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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVI NO. 11 MARCH 13, 1986

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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★ ★ ★
★ **Joan!!** ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★

Someone said something amusing to Joan Collins. Were both Blake and Krystle sent into exile to Moldavia? Collins was deep in the heart of Castroland Saturday night at the Castro Theatre. There was a film tribute to the *Dynasty* star, featuring some of her memorable and forgettable films. The night also served as a benefit for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery and the Cable Car Awards. Above, Joan offers a peek into her life to the theater audience. For Steve Warren's Peek at the tribute, turn to page 24. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

**Insurers Sued
On Bias Charges**

Two \$5 Million Lawsuits Initiated;
Discrimination Complaints Filed on Redlining
by Gregory Douthwaite

Efforts by insurance companies to exclude gays because of AIDS treatment costs have spawned a rash of formal complaints and lawsuits, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. Attorneys from National Gay Rights Advocates and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom have taken actions including:

- two \$5 million lawsuits against companies that refused to pay medical claims for two San Francisco men.
- a formal complaint that health insurance was denied a single male applicant for no apparent reason.
- a formal complaint that one insurance company has issued discriminatory guidelines screening out certain applicants by lifestyle.

(Continued on page 2)

**CBS to Air New
Segment on Gays**

Hit Piece or Objective?
Tune In to '60 Minutes'

by Allen White

CBS-TV News will air a segment on the San Francisco gay community Sunday night on *60 Minutes*. The segment is produced by Grace Diekhaus, who co-produced the 1980 hit piece, *Gay Power, Gay Politics*, for CBS with George Crile. Channel 5 will televise the show at 7 pm.

Reliable sources indicate that barring any dramatic news development, the segment—which was filmed in San Francisco in the last six months—will air this week. Mike Wallace is the narrator.

The show reportedly will deal with AIDS and its impact on San Francisco's gay community. People in producer Diekhaus' office who asked not to be named, said that footage from the 1980 show will be used.

As was the case in 1980, Diekhaus has selected former Art Agnos staffer Cleve Jones as the primary spokesperson for the San Francisco gay community. Footage from his 1979 and his 1985 Milk/Moscone candlelight march speeches are scheduled to be used as well as a one-on-one interview between Mike Wallace and Jones. According to sources, there will be interviews with Dr. Paul Volberding, Mayor Dianne

(Continued on page 19)

Today

Bike-a-Thon to raise funds for AIDS services is set to roll May 3. For registration details, see page 11.

Alcohol recovery services available in San Francisco are looked at in Part II of Lew Ellingham's series on substance abuse in the gay community, page 14.

Molinari and Company went to Washington, D.C. and got assurances from Congressional representatives that cuts in AIDS funds would meet stiff opposition, page 15.

Male imagery — two books of drawings by Philip Core and Michael Leonard are reviewed by Mark I. Chester, page 26.

**Mandatory Blood Tests
Proposed in Colorado Bill**

Health Officials Could Order Tests, Quarantine;
Minnesota Moves on Contact Tracing if Positive

by Brian Jones

Gay lobbyists in Washington said last week that more widespread use of the AIDS antibody test seems to be a certainty. Meanwhile, Colorado is considering an AIDS quarantine bill which includes antibody-positive persons as AIDS carriers. And Minnesota mandated "contact tracing" to identify the sexual partners of those who test positive for AIDS antibodies.

On the federal level, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed lifting most of the restrictions on use of the AIDS antibody test. Currently, the test is only officially approved for screening blood supplies at blood banks.

(Continued on page 13)

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Think Gay — Feel Gay — Touch Gay

CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

CYCLING AND YOUR BACK

Bicycling is a great health booster, yet more and more back-trouble complaints by bikers are being treated by chiropractors. Many could have been prevented with prescribed warmup exercises and the right seat height and posture.

Improper posture flattens the spine's normal "S" curve, throwing it out of balance. Most cyclist's problems strike low back vertebrae. Without treatment, nerve pressure on the spinal column may lead to painful back-leg disorders and loss of flexibility.

Before pushing the pedals, protect against back strain with a chiropractic exam. Weaknesses can be strengthened with gentle correction of any misalignment, and structural defects fixed with traction and spinal adjustments.

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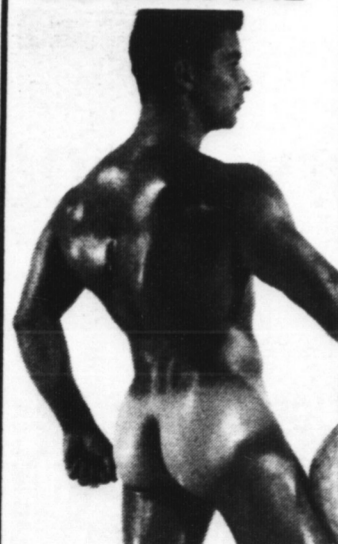
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Come Blow Your Horn

Two tuba players—one from San Francisco and one from Boston—meet during the Chinese New Year Parade last weekend. Fifteen member bands of the National Conference of Lesbian and Gay Bands of America met last week. One hundred members went over to Chinatown to do some struttin'.

(Photo: Rink)



Out of the Closet—Trumpets Blaring

National Marching Band Treats Chinese New Year Parade to a Little Gay Music

by Jay Newquist

More than 100 members of the National Gay and Lesbian Marching Band strutted their stuff in the Chinese New Year Parade last weekend. The marchers also met in conference to conduct business and ponder their musical future.

The main event was the eighth National Conference of Lesbian and Gay Bands of America composed of 15 member bands from across the U.S. A contingent will also participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Gay Games this August.

The three-day band convention included workshops on fundraising, leadership and management, and a conductor's meeting. The delegates also toured Kezar Stadium to stage a two hour rehearsal where the Gay Games will take place.

Warren Tuttle, head of Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, said there was also a pensive side to the convention. "We want to show people that stereotypes are wrong and music is universal," he said, "not gay or straight."

"Our aim is to really get out of the closet. Some musicians haven't played since college or high school and they're nervous," Tuttle continued. "You can't (in some cases) perform on the street because your boss might see you on TV."

Tuttle said discrimination against gay bands was typified in Denver when a gay band was banned from performing in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade. But heavy lobbying prevailed and the decision was reversed. The band played on. Tuttle added that gays from San Francisco don't always understand discrimination against gays in other cities because here we are accustomed to a progressive climate toward homosexuals.

(Continued on page 19)

Insurance

(Continued from page 1)

According to Benjamin Schatz of NGRA, a major national insurance underwriter recently issued guidelines for weeding out gay life insurance applicants. The guidelines, issued by the Munich American Reinsurance Company, state that a "high risk" individual is: single, age 25-50, a resident of certain cities with large gay populations, has a "promiscuous or illicit lifestyle," and names someone other than a spouse or child as beneficiary.

NGRA has filed a formal complaint about the guidelines with the California Department of Insurance. They said the guidelines are discriminatory and violate both the state insurance code and federal civil rights law.

Munich American Reinsurance Company, headquartered in Atlanta, has a major impact on the insurance industry because it insures insurance companies all over the country, said Schatz, director of the NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project. The company has not yet responded to the complaint, he said.

The complaint was the first official challenge of anti-gay insurance company guidelines, but not the last, said Schatz. Other companies with discriminatory guidelines will be named soon, he said.

Complaints about insurance companies cutting off individuals from existing coverage are also beginning to surface.

In December, NGRA filed a

complaint on behalf of Alex Bratenahl, a 39-year-old unmarried hairdresser in Eureka. Bratenahl had health insurance with Creative Health Programs for three years when it was illegally terminated, Schatz said. The company asked Bratenahl to apply for one of their less expensive policies after raising his rates substantially. But they then turned him down for that for "medical reasons" in spite of his excellent health record. NGRA has asked the Department of Insurance to investigate the case.

In January, gay rights attorney Alice Philipson, from Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, filed two \$5 million lawsuits on behalf of two San Francisco men with AIDS whose insurance companies refused to pay claims.

Castro district resident William Horner, 30, was diagnosed with AIDS last June, one month after he was accepted for insurance with Great Republic Insurance Company. The company refused to pay \$4,000 in medical bills, saying the expenses resulted from a "pre-existing illness." Horner's private physician said this allegation is "categorically untrue."

Philipson said that that allegation is like saying a gay man who had the flu five years ago had AIDS then because he had an immune problem.

Mission district resident James Litzberger, 38, is also suing. He had a health insurance policy with Blue Cross for years before he was diagnosed with AIDS. But Blue Cross stopped paying his bills, allowing \$8,000

indebtedness to accumulate. Since the lawsuit was filed, Blue Cross has resumed paying the bills.

They said his claims had "slipped through the cracks," Philipson said. She said it was the second case she had seen where Blue Cross neglected to pay the bills of an AIDS patient, and she is proceeding with the lawsuit because Blue Cross acted in "bad faith," she said.

The National Gay Rights Advocates will be filing more complaints and lawsuits against insurance companies, Schatz said. "The crisis surrounding AIDS and insurance is one of the most important civil rights issues facing the gay community at this time," he said.

Schatz was appointed last week by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, an organization of state insurance regulators, to serve on an AIDS Task Force panel. It was a historic step for the NAIC, which has never before worked with members of the gay and lesbian community, Schatz said. He hopes to help formulate model legislation for states to adopt prohibiting discrimination against men in life and health insurance.

"It's outrageous for insurance companies to try to exclude a whole class of people because a small percentage will develop a disease," Schatz said. "Blacks have higher rates of hypertension than other groups, but no one says not to insure blacks. The insurance industry must not be permitted to exclude gay men from coverage," said Schatz.

G. Douthwaite

Assembly Panel Gives Nod to Anti-Porn Bill

Agnos, Campbell Only-Dissenters; Deukmejian Expected to Sign Bill

by George Mendenhall

SACRAMENTO—Anti-pornography legislation passed through the Assembly Ways and Means Committee on March 4 by a 12-2 vote. The bill, S.B. 139, is now on the Assembly floor where passage is predicted by early April. It overwhelmingly passed the Senate (33-3) and a signature by Gov. George Deukmejian is virtually assured.

The only two dissenting votes were cast by Assemblymen Art Agnos (D-San Francisco) and Robert Campbell (D-Richmond). The bill didn't seem to stir up much debate, as Assemblyman Mike Roos (D-Los Angeles) was the only speaker. Roos questioned the expense of the state defending the law in courts. Attorney Gen. John Van de Kamp announced that he favored the bill.

If S.B. 139 passes, it would drastically change California obscenity laws. It would specify new criteria for what is obscene. Proponents are hoping it will bring arrests and convictions.

San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith refused to comment on whether the adoption of the new law would change the nature of his prosecutions. However, he said, "My principal concern would be violence and material that involves children." When asked if by "violence" he would include sado-masochism, Smith pointed to "snuff-type films." Smith said snuff films were "the major concern" of district attorneys across the state. He promised to evaluate the law if it passes.

NEW DEFINITIONS

Current law requires that it is "obscene" or "harmful" if it is "utterly without redeeming social importance." A new law would void that section. Instead, the standard for obscenity would be that the material "lacks significant literary, artistic, political, educational, or scientific value." The word "significant" was substituted for the word "serious" and word "educational" added in amendments.

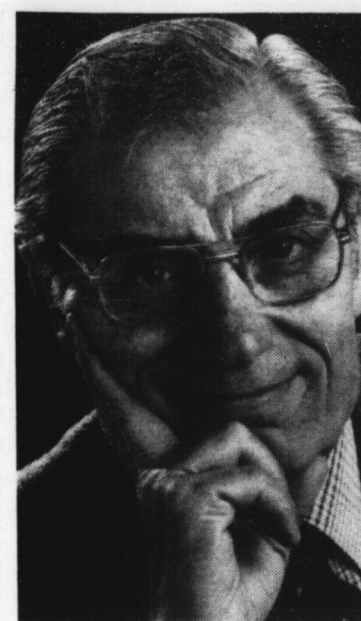
The state penal code now specifies that "contemporary community standards" apply in these determinations. The new bill would change that to read "contemporary statewide standards."

Senator Wadie Deddeh (D-Chula Vista) authored the bill, which culminates a ten year effort by a group of legislators to re-define pornography. Deddeh is a Chula Vista college professor, a Catholic, and a family man who belongs to the Kiwanis, Lions, and Elks. He was elected to the Senate in 1982 after 16 years in the Assembly.

While the California obscenity law has been sweeping in scope, its standards for determining what is obscene has given prosecutors headaches. There have been relatively few convictions.

Recently, there has been an increased availability of erotica in novels, movies, video tapes and magazines for adults. This availability has alienated people who feel such materials are harmful and are related to violent crime. No scientific evidence supports that conclusion.

Few citizens know how restrictive and inclusive state law already is in the area of pornography under sections 311, 312.1, and 313 of the code. Persons are subject to prosecution if they demonstrate "a morbid interest in nudity, sex, or excretion" in matter.



Sen. Wadie Deddeh

other pictorial representation or any statue or other figure, or any recording, transcription, or mechanical, chemical, or electrical reproduction or any other articles, equipment, machines or materials" can be obscene. It also includes "singing, speaking, dancing, acting, simulating, or pantomiming."

WOMEN LEAD CAMPAIGN

Ironically, although it is men who purchase most pornography

(Continued on next page)

'Can We Talk' Muzzled, Then Allowed, by P.O.

Post Office Reverses Ruling That Safe Sex Pamphlet Is Obscene

by Charles Linebarger

The U.S. Postal Service has reversed a decision by a minor employee that the AIDS educational brochure, *Can We Talk?* is pornographic. The pamphlet, produced by the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, had been declared obscene, requiring it be mailed with an envelope warning about its sexually explicit nature.

"There's a lot going on here," said David Lewis, director of the AIDS educational committee of the Milk Club. "We sent out a mailing to all gay newspapers and switchboards in the country of the brochure *Can We Talk?* The postmaster of Caribou, Maine opened it up, completely against the law, and sent it back."

The brochure, with a letter from the Caribou post office citing a postal regulation about sexually explicit materials, was sent back to San Francisco's postal station "O" on Van Ness Street. From there, it was returned to the Milk Club.

The club responded by writing a flurry of letters to the postal officials and local politicians. San Francisco's postmaster, Mary Brown, immediately wrote a letter of apology to the Milk Club. According to the Milk

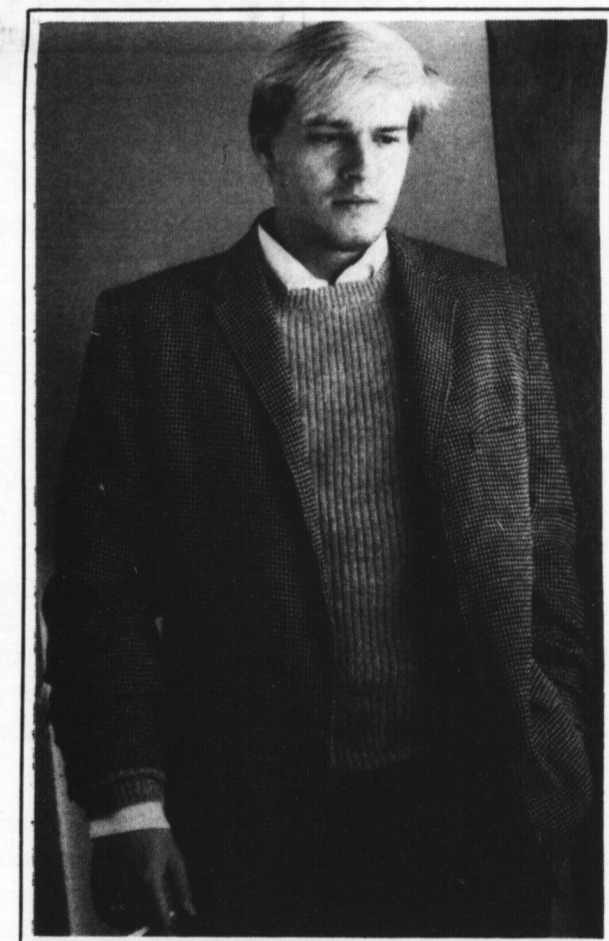
Club statement, Brown gave them her assurance that the Postal Service would not require that *Can We Talk?* be mailed in double envelopes.

"It was our fault and we apologize for it," Horace Hinshaw, public affairs officer with the San Francisco Post Office told *Bay Area Reporter*. "It was a situation where the eastern post office acted in an erroneous manner. Apparently, at that time

(Continued on page 20)

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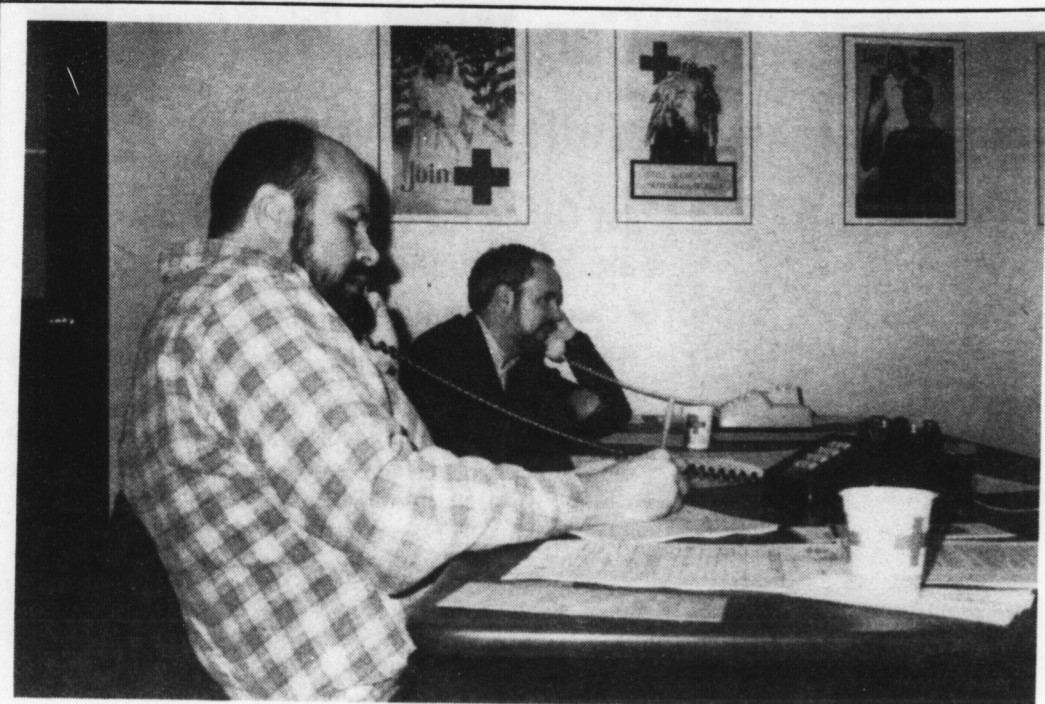
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A Commitment to AIDS Education

Nationwide, the American Red Cross has announced a long-term commitment to conduct a comprehensive AIDS education program. Since Northern California already has agencies currently providing AIDS-related direct services and AIDS education, the local Red Cross chapters will explore how they can complement these existing services so as not to duplicate efforts. During a recent late evening broadcast of an NBC special on AIDS, viewers with questions were invited to call their local American Red Cross Chapter. Thirty-five volunteers from both the Golden Gate Chapter Red Cross and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation volunteers are shown here as they answered phones throughout the broadcast and well into midnight. For further information on local Red Cross activities, call 776-1500, or write the Golden Gate Chapter, 1550 Sutter St., San Francisco 94109.

(Continued from previous page)

and fill the adult theater houses, it is women—not men—who are most active in the fight against censorship. They include local activists Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin, Sharon Page, Anne Jackson, and Priscilla Alexander who formed a local group—the Feminist Anti-Censorship Task Force (FACT). Marjorie Swartz, the American Civil Liberties Union's major lobbyist in Sacramento, is also at the forefront of the effort to halt censorship.

Jackson said the U.S. Supreme Court has not specifically defined what is "obscene" or "pornographic," an action which allowed state and local governments to work out their own definitions. "By not trying the line," she said, "they have allowed various lines to be drawn elsewhere. The Supreme Court has said that speech should be constitutionally protected.

