development, and advocacy.

Contact David Barnett re-

garding the newsletter and the resource clearinghouse at Counseling Center, Newbury Hall, Western Connecticut State University, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. The chair of the Task Force is Mary McGhee, Cogswell College, 10420 Bubb Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

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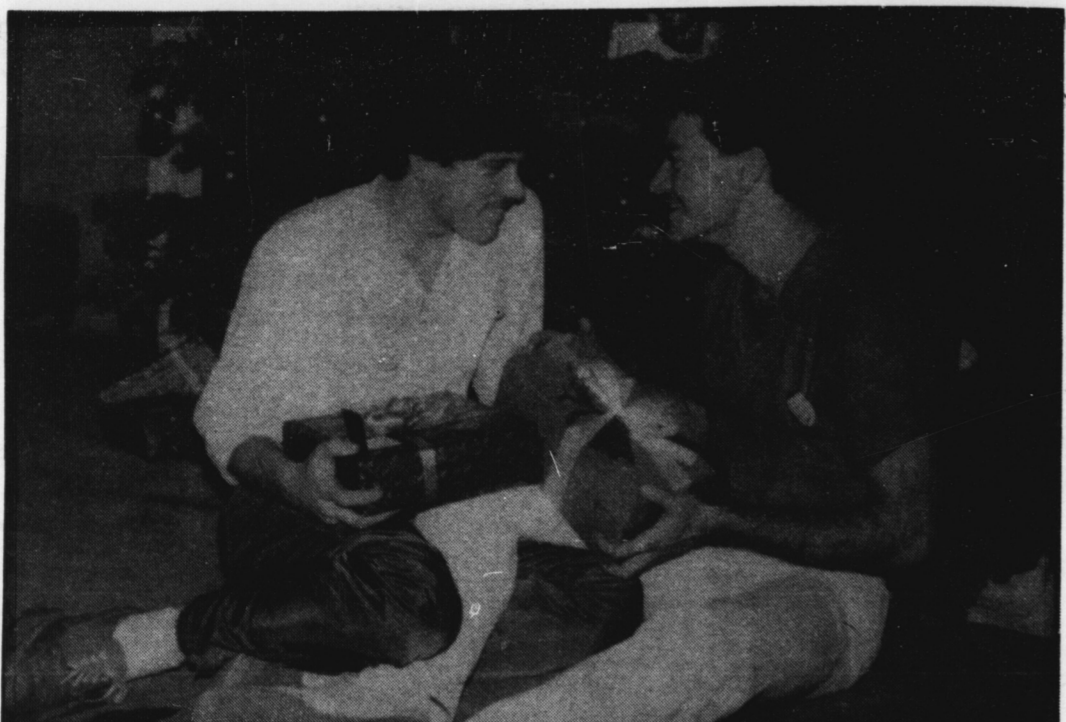
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The Magic of Christmas

There's nothing like being loved ones at Christmas time. These two guys exchange gifts, warm smiles and nice times. Happy New Year, guys.
(Photo: Rink)

Cable Car Awards Set for Feb. 15

The 1986 Cable Car Awards & Show will be presented Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Pacific Center, 22 Fourth Street in San Francisco. This twelfth annual presentation will again honor the very best achievements in the lesbian and gay community.

The awards are presented for excellence in a wide range of community activities. Awards are made in theatre, sports, entertainment, journalism, fundraising and a variety of community activities which are judged to be outstanding.

There are over 50 people working on various committees which will select the nominations. Several of the categories are voted upon by those knowledgeable in the particular areas of competition. Other awards are made by an 11-member board of directors. Over one-third of the awards are made by a public vote of those attending the Cable Car Awards & Show.

This year the Cable Car Awards & Show will be presented in a unique entertainment space. The Pacific Center is a large hall with a capacity of several hundred people. Each table, with an unobstructed view, will seat ten people. There will also be tables for four in the balcony which surrounds the hall. All seats in the hall will sell for \$25.

Additionally, there will be lounge tickets available for \$15. The lounge area has seating for all attending.

Tickets are currently available by mail. Make checks payable to Cable Car Awards, Inc., P.O. Box 1171, San Francisco, CA 94101.

AT&T Awards \$10K To Gay Crisisline

The NGTF Fund for Human Dignity has received a grant of \$10,000 from the AT&T Foundation in support of the Crisisline project. The grant, which was announced less than a week after the Fund board of directors voted to adopt the national toll-free gay/lesbian community line as a direct Fund project, marks the first grant by a major corporation to the Fund, the oldest national foundation serving the gay and lesbian community.

"We value both the vital role the Fund plays in fostering public understanding of gay people, and the important service Crisisline provides in connection with the AIDS epidemic," Charles E. Evans, vice president of Health and Social Action Programs for the AT&T Foundation, said in awarding the grant. The AT&T Foundation is the principal source of philanthropy for American Telephone & Telegraph, one of the nation's largest corporations.

Fund executive director Lance Ringel emphasized the significance of corporate support for a Fund program, adding that while corporate support comprises a significant part of the budgets of many non-profits, until now the Fund had received no major corporate support, despite a number of foundation grants and strong support from private individuals.

"We are very pleased that AT&T has contributed support to this project," said Fund board co-chairs Catherine Maiorisi and Bruce Voeller. "In assuming responsibility for the Crisisline, the Fund board made clear its belief that it is important to provide a service like the Crisisline to the gay and lesbian community nationwide."

The board voted to adopt the project and its attendant Clearinghouse after the National Gay Task Force, the line's original sponsor, asked the Fund to do so. The line was founded at NGTF in 1982. Since then a dedicated corps of highly trained volunteers (35 to 50 people at any given time) has provided help to thousands of callers from all over the nation with information and referrals concerning AIDS, anti-gay/lesbian violence, lesbian/gay youth. Many thousands more attempt to call the Crisisline each month, but are unable to get through due to the extraordinary volume of calls.

The shifting of NGTF program personnel to Washington, D.C. prompted the proposal that the New York-based Fund adopt the line.

The Fund for Human Dignity, founded in 1974, is a national educational foundation with the stated purpose of educating the public about the lives of lesbian and gay Americans, and educating gay and lesbian Americans about their own status in society.

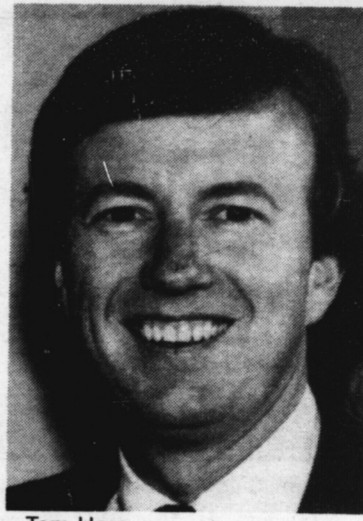
Pacific Center Names Referral Director

Providing informational services and facilitating media outreach will be the tasks of Corinne Lightweaver, who has been hired this month as information and referral assistant for the Pacific Center AIDS Project. Lightweaver received her Bachelor of Arts degree at UCLA and has worked for several publications in her native Los Angeles.

"As the urgency of the AIDS crisis grows, so does the need for sources of information," said Jeremy Landau, project coordinator. "I am confident that, as media liaison, Corinne Lightweaver will be an asset to the community as well as to the Pacific Center AIDS Project."

Through professional staff and trained volunteers, the Pacific Center AIDS Project provides free counseling and support for people with AIDS/ARC, their lovers, families, and friends. The Project also provides educational services through outreach to health care workers and the community at large to sensitize institutions and educate the public about AIDS. For further information, contact Corinne Lightweaver at (415) 420-8181.

War Memorial Board Re-Elects Tom Horn



Tom Horn (Photo: Rink)

The War Memorial Board of Trustees, at its monthly meeting Dec. 12, voted unanimously to re-elect Thomas E. Horn as president.

The War Memorial Board of Trustees establishes policy and oversees the operation of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, which includes Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, Harold L. Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall, the War Memorial Opera House and the Veterans Building, which houses the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Herbst Theatre.

Thomas E. Horn, appointed to the board in 1981 by Mayor Dianne Feinstein, served as vice president in 1983 and 1984. In addition to his service to the War Memorial Board, Horn has a wide variety of civic and cultural interests. He is the president of the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation; member of the board of directors, San Franciscans for an Improved Juvenile Facility; member of the Mayor's Vietnam Veterans War Memorial Task Force; member, board of directors, San Francisco School of the Arts Foundation; member of the Ballot Abeyard Shrine, A.A.O.N.M.S. and Temple Lodge 60, A.F.A.M.

CLUB 86 Funds

	(as of 11/4/85)	(as of 12/2/85)
Admissions	\$380	\$180
Donations	109	130
Schnapps	102	95
Bar	90	60
Less cost of schnapps	661	465
	-31	0
TOTAL	\$630	\$465
TOTAL FUNDS		\$1,095

CLUB 86 a Success

November's grand opening of CLUB 86 was a terrific success. Patrick Toner and Empress Sissy were host and hostess, the Balloon Girls looked flawless doing cocktails, and Dexter DeVoe did a rousing rock-and-roll number. Daryl from Polk Gulch Saloon kept the dance floor moving and Charlie from the Giraffe and Susan from the Patio kept the drinks flowing with a little help from Pat Norman.

It was a lot of fun and raised \$630 for Ward 86 (the AIDS outpatient care clinic at San Francisco General Hospital) and Conference '86 Project, the first world-wide conference of Gay Pride Coordinators, to be held in San Francisco next year, December's party raised another \$465 for a total of \$1,095.

The club is a fundraising dance party endorsed by the Tavern Guild of San Francisco and held each month. The space, all equipment and services are donated so that monies raised go to the two charities. In December, CLUB 86 gave a Christmas party for the patients and staff of Ward 86.

CLUB 86 is at 647 Valencia Street, next door to Amelia's between 17th and 18th Streets. The date for the next party is Thursday, Jan. 16 from 9 to 2 a.m.

Everyone is invited! So make plans to be there. And get 86'd.

Boycott Debate For Co-op

Should products of the Adolph Coors Co. be pulled from the shelves of Consumers Cooperative (Co-op) Stores? That question will be debated before Co-op members in January, prior to an election that will decide the issue. The debate will pit David Sickler, national coordinator of the Coors Boycott Committee of the AFL-CIO, against Vernon Crowley, Pacific Division sales manager for Coors. The debate will be held in the meeting room of the Shattuck Avenue store, 1550 Shattuck Ave. (near Cedar) at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 6.

Along with an upcoming board election, Co-op members will vote on removal of all Coors products "so long as the national organized labor boycott endorsed by the AFL-CIO shall continue." The Co-op chain has five stores; three in Berkeley and one each in San Francisco and Corte Madera. Ballots will be mailed on January 15 and must be returned by Feb. 2.

The labor movement has long charged Coors with "union-busting" practices. A bitter 18-month strike in the 1970s culminated in decertification of the union at the brewery. Feminist, gay, minority and environmental groups have also boycotted the company due to its support of extreme right-wing groups and politicians.

Meal Service For PWA's

Open Hand is a non-profit, ecumenical organization preparing and delivering low cost, nutritious meals to people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions who are too ill to shop for or prepare food for themselves.

For the suggested fee of \$2.25 per meal, Open Hand provides sack lunches and dinner entrees emphasizing fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, soups, salads and meat entrees. Meals for vegetarians are also available on request.

Many of the people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions who rely on Open Hand as the source for their daily meals are finding it difficult to afford the token fee that Open Hand asks. Open Hand turns no one away.

Open Hand needs contributions to defray the costs of providing meals to those who are in their homes and in the hospitals fighting for their lives. We need volunteers to help deliver meals throughout San Francisco. If you can help provide meals for one person or a dozen, please call Ruth Brinker at Open Hand 771-9808. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you.

Federal Gays

Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) will present "Us and Our Boss," a history of the treatment of lesbians and gays by the U.S. government, a talk by Greg Pennington of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society.

The talk will be part of the January Meeting of FLAG at Rooney's Restaurant, 22-9th Street, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. No host cocktails and a buffet will be available. Everyone is welcome.

FLAG is a group of approximately 150 federally employed lesbians and gays (and straights) who support each other in the absence of legal employment protection, in addition to supporting community activities and projects. For more information call 239-6105.

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VOL. XVI NO. 1 JANUARY 2, 1986 NEXT ISSUE OUT: JANUARY 9 NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 3

B.A.R.

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EXECUTIVE & EDITORIAL OFFICES:
1528 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
TELEPHONES:
(415) 861-5019/861-7230

PUBLISHER:
Bob Ross
NEWS EDITOR:
Ray O'Loughlin
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:
Dianne Gregory
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Will Snyder
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Brian Jones
FINE ARTS EDITOR:
George Heymont
POLITICAL EDITOR:
Wayne Friday
OFFICE MANAGER:
Michael Snyder
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
Ann S. West
CAMERA:
Michael Jay Goldberg

LAYOUT:
Peter Keane
TYPESETTING:
Chal Cochran, Austin Snow
PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Rink, Robert Pruzan
AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT:
Robert J. Dem, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Les Balmain, Philip Campbell, Mark I. Chester, Jerry De Gracia, Jerry R. De Young, Gregory Douthwaite, Stephen Drewes, Wayne Friday, Mark Friese, George Heymont, Michael Hippler, Frank J. Howell, Dot James, John Karr, Peter Keane, Larry Kim, Michael Lasky, Charles Linebarger, Mister Marcus, George Mendenhall, Gene Miller, Jay Newquist, Nez Pas, Adele Prandini, Paul Reed, Marv Shaw, Roger Soto, Bernard Spunberg, Rick Thoman, Paul Trefzger, Tom Vindede, Dick Walters, Steve Warren, Allen White, Keith White, Bob Woolhouse



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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

New Year Predictions

We survived '85! And now a whole new year is upon us. Here is a brief preview of some of the top stories to watch in 1986.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein will demand that the city enact full benefits for domestic partners after the 49ers threaten to leave SF once again. The mayor will hurriedly fly to Louisville, Ky. to enlist the support of Sup. Harry Britt, who is attending the Kentucky Derby. Why will the 49ers demand live-in lover benefits? We'll find out.

A cure for AIDS is discovered but because the discoverers speak only French, the *Chronicle* sees no story in it for SF. The news gets out anyway. Months later, the *Chron* headlines lurid tales about surging promiscuity among gay men.

Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas will unite and band together in marriage forever. Harvey and Alice who, you say?

There will be a parade in late June called Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, Transexual, Albino, All-of-the-Above Freedom Day. But few will attend because the entrance form is too confusing. Lesbians will be at a potluck in the park. Gay men will be at the Disco Till U Drop.

There will be a Board of Supervisors election. Five will be chosen. Does it matter who?

Mobilization Against AIDS will hold a special mass meeting do to discuss whether or not there is a future for the gay community now that AIDS is curable. They will issue many press releases, most past our deadlines. Paul Boneberg will organize

Mobilization Against Unemployment.

One gigantic, all-causes, all-organizations fundraiser will be held featuring a submarine ride beneath the Bay. Sliding scale admission, \$10, \$15, \$25,000 per.

Atlas Savings will recover when the Imperial Court of San Francisco buys it up to put court memorabilia on display permanently.

Dignity will again criticize Archbishop John R. Quinn for inaction on gay concerns and general homophobia. A week later they will apologize for being so brazen and disrespectful.

Concerned Republicans will be even more concerned when they see what their new president Chris Bowman wears to meetings.

The Sentinel will still be publishing.

San Francisco public schools will not add gay lifestyles to other lifestyles taught in Family Life classes. Instead, a bold new plan will be tried on a pilot basis in which students will actually study languages, sciences, history and literature and be expected to express themselves intelligently. This program will automatically reject.

Peace will reign on earth for the first time ever as the U.S. Armed Forces are completely disbanded after it is found that all members have come in contact with HTLV-3 virus. The virus no longer causes AIDS but is thought to destroy immunity to homosexuality.

Wayne Friday will learn how to write in sentences and paragraphs. Allen White will lose his only copy of *1001 Adjectives*. And Bob Ross will give up cigars. And that's the news that will be 86ed.

LETTERS

Joy on Christmas Eve

★ This past Christmas Eve, I had my first visit to Ward 5-B. It was an experience I'll remember forever. What a "feeling" I got when I went on the ward and into each room to give the guys and girls a little something for Christmas.

The smiles on their faces when they saw the fruit baskets and the other gifts was enough to make me cry. I was not depressed to be there, but overjoyed that they still have hope and haven't given up.

We laughed and talked; they were in good spirits. The one thing that kept coming to my mind, "Please, God, if only for a moment, let them forget why they are here."

I was very glad I was able to bring some joy to them that night.

Andrew Abell
San Francisco

A Royal 'Thank You'

★ The Grand Ducal Council and the Royal Court would like to take this opportunity to thank the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, the staff and management of the Castro Theatre, New World Pictures and Ron Klein & Associates for their contributions in making the food drive at the Castro Theatre on Dec. 21 a success.

The benefactor, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank, is a viable and much-used service for persons in our community with AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions.

Again, thank you all, and have a happy and prosperous new year.

Tony "Deena Jones" White
Grand Duchess
San Francisco

Letter Policy

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters to the editor.

Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter—this information will not be published.

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

BRIAN JONES

They Don't Like Us

"The disapproval level of homosexuality has not increased since 1973," the *B.A.R.* reported last week. Well, that sounded encouraging.

Oops. Several lines later, we learned that the public's disapproval could not possibly go any higher, without hopping on board *People Express*. 73 percent said homosexuality was "wrong," 10 percent of the people polled were gay, and 9 percent were not sure, so that left us with a "friendship share" of—uh—8 percent.

We had indeed hopped aboard *People Express*. People expressed themselves to pollsters for the *Los Angeles Times*. The *Times* rang up 2,308 randomly selected respondents—respondents come that way, randomly—and asked them all sorts of questions about the H word.

Now, can you just imagine this? How many people in the Bible Belt just hung up and assumed this was an obscene call? I mean, it was an obscene call. Can you imagine being a mother in Anaheim and having your four-year-old boy get a call from the *Los Angeles Times* about homosexuality? The *L.A. Times*. Sure. You creep. Click.

So anyway, maybe the collective opinion of America is even worse than reported because you have to be kind of liberal just to talk about queers on the telephone.

And who made these calls? Gawd, I hope the guys had nice deep voices. If the pollsters sounded sissie, it is no wonder that America hates us.

I just love opinion polls. They're so, well, Gallup. You take something that is chaos, that is amorphous and vague and contradictory and capricious—in short, you take the American people. Please.

Then you carefully write down off-the-cuff, misinformed or maybe even just plain prank answers to a battery of questions—questions come that way, in batteries.

Then you run all this garbage through a computer and it comes out gold. It comes out numbers, anyway, which is the same thing as gold, these days. If 87 percent of the American people agree on something stupid, it has credibility, because the numeral "87" has credibility, I mean, doesn't "87 percent" sound like a value you can trust? "87" sounds like it would never lie to me.

These opinion polls take right-brain stuff and shove it together with left-brain methods (or is it vice-versa) and what we have when we're done is a Scientific Measurement of Popular Opinion. Well, maybe we do and maybe we don't.

The only thing the right brain has in common with the left brain is that it happens to be residing in the same skull right now. As life with my roommates shows, joint tenancy is not necessarily meaningful.

So anyway, of course most of them don't like us. I could have told you that. I did tell you that, and you wrote nasty Letters to the Editor about me. Well, now you can go and whine to the *L.A. Times*.

Some of you will gnash your teeth and screw up your eyes and wrinkle your noses and say, "Well, what can we DO about this." Ah. I am so glad you asked. For I have the answer.

Obviously, it's time you lesbian ladies put on dresses and a modest shade of lip gloss. You can borrow these from the boys. Heels, too. Heels are important.

You guys—off with the earrings. Lower those voices. It's time to act straight because we're all going to be straight.

Hey. We've got the hearts and minds of America to win.

LETTERS

Brian Missed the Point

★ In "But You Are, Blanche," I think Brian Jones has missed the point. If a straight actor such as William Hurt can play a raving queen, then perhaps it is the nelly gays, not the straight-appearing ones, who are acting.

The fact is that many gay men behave far more foolishly effeminate than any self-respecting, liberated woman ever would. I have had women tell me they find drag acts offensive because they insult the dignity of women.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is the macho type: the cold, unfeeling, hard, even brutal man which many straight men and some gays try to portray. Both the nelly and macho—in their extremes—are mostly acting. The truth is probably that of an adrogy nly lying somewhere in between.

Still, I recognize that there is a range of behavior among gay men and that some are naturally more effeminate. I do see Brian's point that effeminate gays have been mistreated by the media, in that they are assumed naturally to be a negative stereotype and the butt of jokes. Well-meaning liberals have perhaps done a disservice to gays when they show only "normal" acting gays on shows like *Dynasty*.

I don't doubt, also, that some gay men try to appear more masculine than they are, though this is done more often through outward symbols, such as clothing, as mentioned in your editorial.

What really makes me want to "puke, puke, puke" is your continued assertion that all homosexual men are either raving queens or else they are trying to hide the fact that they are gay. This idea is so naive and ignorant that it reminds me of a fundamentalist Christian trying to tell me that the Bible's story of creation is the truth.

The fact is that there are many gay men with more or less masculine personalities, who are that way not because they are going to such great lengths to hide, but because the masculine personality is their true self. For them to act nelly would feel as forced and pretentious as it might for a more effeminate gay to try to act very straight.

It is sad that an influential voice such as Brian Jones can choose to remain consistently blind to such a very obvious fact.

Robert Jordan
San Francisco

Must We Be Phony, Brian?

★ Again, Brian Jones is off into that "be yourself and wear a dress" thing, and I must finally respond.

I was 16 the first and last time I dressed in drag. It was my mom's idea—a lark for a Halloween party (doubtlessly a wonderful memory for her). Being a girl was no particular fun for me, but as an aspiring actor I enjoyed the challenge, and I think I successfully fooled everyone. That was nearly 30 years ago.

As a kid, I always cherished my boyfriends, long before any sexual desires came along. Summer YCMA camps were paradise; I loved the Army with its complete lack of all things female, its endless supply of boyfriends. With some I played pool or baseball, with some I played cards, with others I went out on the town to dinner and a movie or a jazz club. Precious male memories.

Never, not even once, did I wish to put on makeup or a dress. Makeup always seemed a pretentious and peculiar habit, another weird pastime of those aliens—the female race. I only wanted more boyfriends.

For those reasons, along with pressure from people with Brian's attitude, it took me a very long time to realize my identity. "They really want to be women, you know..." "They're always arty, swishy..." —so I knew that, whatever these fearsome desires deep in my soul were, I wasn't going to turn queer.

When I finally did turn queer, one of the first things I realized was that there are at least two kinds of male homosexuality: the female variety and the male variety. I also learned that, given the number of people who share Brian's view, to be true to myself even among my own kind is still a challenge.

Put me in a dress and call me Blanche, and you'll have a phony. Must we be phony to please you, Brian?

Gene Miller
San Francisco

The Unholy Trinity for Gays

★ There are some relevant distinctions we need to make individually and as a community.

First, there is a big difference between religion and the spiritual. They are not at all synonymous. The religious person *religiously* believes basically in dogmas and doctrines of one form or another. The truly spiritual person *knows* from inner experience. He/She has apprehended the eternal, the absolute, within—and therefrom springs their knowledge.

No one person, religion or philosophy has a monopoly of the truth. Especially not Judaism, Christianity or Islam, all three of which are no more than adulterated Egyptianism. The Jews came out of Egypt, and Judaism began, as the saying goes, Christianity, Islam developed from both of them. The sad fact is these three religions have murdered countless numbers of people in the name of their same "true" god. Christianity has an especially notorious record. Christians burned people at the stake, alive, for heresy and witchcraft. In this very country, our Christian forebears hung people for witchcraft. In short, none of these religions are fit for human consumption, and Christianity in particular is a dirty religion.

