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Pedaling for Dollars

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.

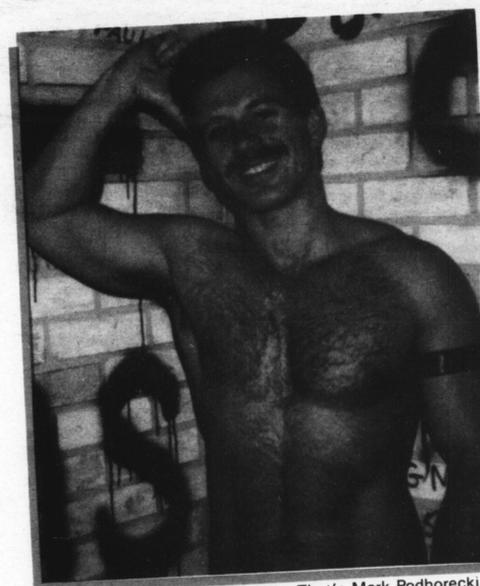
(Photo: T. Plewik)

BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVI NO. 12 MARCH 20, 1986

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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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.

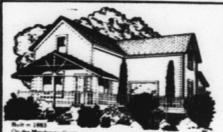
Brinkley acknowledged that

(Continued on page 2)

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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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Terrigno

(Continued from page 1)

the testimony of prosecution witness Jay Vega was "one of the strongest counts against her [Terrigno]."

Vega, a former employee of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, testified on the first day of the three-and-a-half day trial that she was called by Terrigno in May 1984 and asked if she "could use some money." She said she agreed to meet Terrigno that same day at Security Pacific Bank where, she testified, Terrigno made out a check to her for \$510. Vega said she cashed the check and then gave \$310 to Terrigno, keeping the remaining \$200 for herself.

Callahan asked Vega, "Were you dating Valerie at this time?" Weitzman's objection was overruled and Vega replied, "Yes. I guess you could call it that."

When she took the stand in her own defense two days later, Terrigno denied that she and Vega had ever dated or that the \$310 Vega returned to her was for her own use.

At particular issue in the trial, was the prosecution's charge that Terrigno had "knowingly and willfully embezzled and converted for the benefit of herself and others" approximately \$2,500 of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds.

According to Callahan, the embezzlement occurred when Terrigno wrote a check from the FEMA account made payable to Safeway Stores to purchase Safeway Gift Certificates, which she then used for "herself and her friends in order to buy food and drink for personal use." Callahan stressed that on at least one occasion, Terrigno used the coupons to supply food and drinks for a gay pride party in 1984.

James Huntington, also granted immunity, testified that he received coupons from Crossroads board member Sallie Fiske, and a \$10 coupon "for ice" from Terrigno. However, no \$10 coupon for that period was

Lambda

(Continued from page 1)

proved by all but San Francisco, New York, and a couple of other cities, Autumn said. The lambda flag was subsequently approved by the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators, she said.

The new flag should be a symbol of national unity, said Marsha Levine, founder of the parade conferences. "It would be nice if we could all use it," she said.

The rainbow flag with nothing sewn onto it is not recognized as a gay flag on the East Coast, Levine said. The common red-orange-yellow-green-blue-and-purple-striped flag is also used by Native Americans, women's groups, and black progressives, she noted.

The lambda symbol "distinguishes" the flag, Levine said. "I don't see any other symbol that could be used. The pink triangle is too political," she said.

But some lesbians say the lambda is an exclusively male symbol, and shun it. The eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet was used in ancient Greece as a symbol of brotherhood, exclusive of women, they say.

The lambda is one of the oldest symbols of homosexuality,



David Brinkley: "We judged her just like a normal person." (Photo: S. Dwyer)

introduced as evidence. In fact, according to documents produced by the defense, no \$10 coupon was issued at all during the time period in question. Additionally, Fiske later testified for the defense that it was she who had given Huntington the coupons for food, not Terrigno.

Fiske, as did Terrigno, testified that she frequently put cash into Crossroads, and that the coupons used for the party were issued to her by Hector De Paula, an employee of Crossroads, in exchange for cash she gave him for the agency. Fiske said that De Paula then put the cash in a locked cabinet.

Conflicting testimony also arose over whether food purchased with the Safeway coupons actually was stored at Crossroads and given to clients. Testifying for the prosecution, Marsha Jane Clark, a Crossroads employee Terrigno had hired, said that while she worked at the agency she never saw any food stored there, that the refrigerator was "moldy," that no coupons were given out, and that Terrigno was rarely in the office. She also said that Terrigno was running her campaign headquarters out of Crossroads after hours.

But Richard LaVoie, testifying

for the defense, said that at the time in question he was an aide to California state Sen. David Roberti, whose field office was above Crossroads, and that he saw boxes of canned food stacked on the floor and that there were foodstuffs, including frozen food, in the refrigerator.

He also testified that he never saw campaign literature or activities at Crossroads, during or after hours.

Also at issue was whether Terrigno had falsified names on the Safeway Food coupon list, had altered a check payable to Macho men's clothing store to read "Machond Apts.," had signed a check to Isaac DeValle for car repairs, had forged a name on her rent check and had altered federal records to cover up the alleged actions.

In testifying on her own behalf, Terrigno did admit to mismanagement and termed herself "stupid" for trying to juggle the books to keep the agency afloat. But she denied repeatedly that she stole from the federal government or from Crossroads itself. Terrigno testified that De Paula had altered the Macho check. She denied ever having met or seen DeValle before the trial, who according to his own testimony was a friend of Hector De Paula.

Although he was a witness for the prosecution, FBI agent Henry Mathis, a documents examiner at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., testified that he could not identify the writing on any of the checks or documents submitted into evidence as Terrigno's.

Terrigno, 32, was elected as the first mayor—and the nation's first openly lesbian mayor—when West Hollywood was incorporated in 1984. She was indicted last October on 14 counts of embezzling federal funds. She was initially accused of embezzling \$10,794, but subsequently two counts were dropped and one reduced.

At the time of her sentencing, to be set April 20 by U.S. District Judge Laughlin Waters, Terrigno will have to resign her council seat.