"It is not so much the courts, but changing attitudes about sexuality that have allowed for the current availability of erotica," she added, "There has been a change in social values. Of course, this depends on where you are. Some states still have severe prosecutions and sentences.

She said that if S.B. 139 passes, "The problem in California will be that some local district attorneys and police chiefs who want to make a name for themselves may begin to make arrests. I believe minority groups, such as the gay community, will be particularly vulnerable if this happens."

Page is hopeful Assemblyman Willie Brown "will use his power as Speaker to stop S.B. 139." In reality, Brown appears to be staying out of the censorship controversy. Passage in the Assembly could be as overwhelming as it was in the Senate.

The U.S. Supreme Court frequently refuses to rule in obscenity cases. It recently allowed a lower court decision to stand, which invalidated a strict Indianapolis anti-porn law as unconstitutional. It also ruled that special "sex zones" in cities are legal. This allows cities to prohibit any sex-related businesses within city limits unless they are in specified areas.

Pornography is expected to surface as a national issue in June when a special commission appointed by Attorney General Edwin Meese releases its report on obscenity. The commission was stacked with conservatives and has held several hearings in order to hear selected witnesses who claim they were abused by pornography or pornographers. Civil libertarians believe the body may request national restrictions on pornography. ■

G. Mendenhall

AIDS Net Opens D.C. Office

The National AIDS Network (NAN) has opened its offices in Washington, D.C. Established in October 1985, NAN is a coalition of five local nonprofit agencies that provide services to people with AIDS and educates the general public, health care providers, and high risk groups about AIDS transmission, prevention, treatment protocols, and research.

NAN's new office is at 729 8th S.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C., (202) 546-2424. NAN is composed of and partially funded by the following agencies: AIDS Project/Los Angeles; Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York City; San Francisco AIDS Foundation; AIDS Action Committee, Boston; and Health and Education Resource Organization (HERO), Baltimore.

NAN is a national resource center for AIDS education and service delivery. It represents a cost-effective and highly productive approach for dealing with AIDS education and service delivery.

NAN's executive director, Paul Kawata stated, "The need for a national resource center for AIDS education and service delivery is critical as the number of AIDS cases increases, and as the number of new education and service agencies develop to respond to this national epidemic." ■

Vitamins and Immunity

An open forum on AIDS and Immunity: Establishing Health and Well-Being in Mind, Body and Spirit will be presented Tuesday, Mar. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, near Valencia, in San Francisco. Shirley Scott, Misha Cohen and Jason Serinus will speak. The forum is sponsored by Vibrant Health Vitamin Center. ■

AIDS ANTIBODY TESTING

Free, Anonymous Test Program Continues in San Francisco

New funding will extend the anonymous AIDS antibody testing program offered by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Without revealing your name or identity, you can make an appointment to learn more about the test by telephoning 621-4858, T-Th, 3-9 p.m.; F, 12-5 p.m.; Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MAKING AN APPOINTMENT DOES NOT COMMIT YOU TO TAKING THE TEST. After hearing a brief presentation at the test site you will have a chance to ask questions. You may then leave or stay to take the test.

The AIDS antibody test detects the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus by using a simple blood test. **This is not a test for AIDS.** The test does NOT show if you have AIDS or an AIDS Related Condition (ARC), nor can it tell if you will develop AIDS or ARC in the future. **THE TEST DOES SHOW IF YOU HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS WHICH CAN CAUSE AIDS.**

Although the test is available at other locations, your anonymity is guaranteed if you take the test at an Alternative Test Site. You will receive your test results at the San Francisco Alternative Test Sites without revealing your identity or losing your privacy. Post-test consulting and referrals are available.

Your decision whether or not to take the test is a difficult one. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is not recommending that you either take or not take the test. **YOU MUST DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.** We want to provide you with information that will help you make the decision that is right for you.

If you want general information about AIDS or the AIDS antibody test, telephone the San Francisco AIDS Foundation HOTLINE (863-AIDS, 9-9 M-F, 11-5 S-Su). If you want to make an appointment at an Alternative Test Site for education or testing, call 621-4858 T-Th, 3-9 p.m.; F, 12-5 p.m.; Sat, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



TDD: 621-5106

Funding for this message provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

AIDS medical expense insurance that pays up to \$78,000 per year

This outstanding plan pays you:

- Cash benefits directly to you or anyone you choose
- Full cash benefits regardless of any other coverage
- Cash benefits from the first day of hospitalization
- Daily hospital cash benefits that increase the longer you're hospitalized
- Cash benefits are not taxable—according to the IRS

••... the 16,000 AIDS cases currently reported will grow to 50,000 or 100,000 and more. With estimated medical costs as high as \$140,000 per patient, ... ••

••Although AIDS still most often strikes homosexual or bisexual men, the disease is rapidly spreading to other segments of our population. Within the next several years, the AIDS risk probably will not be limited to a minority segment but may include all of us. ••

There is more to the battle against AIDS than illness. There is a financial reality as well. The cost of a battle against AIDS can be financially devastating.

MOST OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why buy insurance just for AIDS?

A. AIDS treatment tends to be long, drawn out and expensive. A recent study placed the average cost of AIDS treatment at \$140,000. And that's an average—some cases will cost less; and others, more. Maybe even more than your basic health insurance will cover. So, a low cost AIDS plan is often a great aid in helping with the extraordinarily high cost of AIDS treatment. Also, the AIDS medical plan pays benefits in addition to any other insurance you have.

Q. Is there any physical examination involved in applying?

PREMIUM PAYMENT OPTIONS
You have four convenient premium-payment plans to choose from:

| Annual | Semi-Annual | Quarterly | Monthly |
|----------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| \$291.00 | \$149.90 | \$77.10 | \$26.20 |

The annual single premium of \$291.00 is the best bargain. It gives you a full year's coverage for only 11 times the monthly rate. In addition, you may charge your premiums to MasterCard or Visa.

To apply for coverage
Simply complete and mail your confidential Application today, along with your FIRST PREMIUM PAYMENT. Please answer all questions on the Application.

30-day right to examine
Once your Application is approved, and your first premium is paid, we will rush your policy to you immediately to examine for 30 days. If you are not 100% satisfied with the insurance plan, just return the policy to Coastal Insurance Company within 30 days of receiving it, and your initial premium will be fully refunded.

Outline of Coverage

1. This outline of coverage provides a very brief description of the important features of the policy. This is not the insurance contract and only the actual policy provisions will control. The policy itself sets forth, in detail, the rights and obligations of both you and your insurance company. **READ YOUR POLICY CAREFULLY.**
2. Specified disease coverage (AIDS) is designed to provide you with coverage paying benefits only when certain losses occur as a result of the specified disease (AIDS). Coverage is provided for the benefits outlined in Paragraph (3). The benefits described in Paragraph (3) may be limited by Paragraph (4).
3. Policy Benefits
 - I. Hospital Confinement Benefit for AIDS
 - A. Pays \$100 per day for the first 60 days of hospital confinement.
 - B. Pays \$150 per day for the next 60 days of hospital confinement.
 - C. Pays \$200 per day beginning on the 121st day of confinement and continuing as long as you are hospital-confined.
 - II. AIDS Therapy or Treatment Benefit pays 100% of reasonable expenses for treatment of AIDS up to a yearly maximum of \$5,000.
 - III. Extended Care or Hospice Benefit for AIDS pays \$50 per day of confinement up to the number of days of the preceding hospital stay.
 - IV. Daily recovery benefit for AIDS pays \$25 per day for total disability following a covered hospital, extended care facility or hospice stay. Not to exceed the number of days of the hospital stay.
4. Limitations and Exclusions. Covers only AIDS which first makes itself known more than 90 days after the policy is issued. Does not cover: Expenses incurred outside the United States, its possessions or Canada Services rendered by a close relative
5. Renewability. Premiums may be changed or renewal refused only if such action is taken for all similar policies in your state of residence.
6. If you are eligible for Medicare, review the Medicare Supplement Buyer's Guide available from the Company. **THIS IS NOT A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICY.** Retain this for your records.

A. No, just complete the application form. If a person has not had any condition in the health questionnaire, the insurance will be approved.

Q. Will this policy pay in addition to my other insurance?

A. Yes, even with the best of hospitalization plans there are still many out of pocket expenses we never think about. The deductible and co-insurance amount on the hospitalization plan are the insureds responsibility. Loss of time from one's place of employment, this generally means a loss of income, and the monthly financial obligations continue. This policy is designed to help offset the additional expenses that may be incurred during a serious illness.

Q. What illnesses are covered?

A. All illnesses that your doctor determines are a direct result of AIDS.

Q. Can my policy be cancelled or non-renewed because of claims or a diagnosis of AIDS?

A. No, a policy cannot be cancelled or the

premium increased unless done so for all such policies in your state.

Q. Will my name be kept in confidence?

A. Yes, there is a separate department that handles all claims and services of the AIDS program. This procedure has been established to ensure the confidentiality of the policy holder.

Q. How are claims paid?

A. Benefits are paid according to the schedule of benefits outlined and from a hospital and/or doctor's statement of charges.

Q. Who is the company behind the program?

A. The program is backed by Coastal Insurance Company, a legal reserve stock company. They have been licensed and doing business since 1972. They have many years experience in the underwriting and servicing of health products.

Q. When will I receive my policy?

A. Upon completion and the processing of the application and the payment of premium, you will receive your policy by mail within two weeks.

Application To COASTAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Santa Monica, California

For AIDS Medical Expense Insurance Policy—FORM AIDS-1000 (9/84)

Name: _____ Sex: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Mailing Address: _____ Telephone No. () _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. Have you experienced any of the following in the last 5 years? High fever of unknown origin; severe night sweats; unexplained weight loss of more than 15 pounds in 2 weeks; unexplained swollen glands in neck, armpit or groin; lymph node biopsy; chronic unexplained diarrhea; disease called Kaposi's sarcoma; disease called pneumocystis carinii pneumonia; candidiasis; toxoplasmosis of the central nervous system; lymphopenia; leukoplakia; intimate contact with a person who was suspected of having AIDS or pre-AIDS; hepatitis; use of unprescribed intravenous drugs; hemophilia.

Yes No If yes to any of the above, please explain:

2. Have you ever had AIDS or been suspected of having AIDS or pre-AIDS? Yes No

3. Please list any physician or medical practitioner you have seen for treatment in the last 5 years and the nature of the illness.

| Doctor's Name | Address | Nature of Illness | Date(s) Treated |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | |

(If necessary, enclose a separate sheet with additional data)

4. Will this policy replace any existing coverage? Yes No

5. Premiums are to be paid: Annually Semi Annually Quarterly Monthly

MasterCard VISA

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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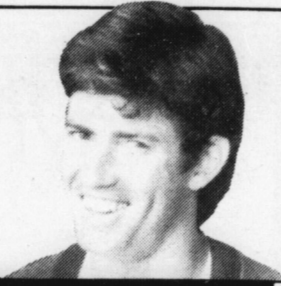
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Mike Hippler
ON THE OFF BEAT



**Uncle Sam Wants You—
Unless You Test Positive**

Last fall the military created a sensation when it announced plans to test all service personnel for presence of the HTLV-3 virus. On Oct. 1, 1985, that testing began. Not until Oct. 24, however, did Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger issue a memorandum outlining the Defense Department's policy concerning HTLV-3 testing.

In that policy, Weinberger stated that "applicants for enlisted service... confirmed as HTLV-3 positive... are not eligible for military service."

However, "active duty and reserve component military personnel... who are antibody positive but manifest no evidence of progressive clinical illness or immunological deficiency... shall be retained." These individuals may be assigned to limited duty to protect the health and safety of other personnel, the policy read, but they "shall receive a comprehensive clinical and immunological evaluation at least annually."

Despite these guidelines, in late 1985 the Navy began discharging recently enlisted men who tested positive and who were on active duty. In January, a group of five of these men in San Diego announced their opposition to their forced separation. Unsuccessful in their efforts to secure a temporary restraining order blocking their discharge, the five are presently suing the Navy to reinstate them.

One of the five is a 22-year-old San Francisco resident whom I'll call John Doe because his attorney has advised him not to use his real name because his case is still on appeal.

When John joined the Navy in June 1985, he never dreamed what would happen to him just five months later. At the time, he had every intention of making a 20-year career in the Navy.

True, he says, as an openly gay man "for as long as I can remember," he realized he might face some difficulty in the service. But he listened to the advice of gay friends who were veterans, and he thought he could deal with it.

"Although they told me it wouldn't be easy, they thought I would be an asset to the service," he recalls. "At any rate, I had to make my own decision."

London Confab On Gays and Medicine

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) and the Gay Medical Association (UK) announce the First International Conference on Homosexuality and Medicine to be held Aug. 14-16, 1986. The aim of the conference is to enable doctors and other health professionals from countries with differing medical and social systems to discuss the wider issues involved in the provision of healthcare services by and for gay men and lesbians. The conference will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, England, and will include invited speakers on a variety of topics.

In addition, the committee meetings and the Annual AAPHR Membership meeting will take place in conjunction with the conference on Wednesday, Aug. 13, and Saturday, Aug. 16, respectively, with AAPHR's annual banquet and awards presentations taking place that evening.

In order to assist students and residents wishing to present a paper or workshop at the conference, AAPHR has established a scholarship fund which will award two travel grants of \$500 on the basis of the paper or workshop proposal submitted. Deadline for the submission of abstracts for the scholarship award is Mar. 30.

For further information please contact Douglas Carner, BAPHR, P.O. Box 14366, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Bike-A-Thon Set to Roll

Goal for this May is to Raise \$250,000 for AIDS Organizations

Registration for the Saturday, May 3 '86 AIDS Bike-A-Thon will begin on Saturday, Mar. 15 at the Different Spokes/Bike-A-Thon booth on Hibernia Beach (Castro and 18th). Registration packs will be available at the booth. In 1985, 60 cyclists road 100 miles from Castro to Guerneville and AIDS services profited by \$30,000. The goal for the '86 AIDS Bike-A-Thon is 500 cyclists and \$250,000. Eight AIDS agencies are slated to benefit from the largest community-based effort ever.

One-hundred percent of all pledge monies raised by riders will go directly to the eight beneficiary organizations. Riders and pledgers will decide which agency(s) will receive the monies they personally raise. The operating budget of the '86 AIDS Bike-A-Thon (\$20,000) is being raised privately.

"This unique approach to raising money assures that every penny raised will be funneled to support vitally needed services for people with AIDS," said Jim King, coordinator, adding, "Particularly, at a time when it has become painfully apparent that the resources of the city are increasingly limited and Washington ignores us, we've got no choice but to hit the streets and get every nickel we can."

This year a 25-mile flat San Francisco loop and a 100-mile San Francisco/Marine loop are offered so that everyone can participate. On Sunday, Mar. 30 and on every Sunday in April, Different Spokes will lead 25-mile and 75-mile training rides over the route. The rides will take off at 10 a.m. from McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park.

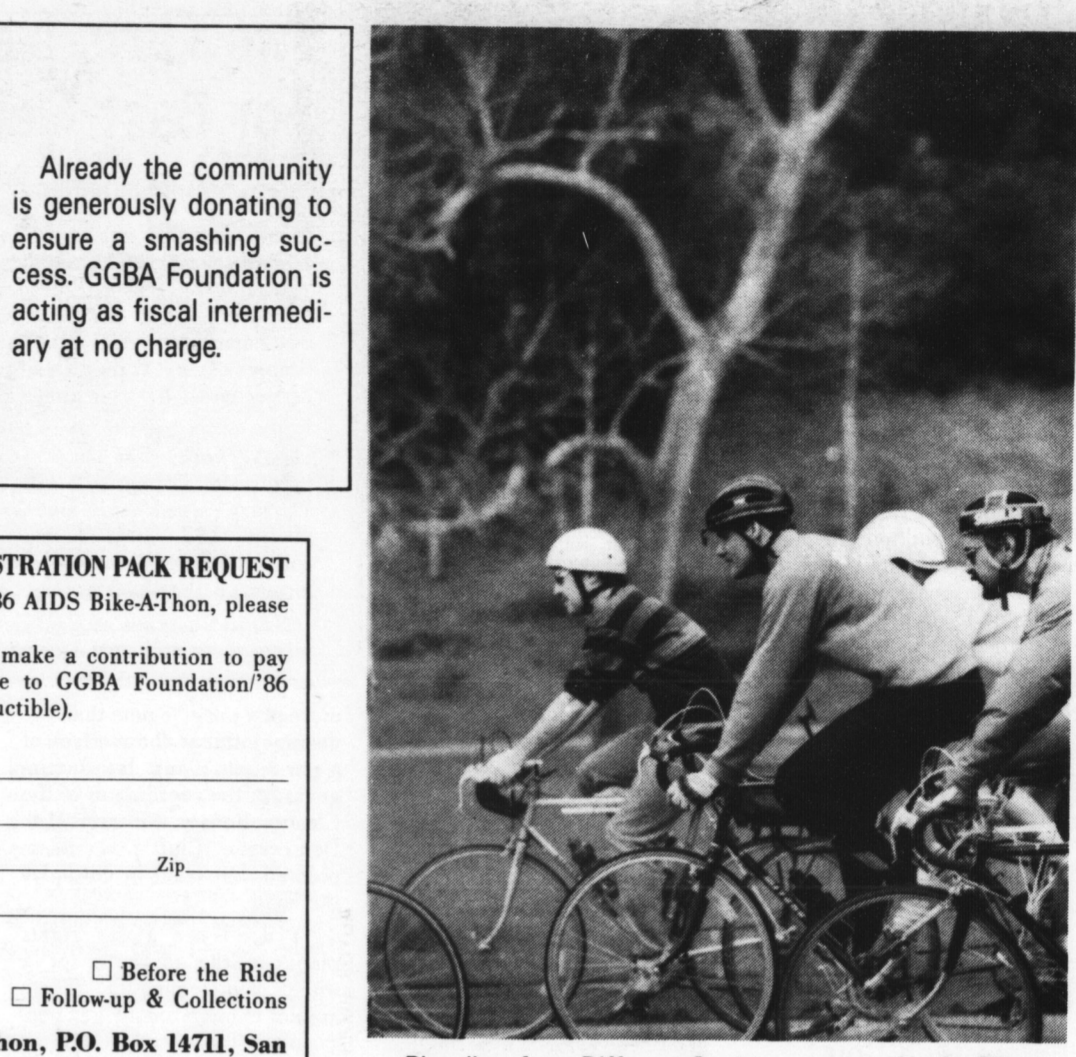
"This unique approach to raising money assures that every penny raised will be funneled to support vitally needed services for people with AIDS."

—Jim King,
Bike-a-Thon
Coordinator

Already the community is generously donating to ensure a smashing success. GGBA Foundation is acting as fiscal intermediary at no charge. The Happy Boy Parking lot (Market and 15th St.) will be the starting point. Leticia's Restaurant is donating coffee and muffins and access to her place for whatever a Bike-A-Thon might need. Other gifts include thousands of free copies, posters, artwork and graphic services. The list is growing quickly.

Beneficiaries of the pledge ride are AIDS Hospice, S.F. AIDS Foundation, S.F. AIDS Fund, The Godfather Fund, Pacific Center AIDS Project, People With AIDS, Shanti and the Sonoma County AIDS Network.

Registration packs may be picked up at Headlines (Polk and Castro), All-American Boy or from the beneficiary organizations or clip the coupon below and return to '86 AIDS Bike-A-Thon, P.O. Box 14711, San Francisco 94114 and a pack will be mailed. Riders can also call (415) 771-0677 to request registration packs.



Bicyclists from Different Spokes get ready for the Bike-a-Thon. (Photo: S. O'Hara)

'86 AIDS BIKE-A-THON REGISTRATION PACK REQUEST

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Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

percent of local AIDS cases. Blacks account for 5 percent. One percent of local PWAs are Asian. Let's work together to see that no one else in San Francisco is infected with this virus. Together, we can do it.

The only way we have of limiting this epidemic is through prevention.

If we as a community are going to survive this epidemic,

all of us need to eliminate Unsafe Sex and needle-sharing from our gay male lifestyles until a cure or vaccine for AIDS is available.