Gay people who adhere to any of these creeds are

committing acts of self-degradation and self-destruction. Not just because they are virulently and criminally anti-gay, but because Christians worship death and make a fetish of suffering. We can see the consequences of this kind of negative programming all around us. That Christ was spiritually enlightened is beyond the shadow of a doubt, as far as I am concerned. Christ, however, is one thing; Christianity and religion are something else.

Any view that is chauvinistic and lacking balance is automatically suspect. Essence is more important than form. In the same way that the phenomenon we call "apple" can be described in as many ways as there are different languages, so it is with the eternal—the absolute. The truth is one and many. One truth—many traditions. One essence—many forms. One struggle—many fronts. Gay liberation is a very important and valid front of the one great struggle for human liberation. Furthermore, the symbolisms of our pagan traditions from classical antiquity, as well as pagan traditions from other cultures, are as valid and even more appropriate for our community to utilize in the quest for inner realization.

Anthony DePalma
San Francisco

Sugar Was Sour

★ I think I could speak for the other organizers of the Rock Against AIDS Show on Dec. 15 in expressing appreciation of your coverage of the show. However, I have to regret your choice of reporters. During the show, Jon Sugar made clear his attitude toward the event, and unfortunately that attitude seemed informed largely by ignorance, ageism and a desire to exploit the "punk" phenomenon.

At one point, Sugar asked several of the organizers to be in a photo for the *B.A.R.* As we hunched together, Sugar asked us to look "full of blood and youthful vision." He later wowed and acted thrilled when a punk with a mostly shaved head agreed to pose for a photo.

I don't know if these photos appeared in the latest issue of *B.A.R.* Neither have I seen the article, since I left for New York a few days after the show. I would like Mr. Sugar to know that, although many of us "punks" do not feel full of hope for a world run by idiots like Reagan and enough nuclear bombs to make the Earth look like a giant, black raisin, we do care about all people with AIDS and gay youth and intravenous drug-users who are still exposing themselves to AIDS. I sincerely hope that Mr. Sugar cares about something else besides his own career in journalism and that he can open what must be a very small mind to some of the things in the world that he apparently doesn't yet understand.

Sara L. Helfgott
New York

ED. NOTE: Read the article first, then write the letter.

Dianne Gregory

The Rawhide Is Super!!

★ A couple of weeks ago, I read in your paper that some tacky gay cowboy or cowgirl queen wrote nasty stuff about the Rawhide II. Well, I'm writing this letter to tell your readers I've been going to the Rawhide II for over two years since the bar has been open.

I like the bar very much. Also, the owner, Ray Chalkler, is a very nice person; he has had several gay fundraisers at his bar for the gay community.

It really pissed me off and got my Irish blood pressure up when I read those letters in the *B.A.R.* I go to the Rawhide and drink orange juice and cranberry juice and have never been hassled by anyone at the bar.

Furthermore, the Rawhide is the only decent bar where anyone can go and listen to good country music, dance and have a very good time. I took my straight friend Edith there, and she loved it very much.

The nerve of some tacky gay queen to write those nasty letters to your paper!

In closing, I would like to add that this is my personal opinion. But I will still continue to go South of Market to the Rawhide. It's a super dynamite bar no matter what some people in this city say about it.

G.W. Noll
San Francisco

Support the Stop AIDS Project

★ Being well-informed, I felt I knew everything about the transmission and prevention of the AIDS virus. Wrong. I discovered that while I knew a great deal, I understood very little.

My lover and I recently hosted a "Stop AIDS Project" meeting, and it was this experience that fully opened my eyes. With the direction of our group leader and a widely diverse group, I saw that others shared my fear and ignorance. By the end of the meeting, the others also shared my hope and a positive commitment.

Each of us then committed ourselves to engage in intelligent sexual practices in order to save ourselves and, more importantly, the lives of others.

Accept the torch, and pass it, by calling the "Stop AIDS Project" at 621-7177.

Bruce E. Beaudette
San Francisco

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LETTERS

The Party of Buchanan, Bork...

* I cannot share Peter B. Dyer's delight with the way that the National Democratic Party chairman, Paul Kirk, is giving the gay community the back of his hand ("The GOP Wants You"). I am disappointed. Nonetheless, I cannot figure how he believes that the Republican Party is more pro-gay than the Democrats. Consider the following:

- Paul Kirk notwithstanding, most public officials who are pro-gay are Democrats (Cranston, Boxer, the Burtons, etc.), with very few Republicans fitting into that category.
- What has the GOP given us? Jesse Helms, H.L. Richardson, William Dannemeyer, Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan. All of these are virulent homophobes, among others.
- Reagan is certainly anti-gay. He not only appointed Buchanan, but Jerry Falwell and his Moral Majority are very close to him. In addition, Reagan is likely to appoint to the Supreme Court Robert Bork in any future vacancy. Judge Bork, who sits on the Federal Court, has ruled, in his own words, that homosexual behavior is not protected by the Constitution.
- Furthermore, the Reagan administration is vigorously enforcing the anti-gay, pro-discrimination laws with regard to immigration and the military. Finally, they have been less than responsive regarding AIDS.

There is, in sum, no truth whatever to the notion that the Republican Party, as a whole, supports any kind of rights for gays or any other kinds of individual rights, such as privacy—although there are a few GOP officials who have exceptional views to the contrary (Milton Marks).

As dismaying as Paul Kirk may be, the Democratic Party is a far more responsive vehicle for the basic rights of gays and individuals generally. Had Walter Mondale been elected, he would not only be pro-gay himself, but he would not have given us any homophobes like Buchanan, Bork, etc.

**Neil Dick
Bronx, New York**

There Used To Be Support

* Brian Jones was right in the accurate portrayal of a gay man on the movie screen not being politically correct. In fact, one letter of response was from someone who chose to attack Brian personally, rather than attack his views. That letter served to prove the point: Gay men act like gossip card-party bitches.

Quite frankly, being gay is no longer avant garde or on the cutting edge of fashion. We can't use holier-than-thou attitudes any more. Nobody cares. The times have passed us by. There is no longer any excuse for us to outlast each other. Nobody's watching. It's time to play for real.

The happiest times of my life were when I was first coming out. I got involved in gay liberation in 1970, when we used encounter groups to get to the heart of things. We learned to get rid of all the garbage we had been fed by hateful family and friends. We learned what we were really about. Gay liberation and encounter groups are thought of as corny ideas now, but at least we seemed to support each other then.

**David Kaye
San Francisco**

A Swing to the Right

* After reading Bishop Swing's article, "Nothing's Doodler Than Sex," in the Dec. 21 *Examiner*, methinks the bishop is a Jerry Falwell in high church drag.

Although he's careful not to condemn homosexuality, he does pontificate against "instant gratification" and implies that AIDS is God's punishment for having sex without developing "... a committed, loving, continuing relationship."

AIDS is caused by a virus, however, not promiscuity per se. Methinks, therefore, the bishop is confusing a medical problem with one of romance. Indeed, he sounds like a timid young virgin who, doubtful of her suitor's intentions, requires constant affirmation of his undying love and reassurance that he really will respect her... afterwards.

What's wrong, bishop, with having safe sex just for the fun of it?

**David Felix
San Francisco**

Philanthropists

* Did you know you were a philanthropist? In 1985 our community responded with generosity to the organizations helping people with AIDS/ARC. Weekly in the pages of the *B.A.R.*, there were stories about various charitable events. You may have attended one or more without realizing that you had become a donor. You should know you were appreciated.

The needs, however, continue to grow. There is need for medical care, education, counseling, shelter and food. Mike Hippler's columns (*B.A.R.*, 12/26/85 and this issue) list many of the organizations and projects currently responding to those in need. One that is not yet listed will become a reality for our community this year: Coming Home Hospice.

To be located in the Convent of Most Holy Redeemer Church, Coming Home Hospice will provide 24-hour attendant care and supervision in a home-like setting to men and women who are dying. It will enable them to live out their last weeks out of the hospital, surrounded by family and loved ones. Coming Home Hospice needs the financial support of the community to become a reality this year.

**Mark Ferrari
San Francisco**

Funds For AIDS

* I was informed recently of the Centers for Disease Control's freeze on AIDS educational grants. Apparently financing for grants of more than \$1.6 million has been delayed due to concerns about the explicitness of the educational material.

This deadly disease, which is striking our congressional district particularly hard, is transmitted primarily through intimate sexual contact or through the exchange of contaminated blood products. Because it is a sexually transmitted disease, educational efforts aimed at prevention will have to deal with sexuality and, in particular, gay and bisexual male sexuality. It is obvious that if the material is to have an impact on people's sexual behavior, it may require some level of directness.

On December 2, 1985, I received a press release from Dr. Dean Echenberg, director of Communicable Disease Control for the City and County of San Francisco. In it he stated that the growth rate of AIDS cases has slowed in San Francisco, and indicated that a plateau had been reached. Dr. Echenberg went on to say, "The slowdown in new cases is partly due to the safe-sex guidelines and AIDS education campaign carried on in San Francisco." The press release went on to say that the risk of acquiring an infection is higher than ever and that "We should be proud of what we have done, but, at the same time, we can't afford to become complacent."

I would appreciate a response indicating exactly what is objectionable in the educational material. Perhaps it would be feasible to modify the material, rather than delay the release at this crucial time.

**Barbara Boxer
Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

On Bathhouses and Dialogue

* I was pleased to read the responses to the recent letters of Robert N. Block and myself. It's in the best interest of the entire community to openly discuss such topics as the future and present role of the bathhouses—as well as their historical, political and medical significance.

"The bathhouses are the zenith of gay freedom..." says Mr. Steiner, and Mr. Ingersoll states that they are central to our lives and cause. I say this is the "Spirit of Mendacity" come to give us a snow (blow) job. The truth is that, in their heyday, the bathhouses were venerable sporting palaces, and these days they are someplace you go when you don't wish to J.O. alone—under the auspices of monitors, of course. If some of us ever thought they were of central importance to our lives and cause, we were wrong. The era of the tubs is over, kids.

The zenith of gay freedom will come when we have conquered the ultimate venereal disease, AIDS, and have re-adjusted our value systems so that we never again endanger our existence through indulgence and stupidity.

Mr. Steiner and Mr. Ingersoll are absolutely correct in saying that the bathhouses aren't at fault for spreading AIDS. Our personal sexual and attitudinal follies are to blame, and each of us individually must come to terms with this problem.

**Tom Youngblood
San Francisco**

Tellers Have to Eat, Too!

* This letter was sent to Michael Graham from an employee at Atlas Savings & Loan:

Mr. Graham:

I am very pleased to have you bank at Atlas. I am also very happy to work for Atlas. It appears from your letter that you feel there is a difference between being gay and having the ability to maintain an aura of professionalism.

If you have had an unpleasant transaction at Atlas, please let me take this opportunity to apologize on behalf of the staff at Atlas. I feel it is important for you to be aware of the fact that, in terms of efficiency, Atlas' main concern is customer service.

Before I worked at the bank, I banked there as well. Many times I would come in and have to wait in line—when I looked around, there were only two or four windows open and a lot of people behind the counter—so I would bitch and moan, like everyone else.

What I wasn't aware of was that there is a lot more than just transactions for the teller to do in order to make the system work. If a teller closes his window when you are in line, he is more than likely going to lunch. If lunch is not taken on time, it screws up the timelots for everyone else.

Now, honestly, Mr. Graham, when was the last time you skipped lunch to stand in line at the bank? It certainly isn't any fun, is it?

Thank you for your time. I'd like to write more, but I'm on my lunch.

**Mark Ferrari
San Francisco**

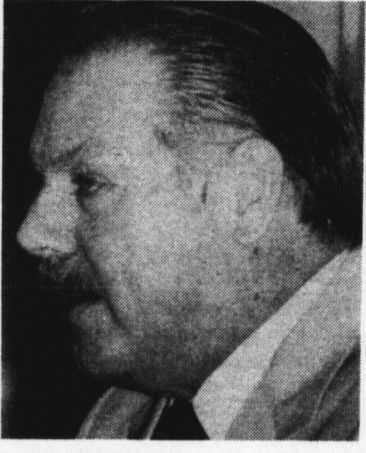
Wayne Friday

POLITICS & POKER



What Kind of Welcome for Refugees?

When the *Examiner's* Rob Morse used the tongue-in-cheek technique in questioning the sanctuary resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the mayor recently, he brought out some very good points. While I am certainly in favor of the spirit of the resolution, I too, wonder what kind of welcome awaits those fleeing El Salvador and Guatemala when they arrive in San Francisco.



Con Murphy (Photo: Rink)

People will quickly find that the "Golden City" has no streets paved with gold, no jobs for the mayor who come here, no city funds to feed and house them. In short, as Morse puts it, nothing to greet them, but the resolution itself, Glide's Cecil Williams had to put out an "urgent" call for help to offer one meal—Christmas dinner. The streets of the city house thousands who already have no place to sleep; most of the residents who live here can no longer afford the apartments. Only the truly rich are really comfortable.

Yet, we encourage more refugees and while the spirit is real, the promise is not. Now that San Francisco is a sanctuary to those fleeing such places as El Salvador, with a promise that they will not be turned into the feds, the city has an obligation to take care of them when they get here. Hadn't Nancy Walker and Harry Britt thought of that? As Rob Morse put it, "if you're going to open the door to people, either put them up or shut up." Indeed, welcome to San Francisco, but don't get too comfortable—that's not gold on them their streets.

investigators he was notified that he was disqualified. He was supposedly told later by Big Brother officials that the organization excludes bisexual or homosexual men.

The S.F. Board of Education elects a president at its Jan. 14 meeting and member Soderia Wilson thinks she has the votes to unseat president Myra Kopf. But don't bet on it.

Things you might look forward to seeing during 1986: Colorado Sen. Gary Hart to announce this month that he won't seek re-election in November, but will concentrate on the '88 presidential nomination. S.F. police chief Con Murphy will finally retire this month, and despite being urged to look around the country for a successor, the mayor will pick a top cop from the department as Murphy's replacement. Jule Anderson, a former member of the Board of Education, will likely win back her old job in November.

Republican State Sen. Milton Marks will probably make an out-of-court settlement with his disgruntled former aide Frederick Hobson. The GOP nomination for U.S. Senate in the June primary will narrow down to Rep. Ed Zschau and L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, a Right-winger.

Despite the fact that 16 of the 20 state senate seats are up for grabs this year are held by Democrats, that party will retain control of both the Senate and Assembly, with the GOP gaining only a few seats. Mike Curb, will defeat Don Sebastiani in the primary for Lt. Gov. and Leo McCarthy will be in for the fight of his political life.

Supes Bill Maher and Dick Hongisto will fight it out to become the new board president. Gay attorney Paul Wotman should win a seat on the Community College Board. At least one (and maybe two) members of the police commission will be replaced.

A Republican member of Congress will become the second member of the House to announce his/her homosexuality. Angela Alioto, with big bucks behind her, becomes the favorite non-incumbent with a chance to knock off one of the sitting supes in the November election. And Board of Supervisors President John Molinari, the early favorite, kicks off the '87 mayoralty race by becoming the first to formally announce for the job held since 1978 by Dianne Feinstein.

Happy New Year.

Rumors continue out of Sacramento that veteran Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk, dean of the state's highest court and 73 years old, will make a surprise announcement that he will retire and not seek re-election to the high court. Friends say Mosk fears that he would be judged in November as part of Rose Bird's team. Current polls show you what the public thinks of Rose Bird and her chances for survival.

Never one to avoid controversy, the City of West Hollywood, where gays are in control of the government, didn't observe Christmas as an official holiday this year. The issue surfaced when Councilman Alan Viterbi proposed an ordinance last Spring that would halt all non-emergency city business on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. But when promi-

nent members of Viterbi's own faith objected, saying it would violate the constitutional separation of church and state, the city attorney ruled in their favor.

No official holiday on Yom Kippur, so Councilman Viterbi proposed, and the council went along with him, that Christmas, as far as West Hollywood is concerned, is strictly a religious observance. Therefore, it would not be a city holiday. West Hollywood Mayor John Heilman, a popular gay attorney, went to work at City Hall on Christmas Day, wearing gym shorts and running shoes, it should be noted.

A study in the December issue of *Hospital and Community Psychiatry* reveals that AIDS has fueled negative attitudes about gays among health professionals, a finding that "could have important implications for patient care," the report says. Doctors at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York administered a standardized test that indicates fear of gays in 37 physicians and 91 nurses in a large urban teaching hospital. Both the physicians and nurses fell into the low range of phobia. Twelve physicians and 27 nurses said their negative feelings about homosexuality had increased since the AIDS crisis began.

In L.A., the ACLU filed a suit last week against the Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles charging that group with systematically excluding gays and bisexuals from its pool of adult companions for boys of single-parent families. The Superior Court suit, which seeks an order to end the alleged discrimination, was filed on behalf of Richard Stanley, a 35-year-old L.A. car salesman who applied to the program in 1984. After mentioning his bisexuality to in-

gay organizers were joined by Boston NOW and other progressive groups in activating phone trees.

"The phones were crazy," reported an aide to a councillor representing a traditionally conservative area of Boston. "Everyone was against it."

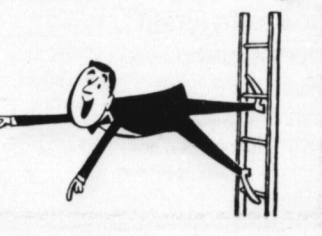
In the face of overwhelming opposition, O'Neil withdrew his resolution.

Boston's Gays Beat AIDS Hysteria

In an impressive show of strength, Boston's lesbian and gay community rallied to successfully pressure the Boston City Council not to consider an AIDS-quarantine and mandatory-testing measure introduced by Councillor Albert O'Neil.

Based on Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee's "Memorial Bill to Stop AIDS," O'Neil's resolution was given no chance of passage by openly gay Boston City Councillor David Scordras.

"I've been working with AIDS experts to educate and keep my



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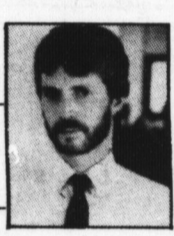
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Happy New Year
to Friends and to
our whole
community.
May 1986 see the
conquest of AIDS
and more steps
towards the
full liberation
we deserve.
—John Wahl

Gay People and Central America

by Jim Denison

Since the Vietnam war, the lesbian and gay community has a history of participation in anti-war and solidarity movements. Today, the U.S. is waging a multi-faceted war in Central America. The war ranges from the aerial bombing campaign in El Salvador (about the size of Massachusetts), the heaviest ever in the western hemisphere, to the "low intensity" war of the Contras undermining Nicaraguan society. Gay community response has been seen in the Central American contingents of the Freedom Day parade, Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention and the Victoria Mercado Brigade to Nicaragua, among others.

What does Central America have to do with the lesbian and gay community? Since we live in the United States, we have a responsibility for what the U.S. is doing in Central America.

I also support what the people of Central America are trying to achieve. They are saying "this is our country; we want to run it ourselves, and set our own priorities." It's a process of taking control. As lesbians and gay men, until we come out, our lives are dominated by self-hatred perpetuated by a homophobic society. When we come out, we are taking control and defining who we are.

The process in Central America is also one of striving for human rights such as the right to live in peace, along with adequate shelter, food and health care. Our struggle as lesbians and gay men is also for human rights, starting with the right to be who

we are.

There is a relationship between what the U.S. does in Central America and what happens here to us. A rigid order is being maintained, one that keeps the Central American countries in line with the economic and political interests of the United States. For us, part of that same order means adhering to the straight, white, nuclear family type mode of behavior with rigidly enforced sex roles. If you challenge the order, you are attacked. This ranges from Texas upholding its sodomy laws, the Massachusetts ban on lesbian and gay foster parents, and Christian fundamentalists calling for the death penalty for homosexuals.

The right wing in this country raises millions of dollars to sustain the Contras. Their friend Phyllis Schlafly also wants us in the closet. The same mentality that finances mercenaries in El Salvador was recently represented by the Straight Slate in Houston, where one candidate said the solution to AIDS was to "shoot all the queers."

Right wing groups and the U.S. government are funding the Contras, who are mainly disaffected supporters of former Nicaraguan dictator Somoza and his National Guard. With millions in aid and under the guidance of the CIA, the Contras are carrying out a campaign of terror attempting to overthrow the popular Nicaraguan government. They destroy farms, factories and other economic targets, as well as day care centers and schools. They murder teachers, doctors and agricultural specialists and kidnap civilians.

The conditions that led to the revolution in Nicaragua also exist in El Salvador. The opposition there is led by the FMLN (Frente Morionte Nacional Liberacion Front). The goal of the FMLN is to create a new society in El Salvador that meets the needs of the majority of its people. More than a quarter of the country is controlled by the FMLN through "zones of control." They are governed by local popular governments in which, for the first time, the people are involved in the decision-making process that directly affects them. Clinics, schools, and agricultural and manufacturing collectives have been built as well.

Over the last five years, \$1.7 billion has been given to El Salvador in "aid" and over 50,000 people have been killed. But do we see adequate funding for AIDS services and research with thousands dying? No, we do not because of a perverted set of priorities.

There are connections between what is happening in Central America and here to us. Those who push for U.S. intervention in Central America also attack the lesbian and gay community. As a gay man, I cannot separate my own liberation from the liberation of others. This is why the U.S. war in Central America raises an important question for me relative to lesbian and gay liberation. The fundamental issue at stake in Central America and here is one of human rights.

Jim Denison is a volunteer with the Pledge of Resistance. For more information, call 771-1276.

Mike Hippler

ON THE OFF BEAT



Looking Out For Ourselves: AIDS Support Groups

Part II

PACIFIC CENTER AIDS PROJECT

This AIDS Project is sponsored by the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley and was begun in 1983. Its director is Jeremy Landau. Funding is provided by the city of Berkeley, Alameda and Contra Costa counties, the state of California, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Project's purpose is to provide direct services, such as counseling and advocacy, as well as education and information to the community. Fifty trained volunteer counselors work directly with people with AIDS, their friends, families, and lovers. Thirty trained Speakers Bureau volunteers provide educational presentations to health care and service providers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

For further information, call Robert Davis at 420-3181.

PEOPLE WITH AIDS

In June 1983, a group of people with AIDS, including Bobbi Campbell, Bobby Reynolds, Dan Turner, Paul Castro, and Marty Cox, formed the People With AIDS Alliance to demand their rights and to draw attention to their concerns as people with AIDS—not victims or patients. This group faltered but was later revived, becoming a non-profit organization providing switchboard services, social activities, a speaker's bureau, patient advocacy, educational forums, a newsletter, outreach programs, and a hot lunch program at Ward 86 of San Francisco General Hospital. Its current director is John Lorenzini (553-2509).

According to Lorenzini, "We're any thing but big time. As far as funding is concerned, we have received donations from the AIDS Interfaith Network for \$1000, a grant from the Golden Gate Foundation for \$2000, and various private donations."

SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION

The S.F. AIDS Foundation was founded in June 1982 by a group of community activists and health professionals. Its director is Dr. Tim Wolfred, and its funding is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the state of California Department of Health Services, foundation and corporate grants, and community gifts.

The mission of the AIDS Foundation is: preventing the transmission of AIDS through the provision of education; ensuring accessibility to social services for people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions; advocating the promotion of an optimal medical, financial and social climate for people affected by AIDS; participating in efforts against discrimination resulting from the AIDS crisis; and supporting research aimed at the prevention and cure of AIDS.

The organization fulfills its mission through many programs, among them a social service program, an emergency housing program, a food bank, media relations, materials development and distribution, and telephone

services. For further information, call Mitch Bart, deputy director, at 864-4376.

Volunteer Contact: Ken Jones, volunteer director, 864-4376.

SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FUND

The S.F. AIDS Fund is an all-volunteer, non-political non-profit organization founded in 1983 by Walter Mellon and Rick Booth. Its purpose is to provide emergency financial grants to persons with AIDS. The current grant limit per individual is \$500 a year.

The AIDS Fund receives no governmental funding. Its funds come solely through individual donations and fund-raising events in the community. For further information, call George Burgess, president, at 441-6407. Volunteer contact: Bob Burns, 922-3200, ext. 2100.

SHANTI PROJECT

Shanti Project was founded in 1974 by Dr. Charles Garfield, a clinical psychologist working with cancer patients at the University of California Medical Center. Over the years, the organization evolved, and now it is a support service organization for people with AIDS, their families, and loved ones. Its purpose is to provide support for these people to ease the psychosocial trauma that occurs with a diagnosis of a life-threatening illness.

Shanti Project provides one-to-one emotional support counselors; practical support volunteers; low-cost housing for people with AIDS; counseling services at San Francisco General Hospital, Wards 86 and 5B; support groups for people with AIDS; anticipatory grief support groups and bereavement groups; and an information and referral service.

Shanti is funded by the City and County of San Francisco and private donations. The director is Jim Geary. For further information call Bea Roman, director of development, at 538-9644.

STOP AIDS PROJECT

The Stop AIDS Project is a series of discussions held in order to prevent the spread of AIDS through information and education. Gay and bisexual men meet for one evening in groups of ten to fifteen to find out from other gay men how they are responding to the AIDS epidemic, to share their feelings about safe sex, to examine their lifestyles, and to inform themselves about AIDS prevention. The groups are confidential and are moderated by trained group leaders. There is no charge to join a group.

The project was founded in January 1985 by Larry Bye and Sam Puckett. The present director is Bill Folk. For further information, call Mary Cantrell, operations/scheduling coordinator, at 621-7177.

TAVERN GUILD GODFATHER FUND

No response. Call 771-6133 for information, and good luck getting through.

(Continued on next page)

New York Closes St. Mark's Baths

WILL SNYDER

NEW YORK—After hearing a New York attorney say, "Facts are pure and simple," State Supreme Court Justice Stanley Parness closed the St. Mark's Baths in December.

Parness came to his decision after affidavits from nine undercover inspectors were revealed. The inspectors said there was a total of 49 separate acts of "high risk" sex going on in the popular New York bathhouse. One inspector, Stephen Healy, went in to great detail, describing the sexual acts he observed.

While the inspectors report having viewed fellatio and anal intercourse taking place without the use of condoms, many of the inspectors admit repeatedly observing these activities without having been able to discern the presence or absence of condoms.

—The New York Native

Health Survey Shows Poor Service For Lesbians

WASHINGTON—A national health survey revealed that lesbians receive poor health service as a result of sexual discrimination.

Caitlin Ryan, the project director of the National Lesbian Health Care Survey, said many women felt definite discrimination once they came out of the closet to employers. She said incidences of seduction and rape increased once sexual orientations became known. She said health providers need to know if their patient is a lesbian, especially in areas of gynecological health, mental health and counseling.

Ryan said most people feel lesbians enjoy better health than most people. However she added that her survey results show just the opposite to be the result.

—The Washington Blade

Spanish, French Show Some Tolerance For Gays, Lesbians

PARIS—Two separate European polls on homosexuality reveal a quasi-acceptance of the gay life by Spanish and French people.

In Madrid, the Spanish Ministry of Labor asked the Human Rights Association to conduct a poll. The results were interesting. A full 67 percent of the Spanish respondents said that a person's sexual orientation is a fundamental human right. Fifty percent said they would tolerate gays and lesbians.

There was, however, some confusion in Madrid, too. Only 27 percent of the Spaniards said they consider the gay lifestyle normal and another 62 percent said they would try to turn a gay kid straight.

Mike Hippler

(Continued from previous page)

WOMEN'S AIDS NETWORK

The Women's AIDS Network was founded in June 1983 by women at the Second National AIDS Forum in Denver. It has two purposes: to give support to women working in the area of AIDS and to advise AIDS agencies and organizations about AIDS and women. The diverse

In Paris, also known to some as Gay Paree, 41 percent of the French population said the gay lifestyle is a legitimate lifestyle. However, 53 percent said they would try to convince a child not to be gay or lesbian.

Twenty-one percent of the polled French people said they were tempted to try gay sex before backing off. Half the respondents said they thought homosexual tendencies exist in everyone. Fifteen percent of the French Communists—almost double the national average—say they engage in either gay or lesbian relations.

—The Body Politic of Toronto

AFSCME Pledges Support to Gay, Lesbian Workers

CHICAGO—Gay and lesbian workers in Chicago say they expect to have the support of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union when a proposed labor contract goes before Chicago Aldermen in the near future.

The gay and lesbian workers are hopeful that a new city contract will include grievance procedures to ensure that they will be able to fight any discrimination on the job.

Gay rights have had lukewarm support in City Hall before. When Jane Byrne was the city's mayor, she issued an executive order protecting gay and lesbian workers. Byrne's order made it illegal to discriminate against gay city workers. However, anyone who found themselves victimized had no recourse under the law. The newly proposed contract allows workers to follow standardized grievance procedures as spelled out by AFSCME.

—The Windy City Times of Chicago

Eyes of Texas Are Upon AIDS Victims: 'Isolation' Urged

AUSTIN, TX—Texas' State Department of Health ruled that the state of Texas may, under certain circumstances, quarantine AIDS victims.

With one member absent, the health panel voted 12-5 to approve a plan that would give Health Director Dr. Robert Bernstein the power to order "isolation" for AIDS patients who pose a threat to public health. If a local official in a town warned the health director about an AIDS victim alleged to be a "threat," Bernstein would have the power to issue an "isolation" order.

The ruling must be entered in the Texas Register. After a 30-day public comment period, a final ruling will be made.

In Houston, Gay Political Caucus President Sue Lovell urged gays and lesbians to contact state legislators. She said people

membership includes advocates, community activists, and health and mental health service providers.

The Women's AIDS Network welcomes new members and holds monthly meetings to discuss issues concerning women and AIDS, as well as services available. It is funded by membership dues (\$10) and community donations.

Volunteer contact: Nancy Shaw, 864-4376.

M. Hippler

Mixed Bag in Seattle: Gays Get Some Rights And Some Verbal Abuse

SEATTLE—Washington Gov. Booth Gardner fulfilled a campaign promise on Christmas Eve by signing a law which protects lesbians and gay men from being discriminated against in some state employment and services.

Gardner's action backed his campaign promise of 1984 when he met with lesbian and gay leaders. He promised them that discrimination in hiring because of sexual orientation would cease if he won the gubernatorial chair. The order will cover state employees in departments reporting to Gardner. Legislative staff and staff of commissions will not be covered. It prohibits the taking of personnel actions for purposes other than merit.

"The effort was an example of coordinated community work with representatives of Lesbian and Gay Democrats of Greater Seattle, The Greater Seattle Business Association and the Dorian Group meeting together with the Governor to request the order," said Jim Holm, president of the Dorian Group. "We are pleased to be part of a community wide effort that has culminated in this long awaited anti-discrimination protection."

The action by Gardner followed another local bill on the same subject in Seattle's King

County. The Fair Employment Ordinance was signed into law on Dec. 11. The bill protects gays and lesbians from job discrimination because of sexual orientation.

The county is however, expecting an anti-gay referendum. Councilperson Paul Barden, a long-time anti-gay Seattle politician, hopes to force a referendum on the subject. Barden tried to compare gay people with shoplifters while explaining his position.

"Just because a shoplifter has an unnatural urge to take other people's property doesn't mean he should be protected under the law," opined Barden "just as a man who has the unnatural urge for another man's anus should not be protected."

Barden also said he would remove "religion" from those protected groups. But it was all too obvious who he was shooting for.

"I have the right to discriminate against anyone I want to, regardless of job performance," Barden said. "I should be able to not hire Communists, Democrats or queers."

From a news release from The Dorian Group and the Seattle Gay News

should "take this information and remember it in November." She also said Gov. Mark White should be polled for his position on the matter.

Lovell said the plan calls for a lot of trust. "They are saying, 'trust us,' and we're not trusting them right now."

—The Montrose Voice of Houston

Task Force Says Florida Should Spend \$\$\$ on AIDS

TALLAHASSEE—The state of Florida was told by a Govern-

nor's Task Force to go from zero funding for AIDS to a promise of \$12 million. The state's legislature and Gov. Bob Graham was also told that a little more than half of the proposed money should go to set up a comprehensive treatment network for AIDS patients at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital.

The new money allocation would also mean that Jackson would have to increase its AIDS staff work roster. The hospital currently employs 20 people to work with AIDS patients or AIDS-related work, but Dr. Margaret Fischl hopes to see a staff increase to 100 if the money

becomes available. The staff increase would partially match with the increased load of AIDS cases the hospital has handled. In 1982, Jackson had 19 AIDS cases. This past Oct. 30, the hospital had 340 cases.

One major concern is the makeup of the patient load at Jackson. Most of the nation has seen a consistent percentage of certain groups with AIDS—73 percent gay or bisexual men, 16 percent IV-drug users, etc.—but the situation at Jackson was different.

—The Weekly News of Miami

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John Fulton
Shanti Board of Directors

other. About the beauty and joy of reaching out to one another from our hearts.

I've grown up a lot with Shanti. I'm very much in love with life right now — with this wonderful city, with our incredible community. I've learned a lot about living with an open heart. And I'm stronger than I've ever been.

I came to Shanti to give. But there's a trick. You get back tenfold what you give.

Volunteers needed. Call today for more information.

Shanti Project
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558-9644

AIDS Vigil to Campaign in D.C.

Cranston Offers Office for Planning; Second Assault Hospitalizes Vigiler

by Allen White

A group of protesters at the AIDS/ARC vigil plan to take their demands directly to Washington, D.C. The San Francisco offices of Sen. Alan Cranston have been made available to assist in the logistics of this unprecedented protest.

The group has been frustrated by their inability to gain substantial acknowledgement by members of the federal government. Now, in their third month chained to the old Federal Building in United Nations Plaza, they have yet to see one of their federal elected representatives.

"The idea to form a core group of protesters to go to Washington has been in the discussion phase for several days. In the last few days, the group has been holding a series of meetings to discuss strategy.

The strongest boost came last Friday with a conversation between protester Jack Hanna and Cranston aide, Jo Kunej. Kunej said the offices of Sen. Cranston would be made available to act as a liaison to coordinate meetings and activities in Washington, D.C.

At a meeting, Kunej heard the several options which are being considered. Many have proposed a bus or auto trip across the country building support in selected cities. Others have suggested flying to selected cities such as New York, while others have encouraged a direct trip to Washington by air.

In all discussions, the primary reason for any action has been the achievement of the group's four goals. Jack Hanna's time spent as a protester and ad hoc lobbyist will no doubt pay off as this trip takes form. Hanna has been non-partisan in his lobbying especially with Republican Sen. Pete Wilson's office. One of the group's demands calls for a statement from President Ronald Reagan.

In a letter to the protesters, Cranston has stated that he wants the Food and Drug Administration to move "to review all drugs for AIDS as expeditiously as possible."

Cranston has also addressed the issues associated with ARC. "I agree that attention needs to be focused on the plight of in-

dividuals with ARC," he said. "I have been in touch with Social Security Administration officials regarding the need for coverage under SSI/SSDI for people with disabling ARC and an encouraged by SSA's response. They are now developing new criteria for that purpose and I will continue to press for meaningful movement in this area."

The protest began Oct. 27. At the time it was to have been for one day under the auspices of Mobilization Against AIDS. When their permit expired, Frank Birt and Steven Russell made the decision to chain themselves to the old Federal Building.



Santa Welcomes a new vigiler. (Photo: Mick Hicks)



Santa practices affection, not rejection. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

From the moment they chained themselves to the doors of the old Federal Building, the group has grown despite chilling winter weather. They have not aligned themselves with any organization and have received support and endorsements from all over the United States.

In addition to letters from Congresswoman Sala Burton and Sen. Pete Wilson, they received a letter this week from Congressman Ron Dellums. The

letter commended the group for bringing public attention to the health problem.

In another attack at the vigil site, one man was injured. Fred McClure, 35, was seriously injured on Christmas night and remains hospitalized as a result of defending a protester at the

face serious back surgery. He currently is under heavy pain medication.

He said he believes, "the American representation is important when our community marches. It tells people, including the police, that we too are Americans." Any person who

In all discussions, the primary reason for any action has been the achievement of the group's four goals. Jack Hanna's time spent as a protester and ad hoc lobbyist will no doubt pay off as this trip takes form. Hanna has been non-partisan in his lobbying especially with Republican Sen. Pete Wilson's office. One of the group's demands is for a statement from President Ronald Reagan.

AIDS/ARC vigil.

The attack came about 3:30 on the morning of Dec. 26. A drunken man in his late thirties started striking some of the protesters including Bill Paul. McClure intervened and was thrown to the ground. Others in the protest group held the attacker down. Quick police response led to arrest of the assailant.

McClure, who suffers from a previous back problem, has been told by his doctors that he may

marched in any of the Nov. 27 candlelight marches, the Dan White protest through the financial district in January, 1984 or in the several AIDS candlelight marches in San Francisco was marching behind Fred McClure carrying his American flag from Bannera, Texas.

Cards or letters sent to Fred McClure at the ARC/AIDS vigil, 50 1/2 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102 will be forwarded to him at the hospital.



Concentration

Buck Stuart takes his time to make sure the bubbles get out right. Blowing bubbles is one diversion for the vigilers as they try to find some light moments in what is otherwise a serious venture outside the Old Federal Building. The bubbles are perfect, Buck!

(Photo: Mick Hicks)



Patty Rose walked 134 miles across Death Valley to dramatize the AIDS crisis. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

1985

(Continued from page one)

And on the stage of the huge celebration, festooned with a soaring rainbow of multi-colored balloons, there was more evidence of the progress we were making in 1985. The parade Grand Marshall was Juan Hernandez of Mexico. His very appearance was a challenge to institutional homophobia.

Immigration officers at San Francisco International Airport detained Hernandez and tried to deny him entry. Their action was part of the long-standing ban on gay aliens being admitted to the United States. But a federal court judge ordered that Hernandez be admitted. The rally's keynote speaker, Sen. Cranston, pledged to continue pushing his bill to change the immigration law.

As the afternoon ended, the sun dazzled the dome of City Hall, and gospel-singer-turned-disco-diva Sylvester crooned to the crowd. The rainbow of balloons was cut free and soared on a gentle breeze toward the bay. Gay spirits were soaring, too.

JULY

A TWA jetliner, hijacked to Beirut, was released—and, along with it, a gay couple from San Francisco. Jack McCarty and Victor Amburgy were welcomed home at a big bash on Castro Street. Later, in recounting their ordeal, McCarty talked about how his training as a counselor for the Shanti Project had helped him keep his head while terrorists threatened the lives of the airline hostages.

Word spread quickly through the Gay Day throng, but many didn't hear the news until the next day, July 1: Gov. Deukmejian had chopped the state AIDS budget in half.

Gay people were stunned. The budget for AIDS, passed by the Legislature at \$21 million, had been slashed by almost \$12 million. Only \$9 million was left. The governor's action looked like the Texas Chainsaw Massacre, with broad vetoes getting entire programs. Money for hospice care, for Shanti services, for basic lab research and for Medi-Cal to help the stricken, was chopped by the millions.

Gay people weren't alone in their shock and dismay. Throughout the state, television and newspaper commentators attacked Deukmejian for his cutbacks. Almost overnight, those closest to the governor became aware that Deukmejian had blundered badly.

Meanwhile, a bill was introduced in the Legislature to restore most of the vetoed amount for

AUGUST

For the first time, the local district attorney's office demanded that a defendant be forced to take a test for the AIDS-related antibody. The demand came at the behest of a cop who had been bitten by a man. Ironically, the cop, Tom Cady, was openly gay—and said he wanted to know if he had been exposed to AIDS.

Assemblymember Art Agnos (D-S.F.) pointed out that the D.A.'s action violated his new state law. The law protects the confidentiality of people taking the AIDS antibody test. The D.A. quietly withdrew the demand—and gay-rights activists breathed a sigh of relief.

An openly gay former reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* was convicted of "insider trading." The columnist, R. Foster Winans, leaked information in advance of publication of a popular investment column. By so doing, he reaped rewards from the rise of stocks mentioned in the column. Winans was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

As Dan White lurked around the Excelsior District, the city was still cleaning up the fallout from his double assassination in 1978. The city approved an out-of-court settlement of \$125,000 in connection with the police riot which followed the "White Night" riot at City Hall in 1979.

Jack Scott had been attacked, called a "faggot," beaten by rampaging police and permanently disabled as he walked out of a fast-food joint at Civic Center the night of May 21. Scott didn't know what hit him—he was unaware that, nearby, a riot was going on.

It was a secret shared by millions: America's favorite leading man was gay. But everyone was shocked and saddened when Rock Hudson was diagnosed with AIDS. The star did what many desperate people with AIDS have done—he fled to another country in hopes of finding a successful treatment not available here.

It was too late for Rock Hudson. But the star's personal tragedy focused a much-needed spotlight on AIDS. As the gaunt face of the Rock—a chilling shadow of his former beefy manliness—stared at America from a hundred front-pages and magazine covers, America faced up to AIDS for the first time.

Benefits were planned, TV specials crowded the airwaves and, at last, President Ronald Reagan acknowledged the epi-

other, lawyer Roberta Achtenberg of the Lesbian Rights Project.

The couple are part of a growing trend of lesbian couples choosing to have kids.

AUGUST

Eighty percent of gay men in San Francisco had adopted "safe sex," said the AIDS Foundation in a new survey. The survey provided evidence that community education was successful in preventing the spread of AIDS.

The red ink at Atlas Savings & Loan deepened to \$1.2 million. But despite a banner scare headline in the *Sunday Examiner*, there was no run on the bank come Monday.

Depositors kept their faith in Atlas—something that Atlas management could take to the bank.

Bay Area Reporter exposed an erroneous city report which concealed abuse of the drug "speed." The speed controversy had long simmered under the surface at the city's drug abuse bureau.

More evidence was surfacing that the use of needles—shooting speed—was a major factor in the spread of AIDS here. But a *B.A.R.* investigation showed the drug bureau engaged in efforts to cover up the problem. The goal was to protect a city contract on heroin abuse, a contract held by a member of the city's drug abuse advisory panel.

Later, as a result of the expose, the city drug problem director was suspended from her duties. Meanwhile, the city began efforts to put more money into the problem of speed shooting.

Patty Rose, a 30-year-old straight nurse from Oakland,

completed a 134-mile trek across Death Valley. Her trek was designed to bring attention to the AIDS crisis—and show that (some) straight people care, too.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein made her first public appearance in the gay community in a year and a half. The event was a breakfast for the gay political action committee, the Alliance.

The mayor insisted she was "not avoiding" gays. Then, in making a round of introductions, she forgot the name of her staff liaison to the gay community (Chuck Forester).

Archbishop John Quinn gave a much-celebrated "40 Hours Devotion" on the suffering of AIDS and came to the Castro's Most Holy Redeemer Church to do it. The prelate amazed the crowd by speaking for a half-hour and never uttering the words "gay" or "AIDS."

A Marin County man, John Clark, announced that he was organizing a June 15, 1986 parade, to be called "It's Great to Be Straight." The event just two weeks before Gay Freedom Day, would feature an "Anita Bryant Look-Alike Contest," he said.

Record producer Marty Blecman, charged with fraud, paid more than \$11,000 to the charity he was accused of bilking. Blecman said that should settle everything. But the D.A. set a date for a pre-trial hearing.

Gov. George Deukmejian ate \$5 million worth of crow in a quiet Sacramento ceremony. The Duke signed a bill restoring some of the funds he had earlier vetoed from the state AIDS budget.

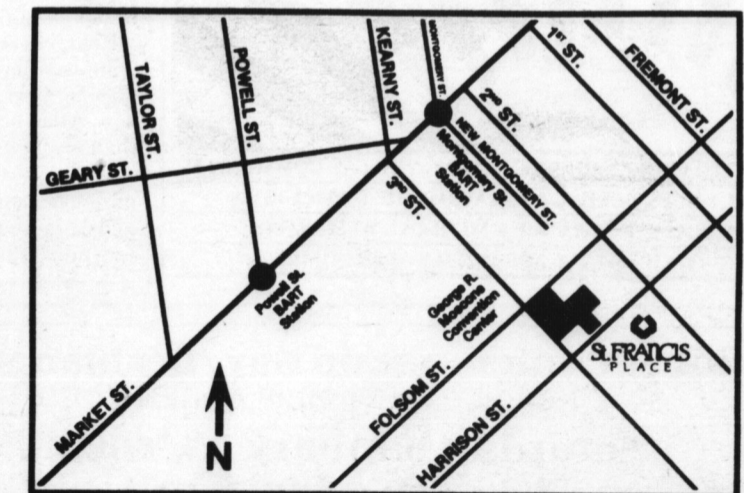
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OCTOBER

Rock Hudson died Oct. 12 of AIDS. His last act was to send a letter to a glittering benefit for AIDS research in Hollywood. A teary-eyed Elizabeth Taylor read the message to the crowd and to millions watching on television. Hudson also donated a quarter-million dollars toward the creation of a private AIDS research foundation.

The number of new AIDS cases in San Francisco stopped growing. For the first nine months of 1985, the number of new cases per month averaged 62. That was the number of new cases in September and was identical to the number of new cases which had been logged in January.

The plateau in the growth of new cases stood in vivid contrast to the steadily increasing growth in the spread of the epidemic before 1985. The statistics suggested a fundamental change was taking place—and that San Francisco's vigorous anti-AIDS program was at least taking hold.

AIDS hysteria hit the schools, nationwide and in San Francisco. In New York, parents shut down schools with picket lines, demanding that children with

AIDS be banned from the classroom. Some school districts drafted policies to bar AIDS children from school.

In San Francisco, new Schools Superintendent Carlos Cornejo was quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as saying that all food handlers in the schools should be required to take the AIDS antibody test.

The next day, amid a firestorm of controversy, Cornejo denied he made the remark. The *Chronicle* stood by the story. In the meantime, there were no forced AIDS tests for school employees. Once again, Assembly member Agnos pointed out that such tests would violate the new confidentiality law.

A South Bay electronics salesman was fired after refusing to take an AIDS antibody test. A lawsuit was filed, citing the Agnos confidentiality law.

Some of the brightest lights—and loudest pipes—in opera were a-glimmer for an Arts For Life benefit at the Opera House. The stars included Marilyn Horne, Renata Scott, James Morris, Pilar Lorengar, John Macurdy and Lind Kelm.

All told, some \$400,000 was raised to help people with AIDS. Said Tom Horn, openly gay president of the War Memorial board, "This was really the first time that the straight community set out to raise money for AIDS

projects." The help was a much-needed shot in the arm for groups including the AIDS Foundation, Hospice of San Francisco and the Shanti Project.

Dan White, imprisoned by the censure of his fellow San Franciscans, executed his own death sentence. The 39-year-old assassin of Harvey Milk and George Moscone hooked up the exhaust pipe of his car to the passenger compartment. Then he started the engine and gassed himself as a tape recorder played an Irish ballad.

There was a little jubilation, a little sadness, but not very much of either. Mostly San Francisco breathed a collective sigh of relief. The final page of the city's long-running tragedy had been written.

Even as pre-trial motions got under way in the John O'Connell case, gay-bashing—or gay-hunting—arose anew. On Polk Street, a man yelling anti-gay epithets shot and wounded a pedestrian. At Land's End, a gay man was shot twice in the chest with pellets from a pellet gun. A witness described the assailants as two teenagers, but, as usual, there were no suspects in the case.