S. Dwyer

ty, Levine said. "It's unfortunate that some people identify it as a male symbol. When first used, it was not meant to identify gender," she said.

Levine said she would expect all the cities who voted for the flag to use it. "If we vote on something and then change it when we get home, it would make attending conferences worthless," she said.

"It would be nice if we could use it (the flag). I don't see any other symbol that could be used. The pink triangle is too political."

—Marsha Levine

Cities in the Midwest are "real excited" about using the new flag, Levine said. A specifications sheet is being prepared to enable organizations to sew lambdas on the flag themselves, she added.

The manufacturer of rainbow flags, Paramount Flags of San Francisco, said recently that it would be too difficult and costly to add the lambda, Levine said. "I'm not sure why," she said.

An employee at the Flag Store on Polk Street said the lambda could be added if there was a de-

mand for it. The Flag Store sells rainbow flags in 10 sizes, he noted.

Christopher Street West in Los Angeles is already marketing the new flag, and has received an order from San Diego, said Sam Haws, president of Christopher Street West (L.A.'s parade committee). "We'll sell it wherever we can," he said.

The next parade conference will be held in San Francisco this October, and Peter King will coordinate it. "I support the idea of a unifying symbol," he said, "but personally, I like the rainbow flag as it is."

The 1986 Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day parade will be on Sunday, June 29, the 17th anniversary of the 1969 raid on the Stonewall Bar in New York City. Rainbow flags will line Market Street from the Embarcadero to Castro Street.

G. Douthwaite

Warning Issued Against HTLV Test

Federal Push for Testing Denounced, Called Useless in Risk Reduction

by Brian Jones

Uncle Sam wants you—to take the AIDS test. The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) last week called on all gay men to take the controversial blood test. Gay activists who are involved in AIDS prevention condemned the PHS recommendation.

The call for nationwide blood testing among gay men was coupled with other "AIDS prevention" recommendations. These included support for "sex bans" or closure of gay baths and sex clubs—and an implied threat that federal money might be withheld from cities which did not act against gay clubs.

"The PHS recommendations do not include any of the safeguards which we consider vital," said Dr. Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Wolfred had just returned from Washington this week after 12 days of lobbying on AIDS issues in the nation's capital.

"Anyone who is considering taking the antibody test should do so in an anonymous and confidential manner," Wolfred said. In San Francisco, such anonymous testing is offered free at District Health Center 1 (3850 17th St., near Noe) and District Health Center 5 (1351 24th Ave., near Irving).

California has the strongest confidentiality law in the nation. It prohibits medical workers from releasing information about AIDS status to anyone other than the patient, however, Assemblymember Art Agnos (D-San Francisco), sponsor of the law, is concerned about new efforts to repeal portions of it.

Wolfred said that the new federal testing plan lacks many of the features of anonymous AIDS antibody testing currently underway in San Francisco.

"These tests should only be done with follow-up counseling. The federal recommendations don't include that, and they do not call for any federal money for counseling. That's very bad public health policy," Wolfred said.

"The result is going to be counterproductive" to AIDS prevention, Wolfred said. "People are simply going to be scared away from seeking medical attention."

Coincidentally, the Seventh National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference was meeting in Washington when the federal call for national testing was issued. The conference issued a statement denouncing the government recommendation.

"We in the forefront against AIDS denounce any government or private sector attempt to mass test individuals at high risk for AIDS," the statement said.

The statement noted that "no state in this nation is able to offer those tested, protection from legal release of their names. Since such protection cannot be granted, all testing must be done on an anonymous basis, or not at all."

"The government continues to promote an atmosphere of mistrust," the statement said. "Therefore, we now oppose any participation in a mass HTLV-3 testing program."

Pat Norman, gay and lesbian liaison for the city Public Health Department, said that antibody testing is not crucial as an AIDS prevention strategy.



Dr. Tim Wolfred (Photo: Rink)



Pat Norman (Photo: Rink)

(Continued on page 17)

Bounced by Military For Saying the Word, Lesbian Sues

Never Charged With Any 'Crime', Asks U.S. Court for Reinstatement

by Charles Linebarger

The U.S. Court of Appeals for Northern California has been asked to order the U.S. Air Force Reserve to reinstate a lesbian lieutenant on grounds that her discharge for homosexuality violated her constitutional right to free speech. Julie Johnson, 31, informed her commanding officer in 1983 that she was a lesbian. She was discharged from the service after that without ever having been charged with engaging in homosexual behavior.

Johnson, who is also a San Francisco attorney, presented a new question of law to a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals. She argued that there was a distinction between her status as a lesbian and an admission that she had engaged in sexual relations with other women.

"People tend to think of gays in the military as a dead issue," said Johnson's attorney, Robert Achtenberg. "The cases have all been decided and they are against us, but I think the outpouring of interest in this case makes it clear that not only is it not a dead issue but has (also)

shown an awareness out there that if they can criminalize homosexual status in the military they can do it elsewhere."

"Right now the Justice Department is asking new lawyer hires whether they are homosexual," noted Achtenberg, "not

(Continued on page 21)

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Police Heat Up Polk St. Again

Curfew to be Enforced for Teens; No Police Sweeps Planned

by Will Snyder

Citing what was termed as "a continuing problem with crime on Polk Street," the San Francisco Police Department announced Tuesday (Mar. 18) there will be more uniformed and plainclothes police patrolling the Polk area for the next two months. Northern Station Capt. Tom O'Donnell and Metropolitan Division Commander William Scheffler made the announcement at a Northern Station press conference. According to O'Donnell, the beefing up of patrols will include a 10-person task force which will be looking for underage youths breaking the city's 11 p.m. curfew law as well as drug deals and prostitution.

"We are enforcing the curfew laws on Taraval, so we have to do it on Polk Street as well," said O'Donnell. "If we don't, Polk will serve as a magnet for youths who want to stay out late."

Greg Day of the Larkin Street Youth Center told O'Donnell and Scheffler that a majority of the targeted young people on Polk have no homes to go to after curfew time.

"It's really a 'Catch-22' situation for many of these kids," said Day. "Last August, for example, many of the merchants on Polk thought they were getting rid of the problem by having these kids picked up. But they didn't realize these kids don't have a place to go. There aren't enough foster home placements to help the kids."