No one has ever died from the frustration of giving up a few Unsafe Sex practices. Far too many have died of AIDS.

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

Services Available For Drug, Alcohol Recovery

Second of Two Parts

by Lewis Ellingham

This city is favored in having rounded resources for the rehabilitation of the substance abuser. This is true for gay people particularly. During the 1970s, organizations began forming to serve gays and new ones have come into being, until today gay men and women have places to turn to with tested records of offering real help to those who want it.

"Want" is a key notion here. There are more who need help than want the restructuring of lifestyles necessary, say those in the business of helping, to meet the difficulties presented by substance abuse. Resistance—"denial" it is called in recovery jargon—to admitting that one is in serious trouble and addicted is a part of the issue of wanting help.

The telephone book lists many numbers for first-time questions about help. Whether for crisis situations (Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous, for example) or for extended counsel-

ing, a few calls can begin a recovery process.

For gay men there exists a three-month live-in recovery community, **Acceptance House** (1710 Golden Gate Ave., 931-4994), one of only three such in the United States (all in California). Its acting director, Louis Dunn, guides a small staff in a client-operated, home-like facility where 15 gay men learn together to make their own ways in a drug and alcohol free world. Days are spent on jobs, evenings in groups focused toward the many paths to recovery from substance abuse. Baker Places, operator of **Acceptance House**, has four houses and 15 years of experience in San Francisco meeting a range of live-in recovery situations.

The AIDS crisis has added a new dimension to the kinds of problems met by counseling services. That is reflected in the fact that some of the money funding these services comes from California's AIDS funds. A link between sexual activity, life style and substance abuse has been noticed by many observers which the counseling services try to correlate.

Two services designed to help gay men meet substance abuse problems exist in the renewed **18th Street Services** (2152-B Market St., 861-4898) and in **Operation Concern** (1853 Market St., 626-7000). For women there is the **Iris Project**, (264 Valencia St., 864-2364), and the **Women's Alcoholism Center**, (3380 26th St., 282-8900).

All these counseling agencies are in San Francisco, all are financed at least in part through public funds especially focused



Eighteenth St. Services. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

to meet drug and/or alcohol abuse issues. While staffs vary, and therefore details of approach differ, the structures of all three agencies are quite similar in what each offers the client seeking help.

Individuals group therapies are available, the latter broken into "phases" which, in the men's groups, are three months each. The Iris Project's separation of first and second phase group sessions occurs at six months. The thrust of all group work moves from general issues to those more personal and special to group members as the phases develop.

Each agency requires those using its services to agree not to

the substance abuser are an intimate part of the picture in an addict's or abuser's development and will play a part in the therapy.

Special attention, too, is paid in counseling to the adult children of substance abusers. All these relationships are one of the reasons why so many more people than the abuser alone must be considered if therapy is to be effective. More often, those who find they are in a pattern of involvement with substance abusers, as children, lovers or friends, find that the same issues that concern the abuser concern themselves.

At 18th Street Services, an emphasis is placed on communi-

The AIDS crisis has added a new dimension to the kinds of problems met by counseling services.

use drugs or alcohol while they are clients. In fact, this requirement is universal through all therapy services, gay or not, in the Bay Area. The three agencies described above, and **Acceptance House**, all have acquaintance/education programs lasting a few days or longer so that those both guiding and using the services may directly experience whether or not he or she is in the right place.

Problems related to the situations of substance abusers are accommodated in interesting ways. The counseling agencies offer groups for lovers, for family, for the "co-addict." This notion is one that has grown from the experience of lay and professional therapists as well as the anonymous organizations like A.A. Often the people close to

ty outreach through the work of Frank Davis whose specialty is community liaison. This agency, serving presently some 50 clients, which reopened in December, has, or is hiring, seven counselors.

At **Operation Concern**, Skip Rose is coordinator for the substance abuse program for gay men **Operation Recovery**. He said 150 clients have entered the program since last July when the project began.

All programs ask payment for their services on a basis of "sliding scale" of income. All believe their rates of successful treatment high but convincing statistics are hard to come by since the real test of recovery measures over years. In every

(Continued on next page)



Operation Concern. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Services

(Continued from previous page) agency, by client request, ongoing groups of "graduated" clients are forming.

The Iris Project interacts with its parent agency, The Women's Institute for Mental Health. According to Charlene Cain, coordinator of the lesbian services program of the Iris Project, lesbian and general women's concerns in relation to substance abuse and in relation to couples, families and children, are explored under one roof. Though no facility for lesbian women exists like **Acceptance House** does for men, there are live-in recovery centers for women.

The Women's Alcoholism Center describes itself as lesbian-sensitive although it has no lesbian-only groups. It does, however, maintain a residence program for mothers and their children. Specializing in therapy, the Women's Alcoholism Center has no crisis intervention or drop-in facilities.

Whatever the condition of the individual asking for help when he or she first appears at an agency's door, the aim of therapy is to place a stronger, more self-sufficient, happier person again into society as soon as possible. Whether the time re-

quired is long or short, involves live-in or out-patient situations, the saving or finding of a job, the ordering of a lifestyle, the challenge of renewing a relationship, making friends, gay services exist.

The business of discovering people and living in the world without the haze of substance abuse clouding the reality "out

The Women's Alcoholism Center describes itself as lesbian-sensitive, although it has no lesbian-only groups. It does, however, maintain a residence program for mothers and children.

there," is the point of San Francisco's remarkable assortment of effective and experienced community programs to help.

There are also recreational alternatives to the bar scene. For example, why not have coffee with friends at **The Castro Country Club** (4058 18th St., weekday evenings and weekends noon till midnight; \$1/day membership, or \$15/monthly)? At CCC those living a lifestyle free from alcohol and drugs can meet in easy freedom.

L. Ellingham

Mental Health Advisory Boards

Current and former patients/consumers/survivors of Community Mental Health Services and their friends and families are needed for immediate openings on Advisory Boards to programs in San Francisco. These publicly funded services are sometimes criticized for being too traditional and "medical-model" oriented. Alternative patient care using peer counseling and social and vocational rehabilitation are being developed. The opinions and suggestions of patients are needed to balance the perspectives provided by the more traditional approaches.

There are no special requirements for becoming a member of one of the five Community Advisory Boards for Mental Health Services. The only requirements are time to volunteer, an interest in improving mental health services and a commitment to participate in the group decision-making process. For further information about the Boards and an application form, or to arrange a meeting with a current mental health volunteer, call **Rawna Romero** at 558-4671.



Tim Wolfred, Lori Palmer and John Molinari chat with Sen. Alan Cranston. (B.A.R. Photo)

Congress Dems Oppose AIDS Cuts

by Bob Ross

San Francisco Sup. John Molinari headed up a delegation to Congress last week to lobby for AIDS funding. It is planned to be the first of many such trips to Washington.

Included in Molinari's party were S.F. Sup. Harry Britt, John Ferraro, L.A. city councilman, Lori Palmer, Dallas city councilwoman, David Scondras, Boston city councilman, Brian Coyle, Minneapolis city councilman, Tim Wolfred, AIDS Foundation director, Bob Ross, publisher of B.A.R. and Dennis Collins, aide to Molinari.

Congressman Barney Frank of Boston set up the first meeting with House Speaker Tip O'Neill who assured the delegation that he and other key Democrats would strongly oppose the Administration's request for a \$41 million cut in the AIDS bill.

This was backed up in a later meeting with Kentucky Congressman William Natcher, chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on health issues. Rep. Natcher surrendered the chair in a full meeting of his committee to meet privately with the delegation.

All members of the group later agreed that it was a strong commitment by the Speaker and Rep. Natcher. This opinion was also voiced at a meeting with Sen. Alan Cranston and his staff. Cranston agreed to fight against the cuts in the Senate, and to help Sen. Lowell Wicker (R-CT) and his committee to increase AIDS funding in the next fiscal year.

At a luncheon hosted by Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, the subject of next year's AIDS funding was discussed. Rep. Boxer stated that she was looking at an increase next year in the neighborhood of \$375 to \$398 million. The figure was later agreed to by Henry Waxman (D-CA), who chairs the House's subcommittee on health and the environment.

Waxman was one of the early leaders in the House for increased AIDS funding. He stated that AIDS funding was his primary concern and that it was imperative to educate the American public in regard to AIDS.

The most depressing meeting of the day took place with the Public Health Service. Present were acting Asst. Secretary for Health, Donald MacDonald and Dr. Walter Dowdle of the Centers for Disease Control. It was apparent that the Administration cared little about AIDS research and services. They said they were spending what they considered record levels for research but were very non-committal about other services.

The Administration representatives seemed to be more interested in contact tracing and getting more people to take the HTLV tests. It was apparent that

(Continued on page 17)

A SPECIAL APPEAL TO MEN OVER 45

Some people have the mistaken notion that AIDS is a young man's disease—that older men aren't at great risk of contracting AIDS.

The statistics indicate otherwise. There are cases of AIDS among newborn babies and cases of AIDS among gay men in their eighties. AIDS does not discriminate on the basis of age (or race, gender, or sexual orientation).

In San Francisco, 35 per cent of men with AIDS are over 40. Nearly ten per cent of San Francisco AIDS cases are found in men 50 and older. By contrast, only 15 per cent of people with AIDS here are in their twenties.

Studies conducted for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation by a professional research firm indicate that men over 45 in San Francisco,

compared to any other demographic group in the local gay or bisexual male population, tend to be less knowledgeable about AIDS-prevention, and more likely to engage in anonymous Unsafe Sex than their younger counterparts.

We urge men over 45 to reassess their risk of contracting AIDS and to help spread the word to their contemporaries: Men over 45 are definitely at risk for AIDS.

Help is available. The STOP AIDS project, 621-7177, offers one-evening discussion groups about the AIDS epidemic for men of all ages; older men are especially welcome. The AIDS Health Project, 626-6637, provides eight-week support groups focused on issues of social support, health promotion, and AIDS. And, of course, the Foundation's AIDS HOT-

LINE, 863-AIDS, can provide the latest information on AIDS-risk and AIDS-prevention, as well as other referrals.

Remember, with AIDS, it's the sexual activity you engage in that counts, not how old you are. Please protect yourself and your partners from AIDS.



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333 Valencia St., 4th Floor
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S.F. Schools Urged To Expand Health Ed.

Committee Recommends District Policy, Wants Meetings for Parents on Aids

by Charles Linebarger

The San Francisco public school system inched a bit further toward adopting a policy for staff and students on AIDS this week. The district's Family Life and Health Education Advisory Committee voted Mar. 10 to accept the city's Health Commission policy recommendations on

how to deal with the illness in the schools. The matter now goes before the city Board of Education.

Felix Duag, the school district's public relations director, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the district's final AIDS policy will be a joint effort of the Public Health Department, the Family Life Committee and the school administration. "Mary Martin," Duag said, "is coordinator of all the AIDS stuff. Hopefully, it will be done within a month."

Martin, an administrative assistant in public information and school operation, explained how the AIDS policy recommended by the Health Commission and the Family Life Committee would apply to a student who has AIDS. "A joint expert committee drawn from the Public Health Department and

the San Francisco Unified School District will review students with AIDS on a case by case basis and make school placement decisions. (This joint expert committee) might be just Supt. Carlos Cornejo and Public Health Director Dr. David Werdegar, it might include more people."

"There are exciting developments now. But I'm sorry it's taken this long. What we're doing is a stop-gap measure to insure that all high school students get some AIDS education before the end of the spring term."

—Hunter Morey

Martin added, "The superintendent would then make the decision of which school the student with AIDS would attend. Only the superintendent and his designee, perhaps the principal, at that school will know that the student has AIDS."

Hunter Morey, a member of the Lesbian and Gay Youth Advocacy Council and the Family Life Committee, said of the AIDS policy recommended by the committee, "Those guidelines are basically the CDC's guidelines of Aug. 30, 1985 which the Lesbian and Gay Youth Advocacy Council had recommended to the school board on Oct. 1, 1985."

AIDS EDUCATION

The Family Life Committee, which was designated by the school board to deal with AIDS and other issues like those raised by the Lesbian and Gay Youth Advocacy Council last October, had its second meeting on Mar. 10. A number of recommendations came out of that meeting, according to Morey.

The committee recommended that this May be set aside as an AIDS awareness month, which would include parent-community meetings at school sites. It was also recommended that every parent in the district receive a flyer about these parent-community meetings which would include an AIDS education brochure, *Can I Get AIDS at School?*, by Hunter Morey. The district was also asked to produce posters advertising these parent-community meetings, a possible theme for some of them being suggested as "AIDS comes in all colors."

The committee also called on the district to require all students in grades 9-12 to participate in a one-time only class designed around the booklet, *What Everyone Should Know About AIDS*, by the third week of May this year. It also called for the creation of a teacher's training packet on AIDS which would include a fact sheet on homosexuality.

"There are exciting developments now," said Morey of what came out of the last Family Life Committee meeting. "But I'm sorry it's taken this long. We were ready last October to do all we're doing now. What we're doing is a stop-gap measure to insure that all high school students get some AIDS education before the end of the spring term. But what we need is a comprehensive sex education program at all grade levels and an integration of homosexuality into all relevant subjects throughout the school year."

When Martin was asked when the Family Life Committee would be taking up the other gay issues raised last October by the Lesbian and Gay Youth Advocacy Council, such as the anti-gay slurs policy and the gay-sensitive counselors in all schools, Martin responded, "That will be taken up next. All in due time. What we're tackling now is informing the teachers, students and parents about AIDS."

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Lobbying

(Continued from page 15)

necessary to maintain AIDS funding.

The lobbying effort was coordinated by Gary MacDonald, director of the AIDS Action Council.

In addition to the two days of lobbying, gay elected officials met under the auspices of the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs for a strategy conference.

B. Ross

even if they had the money, they wouldn't spend it. This opinion was later expressed to other members of Congress including the staff of House majority leader Rep. Jim Wright of Texas.

Michael Grisso, legislative assistant to Wright, said that it was perhaps the time to convene an overview committee to look into some of the complaints.

In other meetings with Sen. Pete Wilson and Ted Kennedy, strong commitments for further AIDS spending levels and funding were assured.

The delegation also met with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Ted Weiss (D-NY), Joseph Early (D-MA), Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX), Martin Frost (D-TX), Edward Roybal (D-CA), and Sala Burton (D-CA).

A meeting was also set up with Richard Johnson from the U.S. Conference of Mayors Offices.

Sup. Molinari stated to the group of delegates that he was willing to return as often as

NGLTF Board Vacancies

The board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announces several openings on the board for qualified persons interested in serving the national gay and lesbian community.

The board seeks to fill four seats currently vacant on the 24 member board through appointment. According to the NGLTF By-laws, the board maintains gender parity and reserves a number of seats for people of color. Of the seats currently available, two are reserved for men of color, one for a woman of color, and the fourth for a man. Full elections for the board are held in August and September of each year.

Directors must make a \$2,500 per year fundraising commitment to run, and must attend three to four meetings of the board each year. People interested in serving may contact Urvashi Vaid, chair of the Board Development Committee, by writing to the NGLTF, Washington office, 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.



Bigotry Raises Cash Says TV Producer

Christian Station Uses Anti-Gay Stance To Scare the Dollars Out of Viewers

by Allen White

A former producer of the Bay Area's self-proclaimed "Christian" television station charged that the station maintains its strong anti-gay stance out of fear and ignorance and to boost contributions from viewers. In an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Ed Doring, who for 18 months was producer of KFCB's (Ch. 42) nightly California Tonight show, revealed the inner workings of Northern California's largest religious broadcaster.

California Tonight is the operative word for "Christian television" in the San Francisco television market. The show is broadcast live from the Concord-based station every week night and rebroadcast during each day over the station. KFCB is carried in San Francisco over Viacom Cable.

After a year and a half, Ed Doring resigned Jan. 23 from the show. During that period of time he said the station had never defined any basic, positive goals.

Though positive goals were missing, Doring acknowledged the station was brimming with

negative philosophy. At the top of the list is the gay community. Aware that the station beams to a primarily older audience who identify with the phrase, "Christian family," the station keeps up a barrage of condemnation of gay men and lesbians.

According to Doring, that

position is translated to the viewer with the statement that "they hate the practice but love the person." Doring further stated that the comments about gay people come from "people who are working in unbelievable ignorance" about the gay community.

He said he was always amazed "at how a group of people could be so removed from the real world."

He directed his primary criticism at Ronn Haus, host of the evening show and president of the corporation that operates the station. He also spoke of Mary Martin, a woman who co-hosts the show and is now its producer.

As the AIDS crisis became a subject for the station, it was Martin, according to Doring, who made an on-air comment that "AIDS was God's punishment to homosexuals." Doring said Haus had come close to making the statement but always stopped short of bringing the connection full circle.

The hesitation by Haus, according to Doring, had been the result of numerous staff meetings where the issue of how to deal with AIDS and homosexuality had been discussed. It was during these meetings that it

(Continued on page 21)

ANAL SEX AND AIDS

UNSAFE SEX PRACTICES

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

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

sex has to cease to be a part of our gay male lifestyles until a medical solution for AIDS is available. The risks are just too great for both tops and bottoms.

Condoms can help. They are capable of stopping the AIDS virus. Anal intercourse with a condom is still considered "possibly safe" because of the risk of condom breakage through misuse. (The major causes of condom breakage are air inside the condom, not enough lubrication, old or

mistreated condoms, or the use of oil-based lubricants.)

It takes practice to use condoms correctly. However, condoms are readily available, inexpensive, and when used properly, are good protection. Learn to use them. If you insist on anal sex, insist on condoms.

Let's protect one another. Let's end Unsafe Sex in San Francisco until this epidemic is over.



THE SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION
333 Valencia St. 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-863-AIDS
Toll free in Northern California:
800-FOR-AIDS
TTD: 415-864-6606

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

G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Santa Clara Sups. OK BAYMEC Plan

by Dot James

On Feb. 4, as part of a \$7 million midyear budget adjustment, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the expenditure of \$60,000 for AIDS education and support services in the remaining months of fiscal year 1985-86.

One week later, the supervisors approved eight other points of a proposal presented to them by the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC).

Ken Yeager, founder and treasurer of BAYMEC, was named by Board President Susanne Wilson to head an eleven-member county task force on AIDS. Yeager, presently a graduate student at Stanford University, was formerly an aide to Congressman Don Edwards and was recently named to the 1986 Outstanding Young Men of America list.

The AIDS Referral and Information Services (ARIS) Project has been designated as the agency which will receive the AIDS

services contract administered by the Department of Public Health. Currently an all-volunteer organization, the ARIS Project was founded a year ago, and its volunteers are trained by the Shanti Project in San Francisco. The \$60,000 contract with the county will permit ARIS to hire staff, establish an office, and expand counseling and direct support services.

Other points of the proposal include establishing residential care facilities; expanding the AIDS education effort, par-

Ken Yeager, founder and treasurer of BAYMEC, was named by Board President Susanne Wilson to head an 11-member county task force on AIDS. Yeager was recently named to the 1986 Outstanding Young Men of America list.

ticularly to county employees who work with AIDS patients and to members of high-risk groups; increasing staff in the public health department's AIDS Project office; and directing the mental health department to coordinate its emotional support services with those of the ARIS Project.

Determining the additional funding necessary to provide for these services will be one of the first items on the agenda of the newly formed AIDS Task Force.

distribution."

Postmaster Brown in San Francisco sent a second letter to the Milk Club on Mar. 7, in which she told Lewis, "Be assured that the staff has been interviewed to assure correct handling of the publication in the future."

Lewis said, "She called me before she sent that letter and said bluntly that they had violated postal regulations and the law (in sending the brochure back to its sender)."

Lewis added that postal inspectors in Maine have opened an investigation in Caribou on the request of Congresswoman Barbara Boxer.

Lewis said that the gay newspaper in Caribou, *Communique*, to which the pamphlet had been sent, is contemplating a lawsuit. "We thought about a suit but decided not to. We wanted the post office to admit they were wrong and they have. But the Caribou people (*Communique*) have complained that their mail often comes rumpled and looks as if someone had looked through it."