NOVEMBER

Sup. Harry Britt's bill to ban bias against people with AIDS passed the Board of Supervisors on a unanimous vote. The measure was similar to a bill passed earlier in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, several assailants attacked people with AIDS-Related Conditions (ARC) who were camped at United Nations Plaza. Three of the protestors were hospitalized.

The vigil had begun Sunday, Oct. 27, when two men with ARC chained themselves to the door of the old Federal Building. The protestors were demanding federal services for people with ARC. They chose the old Federal Building because it houses the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

A few days after the vigil began, a city worker sprayed the protestors with a high-pressure hose as he cleaned the plaza at the Civic Center. The employee was not identified.

There was initially some doubt about the staying power of the vigilers, but, as days turned to weeks, the vigil only grew—as did the determination of the people with ARC.

Atlas S & L President Jim Bowersox said Atlas was not "insolvent," in response to another scare headline in the S.F. daily papers. Bowersox did allow as how Atlas had more liabilities than assets.

Whatever. Customers still kept their cool—and kept their money in Atlas—and, once again, there was no run on the bank. Once



The end of a long tragedy. (Photo: Rink)

again, the big-money boys downtown were amazed at the charmed life of the upstart bank.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein announced a renewed crusade to close "the baths."

The latest boomlet was stoked from—where else?—the front page of the *Chron*, where a story marked by obvious factual errors sought to shake things up.

Sup. Quentin Kopp hopped on the issue and said he'd close the baths. But a few weeks later the latest crusade petered out.

Meanwhile, some supporters from the Lyndon LaRouche gang started a petition for a statewide quarantine of gays.

Bruce Decker, Gov. Deukmejian's appointee to the state AIDS Strategy Council, said the governor "deserves credit for his leadership on AIDS."

Jim Foster, openly gay city health commissioner, pointed out that the Deukmejian administration was withholding \$4 million in already-appropriated AIDS fund. Earlier in the year, one of the governor's health experts had toured the state, bragging about the money. But now AIDS prevention groups were on the verge of bankruptcy because the state would not disburse the money.

Said Foster, "They have been sitting on \$4.2 million appropriated by the state Legislature for AIDS." Foster also pointed out that the state refused to pay Medi-Cal claims for people suffering from AIDS, even though ordered to do so by the Legislature.

Bruce Decker did not suggest that the governor take credit this time.

The Rose of Valencia Street, the Valencia Rose, closed its doors. The venue for such talent as Tom Ammanno, Danny Williams, deLaria and Strobel, Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez, and singer-songwriters Romanovsky and Phillips was no more.

Public Defender Jeff Brown tried to systematically exclude gay people from the jury in the O'Connell case. John O'Connell had been killed by gay-bashers on Polk Street in July 1984. The public defender tried to find out

which potential jurors were gay or lesbian and keep them off the jury.

Win one, lose one: A gay Cuban was allowed to stay in the United States by the immigration service. But the immigration authorities deported Australian Anthony Sullivan, who for 11 years had lived in Los Angeles with his lover, Richard Adams.

The two—barred from Sullivan's homeland by Australian authorities—flew to London. They had become, literally, men without a country.

The Straight Slate lost big in Houston—after its mayoral candidate said one way to fight AIDS was to "shoot the queers."

DECEMBER

A "National Gay and Lesbian Christmas Tree" was erected in Harvey Milk Plaza, which was named after an atheist Jew. Welcome to San Francisco.

The Sierra Club, which thinks "Sierra Singles" groups are just fine, outlawed a gay Sierran group. But in Bay Area Chapter elections, pro-gay candidates ousted the anti-gay board and welcomed the gay group.

Good, old-fashioned political organizing turned the tide. Since the Sierra Club is, among other things, an environmentalist lobbying group, one hopes the organization can learn from the experience.

That all-straight (or was it?) jury in the O'Connell case convicted three Vallejo men of second-degree murder. A fourth man was acquitted. The term will be 15 years to life for the convicted three. Sentencing was set for Jan. 9.

A nationwide poll by the *Los Angeles Times* had frightening findings for gay people. The poll found that 51 percent favored quarantine of people with AIDS and 42 percent favored closing gay bars. Seventy-three percent just didn't like us: They said homosexuality is wrong.

Wonder what would have happened if they had taken a statewide poll in Alabama on black people in 1955.

B. Jones

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.



THE SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION
333 Valencia St. 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
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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.

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G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

New Rap Record Pushes Minority AIDS Awareness

BWMT Chapter Campaigning for Air Play; Bars Playing Record But Radio Stations Hesitant

by Charles Lineberger

Black and White Men Together, the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force and the National Conference of Mayors have joined efforts to produce a rap-record dealing with AIDS. Titled *Respect Yourself*, the record was written by Jerry Dean Lester and is aimed at the gay minority community as a means of raising consciousness about the AIDS epidemic. It was first presented in Philadelphia in June, 1985, and is now being distributed by Black and White Men Together (BWMT) chapters across the country.

"We're not too much further along than we were a few months ago," said Reggie Williams of the BWMT-SF AIDS Task Force. "We're still trying to get through to some of the bigger radio stations."

Williams was referring to a letter that was sent to disco and club owners and radio and TV program directors on Oct. 20. In that letter, Williams explained the purpose of the record. He said it is "aimed at increasing AIDS awareness and risk reduction in the black community. We are asking your assistance in this endeavor by giving as much air play as possible to this effective means of getting the message out."

"We've also given copies of the record to the disc jockeys of bars that we knew had a more racially mixed clientele like the Phoenix and the Castro Station," said Williams. "The disc jockeys were very receptive to it. They have played it and they said the people liked it. It's a very danceable record."

When Williams was asked whether his group had begun any outreach to the large gay black population in the East Bay, he responded, "We've talked about working in the East Bay. But there is a small Black and White Men Together chapter over there. We decided to work on San Francisco first."

Bob Hamaran is one of the leaders of the East Bay BWMT chapter. He had not heard of the AIDS rap-record and added that the East Bay chapter "has been slowly falling apart for a long

"The disc jockeys are very receptive to it. They have played it and they said the people liked it."
— Reggie Williams

time. We're not doing too much these days." He added, "But we're definitely interested."

Oakland, a city in which blacks form the majority of the population, has over 300,000 residents. The city boasts a number of gay men's bars, particularly on Telegraph Avenue which has been called Oakland's Castro Street. And in the East Bay, including Berkeley and other cities with large minority populations, over 120 cases of AIDS have been reported. In view of the closeness of San Francisco these are considered to be extremely conservative statistics for the East Bay cities.

In San Francisco, Mayor Dianne Feinstein has come out in support of the AIDS rap-record saying, "I commend Black and White Men Together for the leadership, initiative, and concern you have demonstrated in recognizing the needs of minority and

Third World people. Your commitment to a strong public education campaign which takes into account the special concerns of the minority communities can help save lives in San Francisco and elsewhere. The current efforts of local agencies will be reinforced by the scope of your outreach program."

The next step, according to Williams, is to begin contacting local radio stations again now that the holidays are over. "Next we're going to go to KPOO," said Williams. KPOO is a non-commercial station with the purpose of serving the local community. Williams believes that this will enable him to get air-time for *Respect Yourself* on the public radio station.

If KPOO does air *Respect Yourself*, listeners will hear the following:

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. respect, respect yourself, R.E.S.P.E.C.T. respect yourself. There's a new situation goin' down and there's no more time for playin' round. It's on the tube, the magazines and radio. They're saying AIDS is worse than the common cold.

I gotta coldblooded rap with you in mind it's a rap that's meant to save mankind.

Think about your partner before you get down use a trojan or two or don't mess around.

EAST BAY MY WAY

NEZ PAS

Starting the New Year Right

NOEL SOIRE II
(An "Up-Dating" Nose)

What a way to end the year for Jim Malone and Emperor V Don! Their function/auction at the Town & Country, Saturday, Dec. 21, to raise funds for ACIE's In Memory Fund was a rousing success.

"mehA !mehA !mehA (I'm taking back my three "Ahem's," Jim.) The party *did* start at 8 p.m.; the show *did* start at 9 p.m.; and the raffle *was* held at 10:30 p.m.

Lady Lennie's and Greg's live entertainment was outstanding and thoroughly enjoyed by all—even resulting in encores, yet.

No one should have eaten before, as those Court members who brought food brought enough for an army, according to Jim.

It was indeed nice that the current Emperor and Empress made their appearances, as did Emperor VI Doug. It was too bad that more of the prevailing Court members weren't there.

Val Sousa, founder of the In Memory Fund, was extremely pleased and surprised when she learned that \$1,000 had been raised—that's all cash, NO promises, dear ones.

Thanks must be given to Jim Malone, who purchased the prizes and did the organizing. Thanks also to Harry who donated all his floral decorations for the raffle. And a huge GRAMERCY to all who purchased those tickets to make this end-of-the-year fundraiser such a tremendous success.

A pox on the scuttlebutt (and those behind it) about the monies being used to pay ACIE's insurance! The event was for the In Memory Fund, and legally and ethically, dear treasurer, that's where the funds MUST go. To do otherwise would destroy the validity of any future fundraiser in the East Bay. Think about it!

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM
(A This 'n' That Nose)

The auction of floral arrangements that was scheduled at the Town & Country on Sunday, Jan. 5 (proceeds to Alameda County Special Olympics) had to be cancelled. Out of 30 invitations, only two responses were received: one from Harry and one from someone who would like to have participated had his business not closed.

Sources tell me that Cecil has decided to sell Kelly's, and work for someone else for a while.

Lady Lennie's vigil/march a few weeks ago raised a whopping \$350 for the East Bay Assistance Fund.

"Midge" is now back at the Town & Country Saturday days and Sunday through Tuesday nights. His many fans can now rejoice again!

Starting this weekend (Friday and Saturday, Jan. 3 and 4), Revol will once again have music in the lounge. Bob St. John will be on deck to entertain with a total of five key boards—including the biggest white organ

in Oakland!

Don't forget Revol's 6th Annual Chili Cook-Off, Monday, January 13, at 7 p.m. Entry blanks and all details are available from the bartenders. All proceeds go directly to Alameda County Special Olympics, and checks should be made out to that organization. The judges (except for last year's winner, Chris Marté) can't be announced yet, but does the phrase, "The fleet's in," ring a bell?

Wilhelm is remembered by many of his friends as being a feisty person who fought for gay people and gave much of his time to the poor and disenfranchised. State Sen. Milton Marks issued a statement following Wilhelm's death, commending the man for his "years of political work" and his work for the poor.

ANNUAL ANACREONTIC
(A Rhyming Nose?)

Hayward is considered by many to be where it's at.

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Enjoy, at Revol & Paradise, brunches and dinners;

White Horse and Ollies are considered as winners.

Yen for dancing? Then it's the Bench & Bar;

Even Lancers and Cables Reef are not very far.

Always amiable are Lake Lounge and Town & Country;

Remember the East Bay in your '86 "fun spree."

Fine people you'll find in ALL of our spots;

Redeeming qualities? We have lots!

Over, under, around, and through.

Make it a point to sample OUR crew.

New Years means something to each and all.

Enliven the East Bay by giving us a call:

Zounds! It's '86-LET'S HAVE A BALL!

Nez

Parents of Children With AIDS

Issues that arise for parents of children with AIDS can be difficult to deal with alone. To meet this need, a new group is forming for parents to get support, and share experiences and feelings related to AIDS.

For parents with children of any age, the group is co-facilitated by Barbara and Howard Symonds, parents of a child with AIDS, and Audrey Martin, client advocate at the Pacific Center AIDS Project.

The group will meet Monday nights from 6-8 p.m. in Berkeley. The first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 6. For group location and further information, call Audrey Martin at (415) 420-8181.

Activist Elmer Wilhelm Dies of Cancer

by Allen White

Elmer Wilhelm died Monday, Dec. 23 of cancer at the age of 60. He had been a vocal gay activist for over a decade in San Francisco.

One of a handful of pioneers in San Francisco's gay movement, he helped found the San Francisco Reformed Democrats in 1974, the second gay Democratic club in the country. The club later changed its name to the Minutemen and now is known as the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club.

A memorial service in his honor will be conducted Sunday, Jan. 5 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Officiating at the service will be Rev. Robert Crony. The eulogy will be given by two other pioneer gay activists, Morris Kight and Ben Gardiner.

Wilhelm is remembered by many of his friends as being a feisty person who fought for gay people and gave much of his time to the poor and disenfranchised. State Sen. Milton Marks issued a statement following Wilhelm's death, commending the man for his "years of political work" and his work for the poor.

State Assemblyman Art Agnos also mourned Wilhelm. Agnos had appointed Wilhelm to the Democratic County Central Committee. The appointment made Wilhelm the first openly

gay person to be named to that position.

He was a personal friend of the late and controversial Rev. Ray Broshars. Broshars had a dinner program in the Tenderloin, and when he died Wilhelm tried to keep the program afloat. A lack of finances caused the program to close.

Though he knew he was dying, he said he was thrilled that so many of his friends were rallying to his side. Help came from many public officials. Some came to the hospital, some called. A new apartment was found for Elmer Wilhelm when he left the hospital, because he had been evicted from his home.

A native of Greenburg, Pennsylvania, Wilhelm was a World War II Navy veteran.

For further information, contact Eric Rosenthal at the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013. (202) 546-2025.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is a bipartisan political action committee dedicated to educating and electing candidates who support civil rights for lesbians and gay men and funding for AIDS research and treatment. The Campaign Fund has participated in races for Congress since 1982.

political research or education, depending upon the needs of the Campaign Fund and the interests of the intern. Clerical and administrative tasks also will be part of the position. Any intern who is a student may be able to receive credit from his or her school.

For further information, contact Eric Rosenthal at the Human Rights Campaign Fund.



DEATHS

George Dutra

George William Dutra passed away on Dec. 22, in the arms of his friend Andy.

George was raised in Atascadero, CA and was a registered nurse. He was in San Francisco for a number of years and touched the lives of many.

He is survived by his mother and father, his son and daughter and his brother. Private services were held in Atascadero.

George's strength, courage, kindness and most importantly his love taught many of us.

Please come to Andy's house on Sat. Jan. 4 to celebrate George's new beginning. For information call 864-1240.

Thomas E. Weber

Thomas E. Weber of San Francisco died Dec. 20 peacefully at home. Tom worked for three years with Taste Catering. He is survived by brothers and sisters and many loving friends in San Francisco. Graveside funeral services were held Dec. 24 at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward. Memorial donations may be made in Tom's memory to Hospice Homecare, 225 30th St., S.F. 94131. For additional information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

George C. Beebe

George Clark Beebe of San Francisco died Dec. 22 at his home in San Francisco. George worked for Nagle Inc. as a computer consultant. He is survived by his companion, Lincoln Webb, a loving family and many loving friends. Memorial services will be held Saturday Jan. 4 at Conisky-Roche Chapel, 3300 16th St. at 1 p.m. Donations may be made to Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., S.F. 94117 or to S.F. AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., S.F. For additional information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

David E. Mott

David Edward Mott of San Francisco died Dec. 23 in a local hospital. David worked for Taste Catering. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mott of Holland, MI, his lover, and many loving friends in San Francisco. Funeral services were held Friday Dec. 27 in Holland, MI. Donations may be made in David's memory to Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., S.F.

Donald A. Fowler

Donald A. Fowler of Austin, Texas and San Francisco died Dec. 24 at home. He worked in Austin with the Austin School District and in San Francisco for Mt. Zion Hospital. He is survived by his aunt, Mrs. L. E. Handlin of Elsinore, Ca. and his friend of 20 years, Phyllis Jackson, of Oakland and many loving friends in San Francisco. Funeral services were held Sunday Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. at Conisky-Roche Chapel. Inurnment will be private. Donations may be made to Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., S.F. or to Hospice AIDS Homecare, 225 30th St., S.F.

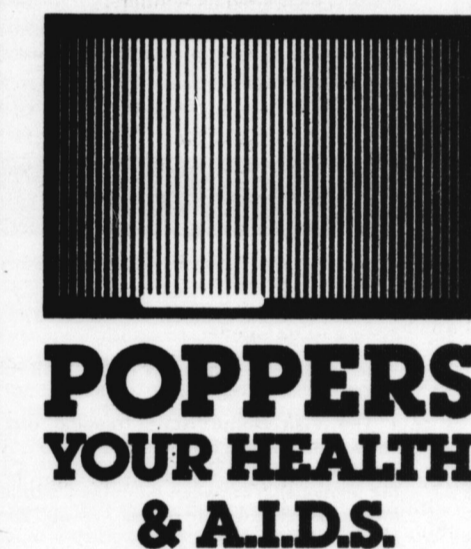
Charles P. Foley

On Dec. 18 the San Francisco community lost another loyal friend of complications from AIDS. Chuck's passing, shortly after his 32nd birthday, was celebrated with a scattering of his ashes into the Bay followed by champagne shared among his family and friends in attendance.

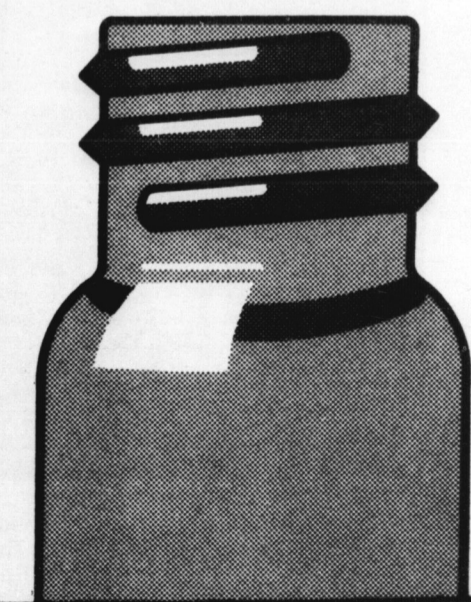
"We're all of us, molded and remolded by those who have loved us. And though that love may pass we remain their work."

A work which quite likely they do not recognize and is never exactly as they intended. No love, no friendship can ever cross the path of destiny without leaving some mark upon it forever.

As was his wish for the loving care extended him, donations in Chuck's memory may be given to AIDS Home Care & Hospice Program, 225 30th St., San Francisco, 94131.



POPPERS YOUR HEALTH, & A.I.D.S.



Why all the concern about poppers now?

For years studies have revealed that inhaling poppers often leads to acute and chronic problems, like headaches and dizziness. A few deaths have been linked to poppers use. With the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic, researchers have studied how poppers affect the immune system. Preliminary tests indicate that poppers can weaken the body's immune system. Other AIDS experts think poppers may lead to the development of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), one of the diseases linked to AIDS.

In September scientists at the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine reported that inhaling poppers caused definite damage to cells that are crucial to the immune system.

But I only use poppers once a week when I go dancing.

Infrequent "hits" of poppers are better than regular, heavy use. But even minimal use may weaken your body's immune system.

But my partner and I have better sex when we use poppers.

Good sex contributes to good health. But using poppers makes it difficult to avoid those sex practices that place you at risk for exposure to AIDS. The first time you have sex without poppers may be different. You may need to take more time. More and more people report that after an adjustment, sex without poppers is still exciting and fun. Give it a chance; keep it hot and healthy.

TAKE ACTION AND PROTECT YOUR HEALTH.

The best strategy is to stop altogether. Research has found the use of poppers dangerous to the body's ability to fight disease and generally bad for your health. Don't take the risk. Stop using poppers altogether. Spread the word to your friends.

Enjoy sober and safe sex. Some people use relaxation and then deep rapid breathing to get high sexually. Others get off on intimacy with their partners. Experiment and find what works best for you.

Learn how to refuse poppers.

Many people now refuse to use poppers, you're not alone when you say "No thanks." If your partner insists, take the bottle and then hand it back. Or accept it but don't sniff them. With regular partners, agree to get off on each other without poppers.

Help is available. Make a personal decision to stop using poppers and discuss it with a few friends and/or sex partners. Get help when you have difficulty following your decision to stop. For more information call:

The AIDS Hotline, (415) 863-AIDS
For substance abuse counseling call:

18th Street Services (415) 861-4898
AVOID THE THREAT OF POPPERS!
GET HIGH ON YOUR HEALTH!

Presented by the Substance Abuse and AIDS Task Force with the cooperation of the Committee to Monitor Poppers.

Funded by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation/SF Department of Public Health.

Text by Michael Heigust
Design by Tandy Belew

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Jan. 3-10

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 3

- Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties:** speech by Peter Fowler of the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force, 150 Eureka (MCC), 7:30 PM. Call 863-5428 for more details.
- Sandy Van and Theresa Holcomb:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6-8 PM.
- Women's Drop-In Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

SATURDAY 4

- New Year's Party:** New Dorman Building, 325 S. First St., San Jose, 8:30 PM-1:30 AM. Dance to Cool Jerks, Sweet Soul Sounds. Free food and champagne. No host bar. \$15 per person, \$25 couple. Tickets at door only.
- Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 7:30 PM, 9:30 PM.
- Faye Carol & Her Trio:** music, The Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 9 PM, \$8.50.
- Fraternal Order of Gays: Facts-In-Five (trivia) Night,** FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. A very enjoyable social game dealing with trivia and recall. Call 641-0999 for details.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** 1-5 mile run. Meet at 10 AM at Stow Lake Boathouse, Golden Gate Park.



Unfinished Business, The New AIDS Show, which recently celebrated its 100th performance continues its run Tuesdays and Wednesdays in The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros (Photo: S. Cohen)

- High Tech Gays:** activities meeting, 4:30 PM. Call (408) 429-9655 for details.

MONDAY 6

- Aardvark Party:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- A Whole Lot of Bessie in Me:** cabaret with Aldo Bell, 'N Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- AIDS Writing Project:** writing workshop for people with AIDS, 3 to 5 PM. Call 861-2385 for more information.

TUESDAY 7

- Hunter Davis:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Comedy Night:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- Teresa Tudury:** cabaret, 'N Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- The Visit Home:** script reading and critique, Playwrights' Center, Fort Mason, Building E, Room 287. This play by Judith Sigard Hunt is a one-act drama of the relationship between an uptight mother and her modern lifestyle daughter. Call 775-8377 for starting time and other details.
- The Vendor:** script reading and critique, Playwrights' Center, Fort Mason, Building E, Room 287. Frances Spencer's new monologue about a witty and courageous woman who battles loneliness and poverty.



Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez play the Baybrick Jan. 3 (Photo: Rink)

- Hyacinthus:** potluck for lesbians and gay men of Greek ancestry, 7 PM. Call 775-6143 for details.
- 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 5

- Lady Bianca:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5:30-8:30 PM, \$5 cover.
- Valencia and the Love Explosion Orchestra:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- Great Outdoors San Francisco:** Mt. Tam-Stinson hike. Moderate hike with breathtaking views. Bring food and liquid. Call 864-3426 for details.
- San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike to Muir Woods. Meet at the McDonald's on Haight and Stanyan. Call 668-8167 for details.
- Different Spokes/San Francisco:** East Bay hot tub ride. Meet at 10:15 AM at the Oakland Rockridge BART station. A 33-mile route through the hills of the East Bay with tubbing afterwards. Call 339-2345 for details.
- Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide-and-ride. Meet at Golden Gate Park at McLaren Lodge at 10 AM.
- Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide-and-ride, Stanford Shopping Mall (El Camino entrance), 10 AM.
- G 40+:** discussion by psychologist Hal Dillehunt, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary), 2 PM.



Danny Williams hosts Gay Comedy Open Mike at the Alamo Square Saloon on Thursdays (Photo: B. Spunberg)

- Unfinished Business, The New AIDS Show:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9 (\$1 discount offered for the donation of a canned good or toiletry item for the Food Bank of the S.F. AIDS Foundation. A collaborative effort of artists about the AIDS epidemic. Held over through Feb. 26.

- Diablo Valley MCC:** worship service, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Topic: Self-Esteem Reclaimed... "Discovering the Lost Inheritance."

- San Francisco FrontRunners:** 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.