"We refer the kids to Department of Social Services," Day added, "and then the department refuses to serve them. They're back on the streets in a couple of days and the cycle just starts all over."

O'Donnell cited some computerized statistics about crime on Polk. He took a targeted area on Polk from Geary to Washington Street and said there were 231 reported crimes and 130 arrests between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15 this year. During a similar time

period in 1985, there were 289 reported crimes and 165 arrests.

"It's 50 less than last year," said O'Donnell, "but it's still a significant amount of crime."

O'Donnell said most of the crimes dealt with begging, loitering, drunkenness, narcotics and prostitution. The captain said loitering is a nagging problem for police and merchants on the street.

"The merchants complain about people loitering in the doorways," said O'Donnell. "They complain about the kids, so the kids just move to the next doorway and the whole process starts all over."

Both policemen, sensitive to past criticisms of the department for "Polk Street Sweeps," emphasized that the increased amount of police on duty does not mean there is going to be another sweep.

"Everything will be legal," said Scheffler. "This is not a sweep. We need to have direct enforcement of specific types of crimes."

Scheffler added that new



Capt. Tom O'Donnell
(Photo: Mick Hicks)

Police Chief Frank Jordan, a former Northern Station Captain, is aware of and supports the increased police presence.

Scheffler emphasized that "We are not looking for X number of arrests." However, O'Donnell said, "We just can't have 200-plus crimes in one month's time. If you don't feel safe walking down Polk Street, there's a real significant problem."

Several members of the press conference were either members of the gay press or staff members from youth centers such as Larkin Street. Many were fearful of what Day termed "possible harassment of youths."

O'Donnell emphasized, however, that the police still had to do their job. "We can't just sit there and say if the other agencies aren't doing their jobs for these kids, we won't, either."

O'Donnell and Scheffler both promised the police will not be harsh with youths they find out after 11 p.m. They also said they would be interested in having meetings on the subject of underage youth with youth center organizations and the Department of Social Services. ■



Northern Station Capt. Tom O'Donnell and Metropolitan Cmdr. William Scheffler explain their new patrol plan.
(Photo: M. Hicks)

Pedaling

(Continued from page 1)

The goal for the '86 Bike-a-Thon is 500 cyclists and a quarter million dollars for eight Bay Area AIDS service agencies. Registration is now in full swing and will run until April 15. The goal of Different Spokes is to register 300 riders by the end of March and 500 by April 15.

Forty volunteer members of the club are working to make the

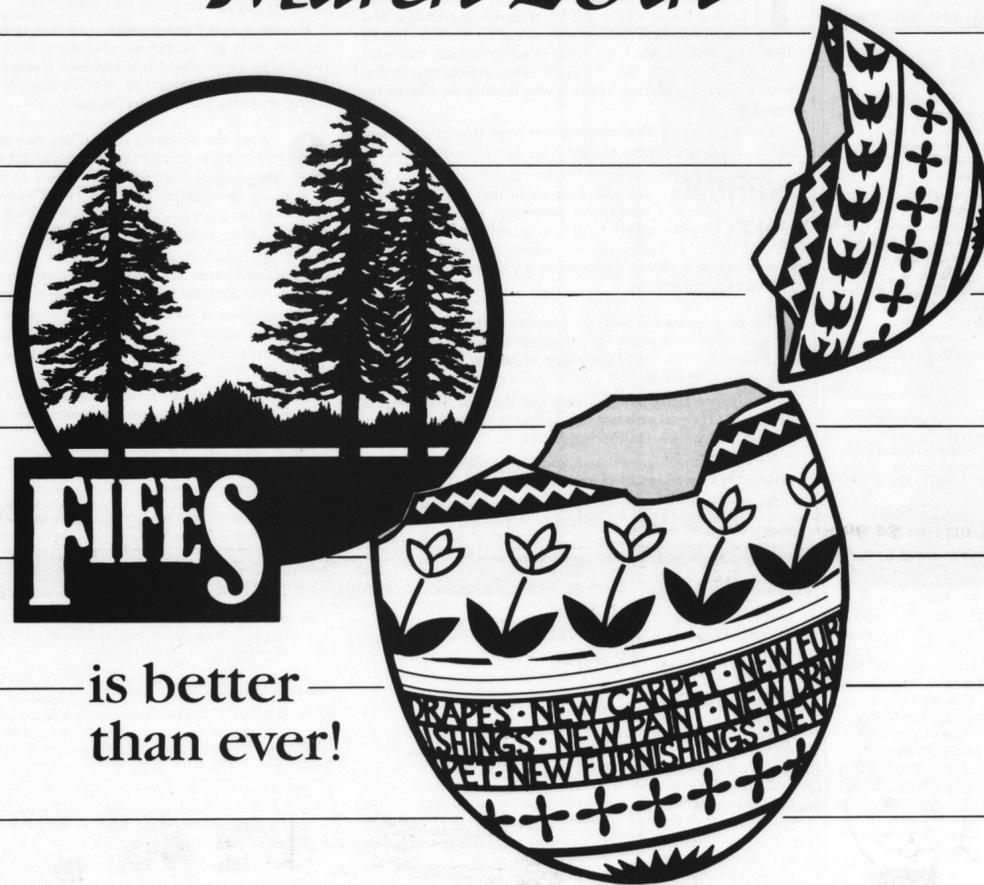
event happen. "Individual people on bikes helping individuals with AIDS—a person to person, people to people event," announced Derek Liecny, coordinator of public relations for Different Spokes.

Beneficiaries 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. All eight agencies have agreed to funnel every dollar

raised by the '86 Bike-a-Thon into patient services including, health, housing, social services, counseling and other programs which provide direct support to people with AIDS.