Lewis said that the club was

EAST BAY MY WAY

NEZ PAS

Confusion Reigns

SOIREE WIDDRIM
(A *Confused Nose?*)

I received a call from Mama Chuckles, of Paradise, inquiring about the Suicide Party I had mentioned in this column. Our conversation went something like: "I don't know anything about it; don't you?" "I don't know anything about it either; I thought that you knew!"

Feeling a trifle bemused, I called the "source" from whom I received the information. Jim Malone, complete with a harsh case of laryngitis, was tad confused, too, and agreed to contact Mama Chuckles, in spite of his sore throat.

It seems the situation gets a bit more muddled. Lady Johnny's original date was listed as Saturday, March 15. When questioned by Jim Malone, she said it had always been planned for Friday, March 14. There was no explanation as to why it was never corrected on the ACIE activities calendar. Mama Chuckles and Paradise know of no party on either date, because they have never been contacted.

Don't question Jim Malone. He doesn't know. Don't question Mama Chuckles. He doesn't know. Don't question me. I don't know. Good luck if you should question Lady Johnny; let's hope she knows!

Now I'm informed Val Sousa is having a function at the Paradise Sunday, March 23. That's the same day as Big Mama's 8th anniversary party! If the calendar of events is supposed to alleviate tumult, why aren't people reading and heeding it? Don't question me. I don't know.

NONPAREIL EXTRAVAGANZA
(An *Interesting Idea Nose?*)

Sheree, lunch waitress at the Paradise, is planning a unique entertainment package. She is going to do a function for the Oakland Parade Contingent. The date is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, place to be announced. What makes her event so quintessential is the fact that she is recruiting a "representative" from as many local bars as she can to participate in the show. Sounds like it could be fun, and I wish her the best of luck.

GALLIMAUFREY
(A *Pastiche Nose?*)

Emperor Don V and Lady High Chamberlain Lady Lennie's Southern Nights and Chicken Feed had a steady stream of patrons during its 8 hours at the Paradise last Saturday. Being somewhat of a trooper, Lady Lennie performed her culinary duties gracefully while balanced on a pair of crutches (a broken toe, or some such thing)! Rhonda Love's fried chicken was really quite good; Emperor V Don's potato salad was almost as good as my spouse's. Lady Lennie's corn bread was the best I've ever

tasted, and Jim Malone's Bel Air corn was, well, yellow! (Advertised corn-on-the-cob proved to be too costly, resulting in the last-minute replacement.) Surprisingly, more platefuls of chicken were sold than were consumed at the bar. There were a tremendous amount of "take outs," with Midge gleefully shouting, "Two more with wheels!" The \$3 repeat had the proceeds going to the Oakland Float Contingent.

P.S. Don't ask Don about his car. He doesn't know how it happened... hee, hee, hee!

The Oakland Float Contingent's last meeting, at Revol March 3, gleaned 18 interested parties. A film of last year's parade was shown, and Richard displayed the Cable Car Award's certificate and plaque (from last year's winner). Yours truly was requested (in absentia!) to assist in making something on which to display the awards so it can be presented from bar to bar. The Wheel of Fortune function is still in the works, but no definite date as yet. The insurance has been taken care of, according to Phil, who said it was a little more expensive than last year. The next OPC meeting will be at the Lake Lounge Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. It will be held there every two weeks hereafter.

The Lake Lounge has a "soup kitchen" going every Saturday. Proceeds from the sales will go to the OPC. It will be every Saturday until the parade. So far, to date, \$207 has been added to the coffers of the OPC.

Revol celebrates St. Patrick's Sunday, March 16. Bravo Band will entertain at 4 p.m. and there will be a complementary buffet of corned beef and cabbage (with all the "trimmings" according to Hagatha).

The T&C dining room reopens for lunches next Monday, and being it's St. Patrick's Day, of course the special will be corned beef and cabbage.

Ruth Hastings & Company join Big Mama's in celebrating its 8th Anniversary Sunday, March 23, at 3 p.m. Daddy David's usual terrific buffet will be served.

A Thursday night cabaret at Big Mama's (March 20) features Cindy Herron (first Hayward appearance) with Danny Williams.

The Academy Awards will be upon us Monday, March 24. Check with your favorite watering hole... many are having some sort of contest. Revol's annual affair will have 14 categories for judging on its ballot.

Don't ever worry over what other people are thinking about you. They're too busy worrying over what you're thinking about them. That makes me smile! Love,

Nez

Bias

(Continued from page 17)

became clear that any issue which might give a human view of gay people was totally discouraged.

Doring said the station never could deal with gay issues with any compassion and whenever it was a subject on the air "you could feel the tension that would grip the studio." The reason, according to Doring, was both fear and finances.

Channel 42 gets most of its funding from its listeners. A spokesperson at the station who did not want to be identified, confirmed Doring's statement that "the audience base for the station is primarily older people who are set in their ways." Any compassion for gay people is perceived by station management as a threat to their primary base of financial support.

This concern is so strong, said Doring, that people at the station wanted to edit Pat Robertson's 700 Club because of a segment which showed gay people holding hands in the Castro. Though the thrust of the 700 Club segment was anti-gay, the station was nervous about showing a glimpse of the gay community even to justify a homophobic statement.

Asked if the station would ever consider covering an event such as the healing service for AIDS held by the National Episcopal Church at Grace Cathedral, Doring said they would, except for one problem. "If they aired the service they would have to show gay people praying and serving communion and it would be a threat to their financial support."

Doring said he has tried to get information aired to educate their audience about AIDS. He said he had no success. He also said he would like to have seen gay people presented on the show. "How else do you educate people about people?" he asked. Out of fear and ignorance, he restated several times, "Christian television" does not include gay people.

Doring said that many at the station are so ignorant of what is going on in the real world that they are afraid to deal with many sensitive subjects. He included divorce, child abuse and the gay community as just some of the areas where the staff of the station are not educated. "As a result," Doring said, "the station is not addressing the full concerns of the community it serves."

He said that the station has a blacklist, a list of ministers who are not allowed on the local program. The reasons, he said can

range from a minister who is in the process of getting a divorce to one who is fighting with another for whatever reason.

One minister whom he would name is Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of Clide Memorial Methodist Church, the largest Methodist Church in Northern California. Doring said the station management simply would not want him to express his views on their station.

Though they have local control on their California Tonight show, they sell time to a laundry list of preachers that includes Jerry Falwell and Jimmy Swagert as well as Jim Bakker's Praise the Lord show and Pat Robertson's 700 Club.

Summarizing his remarks, Doring said, "Secular television stations, through their programming do a much better job of expressing Christianity than do so called 'Christian' television stations."

Haus, an Assembly of God minister, is president of the corporation which operates KFCC, Channel 42 and hosts the nightly California Tonight program. A spokesperson for the station said Haus would not respond to Doring's charges until he had an opportunity to see a transcript of his comments.

A. White

Ch. 42's Response: No Comment

by Allen White

Ronn Haus, primary host for California Tonight refused to be interviewed by the *Bay Area Reporter*. His secretary stated that his schedule was so busy that he would not be available until at least mid-April for an interview. She said that Haus was giving most of his energy to a fundraising telethon which began this week.

Phyllis Criss, department head of broadcast standards for the station, responded to several questions regarding former California Tonight producer Ed Doring. Criss said she would not comment on any remark or charges made by Doring. She said she would not comment on any statements made on their California Tonight show without having the exact airtape for review of the tape.

Criss did say that Ch. 42 was a "Christian family" television station. She said that the station uses the Bible as the base for its guidelines. She emphasized that the people at KFCC were against "the act, not the person."

Asked why Ch. 42 has not devoted more time to AIDS, Criss stated it was because the station had no news department. Asked to confirm the comment

that "AIDS was God's punishment on homosexuals," she said she would have to know the exact date of the airing of the tape to make a comment.

She was asked if the station considered deleting a section of the 700 Club show because it showed gay men holding hands. She said, "If it aired we obviously didn't delete it." The segment was, in fact, broadcast, yet she refused to acknowledge if there had been an effort to delete any part of it.

Asked if they would have carried the AIDS healing service conducted last week at Grace Cathedral, Criss said they would not if it showed gay people serving communion. She then qualified the statement and said it might be approved for airing on their station because the service was conducted by Bishop Wil-

liam Swing, who is straight. Said Criss, "The service was the ministry of Bishop Swing, not the gay people."

She would not respond to the charge that the station had a list of ministers who would not be allowed on the station.

She said that the positions of the station were not dictated by financial concerns. She did state, however, that the station's viewpoint was a reflection of their viewer's beliefs.

A. White

Pacific Center Seeks Services Director

The Pacific Center AIDS Project is seeking a clinical coordinator to supervise direct services to project clients.

For further information on applying for the job, write Pacific Center AIDS Project, 400 40th St., Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94609.

Muzzled

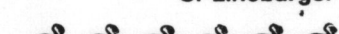
(Continued from page 3)

they thought it was sexually oriented material. It was not. If the club puts that (back) into the mailstream, it will go through like any other mailable material," he said. He explained "that was the only one out of thousands that were sent out (to be sent back). It's unfortunate that it happened."

Paul Michaud, a postal employee in Caribou, Maine, apparently took it upon himself to send the brochure back. Everett Cole, Caribou's postmaster, explained what happened. "As I understand it, one of the clerks here was sorting and as he came to that particular brochure, it wasn't sealed. As he handled it, it opened up and one of the words there caught his eye. So, he showed it to his supervisor and the supervisor (Michaud) sent the piece back to San Francisco," said Cole. "He thought it was sexually oriented mail."

Cole added, "I think the piece should have been delivered since it was going to a particular address and was not for wide

C. Linebarger



GGBA Food Drive

The Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA) will sponsor a food drive to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Food collection boxes will be placed in participating locations from March 17 to 28.

The following merchants are cooperating:

- Atlas Savings & Loan
1967 Market Street
- Atlas Savings & Loan
444 Castro Street
- Cala Foods
4201 18th Street
1445 Sutter Street
- Gilmore's
1068 Hyde Street
- IXIA Florists
2331 Market Street
- Liquor Express
572 Castro Street
- Midtown Stationers
2231 Market Street
- P.O. Plus
584 Castro Street
- Postal Instant Press
1101 Post Street
- Set Your Table
2258A Market Street
- 7-Eleven Store
3998 19th Street

The SFAF Food Bank relies on donations to provide food for people with AIDS. Please make a special effort to drop off a contribution at one of the participating merchants during this drive, and help those who need our help desperately.






WOODS

Easter Weekend

Samantha Samuels

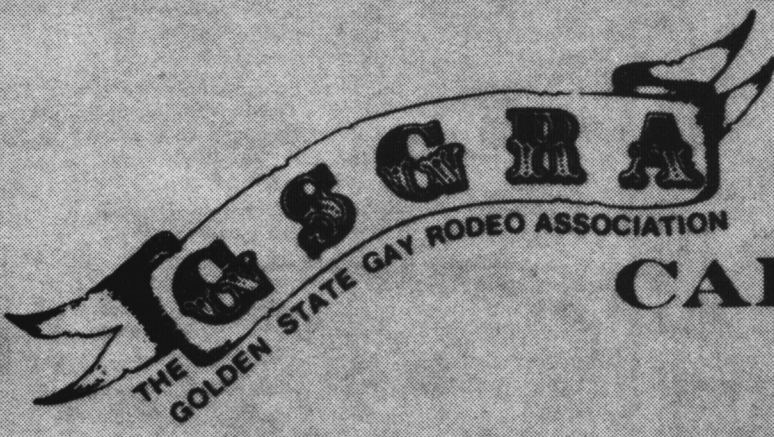
Friday, March 28th
Dinner served nightly —
Sat. & Sun. brunch
Call for reservations.

16881 Armstrong Woods Rd., Guerneville, CA 95446
Reservations/Information (707) 869-0111/869-0060



May 3, 1986

10,000 SHARED THE EXCITEMENT IN '85. BE PART OF IT.



2ND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA GAY RODEO AND COUNTRY DANCE FESTIVAL

| | |
|---|--|
| Thursday, March 20, 1986 | Kickoff Party |
| Friday, March 21, 1986 | Party at L.A. Equestrian Center |
| Saturday & Sunday, March 22 & 23, 1986, 11 AM | Rodeo & Country Dance Festival at L.A. Equestrian Center |

For tickets and information call (213) 498-1675

BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM

Collins at the Castro

The Reel Joan Collins and the Real Joan Collins Mix at Benefit for Cable Car Awards

by Steve Warren

They said, 'If you want to be taken seriously, take off your makeup and wear flat shoes and glasses, and people will take you seriously.' I said, 'Oh no, I don't want to do that. Don't take me seriously.'

—Joan Collins

Ask anybody in the gay press—it's not easy making a living as a professional bitch. Joan Collins has done it more successfully than anyone in recent memory. Her Castro Theatre tribute last Saturday night tarnished her reputation for bitchiness, but enhanced every other aspect of her image. She was beautiful and glamorous—the two don't always go together. She was gracious, witty and charming, and if she took any cheap shots she took them at herself, no one else. She was businesslike without being unfeminine. She was both warm and hot simultaneously—another difficult combination.

The strongest words she uttered were "bitch"—referring to "Mrs. Alexis Carrington Colby Dexter Morrell Whatever-her-name-will-be-next"—and "b.s."—referring to the ageism she hoped to counter by posing nude for *Playboy* at the age of 50. "And I suppose there was a bit of showing off there—Hey, look at me, I look all right now."

Whenever she "accidentally" made a double-entendre—elaborating on the point that killing is the one thing Alexis doesn't do, she said, "Alexis uses her tongue, not her fists"—Collins put on a look of mock shock that told us she enjoyed it as much as we did.

"We" were a near-full house of 1300 which raised a so-far undisclosed amount for the Cable Car Awards and the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Maybe 70 percent of us were gay men, including Florida U.S. Senate candidate Jack Campbell and Sgt. Glenn Swann, "Ar. Safesex."

Peter Holm, Collins' handsome new husband, sat in the middle of the house and took a bow at his wife's urging. He looks a lot better than Anthony Newley, whose naked ass was a low point in a selection of scenes from the actress' career—"the only time I've been upstaged by somebody's behind," as she put it.

The clips, from 13 films plus *Sins* and *Dynasty*, proved the sad fact that if Collins' complete

cinematic oeuvre were to vanish tomorrow, no one would miss it. There were more than 50 theatrical movies and none were better than mediocre.

The essence of Alexis was apparent 30 years ago in *The Opposite Sex*, a musicalization of *The Women*. As Crystal Allen she confronted June Allyson, whose husband she had stolen: "When Stephen doesn't like what I wear, I take it off!"

Most of the other clips showed Collins taking the aggressive role in a seduction scene, from Jack Hawkins in *Land of the Pharaohs* (1955) to Charles Grodin in *Sunburn* (1979). In *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing* (1955) she acted like a proper ingenue, knowing the effect it was having on Ray Milland. In *Road to Hong Kong* (1962) she acted coy with Bing Crosby, singing "Let's please be sensible" to his "Let's not be sensible."

Bette Davis was *The Virgin Queen* (1955) to Joan's less-than-virginal lady-in-waiting, pregnant with Sir Walter Raleigh's child. "Take this strumpet away!" Bette bellowed.

The only innocent role we saw Collins play was a novice nun shipwrecked with Richard Burton in *Seawife* (1956). She told us she took the part because Roberto Rossellini was set to direct it, but he quit because the censors refused to let the romance be consummated.

It was in the X-rated—today it would probably be PG-13—*Can Heironymous Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?* (1969) that her then-husband Newley bared his buns, as "Polyester Poontang" (guess who?) seduced him with the song "Chalk and Cheese." In *Sunburn* she jumped Grodin's bones saying, "Be cruel to me, darling. Bite my neck hard and tell me what a wicked lady I am."

The *Dynasty* clip had Alexis defending herself against a charge of murdering Mark Jennings: "Perhaps you think of me as a woman who has had too much, lived too well. I am guilty of many things. Stone me for the sins I have committed."

Not shown were two of Collins' least favorite films, which she spoke of later. She and Larry Hagman worked together in 1970, she said. "It was either *Up in the Cellar* or *Three in the Attic* or *Down in the Attic* or something. I don't remember the name of that wonderful film—another one of my great, great films." (It was *Three in the Cellar*, a.k.a. *Up in the Cellar*, a nominal sequel to the successful *Three in the Attic*.) Hagman, she said, is "lots of fun."

Collins hated *Empire of the Ants* (1976) largely because of the Florida filming conditions. "In this dreadful film... this ant came on top of me—fell on top of me," she amended as she



Joan Collins at the Castro Theater benefit. (Photo: Rink)

audience howled. "In the script it said, 'blows its noxious fumes over Vanessa and she expires.' Well, I couldn't stop laughing (at) this giant thing and the propmen all pulling at it, trying to make it squash me. To be asphyxiated by a giant paper-mache ant is the lowest that you can get."

Following the film clips came a welcome by Episcopal Bishop William Swing and presentations from Supervisors Louise Renne and John Molinari. Renne, in her capacity as acting mayor—"The real mayor's been out of town this week," she announced to thunderous applause—declared "Joan Collins Day" in San Francisco. Molinari brought a Certificate of Appreciation for the actress from the Board of Supervisors and said, "I know how popular she is in this part of the world," from looking into Castro-area bars on Wednesday nights.

Bishop Swing introduced Lia Belli, who had organized the event and would interview Collins. The reception accorded the star should be enough to sustain her through any lapses in self-confidence she may have over the next 20 years.

Ageism and sexism—or at least age and sex—were recurring themes of Collins' answers, even if they weren't directly prompted by Belli's questions.

In her days as a 20th Century-Fox contract player, Collins said, she was relegated to what she calls "wallpaper parts. I was referred to a lot as 'the girl.' Put the light on the girl! I always thought of it as rather insulting. Now I'd love it!"

She spoke understandingly of the sex symbol build-up Hollywood gave her: "They saw this girl who was pretty and sexy and had big—you know. Most young actresses do get exploited. It's part of the game. I finally started exploiting myself when I did *The Stud* (1978)."

Playing Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing*, she was shocked when the real Mrs. Thaw visited the set. "It was really rather sad to me because I was very young—quite stupid, actually. It seemed incomprehensible to me that this woman who had so much in the way of beauty and vibrancy had become this very old, slightly drunk lady.

"I felt very sorry for her and I think it gave me my first inkling of the vagaries of vanishing youth—which certainly does happen." As if suddenly remembering where she was, Collins added, "Not to you all, of course."

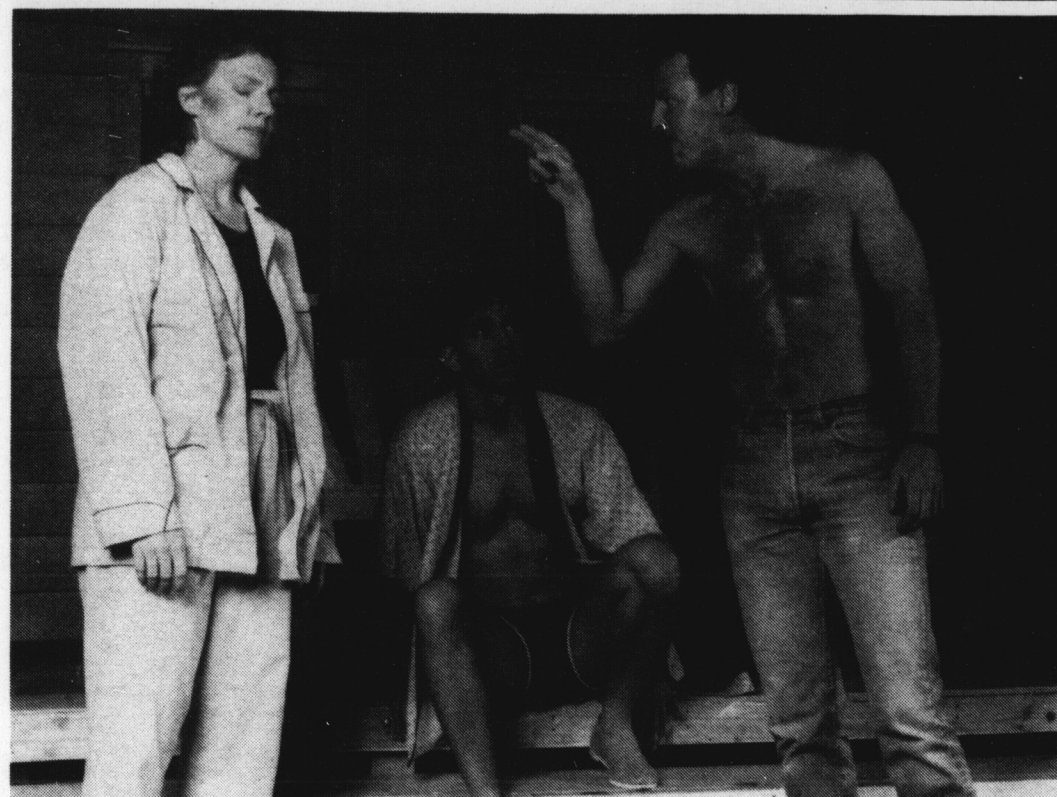
Working on *Road to Hong Kong*, she said, was "when I first became aware of the difference in ageism between men and women. It was perfectly fine for (Bob Hope and Bing Crosby) to be doing love scenes with me, a girl who's a quarter of a century younger than them, and yet it was not acceptable for Dorothy Lamour to continue playing the role she had played in the 20 years they'd been doing the *Road* films; and I felt rather badly about that. That, unfortunately, is part of the system as far as women are concerned. I'm very happy now to see the tides are changing a great deal."