- Fraternal Order of Gays:** German lessons, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 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 Male Sexual Dysfunctions:** meeting, Presbyterian Hospital, 2333 Buchanan, S.F., 7 PM. Call 922-6228 for details.

- Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page, S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5438 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.

- Gay and Lesbian Diabetes Support Group:** Libertarian Bookstore, 1800 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-2398 for details.

- 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 PM-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 552-8413 for details.

- Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer and Praise Service at 8:15 PM, Diablo Valley MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 827-2960 for details.

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- Naomi Ruth Eisenberg:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5 cover.

- Lesbian/Gay Open Poetry Reading:** Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM.

- The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** "Come On and Hear," a radio show on KALW-FM, 91.7 FM, 8:30 PM.

- Federal Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Rooney's Restaurant, 22 9th St., S.F., 6 PM. No-host cocktails and free buffet. Topic: "Us and Our Boss." Call 239-6105 for details.

- Marin Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, 26 Kensington, San Anselmo. Call 479-3535 for time and other details.

- Jae Ross:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

- San Francisco Hiking Club:** general club meeting, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood at 19th, near the Cala Market, 7:30 PM.

- Fruit Punch:** gay radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, 10 PM.

- Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. 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 9

- Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

- Great Outdoors San Francisco:** business/planning meeting, Castro Valley Country Club, 4058 18th St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 864-6870 for details.

- Fraternal Order of Gays:** Japanese lessons, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for details.

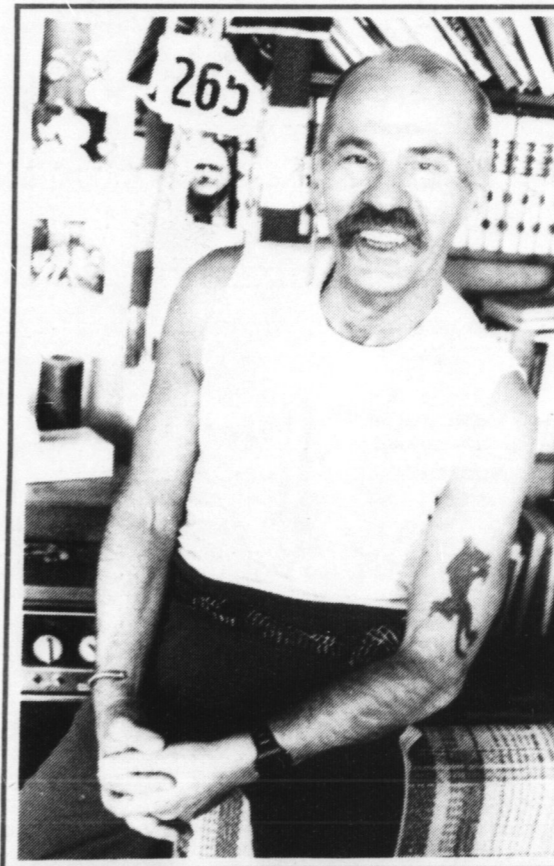
- Feathers 'N' Flesh:** music, comedy and male strippers, 'N Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, \$1, with alternating comedy hosts Danny Williams and Karen Ripley.

- Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.

- GLOE:** writing workshop for gay male seniors 60 and older, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 431-6254 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.



Join George Birimisa Thursdays for a writing workshop (Photo: Rink)

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.

WEDNESDAY 8

- Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer and Praise Service at 8:15 PM, Diablo Valley MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 827-2960 for details.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BOOK RACK

Something for Everyone

A Selection of Lesbian Titles from Naiad, et al

by Dianne Gregory

Naiad Press may have been awash in stormy seas of late—what with the flak about selling publication rights of *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence* to a male magazine which turned around and printed excerpts from the book in the most lurid fashion it could devise, and Hurricane Kate taking a direct path over its headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida—but the publishing house continues to crank out new titles at a brisk clip.

One of Naiad's stalwart authors, Jane Rule, has published four books of note within the last year. *The Young in One Another's Arms*, *Inland Passages*, and a book of essays called *Hot-Eyed Moderate*. *The Young in One Another's Arms* is about Ruth and her transformation from a wizened young girl growing up in a valley threatened by progress to a wizened middle-aged woman in love with her mother-in-law. But it is much more than that, as most of Rule's work is. It has so many layers of meaning, coupled with a casual, almost familiar prose, that it is really impossible to say "what the book is about."

The same is true of *Inland Passages*, a compilation of short stories. As in a lot of Rule's writing, most of the women are married or somehow associated with men, women-loving women though they are. In "One Can of Soup at a Time" a couple fights lethargy to make something of their lives, either together or separately. A woman fights cancer in "Slogans." In "A Matter of Numbers" a professor falls

in love with her male student, and "The Real World" deals with a mother and daughter taking care of a grandmother. The book's stories all deal with women, some lesbians, some not, but yet again all contain something larger and more encompassing than mere human relationships.

On the lighter side, *The Sophie Horowitz Story*, which came out in late 1984, is about a writer for a radical lesbian feminist publication who gets into hot water over a story about Germaine Covington, a '60s-style radical arrested for bank robbery that is closely reminiscent of the Brinks hold-up. What could have been a nice mystery never gets, Sophie turning in her story and getting fired from the paper in an anti-climatic climax. The author, Sarah Schulman, needs to read P.D. James and try again.

A detective story that fares better is *Amateur City* by Katherine V. Forrest. Forrest's *Curious Wine* is one of my favorite books, and she brings the same style and attention to detail to this work. Her love scenes are consistently

filled with a kind of feels-good-all-over tension that makes you believe Forrest has made love her life's work. But this book is also a whodunit which captures the best of that genre. And of course the police detective falls in love with one of her suspects.

The Swashbuckler is by Lee Lynch, another Naiad veteran. It seems to be an update of another of her books, *Toothpick House*. Again we have a rough-cut dyke slowly coming to a feminist sensibility out of a '50s butch-fem mode through the love of a good woman. Lynch needs to find a new subject.

Sheila Ortiz Taylor's *Spring Forward/Fall Back* is in the same vein as Lynch's recent work, but much more complex. The characters in this novel are not cardboard cutouts but real people with real feelings, real families and real problems. It could be compared to Sayles' film *Liana*, except that the story is more than that. It is also a coming-out story, but Taylor makes you feel the Catalina Island sun on your face and the weight of a child still in the



womb. It also reveals in painful detail the horrors of the closet, and what good can come from opening up the door.

I wish the same could be said of *For Keeps* by Elisabeth Nonas. This woman has appeared on next page.

Women's Rags

Lesbian 'Lifestyle' Magazines Put a New Twist on 'Cosmo'

by Dianne Gregory

Cosmo, *The Ladies Home Journal*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Bride*, *Seventeen*. These are the "women's" publications men have made so much money on for so long. Ever since it was discovered that women are the major consumers in our society, "women's" magazines have made millionaires of a select number of men, and a few women.

When what is popularly called the "second phase" of the women's movement came along some 15 or 20 years ago, a new kind of women's publication shook those woman-made millionaires in their corporate chairs. *Ms.* magazine has become the most successful of these, transforming Gloria Steinem from an investigative reporter in the house of Hugh Hefner to editor and symbol. *Ms.*' poorer cousins were drowned in the wake of their rigid politics, while some survived by cultivating a more exclusive audience—lesbians. *The Ladder* and *Off Our Backs* come to mind. These magazines were still essentially political in nature, but recently there has been across the land a new kind of lesbian publication, the "lifestyle" magazine.

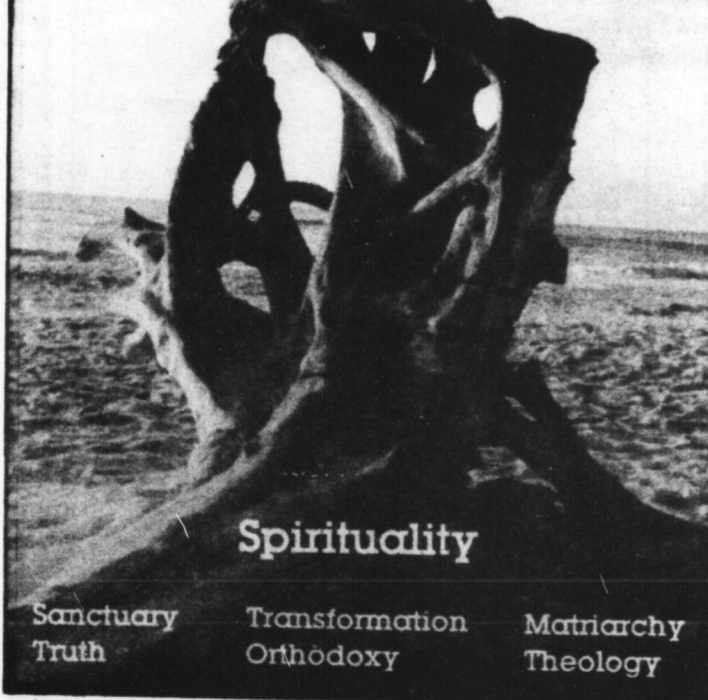
Bridges is a local effort out of Oakland, "bringing you news and feature articles about lesbians making exciting strides in our local and national communities, and ongoing columns geared toward your needs and interests." Laurie McBride of the Golden Gate Business Association can be read on its pages, and regular columns on "Investment" and "Entrepreneur Profile" appear.

A recent edition of the quarterly magazine included an interview with psychotherapist Marjory Hall (*The Lavender Couch*) on "Coming Out in the Corporate World" and a conversation with Nancy Manahan, co-

I KNOW YOU KNOW

lesbian views & news

An International Monthly Magazine April/May 1985 \$3.50



editor of *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*. There is also an article about lovers in business together called "Get It In Writing" and one called "In Pursuit of Downward Mobility" which begins, "Even the most stalwart among us wax weary when we glance back at the mine fields circumented on our paths to business and professional success." One called "Streetwise Safety Strategies" begins, "We as professional women, lead busy lives." You get the picture.

There is a similar publication out of Indianapolis called *I Know You Know* that touts itself as "one of the nation's only four color, semi-gloss finish maga-

and *Business*," "Women's Culture," "Lesbian Politics," "Women and Children," "Single Lesbians," "Women in Music," "Resorts and Vacation Spots for Women," and "International Lesbians."

In a recent issue of the monthly magazine a letter to the editor summed up one of the dilemmas of the gay publishing world. "I'm so tired of seeing gay, male tabloids laying around. With the onset of *IKYK* I can toss them and await with much anticipation your new endeavor." *The Advocate*, the *Bay Area Reporter*, and *The Sentinel* are only a few of the gay publications geared primarily towards men. It takes a lot of money to publish a newspaper or a magazine, something lesbians have traditionally been short of. *Coming Up!* is the only gay newspaper I've ever read that even comes close to eliminating a gay-male bias, which can be attested to by its richly diverse classified advertising section. There's nothing like seeing an ad which reads, "Hung Straight Dude Digs Head" to make a lesbian throw a "gay" newspaper down in despair.

There are also three relatively new specialty magazines out with a "lesbian lifestyle" thrust: *Hot Wire*, which concentrates on the women's music industry; *Radiance*, for large women; and the by-now infamous *On Our Backs*, "entertainment for the adventurous lesbian."

Hot Wire is a quarterly black and white publication that not only highlights women musicians, but offers advice to those

(Continued on next page)

STAGE



Justin Whalin (l.) as the Little Prince with James Tyrone-Wallace II as the Fox

'Little Prince' Revisited

by Bernard Spunberg

Rumor has it that the man who first played the Aviator in the local production of *The Little Prince*, now onstage at the Victoria Theater, once studied acting with that ever-popular teacher, Stiffes A. Bohrd. David Zucker, who has replaced the original actor and also adapted the script from Antoine de Saint Exupery's classic novel and directed the show, is more than flexible enough. With his boyish yet manly charm and demeanor, Zucker is right next door to magical—and that's just the problem with the whole production. It's almost wonderful, but not quite.

The Little Prince exposes the illusory nature of the material world while underlining love as the fabric that makes life meaningful and holds the universe

together. The elegantly spare sets and costumes by Pierre Vuilleumier and Lynn Hoffman appropriately echo Saint Exupery's original drawings. All the roles, especially the Little Prince as played by Kris Lefan and James Tyrone-Wallace II as the Fox, are beautifully played. So what's the problem?

Words, words, words—the script simply overflows with them. Ideas and events that should be crystal clear are submerged in a verbal flood. Zucker's adaptation, respectful and sincere though it is, is more of a staged reading of the book than a dramatization. It's not bad. In fact, because of the wonderful cast, some passages take wing. But except for those few passages, this *Little Prince* is earthbound.

D. Gregory

Rags

(Continued from previous page)

new in the business. A recent issue contained a feature on women duos, including Musica Femina, Diane Lindsay and Sue Fink, June and Jean Millington, Deuce, Casselbury and DuPree, and June Jordan and Adrienne B. Tori. It also had an article called "What's Promotion Got To Do With It?" a report on the Seventh Women's Jazz Festival, a piece commemorating the tenth anniversary of WomanSound, and one on Elizabeth Cotten, who won a Grammy at age 93. Regular columns appear called "Noteworthy Women," "On Stage and Off," "Behind the Scenes," and "Steppin' Out."

'On Our Backs' seems quite popular with the ladies.'

Radiance is a locally published quarterly with articles to boost the self esteem of large women and offering gentle encouragement to get out and about. It takes as its mantle the conviction that being fat is not necessarily unhealthy, and raises consciousness for the fledgling fat-is-beautiful belief system. If all large women took this magazine to heart, Richard Simmons would be out of business.

On Our Backs has been around for more than a year now, and seems to be quite popular with the ladies. It has evolved from an adventurous experiment in '80s butch-fem sensibility to a slick, professional publication with much-needed advice, book and movie reviews, and those wonderfully titillating short stories and photographs. Whether you prefer that sort of thing or not, it looks like *OOB* is here to stay. Let's hope the other lesbian "lifestyle" magazines are as well.

MUSIC

Tutus-R-Us

by Bernard Spunberg

Pirouetting, leaping, swooping, and above all waltzing throngs made history at the world's first Dance-Along *Nutcracker Suite*, presented Dec. 22 at the Gift Center Pavilion by the San Francisco Band Foundation. Though the audience was invited to dance to the "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" and the "Waltz of the Flowers," and had barely warmed up before it was time to sit down, the dance-along idea is clearly one whose time has come. Done up in tutus rented from the Tutus-R-Us booth, Adidas sneakers, and other assorted drag, those brave souls who danced to the Sugar Plum Fairy's music may have been a little short on airy grace, but their enthusiasm was an inspiration. When the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band struck up the "Waltz of the Flowers," the floor gradually filled to overflowing with euphoric dancers. And they weren't all gay, either. There were lots of straight couples, men with matronly ladies and little girls, and every other conceivable human combination. Judging by the ecstatic grins, they could have danced all night.

Led by Assistant Conductor Jay Kast during Music Director Lesesne Van Antwerp's illness,

the Band opened the concert with Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "A Christmas Festival," and Victor Herbert's "March of the Toys." The performances were adequate. Conductor Kast excelled at the tricky passages connecting the big tunes of the "Festival," but pitch and balance problems prevented the Band from playing its snappy, full-bodied best. Pamela Brooks sang "O Holy Night" in grandly operatic style, and the SF Flag Corps performed a nice semaphoric routine during the Herbert piece. Given the party atmosphere of the concert, Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music* was incongruously solemn and austere, though it was enlivened by a sizzling finale and beautiful oboe solos played with enormous, rich tone.

Wayne Lowe's *Christmas at Court* has sweep and color reminiscent of Korngold and Rimsky-Korsakov. The large-scale piece is a valuable addition to the Band's seasonal repertoire. Love's own ensemble, City Swing, performed a set ideal for the audience's party-making mood. "Jumpin' at the Woodside" and "Santa Claus is Com-

(Continued on page 26)

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Between the Weird and the Wonderful



The challenge in being a drag queen, says Boy George, lies in finding the correct balance between weird and wonderful. Mankind's age-old interest in drag may lie in the ability it presents of witnessing this strange balancing point between the sexes. Biblical mythology does tell us that woman came from—out of—man. Perhaps our fascination with transvestism comes from our unconscious desire to be whole again.

Although it's hard to find documentation, drag was a

popular and acceptable entertainment form in America for many years. In the early part of this century, no show or revue was complete without a drag act. Even the Ziegfeld Follies had its Queen. These queens—Francis Renault, Du Nord, Karyl Norman—even had their female counterparts, with Vesta Tilley and Kitty Donner masquerading as top-hatted men. Among other causes, world wars, and an anti-homosexual campaign led by the show business bible *Variety* cleared transvestites from all "respectable" stages by the

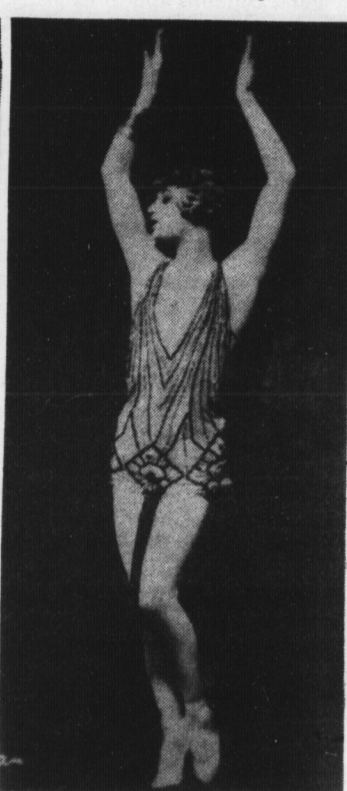
late '30s. Although Uncle Miltie brought drag to television in the early '50s, it wasn't until the last several years that drag once again became a viable performance art. Here's a brief introduction to several of the most popular American drag queens, and a look at contemporary drag on stage and off. In drag we confront our sexual values more abruptly than in any other art form, and that's weird. And when performers cast their illusions, it's wonderful. ■

JOHN F. KARR



Today only old-timers recall Julian Eltinge, but he was the most famous impersonator of them all. He headlined in countless plays, musicals, and silent films, always appearing as both a woman and a man, to heighten the effect of his beauty in drag. In gratitude for his great success, Eltinge's manager built a theater in his name, which stands today as the Empire movie house on 42nd Street.

Eltinge was a dry goods salesman who visualized the big money he could make as an impersonator while playing the heroine in an amateur theater group. His vision was capped by a European tour and command performance for Edward VII at Windsor Castle. His most famous routine was a bathing beauty scene in which he had six different bathing suits. He worked hard, developing an extensive knowledge of fabric, color, poise, and dress, and learning make-up from Lillian Russell to make his impersonations as beautiful and tasteful as possible. Such work paid off, for women adored his style. Still, he stressed his masculinity in an aggressive and dislikable manner offstage, as if he had something to prove. His name was never tied, however, to either scandal or a lover, male or female. He lived with his mother for years, and died alone after an unsuccessful comeback in 1941. Famed for his good taste and beauty, Eltinge created the initial sensation for impersonation, and his influence didn't fade until World War Two. Here (l.) he plays a fainting customer to Mary Pickford's (r.) bank robber.



No tribute would be complete without Barbette, the American vaudevillian who became the toast of Paris, and the basis for Julie Andrews' "Viktor," not as a singer, but as an aerialist. You say you've always wanted to be a transvestite trapeze artist? Sorry—it's already been done! Barbette was coaxed into drag by a wire-walking friend who claimed audiences were more impressed by female artists than male, and audiences did love the finale of Barbette's act, when he slid down a chute from his trapeze to the floor and pulled off his wig with a flourish. Barbette was Coteau's muse in the film, *Blood of the Poet*, flew over Durante's head in *Jumbo* while the Schnozz sang "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World," and then worked backstage in Hollywood when his performing career was ended by pneumonia. Barbette is the only female impersonator to have been the subject of a *New Yorker* magazine profile.



Quite the opposite of the softly feminine Julian Eltinge was Bert Savoy, who played with his partner/straight man as Savoy and Brennan. Perhaps it was Savoy's flamboyant, bawdy, and leering manner that allowed him to be a star in his own right, when other drags of the day appeared to be Eltinge-imitators. Savoy was a camp, calling everyone "she," and dishing the dirt. It is claimed that Mae West "borrowed" not only her famous walk from Bert Savoy, but also her insinuating manner of speaking and her catch phrase, a variant of Savoy's "You musst come over." Savoy and Brennan headlined the Palace, and starred in several editions of John Murray Anderson's Greenwich Village Follies. In the middle of his third starring season, while walking on Long Island, Savoy was struck by lightning and killed. An unverifiable legend has it that Mr. Savoy's last words were a riposte to the thunder which preceded the fateful lightning. In his outrageous thoney, this was 1923! stage manner, Bert supposedly said, "Mercy, ain't Miss God cutting up something awful!"



The drag tradition has flourished without interruption in England, to the extent that drag troupes were sent to entertain Her Majesty's enlisted men during World War Two, and drag headliners booked theaters in the West End. English impersonators, therefore, have a performing history and a sense of continuity, which are celebrated from the war years to the present in a marvelous biographical anthology called *Men in Frock* (Gay Men's Press, \$9.95). The text is cumbersome in its sociological meanderings, but the greater portion of the book is given over to wonderful photographs of The Queens themselves and their accompanying first-person stories. These monologues and interviews are priceless. And what a bunch these queens are, too, from the '40s girls to the Rad Drags, from Coral Reef and Foofoo Lammar to Bloodlips. Boy George and a butch queen like Neil Bartlett, whose black leather frock, black stiletto heels, and exposed tit wreak erotic havoc. Boy George explains how he made his transvestism acceptable by wearing robes instead of frocks, and using a man's name. "There has to be an obvious show of seriousness if you intend to confront a basically conformist society with your extravagance," he says. He then claims he is not a transvestite because he doesn't wear women's undergarments. He must have changed either his rhetoric or his panties when he accepted his Grammy on television and congratulated Americans "for knowing a good drag queen when they see one." With its 40-year overview, excellent photos, first person stories, and attention to the contemporary look in drag, *Men in Frock* is the current last word for queens.



That the drag performing tradition is enjoying a renaissance after years of disrepute cannot be contested. By this time most of the civilized world has seen *Greater Tuna*, in which the entire population of a small Texas town—both the men and the women—are played by two male actors. This drag is not so much a gimmick as a tool for re-iterating the universality of these people, for focusing on the elements which unify all of us, male or female. The performances being given at the Alcazar Theatre by Larry Rudolph and Trip Plymale demonstrate the Eltinge/Savoy differences of approach. Rudolph, quiet and understated, gives comedy offering immediate, and hysterical, payoff. Together, especially in a hitch fight over an embalmed body at a funeral, they are a perfect picture of that combination and unification of male and female, of weird and wonderful, that keeps drag an enduring, endearing—and important—fascination.

STEVE WARREN

It Was a Very Gay Year!

We may look back on 1985 as the year the movies finally started dealing with gay characters and situations on a regular basis. Then again, it may prove to be another fluke year like 1970 and 1982 which, by coincidence or design, represent the crests of previous waves of gay-themed mainstream films.

The *Killing of Sister George* and *Midnight Cowboy* came out in 1969, *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *Fortune and Men's Eyes* in 1971; but 1970 gave us, among others, *Something for Everyone*, *Performance*, *Fellini Satyricon*, *The Christine Jorgensen Story*, *Dorian Gray*, *Myra Breckinridge*, *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, *The Damned*, *There Was a Crooked Man*, *Tell Me That You Love Me*, *Junie Moon*, *Trash*, and at least three lesbian vampire flicks.

Through the '70s you could count almost any year's films with significant gay content on the fingers of one hand. There was a mostly negative mini-wave—*Cruising*, *Windows*, *American Gigolo*, and the positive *Fame*—in 1980, followed by 1982's "second wave" which included *Making Love*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Personal Best*, *Partners*, *Deathtrap*, and *Come Back to the 5 and Dime Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*. That was also the year that yielded three transvestites (only one of them gay) and a transsexual among Oscar-nominated performances: Julie Andrews and Robert Preston in *Victor/Victoria*, Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie*, and John Lithgow in *The World According to Garp*.