Registration packs are available at Headlines (Castro and Polk), All American Boy (Castro) or from any of the beneficiaries. Also, registration packs may be obtained by writing: '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon, Different Spokes, P.O. Box 14711, San Francisco 94114 or by calling (415) 771-0677. ■

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1528 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

TELEPHONES
(415) 861-5019/861-7230

PUBLISHER
Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR
Ray O'Loughlin

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Dianne Gregory

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Will Snyder

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Jones

FINE ARTS EDITOR
George Heymont

POLITICAL EDITOR
Wayne Friday

OFFICE MANAGER
Michael Snyder

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Ann S. West

CAMERA
Michael Jay Goldberg

LAYOUT
Peter Keane

TYPESETTING
Chal Cochran, Austin Snow

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Rink, Robert Pruzan

AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT
Robert J. Dern, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS

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

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Has the White House Found Love?

Uncle Sam wants you, believe it or not. If you're an enterprising lawyer with a gift for prosecuting criminals and want to make a federal case out of it, the U.S. Justice Department wants you. Even if you're gay or lesbian, they want you. They don't care. Yes, the Justice Department run by Edwin Meese III is making liberal waves, leading the charge for equality.

The *Washington Post* reported last week that under a new policy at Justice, homosexuality is no bar to employment.

There is one hitch, however. You have to tell them you're gay. If fact, they plan to ask you. They claim that the inquiry is a device to gauge a prospective prosecutor's vulnerability to blackmail. Homosexuality is, of course, only one of the questions to be asked. A questionnaire is given to applicants inquiring about use of drugs, problems with alcohol, and failure to file income tax returns.

Gays are asked if they are one and if their families and friends know about "it". Contacts and references are not asked for to verify any claim of homosexuality. They'll take your word for it.

One Justice Department official told the *Post* that they are well aware of several assistant U.S. attorneys across the land who are gay. But he wouldn't name names.

He said that the government had "no problem" with that as long as they are out of the closet."

On the other hand, an applicant who secretly indulges may

find himself in trouble. Secret homosexuality will be "an important consideration not to hire him." They didn't say anything about her.

Well, according to our sources in the capital, this new policy has set off a rash of re-decorating in DOJ offices. People are suddenly telling secrets all over town.

Has the Reagan Administration been born again on gay rights? Do they want gay people to come out of their closets to live full, happy lives without fear and with Uncle Sam's blessing? Do they want their lawyers in love? Perhaps, Mr. Reagan is offering encouragement where he can.

Or is this the ultimate betrayal? Are they concerned about blackmailers or does the government intend to do a little blackmailing itself? Get the queers to turn themselves in. It'll save investigation costs and a lot of hassle. Then quietly re-arrange the promotion lists. Guess who's not coming to dinner. A properly cynical mind can't help but wonder.

How far "out" do you have to be for the feds to rate you not blackmail material? Does your mother know—your cousin in Iowa, your aunt, the neighbors who moved away two years ago?

Because federal prosecutors work on spy cases, maybe the government would rather you send a simple notice to various foreign emissaries so that they know that we know that they know. "Dear Comrade..."

But then we could be misreading the whole thing. It could just be an attempt to insure that government bureaucrats will be a bunch of bores. After all, anybody who doesn't have something in their past that they can be blackmailed on has led a pretty dull life. And that seems a primary consideration for government employment.

Ray O'Loughlin

IN MY OPINION

Buena Vista Must Change With the Times

by Wayne April

Buena Vista park is in the news again. On Jan. 30, *Bay Area Reporter* columnist Brian Jones fired the first shot by bemoaning the city's recent efforts to slash back the bushes and trees that have made the park one of the most popular areas for a host of shady activities—overnight camping, drug dealing and using, and, that old bugaboo, gay cruising and copulation.

That column was followed by an article in the *Sentinel* by Robert Pruzan that offered a more balanced look at what the city is doing to the park. But that still capitalized on the more sensational aspects of the problem, with juicy quotes from Friends of Buena Vista Park president Isabelle Wade concerning Buena Vista Park Association president John Hooper.

At the same time, this writer jumped in with a letter to *B.A.R.* explaining that it's the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, of which I am a member, that is pushing the park pruning, not raving homophobes or condo developers.

Now we've got John Hooper mad at Isabelle Wade and the press because they either misquote him or don't quote him at all. And the gays who use the park for you-know-what are mad at anybody who tries to keep them out. And the gays in BVNA are mad because the gays in the park are giving them a bad name. And the police are mad because they're damned if they do and damned if they don't. And Rec & Parks is mad because they have to spend more of their dwindling budget on a park that most San Franciscans have never visited and probably won't.

As a result of long-term neglect, the park has become a jungle and a popular place for meeting people without the bother of formal introductions.

When this all started, nobody knows for sure, but a member of BVNA found a sensationalistic column—what else?—about the park in the September, 1950 *San Francisco News*. Gays are never mentioned directly, but the article does go on about "winos, exhibitionists and other varieties of degenerates" who used "the heavy foliage as a curtain from which (they) may dart to molest women and children."

In 1960, gays were mentioned, however, in an *Examiner* editorial that ranked about the "sex deviates who haunt (Buena Vista Park) at all hours of the day and night." Like the previous controversy, it sparked a "clean-up" effort by the local politicians.

Perhaps the most notorious media assault on the park was the

CBS special report, *Gay Power, Gay Politics*, in 1980. It equated the goings-on in the park with the rising political influence of the gay power structure in the city.

The most recent assault on the park's foliage and reputation has come from the BVNA, under the leadership of John Hooper.

An example of this can be found in a March, 1985 letter from the police department to the Recreation and Parks department outlying the cops' most recent three-month crackdown on park law-breakers. The letter says:

"In response to the concerns of local residents we have been engaged in an enforcement program in Buena Vista Park. Since January, 1985 officers have used a variety of patrol methods resulting in 65 arrests in the park."

The attached police report specifically mentions that the police met with Hooper about the "problems occurring in Buena Vista Park." It then goes on to detail the six felony arrests (drug related) and the 59 misdemeanor arrests (most alcohol related).

But, lo and behold, not one arrest had anything to do with gays having sex. In fact, nowhere in the three-page report is there any mention of a "gay problem." The only allusion to gay bush activity that can be construed from the report is under the list of recommendations that the police make to Rec & Park.

Recommendation number nine states that Rec & Parks should "clean out dense underbrush and shrubbery. This would deter camping in the park. This would also assist police personnel and other concerned citizens to observe any criminal activity occurring (rape, assaults, robbery, etc.)."