Of course Alexis and *Dynasty* figured prominently in the conversation. Asked if she took the character home with her, Collins replied, "I take home her wardrobe whenever I can. I like to (Continued on next page)

Correction

An article on the Cabaret Gold Awards by Stephen Drewes in the last issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* incorrectly asserted that the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle is a defunct organization. The BATCC is alive and well.

STAGE



James Campbell (r.), Susan Allen (l.), and Chuck Kubick in *Levitation*. (Photo: S. Cohen)

Rising Above the Mire

by Stephen Drewes

Osscar Wilde may have had his tongue stuck firmly in his cheek when he turned Tennyson's immortal line around and wrote, "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have lost at all," but, truth to tell, Wilde never produced a more cogent line. Loss is the great leveler, the one thing we all share, and the success, or failure, of your attempts to deal with loss is a handy yardstick with which you can measure what used to be called Strength of Character in pre-psychobabble days.

Quite understandably, most of us try very hard to avoid loss, and the inevitable pain which accompanies it, but in the end, it is necessary to realize that these experiences are an essential part of the larger experience of living. Those who are able to view loss in this light, and accept it to one extent or another, are rewarded with gifts of compassion, sensitivity, and empathy. After all, as a sage friend once told me, "God instructs the heart, not with wisdom, but with pain and contradiction."

Coping with loss, both real and imagined, is the theme of Timothy Manson's *Levitation*, which opened in a new production directed by Chuck Solomon at the Theatre Rhinoceros March 8. The protagonist, a 29-year-old writer named Joe, burns out on life in New York City and retreats to his family home in Minneapolis, where he

is forced to confront his feelings about the death of his parents, the defection of his first lover, his inability to successfully relate to his current lover, Ira, and his resentment of his sister and her large brood of adopted children.

Levitation is a flawed script. I found the easy grace with which Joe's Middle Western, Lutheran family accepts his homosexuality highly unlikely, and the plot seems occasionally to lose focus. Too many characters wander about saying things like "What's going on here?" and "What are we doing?" What, indeed? I was forced to wonder, as the central conceit of the plot wasn't clearly revealed until the show was nearly over.

Despite these problems of craft, *Levitation* triumphs because of the beauty of Mason's writing, which reminded me now and then of Tennessee Williams—no small praise—and the range and depth of the issues he raises here.

Rhino's production of *Levitation* is first-rate. The set, by the gifted Sandra Howell, manages to be both authentic and lovely to look at. The lighting design by Paul August Cacciotti is luminously pretty, and captures a sultry summer night so accurately I could almost feel the heat. The costumes by Ann Marie Leimer are unusually well

keyed to the show's overall color concept, and the sound design, which is always good at Rhino, is the work of John Wilson.

Under Solomon's direction, the actors on the whole do a splendid job. James Campbell is a charming and relaxed performer but, unfortunately, he's woefully miscast in the central role of Joe. Campbell is so open, so friendly, and so gosh-darned sincere it's hard to imagine him being cynical about anything. Moreover, he appears to be so obviously Irish—he looks like the cutest boy to graduate from Saint Ignatius High in the last decade—that he would be distinctly out of place in this largely Scandinavian community. His sister Jean is played with depth and admirable restraint by Jane McFagan. Chuck Kubick does his best with the rather nasty role of Ira, and Joe's slightly dizzy mother and philosopher father are essayed to nice effect by Edward Ivory and Helen Petit.

Despite the seriousness of its purpose, there's nothing turgid about *Levitation*. In fact, it's a very, very funny play, and I urge you to give it a try. Some of you may be a little bewildered by its inconsistencies, as I was, but by all means, persevere.

Levitation
Theatre Rhinoceros
861-5079

Collins

(Continued from previous page)

leave the character at the studio. Alexis has become like a pair of slippers that I slip on because I know her well, I know how she's going to react."

Aware of the show's limitations, the star joked, "I have to say 'Get out!' in 75 different costumes." She gave several samples of variations on the line, concluding, "There are only so many ways you can say 'Get out,' but there are many different costumes you can wear to say it."

Having won her initial fight to make Alexis English rather than American, Collins said she continues to try to maintain some control over the character, particularly to tone down what she

calls "gratuitous bitchiness. They'd have me stubbing my cigarette out in an egg in every show."

Short takes on other subjects:

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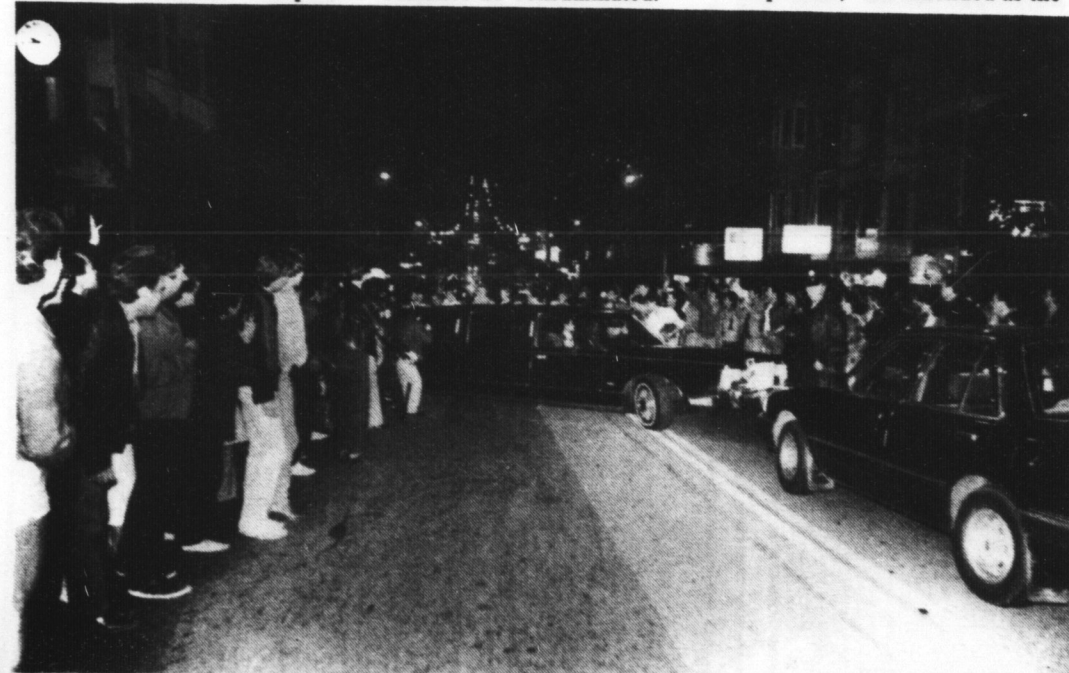
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The scene outside Castro Theater.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM

Collins at the Castro

The Reel Joan Collins and the Real Joan Collins Mix at Benefit for Cable Car Awards

by Steve Warren

They said, 'If you want to be taken seriously, take off your makeup and wear flat shoes and glasses, and people will take you seriously.' I said, 'Oh no, I don't want to do that. Don't take me seriously.'

—Joan Collins

Ask anybody in the gay press—it's not easy making a living as a professional bitch. Joan Collins has done it more successfully than anyone in recent memory. Her Castro Theatre tribute last Saturday night tarnished her reputation for bitchiness, but enhanced every other aspect of her image. She was beautiful and glamorous—the two don't always go together. She was gracious, witty and charming, and if she took any cheap shots she took them at herself, no one else. She was businesslike without being unfeminine. She was both warm and hot simultaneously—another difficult combination.

The strongest words she uttered were "bitch"—referring to "Mrs. Alexis Carrington Colby Dexter Morrell Whatever-her-name-will-be-next"—and "b.s."—referring to the ageism she hoped to counter by posing nude for *Playboy* at the age of 50. "And I suppose there was a bit of showing off there—Hey, look at me, I look all right now." Whenever she "accidentally" made a double-entendre—elaborating on the point that killing is the one thing Alexis doesn't do, she said, "Alexis uses her tongue, not her fists"—Collins put on a look of mock shock that told us she enjoyed it as much as we did.

"We" were a near-full house of 1300 which raised a so-far undisclosed amount for the Cable Car Awards and the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Maybe 70 percent of us were gay men, including Florida U.S. Senate candidate Jack Campbell and Sgt. Glenn Swann, "...fr. Safesex."

Peter Holm, Collins' handsome new husband, sat in the middle of the house and took a bow at his wife's urging. He looks a lot better than Anthony Newley, whose naked ass was a low point in a selection of scenes from the actress' career—"the only time I've been upstaged by somebody's behind," as she put it.

The clips, from 13 films plus *Sins* and *Dynasty*, proved the sad fact that if Collins' complete

cinematic oeuvre were to vanish tomorrow, no one would miss it. There were more than 50 theatrical movies and none were better than mediocre.

The essence of Alexis was apparent 30 years ago in *The Opposite Sex*, a musicalization of *The Women*. As Crystal Allen she confronted June Allyson, whose husband she had stolen: "When Stephen doesn't like what I wear, I take it off."

Most of the other clips showed Collins taking the aggressive role in a seduction scene, from Jack Hawkins in *Land of the Pharaohs* (1955) to Charles Grodin in *Sunburn* (1979). In *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing* (1955) she acted like a proper ingenue, knowing the effect it was having on Ray Milland. In *Road to Hong Kong* (1962) she acted coy with Bing Crosby, singing "Let's please be sensible" to his "Let's not be sensible."

Bette Davis was *The Virgin Queen* (1955) to Joan's less-than-virginal lady-in-waiting, pregnant with Sir Walter Raleigh's child. "Take this strumpet away!" Bette bellowed.

The only innocent role we saw Collins play was a novice nun shipwrecked with Richard Burton in *Seawife* (1956). She told us she took the part because Roberto Rossellini was set to direct it, but he quit because the censors refused to let the romance be consummated.

It was in the X-rated—today it would probably be PG-13—*Can Heironymous Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?* (1969) that her then-husband Newley bared his buns, as "Polyester Poontang" (guess who?) seduced him with the song "Chalk and Cheese." In *Sunburn* she jumped Grodin's bones saying, "Be cruel to me, darling. Bite my neck hard and tell me what a wicked lady I am."

The *Dynasty* clip had Alexis defending herself against a charge of murdering Mark Jennings: "Perhaps you think of me as a woman who has had too much, lived too well. I am guilty of many things. Stone me for the sins I have committed."

Not shown were two of Collins' least favorite films, which she spoke of later. She and Larry Hagman worked together in 1970, she said. "It was either *Up in the Cellar* or *Three in the Attic* or *Down in the Attic* or something. I don't remember the name of that wonderful film—another one of my great, great films!" (It was *Three in the Cellar*, a.k.a. *Up in the Cellar*, a nominal sequel to the successful *Three in the Attic*.) Hagman, she said, is "lots of fun."

Collins hated *Empire of the Ants* (1976) largely because of the Florida filming conditions. "In this dreadful film... this ant came on top of me—fell on top of me," she amended as the



Joan Collins at the Castro Theater benefit. (Photo: Rink)

audience howled. "In the script it said, 'blows its noxious fumes over Vanessa and she expires.' Well, I couldn't stop laughing (at) this giant thing and the propmen all pulling at it, trying to make it squash me. To be asphyxiated by a giant papier-mache ant is the lowest that you can get."

Following the film clips came a welcome by Episcopal Bishop William Swing and presentations from Supervisors Louise Renne and John Molinari. Renne, in her capacity as acting mayor—"The real mayor's been out of town this week," she announced to thunderous applause—declared "Joan Collins Day" in San Francisco. Molinari brought a Certificate of Appreciation for the actress from the Board of Supervisors and said, "I know how popular she is in this part of the world," from looking into Castro-area bars on Wednesday nights.

Bishop Swing introduced Lia Belli, who had organized the event and would interview Collins. The reception accorded the star should be enough to sustain her through any lapses in self-confidence she may have over the next 20 years.

Ageism and sexism—or at least age and sex—were recurring themes of Collins' answers, even if they weren't directly prompted by Belli's questions.

In her days as a 20th Century-Fox contract player, Collins said, she was relegated to what she calls "wallpaper parts. I was referred to a lot as 'the girl. Put the light on the girl! I always thought of it as rather insulting. Now I'd love it!"

She spoke understandingly of the sex symbol build-up Hollywood gave her: "They saw this girl who was pretty and sexy and had big—you know. Most young actresses do get exploited. It's part of the game. I finally started exploiting myself when I did *The Stud* (1978)."

Playing Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in *The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing*, she was shocked when the real Mrs. Thaw visited the set. "It was really rather sad to me because I was very young—quite stupid, actually. It seemed incomprehensible to me that this woman who had so much in the way of beauty and vibrancy had become this very old, slightly drunk lady.

"I felt very sorry for her and I think it gave me my first inkling of the vagaries of vanishing youth—which certainly does happen." As if suddenly remembering where she was, Collins added, "Not to you all, of course."

Working on *Road to Hong Kong*, she said, "when I found myself aware of the difference in ageism between men and women. It was perfectly fine for (Bob Hope and Bing Crosby) to be doing love scenes with me, a girl who's a quarter of a century younger than them, and yet it was not acceptable for Dorothy Lamour to continue playing the role she had played in the 20 years they'd been doing the *Road* films; and I felt rather badly about that. That, unfortunately, is part of the system as far as women are concerned. I'm very happy now to see the tides are changing a great deal."

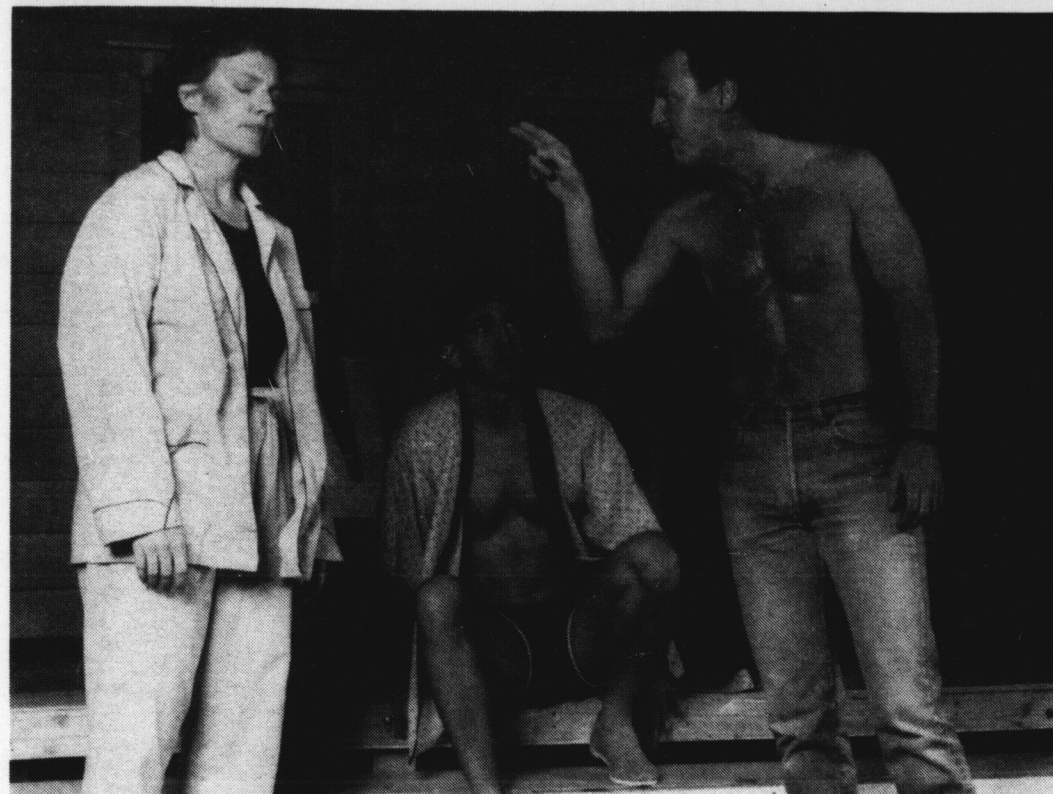
Of course *Alexis* and *Dynasty* were figured prominently in the conversation. Asked if she took the character home with her, Collins replied, "I take home her wardrobe whenever I can. I like to

(Continued on next page)

Correction

An article on the Cabaret Gold Awards by Stephen Drewes in the last issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* incorrectly asserted that the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle is a defunct organization. The BATCC is alive and well.

STAGE



James Campbell (r.), Susan Allen (l.), and Chuck Kubick in *Levitation*. (Photo: S. Cohen)

Rising Above the Mire

by Stephen Drewes

Oscar Wilde may have had his tongue stuck firmly in his cheek when he turned Tennyson's immortal line around and wrote, "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have lost at all," but, truth to tell, Wilde never produced a more cogent line. Loss is the great leveler, the one thing we all share, and the success, or failure, of your attempts to deal with loss is a handy yardstick with which you can measure what used to be called Strength of Character in pre-psychoanalytic days.

Quite understandably, most of us try very hard to avoid loss, and the inevitable pain which accompanies it, but in the end, it is necessary to realize that these experiences are an essential part of the larger experience of living. Those who are able to view loss in this light, and accept it to one extent or another, are rewarded with gifts of compassion, sensitivity, and empathy. After all, as a sage friend once told me, "God instructs the heart, not with wisdom, but with pain and contradiction."

Coping with loss, both real and imagined, is the theme of Timothy Manson's *Levitation*, which opened in a new production directed by Chuck Solomon at the Theatre Rhinoceros March 8. The protagonist, a 29-year-old writer named Joe, burns out on life in New York City and retreats to his family home in Minneapolis, where he

is forced to confront his feelings about the death of his parents, the defection of his first lover, his inability to successfully relate to his current lover, Ira, and his resentment of his sister and her large brood of adopted children.

Levitation is a flawed script. I found the easy grace with which Joe's Middle Western, Lutheran family accepts his homosexuality highly unlikely, and the plot seems occasionally to lose focus. Too many characters wander about saying things like "What's going on here?" and "What are we doing?" What, indeed? I was forced to wonder, as the central conceit of the plot wasn't clearly revealed until the show was nearly over.

Despite these problems of craft, *Levitation* triumphs because of the beauty of Mason's writing, which reminded me now and then of Tennessee Williams—no small praise—and the range and depth of the issues he raises here.

Rhino's production of *Levitation* is first-rate. The set, by the gifted Sandra Howell, manages to be both authentic and lovely to look at. The lighting design by Paul August Cacciotti is luminously pretty, and captures a sultry summer night so accurately I could almost feel the heat. The costumes by Ann Marie Leimer are unusually well

keyed to the show's overall color concept, and the sound design, which is always good at Rhino, is the work of John Wilson.