At last gay men and lesbians are joining the ranks of society's marginals—alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes, and the mentally ill—who provide juicy acting opportunities. Whoopi Goldberg and William Hurt have already been honored for their performances in *The Color Purple* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, respectively, and more awards will be coming their way.

Those films, two of 1985's best, are a good starting point for our survey, which doesn't pretend to be comprehensive due to limitations of both space and memory. Some members of the gay community have criticized both *Kiss* and *Color* for reasons which

may be valid but overlook the films' overall excellence and ultimately positive gay portrayals. Yes, the lesbian aspect of *The Color Purple* is downplayed from what it was in Alice Walker's wonderful novel, but there is no hiding the fact that Celie's (Goldberg) love for Shug Avery (Margaret Avery) is the turning point that sets her on the road to learning to love herself.

Molina (Hurt) in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is the sort of old-style flamboyant queen a generation of clones and new wavers likes to pretend no longer exists. But they do. Blanche. Like Celie, Molina suffers from poor self-image at the outset, and again love is the catalyst—in this case love for his cellmate, Valentin (Raúl Julia)—that turns him around. In a sense both films tell the same story.

THE 'ART' OF BEING GAY

Those two were the tip of a very large iceberg that found gays turning up everywhere, in both American and foreign films.

Until *The Color Purple*, if the central character was gay you could be pretty sure you were watching an "art" film. Two 1985 examples were *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters* and *Colonel Redl*, both based on true stories. That Yukio Mishima (Ken Ogata) did not emerge on screen as a full-fledged faggot was due less to the timidity of director Paul Schrader than to restrictions placed on him by Mishima's widow. We were left to figure it out from hints in dramatizations of the author's works and a scene in which young Yukio masturbates to a picture of the martyred Saint Sebastian; but his heterosexual marriage received even less screen time.

Despite marrying a woman for career reasons, Col. Redl's (Klaus Maria Brandauer) homosexuality was no secret, at least from the audience. The only gay affair he had in the film proved his undoing. Both Redl and Mishima's lives ended in suicide.

Mass Appeal featured Zjelko Ivanek as a Catholic seminarian expelled for admitting his bisexual past. *A Chorus Line* put more emphasis than the stage version on the heterosexual love story between Zach and Cassie, but retained the gay characters of Paul (Cameron English), Greg (Justin Ross), and Bobby (Matt West).



William Hurt in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*—some love it, some wish it was never made

In *Clue* one of the six suspects, Mr. Green (Michael McKean), was gay. Andy Griffith played a gay cattle baron, the villain in *Rustler's Rhapsody*.

Gays provided atmosphere for a leather bar scene in *The Heavenly Kid* and were a major part of the Soho milieu in *After Hours*, where Griffin Dunne even asked a gay man (Robert Plunket) to take him home when he was desperate for a place to crash.

Near the end of *Spies Like Us*, when nuclear annihilation seemed imminent, the eight people at a remote outpost—including two gay men—paired off and went to their tents for a final fuck. *King David* was less than explicit about the nature of the "friendship" between David (Richard Gere) and Jonathan, but at least their love was suggested. At a drag dance in *The Coca-Cola Kid*, only one of the transvestites was shown to be gay.

Gay vampires are nothing new, but *Once Bitten* featured Cleavon Little as a vampire's gay valet, along with a lot of negative or stereotypical gay humor. *Fright Night* merely implied a relationship between vampire Chris Sarandon and his "live-in carpenter" (Jonathan Stark), but let Roddy McDowall camp it up as a ham actor. The year's camp crown, however—or at least a queen-size tiara—went to *Lust in the Dust*, with Divine and Laine Kazan fighting over Tab Hunter and other hidden treasures.

From Canada, Daniel Petrie's sensitive *The Bay Boy* featured a repressed gay priest making an incomplete pass at teenaged protagonist Kiefer Sutherland. Ted Kotcheff's *Joshua Then and Now* was built around a false gay alarm, a newspaper expose that said Joshua (James Woods) was gay—but he wasn't.

Spain gave us *What Have I Done to Deserve This?*, a delightful black comedy by gay director Pedro Almodovar which featured a gay 12-year-old who was not only accepted by his family but sold by them into adoption by a gay dentist. Israel's Academy Award nominee *Beyond the Walls* featured the usual prison movie gay clichés, a gang-bang and a flaming queen.

UNEQUAL TIME FOR LESBIANS

Australia sent us Paul Cox's *Man of Flowers*, one of the year's few films with lesbian characters, one of whom heroine Alyson Best moved in with when she got tired of her boyfriend's macho bullshit. Joyce Hyser did not play a lesbian in *Just One of the Guys*, but she spent most of the picture in male drag, making some of the same points as *Tootsie* for a younger audience. Despite the

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BOOK RACK

Nothing Like an Editrix

by Mark I. Chester

I am different. No doubt about it. Most women work under men. Most of my life I have worked for female superiors. But it was not until I started writing for the *Bay Area Reporter* that I acquired an editrix. For those who don't understand, an editrix is a dominant female editor. Just last week it seems I was reading articles about the coming of 1984. And now it's 1985, past Halloween, past Thanksgiving, past Winter Solstice, and my editrix hands me a slender book/pamphlet called *Halloween Night in Greenwich Village*. "They are desperate for publicity," she smiles. Uh-Oh! And I've been trying to be so nice.

Don Rodrigues, a freelance graphic artist, is the driving force behind this 18-page, glossy stock "artistic, collectible project," to use Rodrigues' words. And while the idea is interesting, Rodrigues, who is responsible for the photography, design, editing, and production, has a long way to go before this project would become irresistible at \$10 a crack. And besides, a number of years ago a wonderful book of photographs was published on the Castro Street Halloween spectacle.

Rodrigues puts forth a melange: text about Halloween's pagan beginnings and its evolution up to the present day, line drawings based on medieval drawings, and street photographs of Greenwich Village's Halloween parade. All mixed together the reader is supposed to see the connections between the

past and the present, the uneasy stance of an organized church religion that desperately tried to suppress native rituals and how those energies express themselves today.

Most of the problems with this personal project lay squarely on Rodrigues' shoulders. His design is confused with multiple images and lengthy captions under the photographs that encourage the reader to stop reading Alexandra Duval-Smith's text mid-sen-

'Maybe I want too much.'

tence. Without a smooth, consciously directed eye flow, reading *Halloween* is like boating on choppy seas. And why use adaptations of original medieval drawings? Why not use the originals? And why does Rodrigues spice the book with photographs of New York church spires? It carries the church connection too far.

But Rodrigues is most defeated by his own photography. He captures pictures of individuals wearing costumes, but his photographs lack the snap, fire, and life of good photography. There is no sense of the crowd as a whole; its flow, movement, and passion. Good street

photography? Check out Henri-Cartier Bresson or Woodstock, NY photographer Charles Gatewood or Rink's photographs at Sweet Inspiration.

Duval-Smith's text is intelligible, although unintentionally hilarious at points. She identifies a cadre of Groucho Marx bespeckled nuns with large noses and bushy eyebrows and moustaches as the "famous Sisters of Eternal Indulgence." She further claims that they keep wooden rulers under their habits, with which to administer justice. Now, the Sisters have been known to administer justice with what is hidden under their habits, but if Duval-Smith thinks those are rulers in their pockets, she doesn't know gay men.

Furthermore, the gay presence in the photographs is undeniable and yet the closest to the word "gay" that Duval-Smith gets is to say "sexually different." Maybe I want too much. Or maybe Rodrigues is trying to avoid being sued by someone in the photographs who would consider themselves to be libeled.

If you are interested you can receive *Halloween* by sending a check or money order for \$10 to: Don Rodrigues, P.O. Box 84, NYC, NY 11363. And Don, next time you want to put out your own book, I strongly suggest you find yourself an editrix. Believe me, she will make herself felt. ■



A living doll in *Halloween Night in Greenwich Village*

Poseurs

FILM

Cinematloha From Hawaii

by Steve Warren

The token gay presence at the fifth annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) was small—2 1/2—but infinitely larger than it's been in the festival's previous years.

There were Robert Epstein, Academy Award-winning director of *The Times of Harvey Milk*, and Steve Warren, syndicated entertainment feature writer. The "half" was Rob's lover, John Wright of Frameline (San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival), who was there in an unofficial capacity, more of a second honeymoon.

"The festival has been wonderful to us!" Epstein said. He was disappointed by the low turnout for a morning screening of his film, but reported better attendance at an evening show despite television and theatrical showings a few weeks previously.

A number of features in the 1985 festival had themes of culture clash. The best of these, *The Great Wall Is a Great Wall*, is about a Chinese man going home for a visit after 30 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He brings along his Chinese-American wife and son, neither of whom speaks Chinese. Made by Peter Wang, who also stars, the film will have its official U.S. premiere in New York in March and will probably be in the San Francisco International Film Festival that month.

In *Homecoming* a woman travels the relatively short distance from Hong Kong to the Chinese mainland, but the cultural differences are almost as extreme.

Yellow River, set in 1937, has a man from the South of China bringing enlightenment (and feminism) to the more backward North.

In *The Funeral*, a wonderful black comedy from Japan, the passing of tradition is indirectly mourned as the bereaved have to watch a video to learn how to behave.

Lest you think the news was all good, one of the worst movies I saw all year was *Merika* from the Philippines. The heroine, miscalculation Nora Aunor, is a Filipina immigrant unhappy in New York. Typical of the sloppy direction is an unintentionally hilarious love scene. While Nora and her boyfriend are going at it on the couch the camera turns discreetly away, pans slowly around the room and comes to rest on the television screen in which are reflected the "passionate" pair, sitting there bored as they wait for the scene to end.

Aside from *The Times of Harvey Milk* and a retrospective of classic World War II films, most of the features and documentaries were Hawaii premieres, although many—e.g., *The Home and the World*, *Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart*, *Where the Green Ants Dream*, *MacArthur's Children*, and *Family Game*—have played in several mainland cities. Next year they hope to show every film ever made dealing with the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Rob Epstein attended more seminars—he was on panels at some of them—and fewer screenings than I did. In addition to a number of fellow filmmakers, he reports, he got to meet Rusty Mason, the woman Cher portrayed in *Mask*.

Back in San Francisco Epstein has resumed work on a 60-minute telefilm with the working title of *The AIDS Show Documentary*, an onstage and backstage look at the landmark Theatre Rhinoceros revue *The AIDS*



Rob Epstein (Photo: Rink)

Show.

The new effort is a co-production—"really a 50-50 partnership," Epstein says—between Peter Adair (*Word Is Out*) and himself. "We're both doing everything, co-producing and co-directing."

Like the show it documents, the film is intended "to educate and empower audiences" about AIDS. It's been shot on videotape for television and community showings, Epstein says, but may also be transferred to film if there's a demand from the festival circuit.

About half of the \$100,000 budget has been raised at this writing. Tax deductible contributions are being accepted at: Film Arts Foundation/AIDS Show, c/o Adair Films/Epstein Productions, 2051 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107.

Has winning an Oscar helped the fundraising effort? "It's made it easier," Rob says, "but it never feels any easier when you're doing it." He doesn't think they could have raised \$50,000 in six months otherwise.

People outside of the industry will think this is a joke, but Epstein says the most tangible difference the Academy Award has made in his life is that "People return my phone calls." ■

TALES OF TESSI TURA

For the Sheer Fun of It

GEORGE HEYMONT

Last summer, while I was touring Australia, one of my hosts kept inquiring about those things which "turn me on." I soon found myself in the peculiar position of having to explain to him that I am one of the very fortunate few whose pleasure is his work and whose work is his pleasure. This being the start of a new year and, therefore, a good opportunity to assess one's past progress, I think it is important to reflect back on some of the most crucial reasons why people attend live performances. They go to be entertained. They go to be provoked. They go to be profoundly moved and, whenever possible, to enjoy themselves as well.

I stress this because, after nine years of reviewing opera for the *Bay Area Reporter* and writing about the arts for a wide variety

prevents a reviewer from leaving the theater before the show has ended. But there are many evenings in which the ecstasy becomes so great, the level of enjoyment so grand, and the feeling of satisfaction so sublime you want to get down on your knees and thank Providence for having been kind. Two of last fall's performances stand out in this respect. Let me explain why.

LOOKING AHEAD

While the public fawned all over the established stars in the international cast of San Francisco Opera's *Falstaff*, the hard truth is that the second cast did a much better job with the music.

'While the public fawned all over the established stars in the international cast of San Francisco Opera's *Falstaff*, the hard truth is that the second cast did a much better job with the music.'

of publications, I have met many critics who no longer enjoy the ritual of attending live performances. Some fall into the category of people who aspired to performing careers but couldn't hack the pressures of the musical meat market. Others, who have been hit with a bad case of professional burnout, now find themselves trapped in stifling jobs with nowhere else to go. For many of them a concert, opera, ballet, or drama presents little more than a professional obligation. Nothing onstage could ever be good enough to make these people happy.

Now, it's true. There are some nights when attending a bad performance becomes a painful reminder that the reason you're sitting in a theater is because you're working. And on those unhappy occasions, a sense of professional responsibility often

comic opera. The use of English-language Supertitles helped transform their rendition of *Falstaff* into a romp and frolic through historic England, thus reminding the audience that this opera is based on the scheming pranks performed by those very merry wives of Windsor.

Although Richard Pendergraph started out slowly in the title role, he used his height and dramatic skills to great advantage throughout the evening. Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajic was phenomenal as Mistress Quickly; Kathryn Cowdrick a delight as Meg Page. While Nikki Li Hartliep's talent has not always grabbed me, she was one hell of an improvement over Pilar Lorengar's Alice Ford. As her daughter, Nanetta, Li-Chan Chen's singing was pure gossamer.



Tiny little Sasha Radetsky joins in the fun as Li-Chan Chen, Nikki Li Hartliep, Kathryn Cowdrick, and Dolora Zajic plot their revenge on the fat knight in Verdi's *Falstaff*.

Three performances by the men in the cast stood out. David Malis' Ford was a magnificent achievement from a young baritone who consistently impresses me with the refinement of his craft. Tiny Sasha Radetsky almost stole the show as Falstaff's young page, Robin. James Schwisow's Fenton was both vocally and visually ravishing. I mean, how often does one encounter a tenor who not only sings well, but has such lickably likable buns?

DIVA IS AS DIVA DOES

While many are quick to mourn the diminishing ranks of operatic divas, I think it's time to pay tribute to a performer whose repertoire, although not operatic, certainly encompasses an operatic breadth and scope. You'll probably never hear this artist sing Cio-Cio-San, Isolde, Carmen, or Brunnehilde. Similarly, I doubt this person's vocal cords could handle the fierce demands of Norma, Aida, Abigaille, or Violetta. However, you can rest assured that this entertainer is as mad as Lucia, as sinful as Dalila, as clever as Rosina, and as funny as Anna Russell. With a repertoire that includes such camp heroines as Mae West, Joan Collins, Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Tallulah Bankhead, Carol Channing, Marlene Diet-

rich, Joan Crawford, Norma Desmond, Maria Montez, and Eleanor Roosevelt, I'm referring to none other than the immortal Charles Pierce.

What is Pierce doing in an opera review? Taking his place among those other great artists who have helped me to conquer moments of intense grief. Last

'What is (Charles) Pierce doing in an opera review?'

fall, at the Castro Street Fair, I bumped into my former workout buddy from the City Athletic Club, Doug Vogel. A man who had always prided himself on his huge tits and ruddy complexion, Doug, who was barely 30 years old at the time, appeared to have suddenly lost 25 pounds that he may have wanted to lose but certainly did not need to. Although he looked hotter and more muscular than ever, Doug also had that sucked-out appearance which is an indication that a person may be suffering from an AIDS-related condition. He waved cheerily and disappeared

into the crowd. A month later, on the night I was scheduled to attend Charles Pierce's show, I read Doug's obituary in this newspaper.

That night, over dinner with my friend Rick, I discussed what Doug's death signified to us. A well-heeled yuppie who has been in a monogamous relationship for many years, Rick confessed he now feels forced to live for the present since he no longer finds himself believing he will live to a ripe old age. As we headed for the Marines Memorial Theatre neither one of us was in a toe-tapping mood.

An hour later, however, I was choking with laughter; tears streamed down my face as Charles Pierce, in one guise or another, relentlessly savaged my funny bone. Although he could not possibly have known what was on my mind that night, his devilish wit triggered the catharsis which allowed me to walk out of the theater with a smile on my face. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to both thank and salute an extraordinarily talented performer for his ability to lift me out of my despair with his humor. To my mind, that is the mark of a truly great artist. Charles Pierce is not just a diva in my book, he is an entertainer who never fails to remind me why I enjoy live theater so very much. ■

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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

New Years Wishes For . . .

Commissioner Rick Brattin: A year better than last with no rain-outs.

Assistant Commissioner Francis Medeiros: Time off from his full-time job so things will get done in the Gay Softball League.

Treasurer Jim Schneck: Time to make night deposits after league functions.

Secretary Steve Pratt: To fulfill

John White: See Mark Souza.
Bill Pielock: Toys and boys.
Our Sponsors: Banner years.
Becky: No operations.
Phred McKenzie: Three outfields.

Della: Someone, anyone!
Bob Dozza: See Della.
Bernard Turner: Driving lessons.

'Bernard Turner: Driving Lessons.'

his promise to keep us better informed.

John Larisa: A sponsor for consecutive years.

John David: Another year of softball.

Larry Noack: His family moves to Daly City.

Joe Lucinski: Boxing gloves.

Carl Heimann: To give something other than good insurance.

Chuck Smith: Less travel and a winning season.

Claire Monfort: Another trip to the series with the same great team.

Cheryl Rosenthal: See Claire Monfort.

Hal Herkenhoff: A big splash at Gay Games II.

Mark Souza: Less weight.

Donna Jane Fonda: A team that uses her talents.

Les Balmain: A fabulous '40s Gay Tennis Federation.

Terry Brooks: A team he can be starting pitcher for (753-0740).

Michael Bulawit: Everyone to show up for every game.

Mike Haggert: Stay away from railroad crossings, especially in Hawaii.

Shawn, Sara, and Tom: A successful Gay Games II.

Allen White: More of the same hard work.

Steve Sternfeld: To tell other coaches "no."

Cha Cha: A nice retirement.

To everyone: A safe, happy, and healthy new year.

Music

(Continued from page 21)

ing to Town" were played in sophisticated, professional big band style, and Love himself warbled "Any Thing Goes" with a suave Rudy Vallee touch. Gail

'Perhaps they can be persuaded to put together a "Springtime in Vienna" ball.'

Wilson sang "The Christmas Song" with sincerity that contrasted sharply with her wonderfully rude, sleazy interpretation of "Santa Baby."

B. Spunberg

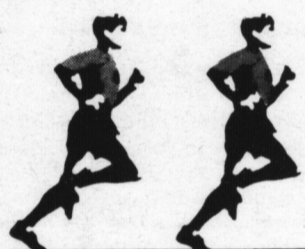
GayWHO GayWHAT GayWHERE GayWHEN GayWHY

Run for Research

Sunday May 4, 1986 is the date for The Golden Gate 10k Run for Research, sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Entry fees are \$12 before April 20 and \$15 after.

The first event will be a 10k (6.2 mile) foot race to begin at 8 a.m. at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Drive and Tea Garden Drive. The second event will be a 3.5k (2.1 mile) "fun run" which will begin at 9:15 a.m., or whenever the 10k race concludes. It will begin at the same intersection as the 10k run. Ceremonies for the winner of both events will be held in the band shell of the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park at 10:15 a.m. In addition, guest speakers will talk about AIDS and conclude by 11:30 a.m.

Early registration for the event will begin at 7 a.m. in front of the band shell the day of the race. For more information call H. Randall Hayes at 948-1420.



National Tournament

The San Diego Tennis Federation, San Diego's gay and lesbian tennis organization, has announced that entry forms are available for its Open Tennis Championships to be held Feb. 15, 16 and 17, President's Day weekend, at the Balboa Tennis Club in San Diego.

Top-ranked players from across the nation are expected to take advantage of San Diego's excellent weather and participate in the tournament. San Diego's

Screening

(Continued from page 23)

blem turned out to be drugs. And speaking of showing signs, what can we say about Pee-wee Herman?

Of the runaways in the documentary *Streetwise*, one was an angry lesbian who counseled the younger kids. Some of the boys talked about hustling and robbing their clients. In the French thriller *Peril* Christophe Malavoy was lusted after by three women and two men.

Independent gay filmmakers got some theatrical play in 1985 with the AIDS drama *Buddies* and the documentary *Before Stonewall*. An Oscar and a new distributor earned more screen time for 1984's *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

Television scored critical and ratings successes with *Consenting Adult* and *An Early Frost* but bombed out with the series *Sara* that featured a regular gay character (Bronson Pinchot). What did they expect, putting it opposite *Dynasty*?

This list is more exhausting than exhaustive. If it's not enough for you, the next time you

event is the concluding one in a "gay grand slam" of tournaments that are held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston.

Three events are planned for San Diego's first gay tennis tournament. There are 64 openings for the men's open singles, 32 for the men's 35 and over competitions, and a consolation tournament for both divisions. There is a \$35 entry fee.

Players interested in competing should contact coordinator Pat Loo at 1102 Turquoise, San Diego, CA 92109.



The entry closing date for the tournament is Monday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. To play in the 35's division, players must be at least 34 years of age by Jan. 1, 1986. U.S.T.A. rules will govern play. All matches will be the best two out of three sets, with a 12 point tie-breaker used at 6 all.

Trophies will be awarded for first, second, and third place in both the open and the 35 and over divisions. Consolation trophies will also be awarded to the first and second place finishers in each division.

At the conclusion of the tournament on Monday, the San Diego Tennis Federation will sponsor a buffet at the Manhattan, a popular San Diego night spot, for all players, and open the doors to the public for a victory party afterwards.

Racquetball

Anyone interested in being on the San Francisco racquetball team for Gay Games II in 1986 should meet at Schoeber's Club in South San Francisco, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Three challenge courts are available, \$4 per person, all welcome.

see a movie, assume all the characters whose sexuality is unspecified are gay.

Meanwhile, this latest wave of gay screen presence has been the best yet in terms of quality and quantity, positive images and audience acceptance. This may finally be the wave that doesn't wash back out to sea.

BUT IS IT ARTIE?

The Strand is having an Arthur J. Bressan, Jr. film retrospective over the next four Tuesdays, showing all eight theatrical features, porno and otherwise, the gay filmmaker has turned out in the past 11 years.

First up on Jan. 7 are two recent pornos, *Juice* and *Pleasure Beach*, creative couplings in New York and Southern California, respectively. Artie imbues his films with such rare-to-the-genre details as plots, audible dialogue, and actors who can even perform with their clothes on.

Jan. 14 brings the excellent drama *Abuse*, about a gay filmmaker's affair with an abused teenager, and *Gay USA*, a documentary about 1977's Gay Day parades.

S. Warren

Golf Added to Gay Games II

Due to world-wide interest and the efforts of local organizers, golf has been added to the roster of sports included in Gay Games II, bringing the number of sports to 18. Co-chairs for golf are currently preparing the rules and regulations for the event, and specific information will be available on request shortly from San Francisco Arts and Athletics, the umbrella organization for the games.

The final list of sports in Gay Games II includes: basketball, bowling, boxing, cycling, golf, marathon, physique, pool, powerlifting, racquetball, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, triathlon, volleyball, and wrestling.

Entry fees to Gay Games II are \$20 per sport. All inquiries may be addressed to Gay Games II, 526 Castro St., S.F., CA 94114.