That "etc." is pregnant with possibilities, but that's as far as the report goes.

One of the main reasons for this is the gay influence at BVNA. Several gay BVNA members have estimated the organization's gay membership at anywhere from a quarter to a third of the total membership. The same people estimated that the park management subcommittee was close to half gay. It was this committee that wrote up the plan recommending extensive pruning and clearing in the park in order to promote healthier vegetation.

John Wilkinson was chairman of that committee. He sees the current park controversy as people "talking at each other instead of with each other."

He joined BVNA after a *Chronicle* park expose last spring which contained a homophobic-sounding quote from Hooper.

"I see some of that (homophobia) in John," said Wilkinson, "but I think he's more concerned with numbers of people rather than the type of behavior. There are not that many parks with lines of people going into the bushes.

(Continued on page 21)

LETTERS

Police Tactics

★ The Uhuru House and the African People's Socialist Party (APSP) expresses our outrage that the *Bay Area Reporter* would publish a statement attributed to the Uhuru House saying that we did not support the Timothy Lee rally and demonstration because he was "gay." On the contrary, when the Uhuru House was called by the organizers of the rally we gave our endorsement to the demonstration. We endorsed the demonstration but were not called upon to participate in it. Timothy Lee was not lynched because he was "gay" but because he was black and we stand against any oppression against African people.

Our fundamental concern is that first, the *Bay Area Reporter* never called the Uhuru House to verify our position which is supposed to be any newspaper's responsibility, but rather chose to quote other "unreliable" sources.

Second, and even more serious, our concern is that the slander put out through the *Bay Area Reporter* "smacks" of a tactic utilized by police counterintelligence agencies (CoINTELPRO) during the 1960's. That the *Bay Area Reporter* would print this slander without contacting the leadership of the Uhuru House and APSP leaves room for us to believe that this newspaper is a part of the conspiracy to discredit us.

It appears that the white liberals of the 1980's are not prepared to understand any better our situation than they did in the 1960's when the black movement was under attack (siege) and was trying to alert the liberals to U.S. secret police aggression on our movement. The same forces who put out the misinformation to the *Bay Area Reporter* about the Uhuru House are the same forces that have never shown any unity with the black liberation movement and its leadership.

They behave like the police agencies that destroyed the movement of the '60s and are attempting to destroy the movement of the '80s under the leadership of the black workers of Oakland. The newspaper article in the *Bay Area Reporter* did not only hurt the cause of Timothy Lee but has done severe damage to the life and death struggle of the African people of Oakland where the Uhuru movement has developed and is leading the struggle for black liberation. We demand a retraction of the slander contained within the article published by the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Fodalli Mboge, Education Director,
Uhuru House, Oakland

ED. NOTE: We are glad to correct the record that Uhuru House supports the protests of the Concord police handling of Timothy Lee's death. Friends and family of Lee, however, say that he was killed because he was both black and gay, not one or the other.

Out to Pasture?

★ Isn't it time to retire Harry Britt? Phillip Matier's interview (*Examiner* 3-5-86) is very revealing. Britt is quoted as saying, "I have a short attention span... Most committee meetings just bore me..." He admits he has no taste for news conferences or parades or social and community events.

Yet he "looks longingly to Sacramento and a seat in the state legislature." Britt may draw a "yawn" from the voters in the future.

Del Martin
Phyllis Lyon
San Francisco

The National Community

★ I would like to commend the *B.A.R.* for its insightful and necessary editorial, "We Are a National Community," on March 6.

It was quite gratifying for me, as a member of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to find your paper supporting a truly national political movement. AIDS, harassment, violence, and loss of civil rights are national issues that need to be addressed on precisely that level. A national political presence is essential for our survival at this critical time—to inform and educate our politicians and their constituents about what needs to be done.

NGLTF and related organizations are here to make this happen. Our lobbyists are tirelessly fighting the backlash of hostility and ignorance with which we are all too familiar. These organizations have contributed to the increase in federal AIDS funding the last two years (and, fighting for more in the next), as well as the creation of a valuable visibility in the national media.

It is imperative that the National Coalition be strengthened and nurtured. Now is the time to make ourselves heard as an important and worthwhile group of men and women. The best way to ac-

complish this is to offer our time and resources to our national community. As it stands, our national voice is struggling financially to keep its head above water.

I think you were correct in telling your readers that national groups contribute to the development of local communities. We all need each other to make the most positive and forceful impact on the public throughout the country. I call on the individuals reading this paper, the *B.A.R.*, and all local lesbian and gay organizations to support the national movement by sending a donation to NGLTF.

Your donation joins you to a movement that is eradicating society's misconceptions about lesbians and gays; a movement that is helping provide us with the necessary visibility that results in funding for AIDS research, hospice and other care; a movement that works to publicize violence and bigotry aimed at our community; and a movement that is leading the fight for our rights and those of us to come.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force address is: NGLTF, 1517 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 332-6483. Thank you in advance for your support.

Charlie Wing
NGLTF Board of Directors
Washington, DC

A Cry of Agony

★ In response to the AIDS Foundation Ad, ran in the *B.A.R.*:

"A special appeal to Gay men of Color."

Some people have the notion that, "some people have the mistaken notion that AIDS is mainly a 'white man's disease'—that People of Color aren't much at risk for AIDS!"

As a homosexual black man, my soul cries out in agony over the necessity of such an appeal.

Bartholomew T. Casimir
San Francisco

Quality?

This letter was sent to Anthony S. Tiano,
President of KQED.

★ Thank you for the courtesy of your reply of March 5. I do appreciate (but had to smile at) your comments about the adequacy of KQED's programming for the gay community. Frankly, whether KQED or anyone else airs gay cooking or gay talk or gay fashion or gay comedy shows is of secondary concern to me. It seems to me that receiving the same treatment heterosexuals receive on TV is, while inevitable, a mixed blessing at best.

It is your defense of KQED's use of *Monitoradio* from the *Christian Science Monitor* folks that sticks in my craw. I do not doubt your good intentions or intelligence, but surely you are not thinking clearly when you claim "the only reason to make a decision to air a program is the quality of the program material, not other issues."