Under Solomon's direction, the actors on the whole do a splendid job. James Campbell is a charming and relaxed performer but, unfortunately, he's woefully miscast in the central role of Joe. Campbell is so open, so friendly, and so gosh-darned sincere it's hard to imagine him being cynical about anything. Moreover, he appears to be so obviously Irish—he looks like the cutest boy to graduate from Saint Ignatius High in the last decade—that he would be distinctly out of place in this largely Scandinavian community. His sister Jean is played with depth and admirable restraint by Jane McFagan. Chuck Kubick does his best with the rather nasty role of Ira, and Joe's slightly dizzy mother and philosopher father are essayed to nice effect by Edward Ivory and Helen Petit.

Despite the seriousness of its purpose, there's nothing turgid about *Levitation*. In fact, it's a very, very funny play, and I urge you to give it a try. Some of you may be a little bewildered by its inconsistencies, as I was, but by all means, persevere.

Levitation
Theatre Rhinoceros
861-5079

Collins

(Continued from previous page)

leave the character at the studio. Alexis has become like a pair of slippers that I slip on because I know her well, I know how she's going to react."

Aware of the show's limitations, the star joked, "I have to say 'Get out!' in 75 different costumes." She gave several samples of variations on the line, concluding, "There are only so many ways you can say 'Get out,' but there are many different costumes you can wear to say it."

Having won her initial fight to make Alexis English rather than American, Collins said she continues to try to maintain some control over the character, particularly to tone down what she

calls "gratuitous bitchiness. They'd have me stubbing my cigarette out in an egg in every show."

Short takes on other subjects:

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ART

Male Imagery

by Mark I. Chester

While back the *Advocate* published a list of 500 people who were leaders and trailblazers in the gay and lesbian movement. Of the artists listed, the great majority were writers, followed by a much smaller number of filmmakers and lastly, only two photographers. Interestingly, not one artist was listed whose main contribution focused on painting or drawing. Why? It is a question to ponder.

Gay Men's Press in London has recently published books of the work of two painters, living in London, who focus on male imagery. Along with GMP's recent publication of George Dureau's *New Orleans*, the publishing house is increasing the number of books with gay male imagery. These beautifully printed and designed hard-back books are small, only 8" square. They are also expensive at \$25 a crack, but well worth checking out.

Philip Core, *Paintings 1975-1985*, is the work of a 34-year-old American-born artist now permanently residing in

London. Core, a sculptor, filmmaker, designer, and more, presents a wide range of subjects in his paintings. He chooses everything from single male figures, to group studies, to political commentary and imaginary meetings between famous literary and artistic figures, but always people.

Ten or 11 different painting styles are also represented in this book. They range from abstract impressionistic imagery to flat, two-dimensional surreal figures, to more representational pictures. Core's explorations are moving and changing quickly, each new subject affecting the style chosen, and the style altering the way the subject is seen. And while his compositions are rich and sculptural, they have few strong lines to lead the viewer's eye through the painting.

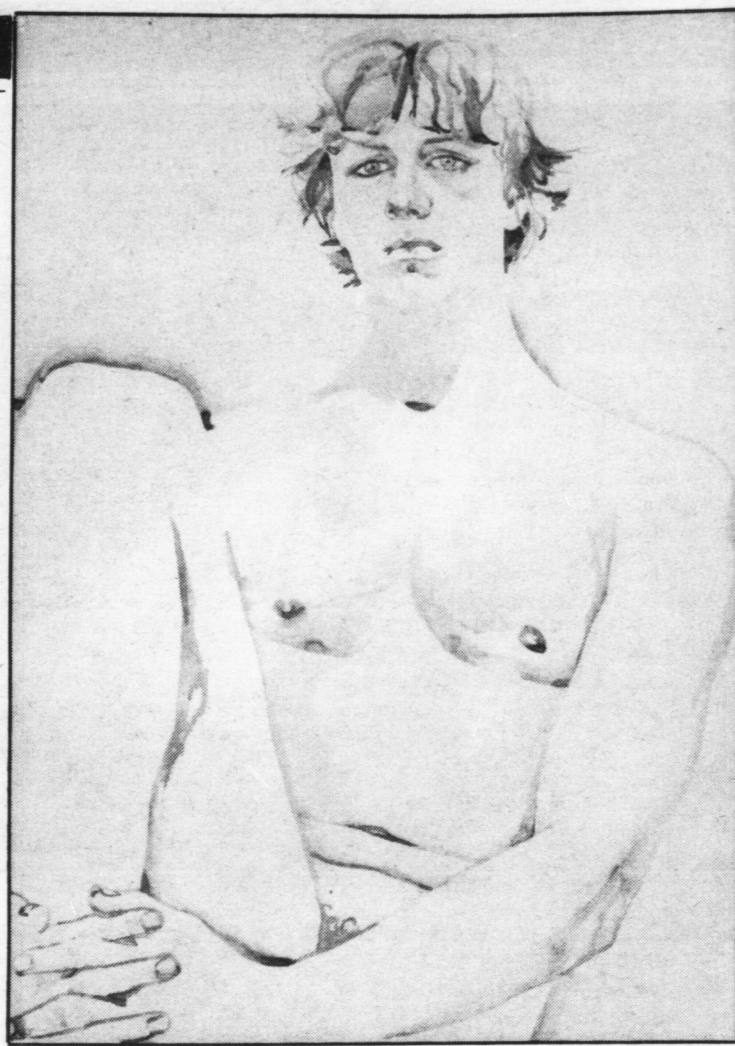
The most interesting paintings for me are his latest ones. Painted in dark, muted colors, Core paints dark on top of dark, creating dreamlike, shadowy images. The viewer must stare, almost too hard, leaving frag-

ments of ideas open to the viewer's projections and interpretations. We are not quite sure what the men lost in these landscapes are doing, but we can imagine. Although none are sexually explicit, sexual energy charges many of the paintings.

The second book, *Michael Leonard, Paintings* is the more unified work of a London illustrator turned painter. Leonard also focuses on people, although he is more of a portraitist than Core and sometimes his people are nothing more than a compositional element. The paintings reproduced in this book are of two basic styles. One is almost photo-realistic. (He works from photographs he takes.) and the other is stippled and softer, almost the way the eye sees under dim candlelight.

Leonard is highly concerned with the compositional balance and framing of his paintings, although it sometimes can overpower the content a painting presents. Strong lines and shapes flow through the pictures, boxing or carrying the eye.

(Continued on page 38)



An example of Don Bachardy's work.

MUSIC

Stylistic Diversity

by Bernard Spunberg

Abundantly satisfying musicianship distinguished the recital of solos and duets given by former and current members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Presented March 9 at the First Unitarian Church, the recital posed one of the cruelest challenges musicians can face. As though they were auditioning, the performers marched out one after another with only one brief chance to give his best. There was no opportunity to get the feel of the hall, no time to warm up and settle in. That the performances were as fine as they were was a mark of ingrained musicianship and professionalism.

As at previous concerts, bass John Musselman made a mighty impression. His interpretation of "Dormiro sol nel manto mio regal" from Verdi's *Don Carlo* had the dramatic breadth, vocal lushness, and tonal variety that suggest the possibility of a major career. The size and dark color of his voice, however, call for continual emphasis on brightness and forward projection, qualities that would have put the finishing touch on Musselman's duet from Handel's *Julius Caesar* with Dale Richard.

Richard's baritone twined sensuously with Musselman's bass in the Handel and was beautifully controlled in Samuel Barber's "Nocturne." Well mixed and focused throughout its range, Richard's voice opened up to an easy, sweet top. Richard's clear diction expressed the drama of the song as well as his voice conveyed the music.

Tenor Ted Smith deserves a prize for inspired programming. "Winterstürme wichen dem Wonnemond" from Wagner's *Die Walküre* is usually sung by voices too big and inflexible to express the youthful fervor of the text and music. Bright, sweet, and focused, Smith's tenor outlined the tune beautifully,

easily expanding to unexpectedly large proportions at the climax. The Wagner was all the more impressive following Smith's moody, introverted performance of Schubert's "Nacht und Traume."

Tenor Terrance Maguire walked out and sang Respighi's "Nebbia" and "Tra vol belle" from Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* as though they were easy. Perhaps the most technically finished singer on the program, Maguire sang with bright, focused, blended, sweet tone. Though the Respighi was interpretively on the monochromatic side, the Puccini sailed forth with airy grace.

Tenor Bob Weinand gave a similarly accomplished rendition of an aria from Handel's *Samson*. Weinand negotiated the florid coloratura with every note and word clearly, accurately, and musically placed.

Baritone Garrett Collins also sang on a professional level. His voice is large and focused, and he gave "Il balen del suo sorriso" from Verdi's *Il Trovatore* a delicious, rhythmic swagger. On other occasions, however, he has impressed with more dynamic variety, more delicate phrasing, and better control over ornaments.

Tenors Rick Slavsky and Lester King, different though their voices are, were similarly successful. King's big, bright voice was not too subtly controlled, but nevertheless met the challenge of "Cielo e mar" from Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* admirably. With rather less voice to work with, Slavsky relied on excellent diction to convey the wit and satire of two Gilbert and Sullivan arias with an ironic touch.

Baritones David Held, Peter Franz, and Edward Brenner—who also produced the concert—completed the vocal portion of the program. Held's performance of a Chaminade song

was careful. His small, focused voice revealed intelligent, responsible musicianship. Franz's Italian aria was affected by pitch problems but was otherwise alright. Brenner's choice of two lovely Vaughan Williams pieces was appropriate for his small but attractive sound, and his even more attractive stage personality.

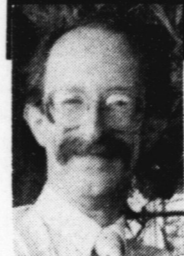
Gay Men's Chorus Director Gregg Tallman accompanied several of the singers and also played Pachelbel's "Toccata in e minor" for organ. Tallman performed the short, splashy Pachelbel work with a strong rhythmic pulse, clear textures, and fine legato. Organ solos by Alan Blasdale, who also accompanied several singers, were positively heaven-storming. Though his legato was not so seamless, Blasdale's electrifying registrations and leaning into dissonant harmonies made high drama—and high camp—out of Handel's "Fantasy in f# minor" and the "Toccata" from Boellman's *Suite Gothique*. Fine keyboard contributions to the singers' efforts were also made by Bob Shedd and most especially by Christopher Barge, who accompanied Musselman's Verdi aria with an orchestral sense of color.

The real king of the keyboard, however, was Terry Peterson. Peterson is usually stuck behind singers. This time, he emerged to play Ravel's "Jeux d'eau" and "Toccata" with a virtuoso flair that made the two showpieces sound easy. Peterson's performance had crystalline textures, myriad singing and thunderous colors, and technical mastery sufficient to allow him to generate the illusion of spontaneous improvisation and play. It's not that he indulged in razzle dazzle for its own sake—Peterson is too much the artist for that. He simply sat down and unleashed an avalanche of tone.

Peterson was wonderful, but he was just the tip of the iceberg.

EVEN IN BABYLON

Wrap Around

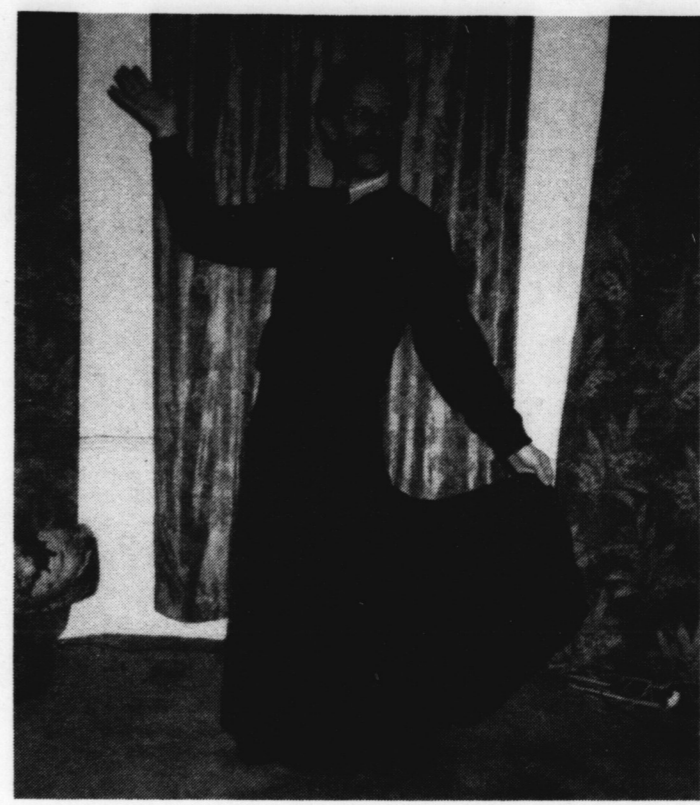


JOHN F. KARR

It was gay and giddy, but some of the glamor was hemmed in on account of rain. Actually, if you examine the participants of Skirt Sunday II, described as "a Sidewalk Fashion Event," you'll find they are beyond glamor, making their own rules and creating their own beauty.

Who was there? Some radical fairies, a diva or two, perhaps a progressive politician, and moi—with my previously secret passion for pleats revealed to all in a public parade.

It was definitely a San Francisco affair. The organizer didn't show up, the main body of celebrities had an unusually creative approach to the announced time schedule, and nobody knew exactly what it was we were supposed to be doing. The first Skirt Sunday took place on a warm day last September. The event's repetition last weekend suffered some for style as we bundled up against the cold, and pleats do lose a certain crispness in the damp, but we promenade down Haight Street anyway, pondering our goal other than indulging our fondness for the swish and swagger of men in skirts.



John F. Karr, aka Kitty Carlisle, prepares for Skirt Sunday II.

A LESSON FROM ALOES

One man who has never skirted the issue is playwright Athol Fugard. His plays have attacked the thornier political problems of life in South Africa, but without the burden of rhetoric, statistics, and sloganeering that goes with most agit-prop. Fugard instead focuses on individual people and the effect the political climate has had on their lives. What he finds is a rich land decimated to desert aridity, which he shows in spellbinding and suspenseful theater that propels us forward with surprise revelations as it awakens us to the heartbreaking destruction of human values caused by separatist politics.

It's always a privilege to see a Fugard play, and the Walnut Creek Civic Arts Repertory Company production of *A Lesson From Aloes* is no exception. It received excellent reviews in Walnut Creek, and has been transferred to the Julian Theatre, where it will play through March 23 (647-8098). While the present cast doesn't realize the full scope of the script in the way the more experienced actors of the Berkeley Rep production did several seasons ago, they do not blunt the play. Their acting is committed and true; I found and heard new things in their repetition of this rich play.

The plot examines the lives of Gladys and Piet Bezuidenhout, a white and Afrikaner couple, and their "friend" Steve, a coloured activist. Steve has recently been released from prison, and since he's under banning orders he cannot work and is leaving his country to be able to support his family. He is coming for a farewell dinner with his former friends but suspects, as does Gladys, that Piet is the informer responsible for his imprisonment.

Gladys, too, questions her husband's complicity with the Secret Police, who stormed her house and confiscated her diary—a violation which caused a nervous breakdown. It's wife against husband, friend against friend, each marooned on islands of doubt and despair

which the apartheid has caused. The traumatic last supper is alarming with its betrayals, accusations, and revelations, and the resolution is at once disheartening and cautiously optimistic.

In the light of the AIDS crisis I responded to *A Lesson From Aloes* more personally than before. Piet, in his isolation, takes solace from the Aloe plant, "distinguished above all else for its inordinate capacity for survival in the harshest of possible environments." The Aloe has a thick skin and thorns, and it survives, but its roots, says Fugard, still need attention, "looking for the space creation intended for them."

Fugard also shows great concern for the process of naming—the first thing Adam did, and the first thing parents do with their children. What our enemies (and the South African government) do is to remove our names, reduce us from individuals to homosexuals and blacks. It is with the concern of Fugard that we see the need for claiming our names and our rights. Regardless of nationality, color, or sexuality, Fugard's play wraps around us with the elements of grand theater and brother love.

AIDS Art Show

An art exhibit expressing the community's feelings about the AIDS crisis will be held June 15-30 at CNA/ART at Fillmore and Waller in San Francisco, with satellite locations as needed.

Artwork in all mediums (including video and performance) will be exhibited. Eligible artists who have died of AIDS, work by artists living with AIDS/ARC, and artwork directly relating to the AIDS crisis.

To apply, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Artists for Community Life, 1423 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94117. You will be mailed application instructions and an entry form. Completed entry forms must be received no later than April 15.

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WIDE SCREENING

Boy Into Man, Girl Into Woman, Woman Into Woman

STEVE WARREN

Many less than first-rate stories hinge on a totally irrational action without which there would be no plot. Lina Wertmuller's *Sotto... Sotto* (softly... softly) is a good example. After instigating love-making for the first time in their marriage, Ester (Veronica Lario) stupidly tells her husband Oscar (Enrico Montesano) that she was thinking of someone else—"an impossible love."

He responds forte... forte by getting drunk and trying to find out who his rival is. He stumbles through the rest of the film lashing out at everyone including, finally, Ester and her friend Adele (Luisa DeSantis).

We've known all along that Adele is the object of Ester's fantasies, ever since an innocent visit to a lesbian cruising park in Bomarzo inspires a dream of the kissing scene from *Notorious*, with Ester as Ingrid Bergman and Adele as Cary Grant. At the park, with a statue of Ariana reclining in a lovely autumnal setting, someone thinks she recognizes Maria Schneider.

Wertmuller treats lesbianism as a natural extension of feminism and drops the "statistic" that "Within 14 to 20 years there'll be 80 percent bisexuals. Women even more." The ending, however, confirms the status quo and the impossibility of the women's love.

From our perspective at least,

Sotto... Sotto is successful while it sticks to the women—about 25 percent of the time. The rest is typical Italian comedy with Oscar's chauvinistic, homophobic rantings giving macho assholes a bad name. (Gateway)

CROSSROADS

Crossroads is the strangest and most wonderful rite-of-passage movie in a long time, breathing new life into that cliched genre. Ralph Macchio isn't quite up to the emotional demands of the lead, but I'll still let him have my baby whenever he's ready. As he did in *The Karate Kid*, Macchio turns an old supporting player into a star—Joe Seneca in this case.

Seneca's an old blues musician who played with the legendary Robert Johnson 50 years ago. Macchio wants to be a young blues musician, but everyone tells him he can't. His professor at Juilliard, who doesn't like him adding blues licks to classical pieces, says, "Excellence in primitive music is cultural. You have to be born to it." Seneca teases him about his origins: "Long Island, the famous breeding ground for bluesmen."

So Macchio creates his own work-study program and runs off with Seneca to revisit Highway 61. Each has his own agenda and neither achieves it the way he expected to. Director Walter Hill



Veronica Lario, Isa Danieli, and Luisa De Santis in *Sotto, Sotto*.

indulges his taste for surrealism as Macchio fights a guitar duel with heavy metal animal Steve Vai, with a couple of souls riding on the outcome.

Sex is a tertiary concern on the road, after music and survival. It's provided by Jami Gertz, playing the same semi-tough runaway she did in *Quicksilver*. She does it better this time, but is in no immediate danger of making my list of favorite actresses.

Crossroads is a perfect title for a story of a young man facing his future, besides being the name of the Robert Johnson song popularized by Cream and the focal point of an invented or uncovered piece of Southern mythology that screenwriter John Fusco obviously understands as well as a white boy can. (Northpoint)

Mary Kay Place is excellent as her mother and Williams is a Treat for the eyes in a one-dimensional role, more symbolic than human.

If you want to learn or remember how it feels to be a 15-year-old girl, *Smooth Talk* may be as close as the movies come this year. (Galaxy)

FEST AND FOREMOST

Don't tell anyone where you heard this, but if you know any Laurie Anderson fans, urge them to get their tickets early for the San Francisco International Film Festival's midnight "Sneak Preview" March 29 at the Clay.