Entries for the games are already being received, more than a year in advance of the event. You should enter as early as possible because some events will have a limited number of participants. Don't miss your chance to participate with thousands of gay athletes from around the world.



BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS



Thanks For The Memories

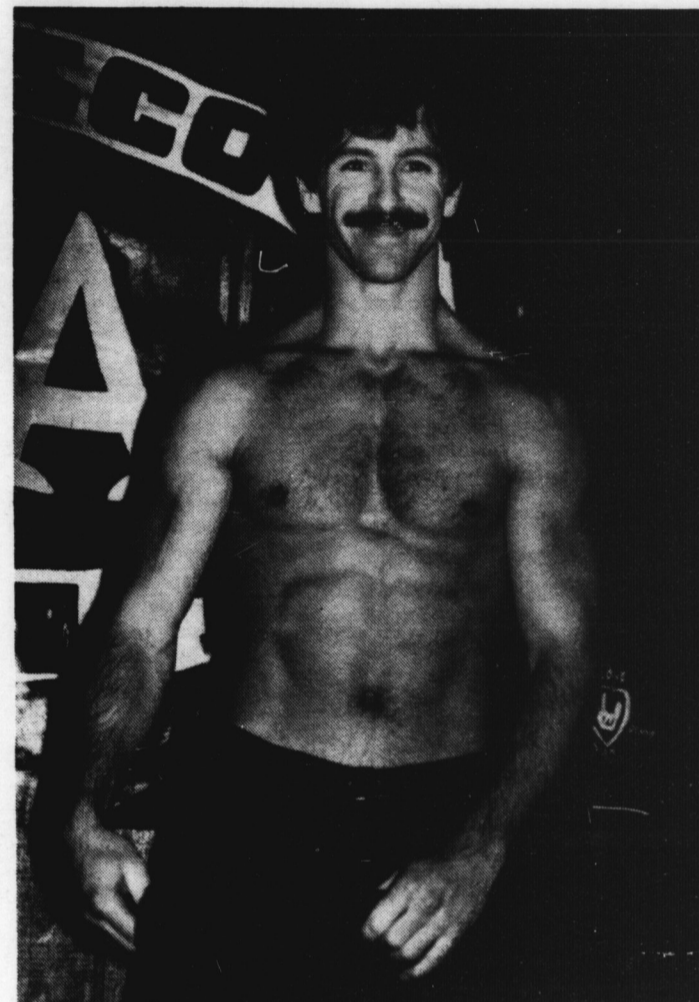
Reflecting on the past 52 weeks, the gay community of San Francisco went through a lot of trauma both good and bad. We lost many wonderful people during the year—too many to mention here. Lots of money was raised by South of Market men and their friends, most notably the SF-Eagle, Chaps, and the Brig, with all the others participating to the best of their abilities.

I want to mention as many memorable events in this annual inventory, but I just got off a jet from Omaha, Nebraska and going through 52 issues of *B.A.R.*, my appointment book, and 32 pounds of paper containing press releases, invitations, notes, and mail, both signed and anonymous, was more than I could undertake. If I leave anybody or any thing out, please know it was not intentional and all the shows, auctions, contests, fundraisers, parties, and individual endeavors were an important part of the pastiche of this wonderful city we all live, work, and vote in.

Your support of all the nickel and diming helped a whale of a lot of people in need, and if they could all thank you personally I'm sure they would; but since they cannot let me say thanks, a big thanks, to all of you who steadfastly helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for all the causes that crossed your paths. With your loyalty, love of your brothers and sisters, and your generosity there can be no other outcome but success—and we all love success. So give yourselves a big pat on the back—all of you—the entertainers, the organizers, the contributors; those of you who did the "shit" work of cleaning up afterward, and those of you who sparkled in the spotlights. It takes every one of you to pull it together, and there are so many of you who helped make it work.

I sensed, this year, with the appearance of the Pussies in Men Behind Bars, the election of leatherman Patrick Toner as co-chair of the Freedom Day Parade, the women's blood drives, and numerous other interactions, that as always in the past, our community is more united than ever in the face of the AIDS threat. On the whole, despite our many differences, it was a very productive year, and for that I thank you all, and for the many memories that were generated by your active participation.

Looking over last year's resolutions and predictions as they appeared in this column in Vol. 1, No. 1, I find: Glenn Terrio failed to make up his mind between David Saran Wrap and George Burgess, and is reputedly madly in love with a drag queen named Blair; Vern Stewart failed to get his photo in any gay publications five times or more, all this due, I'm sure, to the prayers offered up by the Rev. Chuck Terry; David



Michael Rose appears in a photo by Joe Altman on the 1986 Bare Chest calendar now available at the Eagle and other bars and shops (Photo: R. Pruzan)

"Stella" Stoll gave up his search for a roommate who wouldn't fall in love and move to L.A. Instead, he opted for just one roommate, Dear Sarah, who is like a leaky faucet—you have to live with it; Butch Freeman moved to L.A. for a six-month trial marriage which only lasted four months. He has teamed up again in L.A. with Robert Dunn, which some say is worse than any marriage imaginable; Mark Friese hasn't chaired any big events for the Tavern Guild, so wasn't disappointed in anything he did, which was plenty, with the Bar Wars benefit on Polk and becoming a very, very funny man, even when onstage with Danny Williams!

Mark "Bubbles" Abramson continued hard men who were good to find and his date book looks like the guest book sign-in at San Simeon.

The Pussies of Maud's bar did indeed "slay 'em" at Men Behind Bars, their Pussies in Pumps and their Pussies in Pajamas shows, and they'll appear in MBB in '86 much to everyone's delight; Robert Payne never got his Castro Studstore open after all in '85, and when last heard from was negotiating to sell his magazine to some hot newcomers from Chicago; meanwhile the Studstore now sells porno mags and video tapes and is doing quite well.

Kym Whittington never did find out who sabotaged Chaps' Memorial Day show in '84 and is now pushing booze at the Powerhouse, single and available now

that George moved to Florida and will appear in MBB in '86. Terry Thompson of the SF-Eagle gave Stella about 172 hours to get over being elected Mr. CMC. Carnival last year and now that his other bartender Ernie Viola took the title in '85, Ernie wants equal time to spend with Ray Herman). They say Terry will not let Stella be in MBB in February, but we'll sabotage that prohibition.

When Larry Earl, former co-owner of the Arena, vowed the '86 Bare Chest Calendar would be in color, he didn't realize it would be by the Eagle! Have you bought yours yet?

Larry "Larisse" Parsons swore he'd get on the ass of every club corresponding secretary, but obviously forgot because Al Martino, prez of the Constantines, was named Corresponding Secretary of the Year in November and it was well-deserved.

Former Emperor Rich Carle didn't do a thing about the weather and '85 was wetter than '84 ever though imaginable.

Emperor de Motorcycling Gary Kenyon met his Empress Judy just once during '85, with local wags noting the similarity to the marriage between Emperor Ken Wright and Empress Sissy; Architect Ed Schnaars finally conceded he's pussy-whipped and a few days ago moved in with Gary the Gorgeous; The Gang of Four + One didn't do much to make us all take them more seriously, but Winnie has been more pleasant in '85 than he ever

(Continued on next page)

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BOOK RACK

AIDS Panic

Stolen Moments
by John Preston
Alison Publications; \$4.95

by Paul Reed

Against a chilling backdrop of a violent anti-gay campaign in Houston, John Preston's *Stolen Moments* seems a sort of futuristic horror story about the power of the press to sensationalize AIDS panic and incite homophobia.

But not too futuristic. In fact, the story is damned uncomfortably close to reality—to a reality that could erupt just any day in any one of our major cities.

What happens is too believable. A less-than-reputable publisher of one of those sleazy tabloid newspapers in Houston conceives a plan to increase circulation by cashing in on AIDS panic. There begins a series of hideous anti-gay articles that lead, eventually, to riot in the streets in a scene that is both evocative and chilling.

Throughout this campaign, two gay avengers have happened on the scene. Alex Kane and his lover Danny Fortelli arrive in Houston to "correct" this situation, to exact revenge, and to set things right. Alex and Danny are the main characters of the ongoing series, "The Mission of Alex Kane," of which this book is the fourth installment.

This volume is perhaps the best of the series so far. Preston has toned down the gruesome

violence, made sure it is completely appropriate as revenge. And he has introduced a couple of very interesting images. In one scene, the big handsome hulk of Alex Kane is moved to tears as he berates the leader of this anti-gay hysteria. As the homophobe's blood curdles at the sight of tears "of weakness" streaming down this masculine man's face, Alex Kane comes into his full strength as a man. This is the image of a strong man made even stronger by the open shedding of tears. It's about time! Bravo, Mr. Preston, for letting us have a role model.

There is also a small lesson about how taking revenge—fighting fire with fire—is not always the best tactic. In one subplot, a woman exacts her own revenge, but her action lays the groundwork for the eruption of total chaos. What might have felt like justice on the part of righteous indignance becomes fuel for the fire. This is a point to remember—to evaluate one's actions ahead of time, to determine what is and is not appropriate as a response to heinous prejudice.

This is a great series of books, and I only hope they continue to publish several more volumes over the next few years. Not only is Preston providing us with entertaining fiction packed with a message, he is providing emotional catharsis and inspiration for all of us in confronting the craziness of homophobia and AIDS hysteria as it unfortunately continues to sweep across the land.

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

was in the preceding 20 years; Grand Duchess Vinny and I buried the hatchet for good and forgot all about burying the hatchet in anyone else after the Barbary Coasters' run; The Mouth in Exile, Gabriel Starr, dickered around in L.A. for a year, but is moving back any day now after a successful stint at the L.A. Detour Bar (they hate to see him go), so if you need a great bartender he'll be available soon; Rita Rockett worked what little buns she has to a frazzle and raised thousands for Ward 5-B and tossed out her Queen of Castro title when she won the Homecoming Queen title with Homecoming King Sonny Cline, who came to his senses and moved back here from Chicago forever; Robert Pruzana-dana still filled the pages of *B.A.R.* with photos of stunning men, had a show at the Ambush, and succeeded in everything but the battle with his landlady over his garden plot; And since David Sarathain didn't get Glenn Terrio, his aluminum wedding dress is being created in Korea by Awards by Chris and will be paid for by all his ex boyfriends. With that amount of money, why not make it platinum?

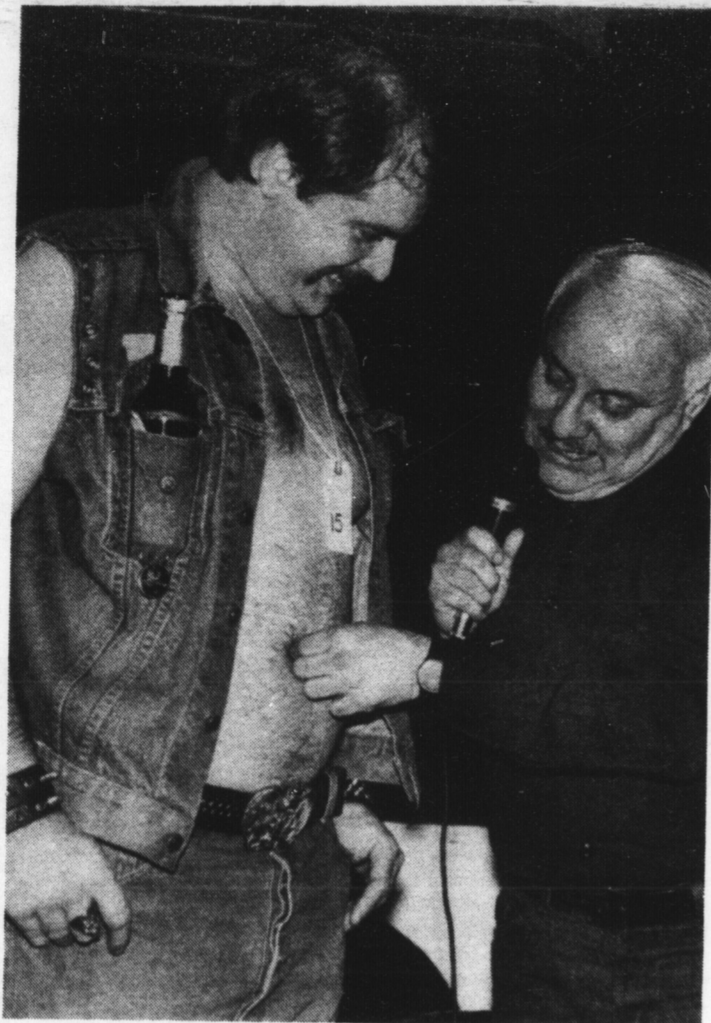
Rick Booth is still pushing the Latex fetish scene, but besides that, as a board member of the SF AIDS Fund, helped out everywhere possible.

Chuck Martin didn't team up roommate-wise with any leather title holders in '85, but instead got married, moved to Concord, and has quit Mister S to go into leather tailoring for himself; In January '85 Patrick Toner didn't know he'd win the Intl. Mr. Leather title in Chicago in May, so he gave up his First Runner-Up in Everything title and has done a terrific job to date—great going!

Red Bentzinger did indeed make many trips to Washington, D.C. to restore his sense of political "realism," and boy is he savvy now! No matter how hard he tried to eradicate the word "sisters" from Muscle System, George Ash finally gave up—we all know it's only in jest George—how's your husband?

George Burgess got himself elected chairman of the SF AIDS Fund so gave up bicycle seats and has been so busy raising money he may not even remember Glenn, bicycle seats, or the Corn Holes on Folsom—and he's doing a terrific job!

Patrick Batt of Mercury Mail Order delivered more than 10 tons of latex (dildoes) to queens in Texas and all over the country, then turned out a great video tape of cock and ball toys for novices



Mr. Marcus plugs an olive into an Ambush Beer Belly contestant's prize-winning navel (Photo: R. Pruzan)

all over the world with the brilliant videography of Chuck and Richard of Male Entertainment Network (MEN). Have you seen their tape of Halloween '85 at the Galleria and all around town? It is stunning, and oh yeah, it's on sale now.

B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross is happy his \$3 million libel insurance on one Mister Marcus will not go up this year; not one lawsuit (thanks to Dianne Gregory for editing) in '85 but lots of love and hate (but mostly love) mail in my mailbox. There's more—a lot more—but let's predict, tell resolutions, and fantasize about 1986:

Ray Herman will replace David Sarathain in the never-ending Paper Wedding Dress race! He'll also break many hearts before he realizes there's more to San Francisco than just getting laid. Would you like to swing on a "star"?

Jim Cvitanich, teamed up with Mark Abramson, is hard at work on Men Behind Bars III in February, and from what I've heard it will outdo their two previous award-winning efforts. The magical, musical, marvelous Gail Wilson will make a guest appearance this year, and the show will be fantastic! You're not supposed to know this, but

the talented Alan Greenspan is working on another hat and guess who gets to wear it? And they wouldn't let me be in the Closet Ball! Harrumppph!

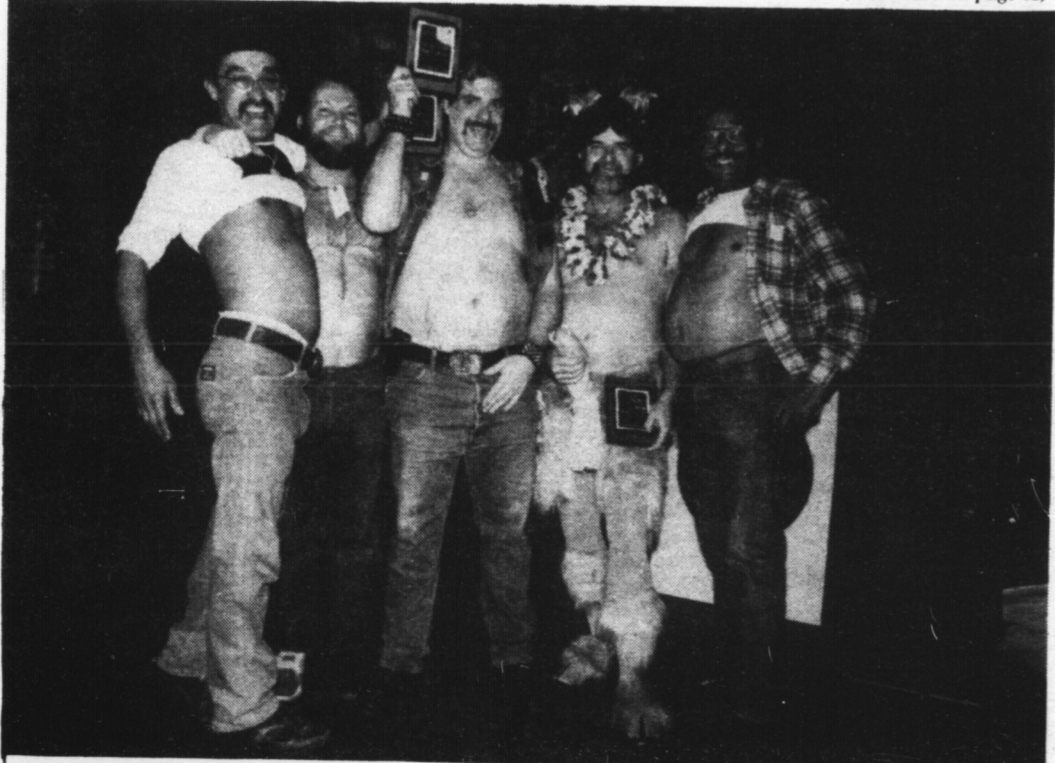
Miss Peckerhead will meet and fall in love with a real man and will change her name to Mister Peckerhead, buy leather, auction off her wigs and dresses, and run for International Mr. Leather, sponsored by an as-yet unnamed bar.

Cats will land on all its paws in San Francisco in July. The first performance will be a benefit for the gay community sponsored by the Cable Car Awards people; it will be a big fancy affair, black tie, etc., etc., so save your tokens as the ducats will not be cheap.

Motorcycle Awards by the Barbary Coasters M/C will take place in February and strong, very strong rumors are that the Los Angeles clubs will participate again this year—at least that's what they tell me in L.A., and you know those L.A. queens never, never lie.

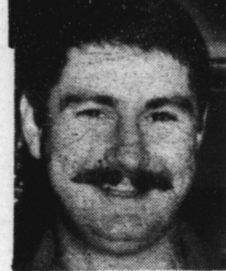
Bill McWilliams the guiding light behind those successful bars (i.e., The Boot Camp, Wild Goose, Naked Grape, City Dump, et al), is planning to return to S.F. to open another bar or two—so get set for red-hot

(Continued on page 31)



Ambush Beer Belly contest winners (l. to r.) Best Inny, Best Outy, Best in Show, Furriest, and Mr. Suds (Photo: R. Pruzan)

FRIESE FRAME



News from Long Beach

MARK FRIESE

Theories and conclusions have been made and shattered in just a few short days, in and out of the air. The first is that Alaska Airlines is never on time, the second is that PSA doesn't always have a friendly smile, and third is that I know next to nothing about assembling Voltrons, or as my nephew would put it, "The Masters of the Universe!"

Christmas was fun in So. California, although I missed Kurt and the rest of my San Francisco family. I did have a nice visit to suburbia, and the weather was warm!

revealing pictures, but fear not, because the powers that be in Portland have decided he can keep the tiara because there was no runner-up. P.S. to Lucy—I did offer you the negatives at a price.

Reba Ruth Rattlesnake's school of cooking, opened at the country estate of Roger Hall, with the first lesson being in substitutions—mainly gladiola bulbs for onions. Bet that would make a smart dip!

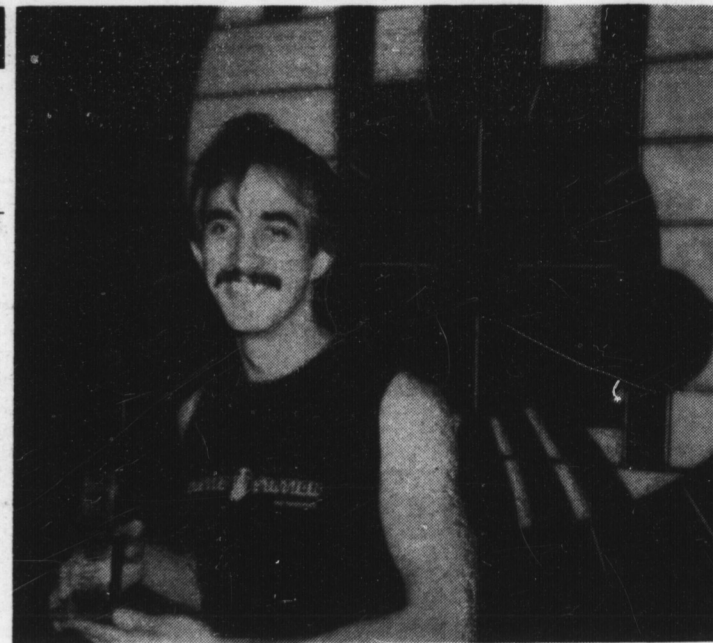
Sissy and Ken, Tony and Deena, Mr. Bill and Goldblatt, and more were all elected to a "title" system that some call antiquated and others praise. I have

presses code.

Good luck to all of you. Have fun, fight fair, and remember that win or lose you all ran for the "title" because of your desire to put in hard work for the community!

Here it is 1986 and yes I do have my New Year's resolutions made, but I will not be putting them in print because someone might catch me guilty somewhere down the line. Most of all I do wish all of you a bright and shining New Year full of hope!

P.S. P.C. Buns, I love you! ■



Dan 'Karen' Kiger and his bowling trophy (Photo: M. Friese)

'I'm still in the air, and Kish is still drinking!'

The yearly report from Long Beach is as follows. Harry Gardner is still working just three nights a week at the notorious Beach House, and still manages to make the house payments on the home he and his lover purchased recently, Tacky Ruth, one of Hans' favorites, is now residing in Rhode Island, most likely working at Gemco, and Madam Leslie is now in Vegas going to a dealer school, although what kind of dealing is anyone's guess.

I'm still in the air, and Kish is still drinking!

What went on last year is certainly hard to remember what with all the events, fundraisers, and assorted gaiety that made 1985 another one for the history books.

Dan "Karen" Kiger, of the Castro Station, took a smart second place at the National Gay Bowling tournament in Washington, D.C., and also had his tune named in one note!

Lucy, formerly of the White Swallow, posed for some almost-

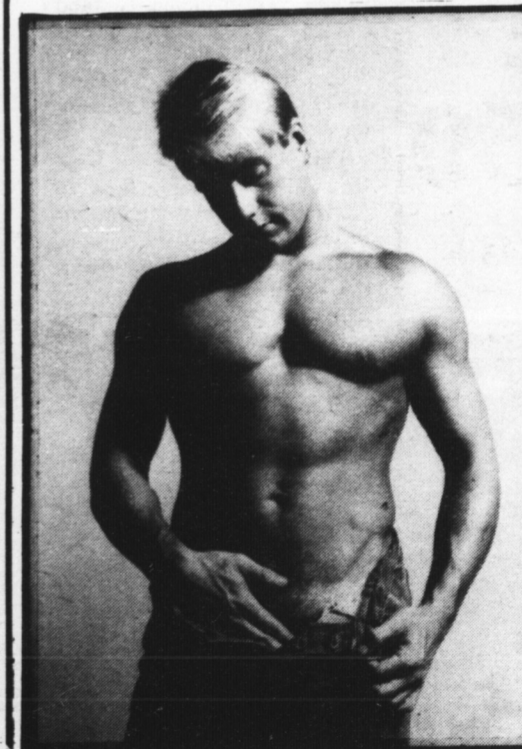
always applauded their dedication and work, although in this day and age I sometimes question the amounts of money spent to capture these coveted crowns when most of that money could be going you know where!