Were this the case, there are wonderfully made pornographic films, racist epics, Nazi romances, etcetera, all adhering to the highest standards of technical excellence, which KQED would be broadcasting nightly. Surely another criterion accounts for their absence from your schedule. No doubt South African television produces excellent news shows. Why not use theirs? Would KQED air programs produced by a company that refused, as a matter of policy, to hire women? blacks? Asians? Jews? I think not.

You know why and so do I. Apart from "quality," KQED must present the appearance of conformity to the standards of the community it serves and whose support it solicits for survival. I respectfully submit that, in San Francisco at least, it is in your best economic interests to appear to subscribe to the not very-revolutionary notion that gay men and women do not deserve to be forever relegated to unemployment, as the *Monitor* would prefer, because we are erring and inferior human beings.

Monitoradio and your attempt to justify it are affronts to me. Of course, the world is full of offenses to everyone, so my feelings aren't too hurt. The difference, however, is that in general one is not asked to pay to be insulted. I recognize that until you are presented with a compelling dollars-and-cents case for dropping *Monitoradio*, you will continue to air it. In the meantime, I and everyone else I know will continue to watch what we please on KQED, switch off your pledge appeals without the least compunction, and treat your persistent supplications by mail as occasions for finger-wagging correspondence such as this.

Patrick Mulcahey
San Francisco

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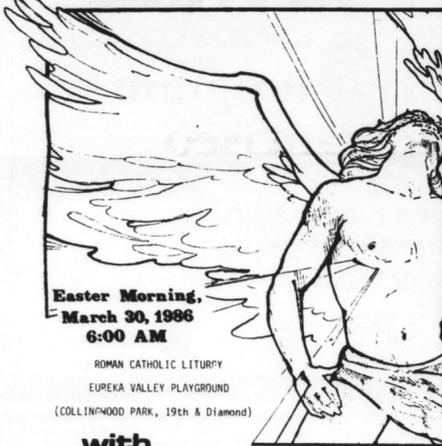


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LETTERS

Action, Not Words

★ The recent article by Brian Jones and subsequent letters to the editor on the subject of Buena Vista Park and the neighborhood association have highlighted the seeming powerlessness of the gay community. The recent do about KQED has carried much the same tenor. The sense of the articles and letters seems to be that we have been maltreated by unfeeling and slightly shady organizations.

Yet each of these organizations, the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association and KQED, is a public group with a totally open membership.

BVNA, with which I'm most familiar, is made of a broad mix of people: long-time straight residents, lesbian mothers, immigrants, gay male couples... all interesting, sincere people. The Park Group, the ad hoc oversight committee of the BVNA (of which I was a part), which studied and advised on the recent work in the park, was 60 percent gay.

It costs a mere \$10 to join the BVNA. Their meetings are well publicized, and never-changing: the third Thursday of the month at the Josephine Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, at 7:30 p.m. It is essential that those who attend be prepared to communicate, which involves serious listening as well as serious talking.

Likewise, KQED has not done well during its recent membership effort; a pledge call to 864-1100 with the words "This is a pledge from the gay community" would do more to change KQED than all of the words printed in this newspaper from now 'til doomsday. It would give us an all-important voice on the Board of Directors.

The price of power for the gay community is equal to the cost of a movie or a night on the town for those of us who choose to make a difference. Words don't make our dreams into reality... action and money do. As one of the 70,000 gay people in San Francisco, what are you doing to make your dream real?

**John Wilkinson
San Francisco**

All Is Well

★ Just want to let the people in the Bay Area know that most businesses at the Russian River are now open. Though some of us suffered flood damage, many—such as The Woods, Highlands, Fern Grove and The Estate—did not. Also, the Bayou, Molly Brown's and Rainbow are open.

The weather is perfect now and we expect you back to visit. Guerneville was not wiped out (contrary to rumor) and will be better than ever. The community here has helped each other tremendously, and we at Camelot want to thank all who have called or written with their concern.

So we're open; come and visit and we'll give you the tour of how high the waters went.

**Richard Zalenski
Camelot Resort, Guerneville**

What Can I Do?

★ Hopefully, you've asked yourself this question. Well, one answer is food! The Food Bank desperately needs food.

I work with a group, AAA Productions, and as an off-shoot to a number of theatrical and publicity projects we do, we also do all of them in conjunction with a Food Bank Party. We need your help, and we need it today! Every can, every razor, every bottle of juice, goes directly to someone who needs it.

Additionally, there are those who live in a hotel. Due to fire regulations, cooking is not allowed in the rooms. These people have a lot of blender meals, which seem to work out pretty well, except some are without a blender. If you have a spare blender or toaster oven, we could sure use it to give to someone. Saturday, March 22, is drop-off day at our studio. We are located at 233 14th Street. If you have any questions, please call myself or Bill Wolf at 861-8180. You can make a difference!

**Duane Fortier
San Francisco**

Boo Christianity!

★ Occasionally B.A.R. prints letters which are: intelligently wrathful; provocatively constructive; and irrefutably (as well as historically) accurate.

Martin F. Stow's scathingly superb denunciation of Bishop Swing, in particular, and Christianity, in general (March 13 B.A.R.) combined all the above characteristics, and added a few more, for good measure.

Christianity, particularly Roman Catholicism and the Church of England (Episcopal, in America), was and is the greatest singular enemy we gays have. It has caused more bigotry, ignorance, murders, suicides, torture and violence—with gays as victims in each (and countless other) instance—than all other philosophical-political-theological movements combined.

**Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco**

Wayne Friday
POLITICS & POKER



Rent Gouging Drives Out Gay Businesses

With rents going up all over the city and small businesses being forced out on a daily basis, it is time that the powers that be in City Hall get serious about some form of commercial rent control. A few weeks ago, the P.S. restaurant on Polk Street, a part of gay history in San Francisco, "lost their lease" and was forced to close their doors after over 15 years of being one of the finest eating places in the city.

The owners of the building that housed the P.S. reportedly raised the monthly rent from that space from \$3,500 to something like \$10,000 per month, a practice that is being repeated all over the city. That greed not only forced the closing of a tradition, but of course, put a few dozen people out of work.