The 29th edition of the Festival kicks off next Wednesday, March 19, at the Palace of Fine Arts with Brigitte Berman's documentary *Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got*. The 75-year-old big band leader, who was married to Lana Turner, Ava Gardner, and six others and considered Judy Garland "a little sister," tells a fascinating story—his own. The music is lo-fi and in short takes, but Shaw's bringing an orchestra with him for a post-screening concert.

Thursday, March 20, the highlights are at the Palace of Fine Arts again. At 4 p.m. actress Laura Betti will be in a seminar, "Remembering Pasolini," about the gay Italian Marxist director who died mysteriously just over ten years ago.

At 6 p.m. Marleen Gorris' feminist drama *Broken Mirrors*, a highlight of last year's Lesbian/Gay Film Festival, will be shown. It tells parallel stories of the women in a whorehouse and a woman held prisoner by a serial killer, with a lesbian twist at the end.

Nestor Almendros will be on hand for a tribute at 8. He's the award-winning cinematographer who co-directed *Improper Conduct*, about Castro's mistreatment of gays in Cuba. That film will be shown March 27.

The Festival's major gay premiere, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, screens March 29 at the World. It's bound to be a sell-out, so plan ahead.

Sure to be a visual highlight of the Festival is *Lumina*, an 80-foot tunnel in the Palace of Fine Arts Lobby, housing a multi-media display of Pasolini memorabilia.

CALLING GAY PARENTS

A 45-minute rough cut of Kevin White's video documentary *Not All Parents Are Straight* will be shown Wed., March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Adolph Gasser Screening Room, upstairs at 181 2nd St. Admission is \$1 and the filmmaker will be on hand for discussion afterward, along with co-producer Annamarie Faro.

DEALERS JOYCE

Joyce Chopra's *Smooth Talk* is either a drama about a statutory rape or a teenage girl's masturbatory fantasy. Readers of Joyce Carol Oates' short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" may have a clearer idea of which, but the film's first hour prepares us for the latter.

I thought of the country song "The Girl Turned Ripe and the Pickers Came Today." Connie (Laura Dern) is 15 and spends most of her summer time cruising the relatively safe Santa Rosa Mall with her girlfriends. Growing hornier and more daring, she crosses the highway to the drive-in, where a steady stream of boys is waiting to drive her: to a quiet spot—but she knows how to say no when that quiet spot turns out to be her "G spot."

Being at an impossible age, Connie is unhappy at home. Her attitude has turned her mother into a shrew, and if her older sister ever had the same feelings, she's forgotten them. Connie is still daddy's little girl as long as he doesn't try to get too close—which is okay with him.

Along comes Treat Williams, playing a heterosexual chicken hawk. In an ominous but almost romantic way he tells Connie he's her lover, as if by divine appointment.

Laura Dern, daughter of Bruce Dern and Diane Ladd, acts rings around Ringwald in what is not so much a serious teen movie as a teenage art film.



TALES OF TESSITURA

Busy Beavers

GEORGE HEYMONT

Although Americans derive great pleasure from knowing they live in a leisure society, studies have shown that hard work can offer strong emotional and physical benefits to an enterprising individual. Why are so many workaholics happy with their curious addiction? Because intensely goal-oriented efforts reward them with increased productivity and feelings of self-validation. Many people who retire quickly discover that they can lead more interesting lives if they will only fill their newfound free time with an incredibly diverse roster of activities. Some join dance groups and gardening clubs. Others volunteer their services to hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and political causes. Why? Because a feeling of involvement and accomplishment feeds their self-esteem, while encouraging them to seek out and meet stronger challenges.

Necessity, so they tell me, is the mother of invention. What else could have inspired a friend working in the Stop AIDS Project to telephone me one night with the joyous news that after long hours of research and investigation, he and his boyfriend had discovered they could have safe sex by rimming each other through Saran wrap? A recent conversation with the head of the San Francisco Bondage Club revealed that members of that august institution are confronted with even more complicated restraints.

Alas, bureaucratic tethers are the ties that bind. Last year, thanks to the intervention of a sympathetic forest ranger, a Bay Area uniform club was able to donate eight hours of manual labor to a National Parks Service improvement project in exchange for the privilege of spending a night in the isolation cells on Alcatraz Island. Although the San Francisco Bondage Club has planned a similar venture, recent cutbacks in the Park Service's budget have put tighter limits on the bottom (shall we say) line. How can this be? It seems that one of the uncanny side effects of the Gramm-Rudman bill has been to eliminate the payment of overtime wages to all National Park Service rangers. While such an obstacle might leave many prospective backpackers tied up in knots, I have great faith that the ever-industrious and creative members of the San Francisco Bondage Club will find a way to break through the flimsy fetters of governmental red tape and come up with an appropriate reward that might make an evening on Alcatraz worth their friendly ranger's while. Surely the magnanimous donation of a day's hard labor by so many stout-hearted men deserves stiff compensation.

HORNE OF PLENTY

If there is one American singer whose hard work over the past two decades has reaped justifiable rewards, it is Marilyn Horne. On many occasions, the mezzo-soprano has come onstage with the pugilistic walk of a prizefighting prima donna. A Rossini specialist who deserves to be listed in Ripley's Believe It Or Not—if only for the sheer number of notes she has sung—



'You mean all those notes came out of my mouth?' Isabella (Marilyn Horne) makes a stunning entrance in Rossini's *L'Italiana In Algeri*.

Horne recently shed 30 pounds, changed the color of her hair, and dramatically lightened her presence. Thankfully, the loss in weight has not been accompanied by a loss in vocal power or musicianship.

The new Horne looked particularly perky during the Met's revival of Rossini's *L'Italiana In Algeri*, which was simulcast Jan. 11 as part of PBS's *Live From The Met* series. When seen in the house several weeks prior to the telecast, Horne's performance was thoroughly professional, if a bit clinical in its control. Some of this may have been due to concern about her forthcoming telecast, I do not know. In any case, Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's pleasantly designed production is beginning to show its age—as is Paolo Montarsolo's bellowing rendition of Mustafa. Allan Monk scored strongly in the role of Taddeo. Although Douglas Ahlstedt's Lindoro was a very nice surprise, Myra Merritt (Elvira) was as insufferable as ever.

An accomplished musician who is now at the peak of her vocal and interpretive powers, Horne is riding high these days. However, she didn't attain her lofty position in international music circles without years of study, hard work, and the stubborn persistence of a long-distance runner. While some have complained in recent seasons that the technical prowess which underlies so much of Horne's singing often makes them wonder if her musicmaking is devoid of any soul, the true glory of this woman's artistry was evident during her recent appearance in San Francisco with Montserrat Caballe. Throughout the evening Horne was in splendid vocal health. Her solo encore—a Spanish song by Rossini—brought down the house. In a stunning display of musicianship which brilliantly showcased her coloratura skills and interpretive powers, Jackie gave her audience the penultimate

demonstration of what great artistry is all about. Her share of the evening was a triumph of hard work and divine inspiration.

SPANISH SLOTH

I wish I could be as flattering about Montserrat Caballe's contribution to the joint recital, but the Spanish soprano—who showed up 15 minutes before curtain time and left immediately after the performance—was less pleasing to the ear and hardly as professional as her colleague. Camping it up onstage while delivering a performance which came nowhere near matching her reputation, Madame ended up sounding like a funny girl who had little interest in taking her work very seriously.

One of the pitfalls of being a lazy artist is that, when the chips are down, it shows. Thus, while many of Caballe's fans remained devout in their worship of this aging diva, there could be no denying the fact that the woman's vocal range has kept diminishing while she good-naturedly wings her way through the sheets of music which are placed in front of her. Don't get me wrong: I treasure many of Montserrat Caballe's recordings, which contain great moments of vocal splendor. But when it comes to her live performances, I fear the woman's *modus operandi* is to take the money and run.

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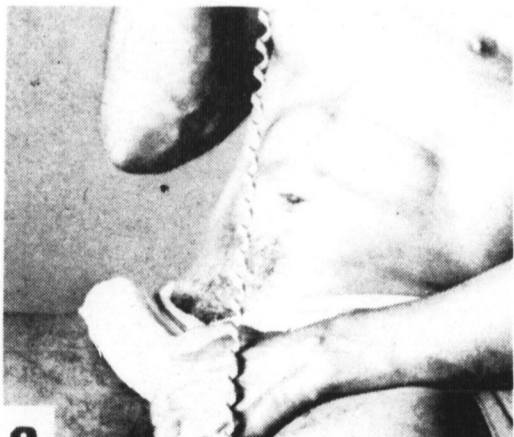
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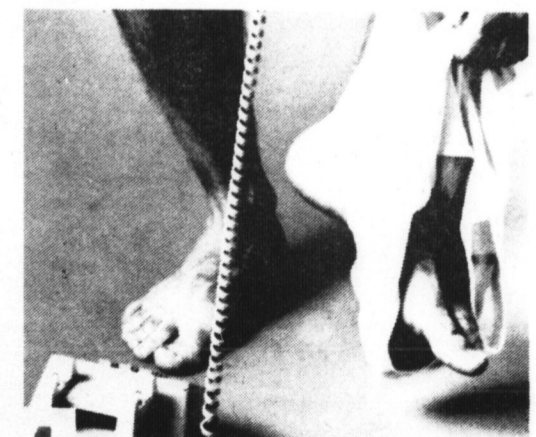
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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

winner, with Ken Bergquist taking the second spot. Both will compete in the finals Sunday, April 6, when winners of the March 12 and 19 contests vie for the trip to Chicago with airfare, accommodations, and cash on the Memorial Day Weekend.

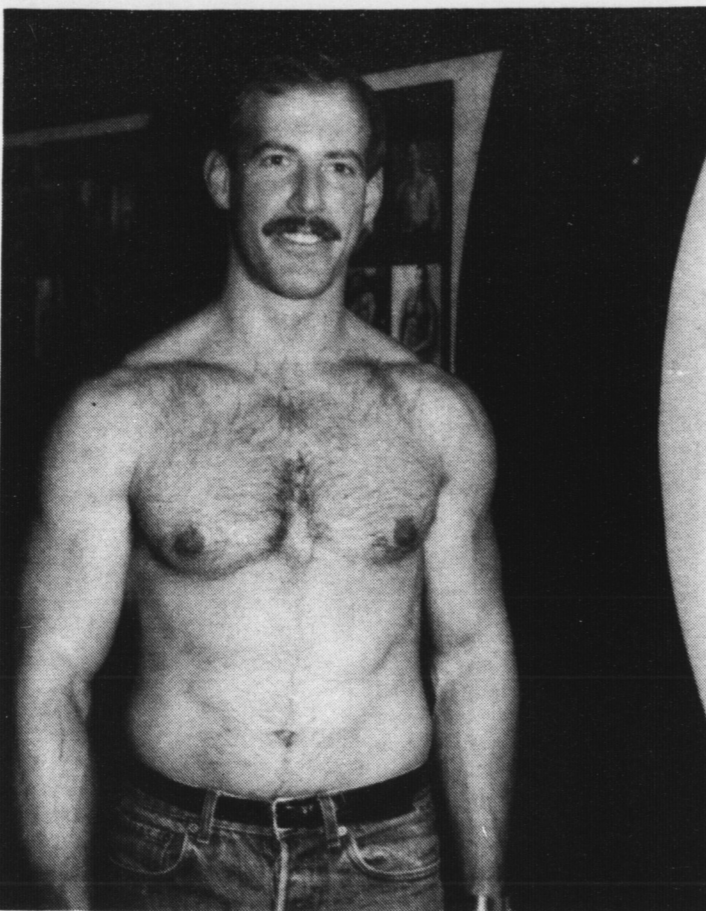
Speaking of Chicago, for those of you interested, a package deal has been set up by Vern Stewart for \$485 which includes round trip airfare, hotel, airport transfers, a ticket to the contest, and all the amenities of the weekend. Call 765-6367 for your reservations now. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by April 1.

At the SF-Eagle Thursday, March 6, Jim (Body by God) Ashley snagged the Mr. March title on the 1987 calendar easily over the other contestants. The next contest to name Mr. April 1987 will take place on Thursday, March 20, so get yourself pumped up if you want to win the \$100 cash prize and a spot on next year's calendar.

The contest to name Mr. SF-Eagle Leather begins Thursday, April 3, and continues to April 10, 17, and on the 24, the winner will be selected to represent that bar in Chicago. Hope to see some hot leather men competing again this year.

Friday, representatives from all the gay bands in the U.S. blew into town for a weekend conference and were hosted by Bob Golovich and the SF Band Foundation at a very spiffy cocktail party held at the new ultra-plush Comstock House. This soon-to-be-a-private-club boasts some 16,000 sq. ft. of space on four floors that will house a gym in the basement, several bar areas and dining rooms, and a banquet room on the fourth floor. The dues and annual membership fees are hefty, to say the least, but John Schmidt and Joe Ellis are confident it will be a success. The magnificently restored mansion is situated on Sutter Street between Franklin and Gough, and whether you join or not, don't miss an opportunity to at least inspect the premises. It is quite stunning without being gaudy.

This weekend looks like fun. The Cycle Runners M/C single their 2nd annual Toga Party at the California Club where for a mere \$5 (drinks \$1.25) you can cavort in your caftan, muumuu, toga, or your newest bedspread and compete in the Living Statue Contest or run for Caesar Tiberius Non-Marcus, a dubious title at best. The orgy, er, uh, competition starts at 1930 hours, and



Jim Ashley is Mr. March of the Eagle Bare Chest calendar. (Photo: Marcus)

secure clothes check will be provided for your straight clothes.

This Friday too, Joe Capetta opens his Tennessee Williams show at Theatre Rhino with some one-acts sure to please the most discriminating Williams fans. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

Men Behind Bars III, The Video, screens once again at The Special Thursday, 13 March, and will be shown again at the Desparadoes Bar in San Jose Tuesday, March 25.

Although not too many of you are invited, there will be a brief opening of a new meat market in the vicinity of Hayes and Fillmore Wednesday 19 March at noon when a dozen or so of SF's most generously endowed men will participate in a private J/O party. According to the host "giant," more than 180 feet of maleness will be in attendance (approximately 60 yards!) That ought to be a helluva tug o'war!

On Sat., March 29, Trocadero Transfer presents its annual White Party. This year's theme is An Evening in Paris from 2200 until dawn, with a \$15 cover and tickets available at Headlines, All American Boy, Butch Wax, Ron's Records, Mikage, Liquor Express, and Daljeet's on Haight. Judging from its decorating efforts of late, the Troc will be virtually turned into a boulevardier's paradise! Don't miss it. Leather, of course, is welcome—got any whites?

This Sunday, March 16, the

fun-loving GDI's present their annual Spring Equinox Beer Bust at the SF-Eagle's patio from 1500 to 1800 for a \$6 tariff. This one is usually a lot of fun, so don't miss it. By the way, belated birthday greetings to Larisse, who just hit the big Five-O and celebrated with a wild party at the Transfer last weekend.

OF MICE AND MEN BUT MOSTLY DISH

Don't tell anyone I told you, but the annual Easter Lily Street party is scheduled for Sunday, March 30, from noon till dusk (or sunset) whichever occurs first. Get your hats ready boys (and girls).

A former resident of our town who worked part-time at the SF-Eagle is now a permanent resident of the LAPD Correction Center for forgery; he should have stayed in the Air Force. I wonder if JC at the Stallion is reading this!

So you want to lead a complete leather lifestyle? There's a hot new apartment complex in an East Bay town that is now renting exclusively and only to leather men (single or married couples) who want to live with others who are understanding and unflinchingly loyal to the leather lifestyle. The complex has two bedroom and one bedroom units and if you're interested, write to: DB, P.O. Box 271431, Concord, CA 94527.

One of my readers forwards a (Continued on next page)



The new SF Eagle softball team

(Photo: Marcus)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

solution to those Crisco smells and stains on your sheets: dump about a half a cup of Cascade dishwashing detergent in your laundry. The smell and stains will disappear like magic. I've also been told that a cup of white vinegar will do the same, but this informant insists Cascade is the best.

of the royal court system? The Hollywood Court stated that if they are given a refund from the Tavern Guild for all the tickets they bought, they will donate the refund to the SF AIDS Fund. Your move, Tavern Guild. Hello, are you there?

In closing, I want you to know that on Thursday, March 20, Mobilization Against AIDS is having a big blast at the 2140 dance bar

'You're all to be congratulated for getting this far.'

That new photo on the walls of the SF-Eagle of David (Stella) Stoll in the dressing room during Men Behind Bars is a classic. In fatigue combat jumpsuit, a Tina Turner wig, and a \$90 pair of red high heels with rhinestones, David's new portrait has earned him the title of Tina Rambo—forsythe, I told you I knew why drag will live forever!

The Hollywood Court of Royalty has demanded an explanation from the Tavern Guild as to why they were forbidden to walk at the Coronation, and as of Tuesday morning they had no response. Could this little tiff herald the beginning of the end

(formerly Allie's, 2140 Club, Industrial Dance Co.). Every star in the firmament of our community will be there from the drag, royalty (minor and major), leather, sports, political, including Jack Molinari, Wayne Friday, Patrick Toner, Sister Boom Boom, Sonny Cline, Empress Sable and Emperor Matthew, Jose the Widow, Tom Waddell, Armistead Maupin (leather is welcome), and Chris Bowman, to name just a few. The tickets are only \$5 with food and entertainment, including the Four-skins! Don't miss this one. The party begins at 2030 hours and it promises to be one of the major events of the Spring season.

Wicca

Beginning Tuesday, March 18, Raven Moonshadow and Sean McShee will offer a six-week Introduction to Wicca for Gay Men, through Reclaiming, a Center for Feminist Spirituality.

Wicca is a non-authoritarian system of spiritual and psychic growth, which views the earth, the body, and consensual sexuality as sacred and central to spiritual growth. There will be no sexual sharing in the class, however.

Wicca is a polytheistic spiritual system with female, male, gay, straight, bi, and trans deities. Polytheism offers the possibility for discovering a deity for every aspect of your life.

Wicca is also called witchcraft, but is not to be confused with the Christian heresy of devil worship or Satanism. Wicca has nothing to do with Christianity and comes from an entirely different tradition with no supreme deities, or sacred books.

The class will cover energy working, purification, the elements/directions (earth, air, fire, water), circle casting, deities, and creating a ritual out of the conditions of our lives. We will go over special application for gay men. By the end of the class, the students will create their own ritual.

This class will be a drug and alcohol free space. Although we have used the terms "gay men," there is no age limit, only a limit of responsibility and commitment. There will be the standard Reclaiming sliding scale of \$45 to \$90. Call 771-2303 for more information.

Piercing Clinic

A night of needlemania will take place Saturday, March 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. at a South of Market studio location. Jim Ward, Mr. Gauntlet, and Fakir Musafar are the master piercers. Call Mark at 621-6294 for an appointment and more information. Gauntlet jewelry and PFIQ will be available.



International Mr. Leather 1985 Patrick Toner (c.) with Joe Ciarleglia (l.) and Richard Hennigh (r.) accepting their titles at the 1985 International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago last year. (Photo: J. Sitar, IML Inc.)

Plan now to attend this function, which supports those lobbying major legislators to increase funding for AIDS programs. I hope to see all of you there.