Who are the next "seekers"? Your guess is as good as mine, but a certain "leather columnist" was heard announcing his intentions to run for the title of Empress at the wonderful Bay Area Reporter Christmas party held at the home of Bob Ross and Dick Rubin, at which Sweetlips remarked that "he ran for Empress once and won." Oh that Sweetlips is such a camp!

Sable, Tatiana, and Dorothy Duster are the other candidates I have also heard the almighty rumors about, and for the Emperor race the rumors are pointing to Tommy Turner, Matthew Brown, and possibly Rick Manring. Correct me if I'm wrong, but methinks you may not publicly announce your candidacy until after the review board—section 6633489 X of the Council of Emperors and Em-

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Lucy, formerly of the White Swallow, in an almost-revealing pose (Photo: M. Friese)

Bouquets & Brickbats:

A Skewed Look at 1985

by Bob Woolhouse

• **Athletic Hunk of the Year:** Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis, the best diver in the world, who credits much of that superb form and technique to classical ballet training in boyhood and adolescence.

• **Twisted Sister of 1985:** Bo Derek, for "I wouldn't let any actor kiss me unless he had

been tested for AIDS." Imagine anyone kissing Bo Derek and running the risk of hoof and mouth disease.

• **Best Classified Adv.:** For Rent. Castro apartment with pornographic view.

• **Closest Case of the Year:** Good old Charlie Brown. Thirty five years old and still running around in short pants and still hanging out with the boys of summer.

• **Product Hype, Men's Division:** Alberto VO 5 New Thickening Hairroom Mousse. You'll love its holding power as long as you don't mind a head-full of chocolate pudding.

• **Product Hype, Women's Division:** Virginia Slims (4th consecutive year) for, "You've Come a Long Way, Baby." Well, if you've come such a long way, why are they still calling you Baby?

• **Wizard of Oz Award:** Nora Ephron, ex-wife of Watergate's Carl Bernstein, for "Regarding physical attributes, women worry most about the size of their breasts. Men worry most about their height." Where did she do her male research—in Munchkinland?

• **Financial Newnote of 1985:** The Declaration of Bankruptcy by that gay-oriented food and drink conglomerate.

• **Most Memorable Name in the News:** Bishop Desmond Tutu, a monkier any drag queen would kill for.

• **Welcome Exchange of the Year:** Lesbian Nuns replacing the Sisters of Perpetual Publicity.

• **Trendy Headline of 1985:** The Women's Page of the *Chronicle* announcing, "The Return of Ballroom Dancing



Sister Boom Boom's (r.) marriage to Misty fell through, while 'Lesbian Nuns' broke their silence (Photo: Rink)

with Partners of the Opposite Sex." Is this part of the gay backlash? Seems as though Trocadero Transfer should take a firm stand against such depravity.

• **Bloody Bore of 1985:** Rocky Rambo Stallone—from *First Blood* to *More Blood* to *Tired Blood*.

• **Best Retort of the Year:** Anonymous in a Folsom bar to the claim that No. California is the Bed & Breakfast capitol of the country. "Yeah, and San Francisco is the Bed & No Breakfast capitol of the world."

• **Fun Couple:** Ike and Tina Turner, whose marital skills seem to have been based essentially on martial arts.

• **Sign of the Times in the Castro:** Going Out of Business Sale. Even Leather Forever apparently wasn't.

• **Trivial Pursuits Citation:** Supervisor Wendy Nelder (again) for her Pottygate Campaign specifying a five-minute time limit on those public johns in order to help prevent "dating."

• **Great Outdoor Adventure:** Ringold Alley. Great Indoor Adventure: CMC Carnival. Great No-door Adventure: the safe-sex bathhouses.

• **The New Gay Chic Award:** Calvin, as opposed to Kevin, Klein for, "During the '70s, when everyone was experiencing freedom and maybe a little decadence, I also enjoyed being outrageous. Anything I wanted to do, I did. Anyone I wanted to be with, I had."

• **Creative Financing Champ of the Year & Several Others:** Wilkes Bashford.

• **Theatrical Triumphs:** In L.A. the Academy Award for *The Times of Harvey Milk*. In N.Y. *As Is*. In S.F. *Unfinished Business: The New AIDS Show*.

• **Miss Congeniality:** Barbara Walters for "I'd rather spend the evening with Mel Brooks. He's the funniest man I know. And he'd be comfortable to be with. Woody Allen, on the other hand, is so damn constipated."

• **Pageant of the Year:** The marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Di, followed discreetly by the birth of a royal heir. Carnival of the Year: The marriage of Madonna to what's-his-name, followed discreetly by absolute nothing.

• **Ensuing Disappointment of the Year:** No Immaculate

Conception II, No Madonna & Child II, and no Second Coming.

• **Catch Phrases nominated for Oblivion:** "Well, excuse me. Puh-leeze." Also, "Go Ahead, Make My Day."

• **Gay Anthropeods of 1985:** *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, the return of the fruit fly and the appearance of the killer queen bees.

• **Media Non-Event of the Year:** Police Chief Con Murphy with top brass charging through Buena Vista Park, declaring the place to be in "improving health," now that the shrubbery has been pruned to put an end to "homosexual cavorting."

• **Return to the Future Acknowledgement:** Gore Vidal for "I can remember when people felt guilty if they enjoyed sex; then they felt guilty if they didn't; and now we're back to the original point of view."

• **Confused Tourist of the Year:** That gay man who tried to check into the Castro Valley Y, only to find out eventually that it is a freeway interchange in the East Bay.

• **Put Down of 1985:** Dan Rather for "The recent grasshopper plague in Utah was the worst infestation since the Mormons arrived."

• **Hopeful Future Trend:** Lesbian motherhood and gay parenting within the context of the gay marriage.

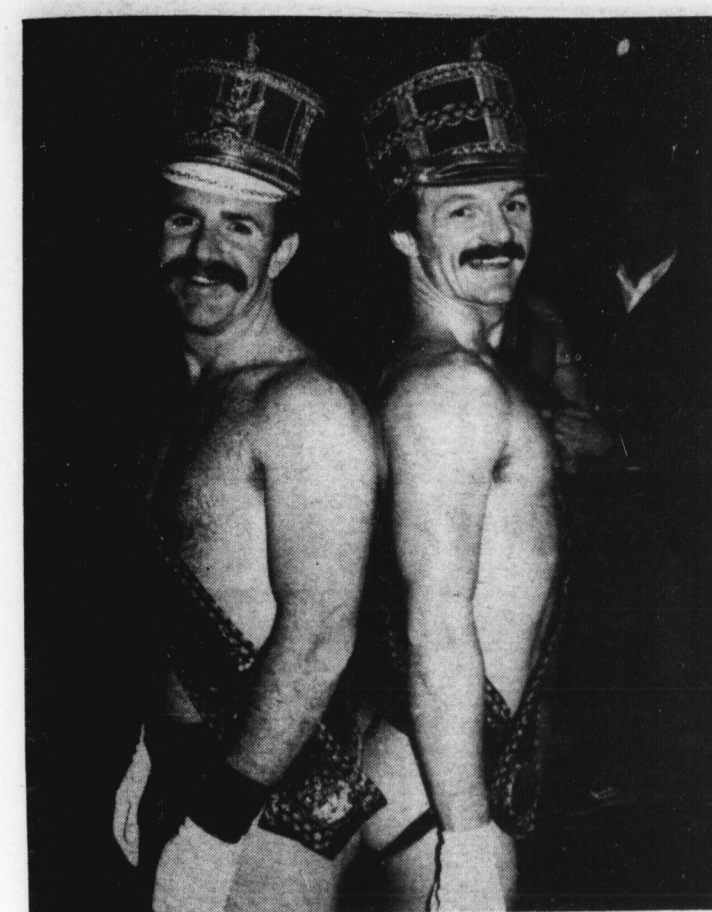
• **Dumbest Question at a Safe Sex Seminar:** If you put a rubber over your hand, does that make fisting all right?

• **The Imitation Is Flattery Acknowledgement:** It's Great to be Straight parade supposedly being planned for June. Also, the Yuppie invasion South of Market.

• **Soap Star of the Year:** Paul McCartney for "My falling out with John was more disappointment than hate. In truth, I've never been able to hate John—he was a crazy character. But you see, we were like married, so you get bitterness. It's not a woman scorned—it's two men, and that's probably worse."

• **Best Housekeeping Hint:** If you hate cleaning, then install track lighting and entertain at night. You'll only have to dust and vacuum where the spotlights hit.

• **Role Models of Our Time:** Jack McCarty, Victor Amburge, and the Shanti Volunteers. ■



Sugarplum hunks at the Trojans-Deputies party at the Eagle last weekend (Photo: Rink)

Marcus

action, fun, and hot men because if anyone knows what the people want, it's Billy.

David Stoll, who teamed up with Ron Whitworth for last year's Men Behind Bars show and wowed 'em as Jane and Marilyn, will team up again for this year's show (despite Terry Thompson's objections) as a new musical pair—can you stand it?

Matt Newman of the Powerhouse Bar will photograph many more hot men and hot scenes for major gay magazines, run the bar and go home to his teddy bear despite his penchant for movies, gay or otherwise. How interesting!

New Awards Show. Since the gossip columnists see, do, hear, and write so much about everybody and everything, they're all getting together to have the Columnists Awards based loosely on the old Bar and Camp awards. A lot of you will get yours then because you'd hardly cause a scene when they "tell it like it is" in front of a big audience, would you now?

Mr. Leather of San Francisco and Mr. Leather of California will become official titles to represent this city and

this state at the Intl. Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago in May, 1986. The contests will be tough and will be for men into leather as opposed to men in leather.

Emperor/Empress Race coming your way in February will be a bitter contest especially for the empress title. But when it's all over and the winner of the female crown is known, all the furor of the campaign will die and hopefully, it will be a productive year for the good of the community.

'May all your greatest hopes come true in 1986, and remember, if you can't be funny be interesting.'

Bare Chest Contests will resume at the SF-Eagle for the 1987 benefit calendar, and this time the winners will be bound to appear on the calendar, thus alleviating Terry Thompson of all the "agida" he experienced with some of the winners who suddenly turned into prima donnas as if they were signing to play the lead in Macbeth and wanted residuals, fees, etc., etc., ad nauseum. All this in spite of

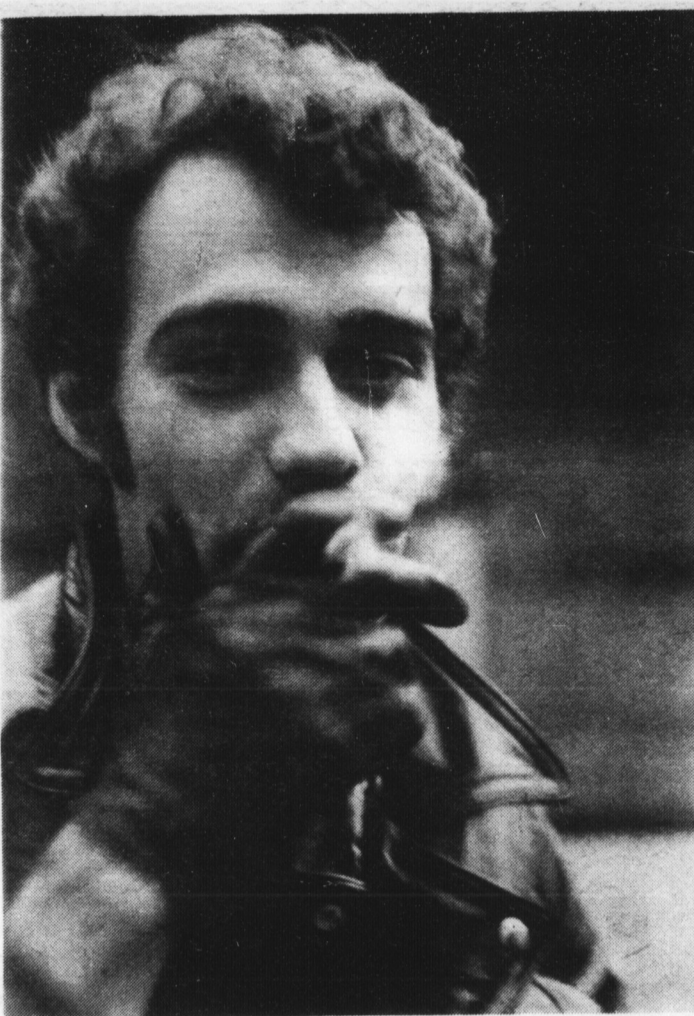


The Royal Court and SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank joined forces in a benefit screening of 'Lust in the Dust' last weekend (Photo: Rink)

the fact that proceeds from the sale of the calendars would go to AIDS charities!

It was a wonderful year: hope you didn't overdo it last night; hope you'll continue to support all the causes presented to you in 1986 as you see fit. And thanks for all the fun in 1985—for the Closet Ball, for Ringold Alley and the Folsom St. Fairs, for "Now Sing With Hearts Aglow," for the great Gay Freedom Day Parade, for Men Behind Bars, for the Military Ball at Chaps, for the Bare Chests, Poster Men, and Greasy Jock Strap Contests, for the auction at Febe's for Randy Johnson, for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the needy, for your support of Ward 5-B, the Hospice, Operation Concern, the SF AIDS Fund, Shanti, and other support groups, for CUAV, Black and White Men Together, for Dignity's Midnight Mass at Christmas, for the Gay Trojans and the Sheriff's Deputies, for the GSL, CSL, Pool Ass'n, the bowling leagues, for Pier Pressure and the CMC Carnival, for the fun, fun nights at the Alamo Square Saloon, for Kino's fantastic parties and the Daddy's Boy, Leather Daddy, Mr. Beer Belly, Bare Chests, City Swing, and all those stunning and talented musicians, for the Tap Troupe and the Marching Band, for the Cable Car Awards and the Golden Dill-deaux, for the Christmas Tree Lighting for Ward 5-B, for you and you and you, and thanks for Pat, Kenny, Steve, David, the Prince de Topaz, and the estranged Spunky, for those hot men who come here from San Jose, the Peninsula, Marin, and especially Walnut Creek, for trying real hard to coexist with the yuppie invasion of Folsom, for the Stud Bar and Jeremy, for all the great bike runs and Inter-Club as well as the SF Forum, for our elected and appointed gay officials who try real, real hard, for having a man like Supervisor John Molinari who really is on our side, for those dedicated people making the vigil at the old Federal Bldg., for everyone in this greatest of gay communities.

Until next week, then, let's continue to honor our past, revitalize our present, and look forward with optimism to our future—yours and mine and everyone who deserves our love. May all your greatest hopes come true in 1986 and remember: If you can't be funny, be interesting. ■



Jack Richard, aka John Sharpless (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Local Boy Makes Good

Jack Richard (aka John Sharpless) is one of only two Americans to win twice in this year's Arvon Foundation Ronald Dunean International Poetry Competition (in conjunction with *The Observer* magazine, Southby Parke-Burnett, and Faber and Faber). Current Poet-Laureate Ted Hughes (ex-husband of Sylvia Plath) was among

the judges. Mr. Richard won a prize for his epic poem "Elizabeth" (about Queen Elizabeth the First), and a special jury commendation for "A Soldier in the Clouds," about the fatal motorcycle ride of T.E. Laurence (of Arabia). Winners' works, chosen from 19,000 entries, are to be published in England by Faber in an anthology. ■



The action at the Mr. Leather contest 1985 in New York

Mr. Leather 1985

More than 800 leathersmen from around the U.S. attended the Mr. Leather Contest 1985 at the Paradise Garage in New York Nov. 2. The event, sponsored by the Interchain Fraternity and GMSMA, grossed \$28,000. The net proceeds will be split between the Gay Men's Health Crisis and the AIDS Resource Center.

The rock group Lime provided entertainment, along with a joint performance by the Uptown Express of the local Gay Men's Chorus and the pops group from the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Band. C.T. from the Spike bar also sang, and comedian Sybil Brunchen provided laughs.

A trip to Amsterdam, a VHS video recorder, and leather wear from Mr. S Products, The Noose, The Marquis de Suade, Rubio Leathers, Skins and Metals, and S/M Products of Baltimore were awarded as prizes

in a raffle. Also, a special award of merit was presented to Artie Haber, president of the Interchain Fraternity, by Alan Selby of Mr. S. Products from Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the people of San Francisco for his outstanding public service.

The winner of the contest is Dennis Walsh, who was sponsored by the Mineshaft. Don Lehrman, sponsored by the Long Island Spuds, came in second, and Joe Saxon, sponsored by S/M Products of Baltimore, came in third.

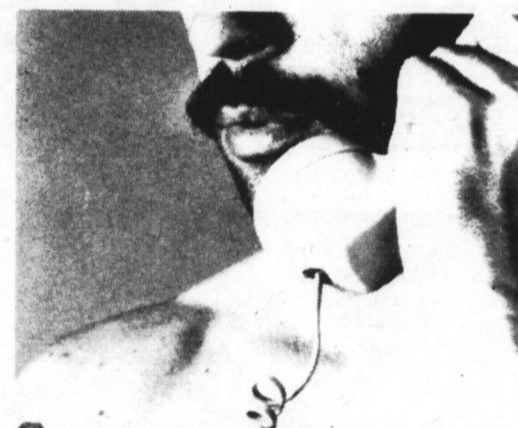
For more information on the contest or Interchain, write P.O. Box 410, 132 W. 24th St., NY, NY, 10011. ■



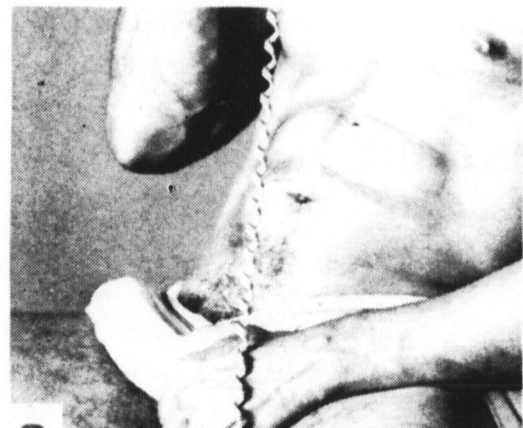
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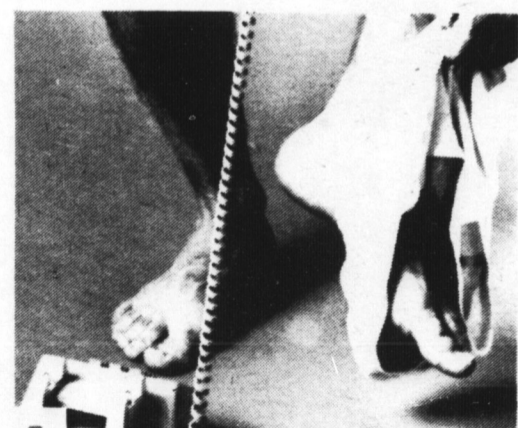
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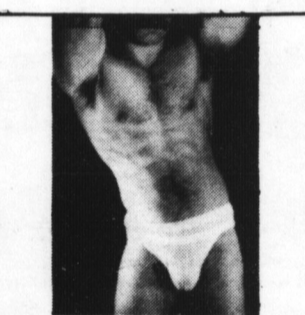
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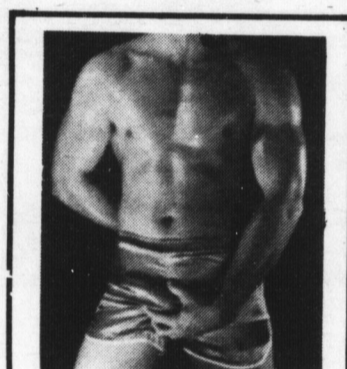
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BLOND CANADIAN Photo by Reno I have been out to sea too long! Hung 8". Slow & easy, Dynamite good looks, cleft chin. 44"C, 32"W, 6", 185 lbs. Ron 775-7057

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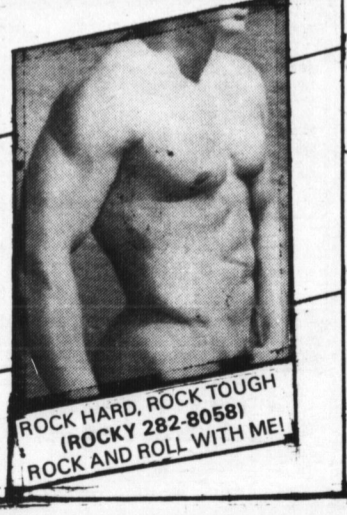
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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVI NO. 2 JANUARY 9, 1986

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bottom Line on AIDS

New Strengths, Skills Gained Despite Community Losses

by Charles Linebarger

San Francisco has been called the mecca of the gay movement. For two decades gay men and lesbians have flocked to this tolerant northern California city. They came seeking fulfillment to their dreams of living their own lives in the way they chose. Gay neighborhoods, or ghettos, blossomed. Bars, restaurants, shops and clubs catering to gay men and women mushroomed almost overnight.

This city elected the nation's first gay supervisor and has led the way in many community issues. Today, by conservative estimates, one-seventh of San Francisco's population is gay or lesbian.

An epidemic disease unheard of five years ago has suddenly enveloped the gay community here as in other cities. In its wake, a backlash threatens civil rights gains of the gay community accomplished over the last twenty years.

But gay San Francisco, though stunned, has fought the disease and its political fallout every step of the way. Health workers from across the nation come here to see how this city, the city that boasts it "knows how," is coping.

As the fifth year of this siege begins, we asked a number of prominent San Franciscans where they thought we're headed. What effect has the AIDS epidemic had on our community? What has changed for the better or for the worse? What does the future year hold in store? What about the non-AIDS agenda for the gay community?



(Photo: Rink)

'We're trying to interact as adults who are effective and powerful and have something to bring to the system. Gay activists today are teachers.'

—Harry Britt



(Photo: Rink)

'... people are beginning to see what has happened to us as a group. And we are building coalitions with the women's movement, labor, peace and anti-apartheid groups.'

—Pat Norman

(Continued on page 13)



Hail to 1986!!

What better way to ring in 1986 than with a special show of lights.

That was the sentiment at the GiftCenter when 1985 left us and 1986 joined us.

The GiftCenter was one of many festive gay places all over the Bay Area. From Polk to Castro to Haight to South of Market to north of San Francisco to south of San Francisco (and west and east, too!): Happy 1986.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Isherwood

A Literary Giant, He Was Unabashedly 'Queer'

by Ray O'Loughlin

Acclaimed gay author Christopher Isherwood, whose *Goodbye to Berlin* stories inspired the musical *Cabaret*, died Saturday, Jan. 4 at his home in Santa Monica. He was 81 years of age and had been suffering from prostate cancer. He is survived by painter Don Bachardy, his lover for 33 years.

Though best known for his association with *Cabaret*, Isherwood is valued by gay readers for other works. His novel *A Single Man* (1964) was one of the earliest and most powerful portrayals of a positive, strong gay character. An earlier book, *Down There on a Visit* (1962) candidly related many vignettes of homosexual life in the 1930s. And in *Christopher and His Kind* (1976), Isherwood's unique style of sparse and graceful but engaging reportage reached its zenith.

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Midgett is no midget when it comes to battling stereotypes in the classroom. Caroline Streeter interviews Mary Midgett of the Gay Speakers Bureau, page 15.

Big Brothers are watching to make sure that gay men don't get to help needy youngsters, page 14.

John Sharpless' poetry is beginning to reap rich rewards, page 22.

Adverse Effects End Suramin Study

25 Subjects Drop Out of Study; Complain of Side-Effects, Confusion on Dosage

by Charles Linebarger

One of the early drugs that was touted as a possible tool in the fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been discovered to have side-effects so severe that its experimental use has been discontinued in San Francisco. Far from helping the chosen few who made it into the Suramin study, the drug has cost some of the 25 subjects in the pilot study some serious health problems. It may have hastened the deaths of others.

(Continued on page 3)