The closing of the P.S. will be followed by others who can no longer afford the unfair rent increases and will likewise close their doors. I am told this is the case with a popular gay-owned liquor store that is facing triple the rent now being paid. In the Castro, North Beach, Polk Street, the Haight, South of Market, gay and straight owned small businesses are all facing the same thing—ridiculous rent increases by money-hungry landlords. And, it will get worse.

It is fine for the Board of Supervisors to talk about the problem. Now is the time for some action. Commercial rent control in San Francisco is an idea whose time is here. The Board of Supes and other city authorities can no longer avoid the issue.

How much longer must we sit by and watch small businesses who can no longer absorb the unreasonable rent increases from greedy landlords, go out of business. Now is the time for commercial rent control in San Francisco.

The Human Rights Commission in Louisville, KY last week approved gay rights legislation for that city for the first time and it is headed for the city's Board of Aldermen. Gay rights activists in Louisville feel this important legislation has a good chance of passing.

Twenty-two of the 34 seats in the U.S. Senate up for grabs in November are currently held by Republicans. The Democrat party leaders who had thought last year they could possibly gain control of that body are now less optimistic. Democrats and economists last year were predicting that the country would go into another recession by this time and the Democrats' hopes were high. But the economy appears to be alive and well, and even the most hopeful Democratic party pro will privately tell you that the current state of the economy bodes well for the GOP and the November elections.

U.S. Rep. Bobbi Fiedler, herself a candidate for the U.S. Senate in the June primary (and certainly one with higher name identification than she had hoped for), will kick off her Northern California campaign for the GOP nomination with a

fundraiser/campaign rally at the Holiday Inn Union Square next Tuesday, Mar. 24 (\$30 per; 668-3145 for info).

Quentin Kopp assuring his supporters that he is in the race to stay for Sen. John Foran's job, despite predictions from his opponent Lou Papan that the supervisor will probably back away from the race ("He's run away from numerous campaigns, this is probably another example of that").

Those calling the shots in Tom Bradley's campaign for governor are urging their man to hurry up and make some statement—one way or another—on State Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird.

One of my long-time heroes, scientist Linus Pauling, the two-time winner of the Nobel Prize,

telling *USA Today* that "Vitamin C is pretty effective against all viral diseases. It will be effective as a means of treating AIDS and probably completely effective for some patients but not for others. But most of them will probably benefit greatly from high-dose vitamin C."

L.A. supporters of West Hollywood Councilwoman Valerie Terrigno, convicted last week of embezzling government funds while in charge of the now defunct Crossroads Counseling Center, claiming the former mayor would not have been prosecuted had she not been a high-profile lesbian activist. Terrigno's lawyers expected to appeal the conviction.

Also in L.A. last week, lawyers for Rock Hudson's estate filed a



Goodbye P.S. (Photo: Rink)

counter-suit against the late actor's lover, charging that Marc Christian blackmailed Hudson by threatening to expose his homosexuality. The \$2 million lawsuit seems to many to be an answer to Christian's \$14 million claim against the estate filed last year that claims Hudson learned of his AIDS illness in 1984 but "lied" to Christian and continued their relationship.

The Republican National Committee announced last week that their '88 nominating convention will be held Aug. 15 to 18, but have not yet decided the location. GOP insiders predict that the final choice of the convention site will be L.A., the reported first-choice of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

At City Hall, they are saying that smart partygivers do not invite Sups. Harry Britt and Bill Maher to the same cocktail hour.

I've heard of some strange publicity stunts, but a San Francisco political fundraiser for Clint Eastwood? That's what a group of local Republicans have come up with. Asking for donations of \$4.95 per person, Chris Bowman, Bruce Decker, Kevin Wadsworth and a host of other Republicans are supposedly throwing a party for "Dirty Harry" at 1000 Vicente on Saturday night (Mar. 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; 681-3068 for info). But why are a group of local GOPers getting involved in a mayoral race in a village 125 miles away, particularly when the incumbent mayor is also a Republican?

Incidentally, I am told that Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights is still looking for a dinner speaker. If any of the aforementioned Republicans

(Continued on next page)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**



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Mike Hippler ON THE OFF BEAT



Return to the Closet

You know, I came out years ago in the summer of 1972, when I was a mere twenty years old. When I did, I was filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and elation. An immense burden was lifted from me. I immediately ran around telling all my best friends—and not a few strangers—the good news. It was a decision (an unavoidable need, really) that I never once regretted and that I vowed always to honor. Once free of the closet, I swore I'd never return.

Lately, however, I've wondered if perhaps I were beating a hasty but largely subconscious retreat back into the closet. I first noticed this change in myself when I went with my friend, Rick P., to a Giants game at Candlestick Park last May.

Candlestick Park, a far cry from Castro Street, let me remind you, is hardly the most congenial environment for those of my ilk. It is a place that calls for a certain amount of discretion. Yet Rick (otherwise known affectionately as Miss P.) doesn't know the meaning of the word.

As we sat shirtless in the sun, surrounded by beefy numbers swilling beer and shouting at the ball players, Miss P's head never stopped swiveling. His eyes were turned to Full Alert, and his radar was set to Constant Cruise. The girl was blatant, with a capital B.

"Ooh, look at that one," gushed Miss P. "Couldn't you just die?"

"Rick, cool it," I warned. "I'd like to leave this stadium in one piece, if it's all right with you."

Later, at the restaurant where we both work, Rick called me over to meet a friend of his, a gay Episcopalian priest in full clerical drag.

"Mike, meet Father," Rick beamed, as he gave his friend a bear hug and a big juicy kiss in front of several dozen wide-eyed heterosexual tourists. "Father's a real tramp, honey, and he spotted you right away."

To my surprise, I found myself growing distinctly uncomfortable. What a change, I thought, from the days when I used to pick nasty fights

with my ex-lover because he wouldn't hold my hand in public except within a one-block radius of Christopher or Castro Streets. What a difference from the days when I ridiculed Diane Feinstein for her admonition to gay people in the pages of *Ladies Home Journal* not to take advantage of the freedoms we enjoy by inappropriate public displays of affection.