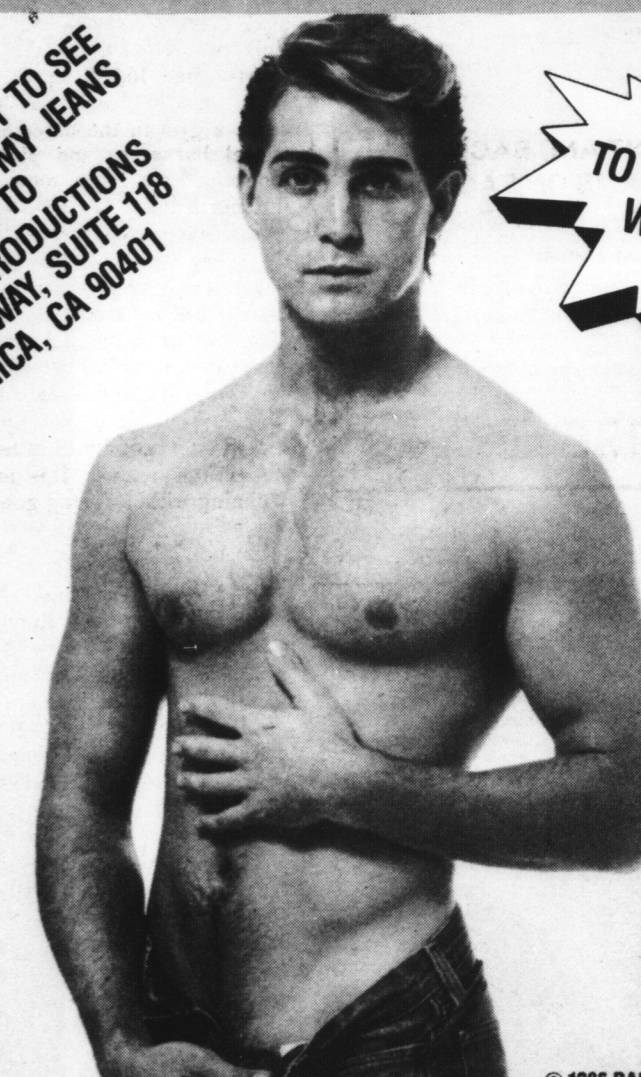
You're all to be congratulated for getting this far, so until next week boys and girls, keep your

legs crossed and remember: The highest purpose is to have no purpose at all.

Mister Marcus

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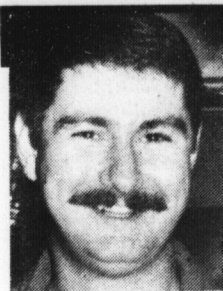
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FRIESE FRAME

Wild Time Had By All

MARK FRIESE

Because I was the only member of the press to journey with the Coits to Tahoe for last weekend's "Skidazzle" trip, I was promptly appointed the official reporter and I will certainly do my best to fill you in on some of the more juicy bits of gossip and scandal that occurred during that wild weekend of gay abandon.

We left the Mint Friday in the comfort of one of Scenic Hyway Tours' new deluxe buses that have all the comforts of home, including Michael, our more-than-attractive driver that surprised us later in the weekend with his stunning entry in the "Queen of Southshore" contest, but more on that free-for-all later.

The ride up progressed, with people getting looser, and Tommy Turner began his cocktails way before Placerville, which probably had something to do with the things he was writing on the windows of the bus and also something to do with why he and Lee-O-Na were chosen to receive the Krystle and Alexis award for their antics during the weekend.

There was of course one of those nude hot tub parties where everyone in the hot tub, in the pouring rain, dished all the others who had promised to be there, and all the time I was thinking what fun it would be to throw in some carrots to take

care of the world hunger problem.

Saturday dawned on us with the snow finally showing up at a fast and furious pace as most of us went into town to seek our fortune. I went because I heard gambling was a good diet because you can lose your ass quite easily. I guess I didn't gamble quite enough!

Then it was back to the lodge to prepare for the "You owe us a \$1.98 Beauty Contest" which I was a tad late for because Bucky was having tea with my roommate, and no I'm not mad at you, Bucky. After all, you were one of the people who helped Charlie Lacey win the Bryan Kelley Whore award for the third year in a row, putting him in the Coits hall of fame. The best thing about the contest is the fact that it is over before you have a chance to drink two cocktails, and that is fast if you have any idea how these people drink. The contest was a sight, but was kept to its usual crazy format, with Joanna Caron in charge of the cheapshots that led to Lee-O-Na falling down from the throne and handing the title over to Cameron "Tina" Tanner, who was a huge hit with the crowd and considers this title a stepping stone to other titles, which was not exactly the way Connie Cadaver put it!

Then it was off to the City Lights, which is the only gay bar

in Tahoe (enough reason for many people not to move there), where we were entertained with dancing, the Force Five from Palo Alto, Bill and Charlie, and someone almost giving another queen a guided tour of a snowbank for reasons that will not be discussed here, and finally, a ride back to heartbreak hotel.

The Tommy Turner Camp Awards were the conclusion of the weekend, with people getting awards such as snowqueen for the reason you are thinking, Mr. and Miss Congeniality, not for the reason you are thinking, Mr. Cockring, and which all the voting members observed. I received the Toothless Fairy award compliments of my roommate, but the Obie and Lonnie "I Kill Myself" award was not given out this year because the wine bottles were grounded.

Larry Hughes, Ed Durity, and the Coits deserve a lot of credit and praise for once again putting together a wonderful weekend that is always worth looking forward to.

Here we go from one drinking spree to another as we enter the most traditional holiday in which we raise more than one glass in a toast, and usually end up getting pretty toasted ourselves. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of you, and here are some festive parties you might want to include in your

schedules for the weekend.



Polk Street in the afternoon.

(Photo: Rink)

On the Polkstrasse, Hunks will most likely be jammed to the rafters with all sorts of people kissing the "Blarney Stone" and sampling the traditional corned beef and cabbage buffet they will be serving up around 2 p.m. Sunday. Your hosts will be the staff of Hunks, and maybe we can find out why they are calling Dick Cook, Dick "Cookie"?

The New Bell will be partying all day Sunday with a Mr. Irishman contest. Voting will take place all day and the traditional surprises will be served at 2 p.m. by Col. O'John, John O'Darker, and McRoger. The reigning Mr. Irishman, Marque O'Murdock, will be the host because he knows how to keep them drinking.

Kimo's will celebrate Monday with a party starting at 1 p.m. and continuing until the wee hours. Corned beef and cabbage will be served and there will be an Irish Jig contest later in the evening, which probably means Mama Billy's costume cabinet will get a workout, unless he is too busy receiving obscene phone calls!

The Kokpit will host a Gala St. Patrick's party Sunday from noon till 4 p.m. with an auction for the Coming Home Hospice. They will also have a show, food, and surprises. Your host and hostesses will be Bobby Pace and members of the Empress Council.

Lily Street informs me that the SFGDI club will hold an Equinox beer bust at the SF Eagle Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.

with the cost of admission being \$6. They have a few macho surprises planned. Lily, you always surprise me, but this could be a first!

The Castro has parties planned that will most likely be a hoot as always. The Pendulum will be going all day Monday with special prices, surprises, and as usual at various times throughout the day drink giveaways will be featured. Sure hope Verna Mae survived Tahoe. "My, My, My!"

At the Village Myra will host her 2nd annual St. Pat's pajama party from 6 a.m. till noon, and they will also feature Irish coffees at a drastically reduced rate along with some other well-kept secrets they have planned.

Trax, on Haight Street, will serve Irish coffee for a buck all day Monday, and hopefully Ken Smith will have green hair for this party because the blue hair he wears for *Dynasty* night is just to die for! Hello, Adam.

One of the bartenders from Trax, John Legaspi, will be at Buckley's, along with Elliott Singer and Bob Bendorff at the piano, as they present Bein' Alive this Sunday at 8:30 p.m. There is a \$6 cover, or if you have dinner there it is only \$4. Reservations at 552-8177.

After two hectic weeks that saw my birthday, my best friend from La La Land get hitched to Miss Gay Trixi, and a wild and crazy Tahoe trip on which the Coits are taking credit for my losing my voice, I think it's time to relax. And no, that is not a picture of me.

Stubblejumper

Stubblejumper Press, founded in Saskatchewan in 1977, has been re-established in Toronto after six years of inactivity.

Since Ian Young's Catalyst Press closed in 1980, the English-Canadian gay community has been without a publishing house. Douglas Wilson of Stubblejumper plans an active printing program featuring the work of Canadian lesbians and gay men.

The first two titles off the press are *Beyond Happiness* by Peter McGehee and *Gay Resistance: Homosexuals in the Anti-Nazi Underground* by Ian Young. Stubblejumper's produc-

tion plans for autumn 1986 include *Sex Magik* by Ian Young, *Gay Canada 1987*, a national directory and travel guide for men and women, a collection of short stories by Peter McGehee, and a portfolio of lesbian erotic photography. A major project planned for 1987 is an anthology of Canadian lesbian and gay short fiction.

All submissions, inquiries, or orders should be sent to Stubblejumper Press, Box 1203, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2V8. Manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

FOG Goes to Europe

A Group of Gay Men Share a Special Trip

by Nicholas Sempeti

A group of gay guys shared some special moments in their lives: They numbered 18 and embarked on a tour of Europe arranged by the Fraternal Order of Gays. It was a customized tour of West Germany, East Germany, Denmark, and Czechoslovakia. The principal cities on the itinerary were Frankfurt, Hamburg, Copenhagen, East Berlin, West Berlin, Prague, and Nurnberg. The tour departed from San Francisco Sept. 22, the autumn equinox.

After an overnight flight to Frankfurt we were met at the airport by our driver and his huge 50-passenger deluxe motorcoach, ours for the trip. As our motorcoach rambled along from point to point on our trip, members of our group used the microphone to relate experiences and anecdotes. It was fun comparing notes and hearing what others said about the places we had visited.

We had a number of interesting experiences during our travels that will be etched in our memory banks for years to come. One such example was in Hamburg when nine of us ventured out for dinner. It was quite an experience reaching our final destination. Three taxis were required but, to our surprise, none of the drivers knew of the restaurant or the street on which it was located. It was not a communication problem, since I (and a number of my German language students) could converse with them in German. After thoroughly perusing a map, the little street was located. We at long last arrived at our restaurant, to discover they served only soup. So much for our confidence in *Spartacus*. Starving, we found two little cafes and split into two groups. My group went into a colorful Bierstube, complete with boisterous patrons and an occasional brawl. We got something to eat while being entertained by an interesting assortment of patrons.

We took a ferry to Denmark and were amazed by its capacity. The front of this ship opened up and not only did our bus drive on it, but other buses, trucks, cars, and a train, complete with a series of freight cars. At Gedser, we disembarked. An equally large bus marked "Universe" came over with us. Later, in Copenhagen, we met a number of fellows in the group on the "Universe" bus who were part of a gay German bowling team from Koblenz.

An impressive feature of Copenhagen was the men. Our group reached a consensus that the men in Copenhagen were exceptionally gorgeous. One could glance in any direction and see a handsome man, usually with flaxen hair and striking Nordic features. By the time we left Copenhagen, falling in love had become routine.

Traveling through the East German countryside was intriguing. It was markedly different from that in West Germany. Absent were commercial advertisements along the highway, which were supplanted by signs and posters displaying political rhetoric. We noticed an absence of buildings along the freeway; even farm buildings were rarely seen. People in the few villages we passed through stopped to watch us pass by. They looked at us as curiously as we watched them. Many smiled and waved.

Arriving in East Berlin was akin to driving into a huge museum. The numerous pre-war restored buildings and the lack

of pedestrians walking around lent an eerie atmosphere. This was Saturday night in the big

dence at the Cabaret Chez Nous, advertised as "Herren als Damen" (men as women). It was outrageous, as expected.

Visiting Prague was a fascinating experience. Much of the city remains as it was in the Middle Ages, and the city reflects a composite of every European architectural style.

Prague offers numerous shops displaying glittering arrays of crystal and porcelain. Bohemian crystal is superb and here, where it is manufactured, it is very expensive.

We had heard of money black-marketeering being common in East European countries, what

we found was astonishing. It was everywhere. In our hotel, in shops, and on the street, people approached us to exchange money, usually at two to three times more favorable than the official rate. Young kids, taxi drivers, little old ladies—there was no stereotype. Although risky, a few adventurous souls took advantage of the irresistible opportunity and dashed off to a crystal shop to splurge.

A couple of group members who usually walked about wearing jumpsuits related an amusing experience while in Prague. This particular day, they had on their jumpsuits embellished with decorative insignia. At one point

they lifted their hands to shade their eyes from the sunlight and a couple of passing military personnel stopped abruptly and gave them a military salute. With many types of uniforms about, they probably didn't want to take any chances.

Nurnberg, the second largest city in Bavaria, was to our surprise (Continued on next page)



Members of the Fraternal Order of Gays relax at a West Berlin outdoor cafe.

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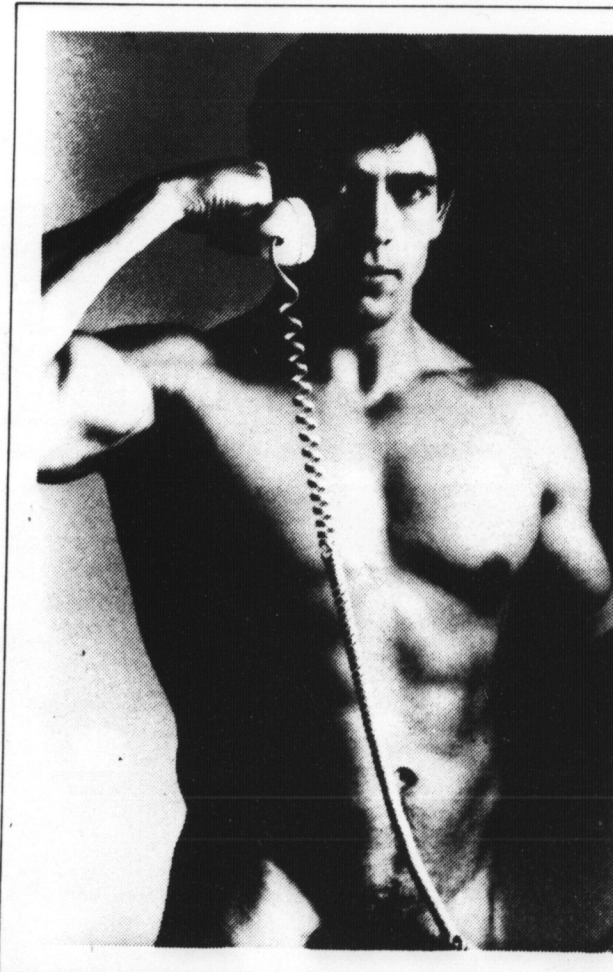
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Cyclists Sign Up for Bike-a-Thon

Registration is in full swing for the '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon scheduled to take off on a flat 25 mile tour of San Francisco with a 100 mile loop option into Marin. Last Saturday, members of Differer Spokes were seen all over Castro as a colorful human billboard on bikes. Cyclists weaved through traffic for camera crews from KPIX-TV (Ch. 5) with bright neon yellow and red bike-a-thon posters taped to their bodies. As the billboard on bikes passed by, the cyclists blew their whistles, getting the word out about the '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon. The rain did not dampen anyone's spirits.

Women on Wheels, the lesbian cyclist club is enthusiastically throwing their support behind '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon. Fifty percent of last year's cyclists were women. Many of the riders from the 1985 event have already registered for this year's bike-a-thon.

This event is truly unique in that a small bicycle club is putting the benefit together. Most bike-a-thons are organized by the larger charities for their own benefit. The fact that 100 percent of all monies raised will go directly to the AIDS groups further adds to the uniqueness. "It's the dream bicycle fund raiser" stated Tom Walther, one of the coordinators, "and we're going to make the dream come true!"

(Continued on page 4)



It's still sign-up time for the Bike-a-Thon.

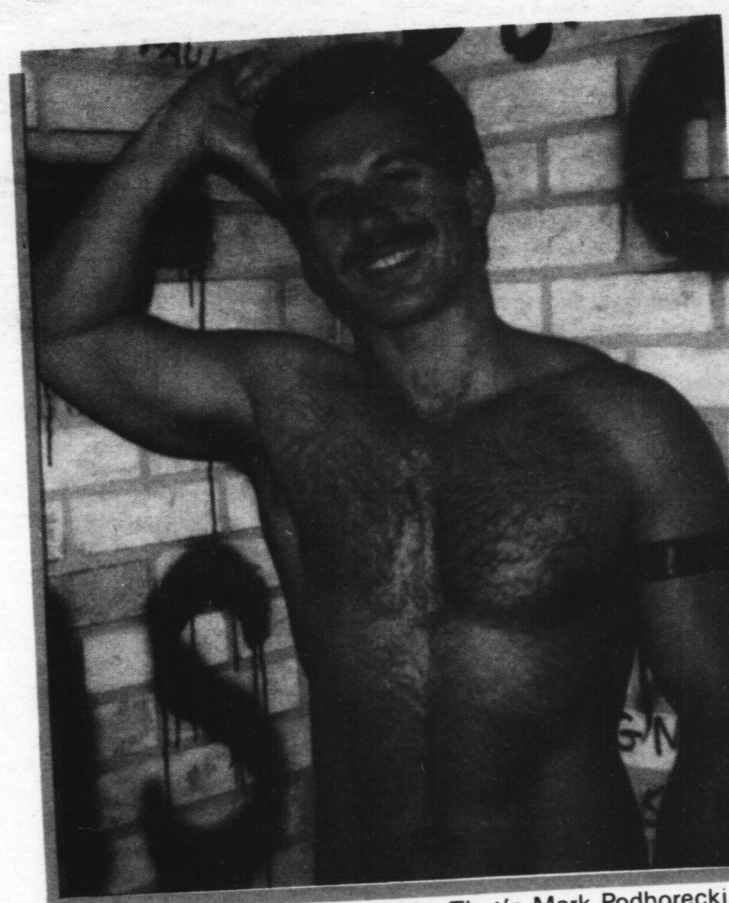
(Photo: T. Plewik)

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Whoa Baby, it's hot outside. That's Mark Podhorecki, winner of the Second Round Mr. Leather SF Contest. (Photo: Marcus)

Lambda Flag Won't Fly Over SF

Lesbians Resent Male Symbol; Parade Committee Follows the Rainbow

by Gregory Douthwaite

The new international gay flag, which adds a white "lambda" symbol to the traditional six-striped rainbow, will not be adopted by the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, parade officials announced this week.

"The rainbow flag is just fine the way it is," said Courtney Autumn, co-chair of the local parade committee. "I think the lambda detracts from the beauty, and it would be really hard to put it on."

The new gay flag was designed in two parts at a conference in Fort Lauderdale last October. First, the San Francisco organization proposed using the rainbow flag nationally. Then a Los Angeles group proposed adding the lambda to make the flag more uniquely gay.

But according to Autumn, Los Angeles really added the symbol

to the San Francisco flag because of the rivalry between the cities. They had a white lambda on their flag, she explained. "A lot of the smaller cities didn't understand," she said.

Almost 50 cities sent delegates to the recent fourth annual conference of parade committees. The two-part flag was ap-

(Continued on page 2)

Today

Recommendations by the U.S. Public Health Service on HTLV testing were labelled counterproductive to public health, reports Brian Jones, page 3.

California's Legislature is pondering a number of bills that would open the door to mandatory HTLV testing, according to George Mendenhall, page 17.

CBS News redeemed itself in the eyes of some in last week's brief analysis of AIDS services in S.F., page 14.

Having fun yet? That's what sexologist Clark Taylor asks men at his safe-sex playtimes. See page 16.

Terrigno Convicted On Federal Charges

by Sandy Dwyer

After deliberating only three hours and ten minutes, a federal jury found West Hollywood City Councilwoman Valerie Terrigno guilty March 14 on twelve counts of embezzling \$7,470.60 in federal funds from Crossroads Employment and Counseling Services, a now-closed Hollywood social service agency.

Terrigno, who directed Crossroads from April 1982 until September 1984 when she resigned to pursue public office, faces a possible 110 years in prison and \$110,000 in fines on 11 felony counts—10 years in prison and \$10,000 for each of the 11 counts. She also faces a one-year jail term and a \$1,000 fine on the one misdemeanor count.

(Continued on next page)



Valerie Terrigno, flanked by attorneys Howard Weitzman and Richard P. Towne, leave the courtroom. (Photo: S. Dwyer)

After the verdict, her attorneys, Howard Weitzman and Richard P. Towne, said neither they nor Terrigno would have any comment. Weitzman later told the media that he had not expected to lose.

U.S. Attorney Richard M. Callahan commented that he was "obviously pleased."

As they came out of the courthouse, 11 of the 12 jurors hid their faces from the cameras and refused to be interviewed. However, jury foreman David Brinkley, agreed to extensive interviews regarding the verdict. Brinkley denied that Terrigno's sexual orientation was a factor. "We judged her just like a normal person," he said.

Brinkley acknowledged that

(Continued on page 2)