Back then, I was the one who was considered an extremist. Yet I couldn't hold a candle to Miss P., probably not then and certainly not now. Compared to him, I'm a fucking closet case of the first order.

Comfort—maybe that's the problem. One of the reasons I seem to have taken a giant step back into the closet is that the older I get, the more I appreciate my comfort. I don't like to confront people anymore.

Given this state of affairs, it is amazing that I still have the audacity to criticize others for being closeted. When I saw the Barbary Coast Cloggers perform one Saturday at Pier 39, for instance, I was angry that the leader of the group never once mentioned that this delightful all-male ensemble was a gay dance company. What a perfect opportunity, I thought, for public enlightenment, at little or no risk to anyone.

Yet I never announce my homosexuality when I perform—I wait tables—and it is not as if I don't have the opportunity. The tourists at the restaurant are constantly asking me why I moved to San Francisco. I never give the simple truth: "Because I'm gay." Instead, I provide some ridiculous euphemism. "Because there is greater freedom here," I might say. Or, worse yet, "Because I'm comfortable here."

members Bill Bennett and Conway Collis.

Demo whiz kid Richard Ross has taken a leave of absence from his job as Speaker Willie Brown's chief of staff to leave him more time to run Democratic campaigns, while Barbara Milman, the deputy C.O.S. takes over Ross' Sacramento duties.

The Toklas Club gave an "early endorsement" to Supervisorial candidate Pat Norman last week.

Don't forget tonight's Spring Madness dance party put on by the National Mobilization Against AIDS at the Industrial Dance Company, 2140 Market St. (\$5 admission, complimentary champagne, no-host bar, dancing from 8:30 to 2 a.m.). The worthiest of causes, and I hope to see you there.

W. Friday

Comfort—maybe that's the problem. One of the reasons I seem to have taken a giant step back into the closet is that the older I get, the more I appreciate my comfort. I don't like to make waves as much as I used to. I don't like to confront people anymore. Call it conservative if you like (that dreadful word). It is certainly easier this way. At best, I like to think that I am preserving other people's right to disagree with me by withdrawing from debate. On the other hand, how can people disagree if I remain silent?

The other reason that I feel so closeted these days is that I have lived so long in a protected environment that I have almost forgotten how to deal with people outside the ghetto.

For the most part, the ghetto is a delightful place to be, but it does have the drawback of fencing us off from the "real" world. After all these years, when I leave the ghetto now, I go into culture shock. I simply don't understand people who do not realize that when I say "girl," half the time I mean "boy." And since I have the choice, why try to understand them at all? Who needs to spend the rest of his life explaining?

Oh, it's not as bad as it sounds. Rest assured, I still get militant from time to time. And I still counter when attacked, either verbally or physically. (It is particularly annoying when accused of "flaunting" my sexuality. Compared to my former self, I am a marvel of reticence.)

Furthermore, I recognize that what I call being closeted is often simple wisdom. I do not confuse discretion at the ballpark or at work with fear or shame. It is not being brave, after all, to smooch on a park bench at 24th and Mission. It is merely stupid.

But really—must I hide my copy of *Christopher Street* when a little old lady sits next to me on the bus? I shouldn't assume that the picture on the cover of a naked man doing the spider walk in a jockstrap will offend her. Hell, it might even turn her on. I know it turns me on. And why hide that from anyone? ■

Brian Jones



What's In a Name?

What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet.

William Shakespeare

Rose is a rose

Gertrude Stein

I am with Gertie. Sorry, Bill. I am gay. There are other words for my people but they do not smell as sweet. Most of them stink.

There is power in names. The Jews knew this and that is why their is no Hebrew name for our God. For a human to name God would imply some sort of power over God, and this cannot be. And so the Hebrew phrase for God is, "great mystery of the universe whose name cannot be spoken."

The word "gay" also is a mystery. In that mystery is magic and power.

A producer from the BBC in London visited me a while ago. He was doing a show on language. One angle was gayspeak. The man told me that even the BBC research department could not determine the etymology of the word "gay" in its current usage.

Some people link the word to the French "gai," for whoredom. I doubt it. As early as 1920, a madame in New Orleans wrote an essay which referred to us—unkindly—as "gay." I doubt that a prostitute would have used a French word for whoredom to refer to people whom she disliked—especially in the French Quarter.

Of course, "gay" used to be the British adjective for anything having to do with carefree bachelors, who may or may not have been walking on the Wilde side.

British bachelors haven't been carefree at least since the Great War and so that usage of "gay," like so many things British, has been venerably retired.

And so we have taken this neglected little word and renovated it. We have made it pretty and useful again. We have done for this Victorian word what we have done for Victorian homes. This has pissed off our detractors.

Some people don't want us to have anything nice.

They rail against our "misuse" of "a perfectly good word." Translation: Filthy faggots don't get to use a good word. These word fascists say they are defending the language. They are defending the language the way Der Fuehrer defended Europe.

Among the word snobs are the editors of *The New York Times*. They should be describing our language. Instead, they are prescribing it. How very grand. *The Times'* style book states, "Gay: Do not use as a synonym for 'homosexual.'" Well. Yes, sir.

Not long ago the editor of the *Minneapolis Star* wrote, "Using 'gay' for 'homosexual' destroys the word's traditional meaning. It is inappropriate because homosexual lifestyles typically are not gay."

Straight white men really do

CUAV

As If They Didn't Exist

Randy Schell

At first I didn't see her. Grace Cathedral has a way of making people seem invisible. Besides, I had no idea that the small group of people ahead of me surrounded her. There was another problem, how could I recognize a woman I had never met?

The small crowd began to disperse. It was time to go to their appointed places. Time for a funeral. Time to think about why a man named John was slaughtered. Time to get angry that he was cut down by a weapon called homophobia.

So, there she sat, all by herself. She was a small woman. For some reason, I thought she would be a lot taller. She was dressed in black, a pant-suit, I think. She was holding a bunch of flowers that someone had hurriedly purchased from a flowerstand next to the cathedral. The pastel blossoms seemed vibrant next to her white blouse and the cast of the stained glass windows framed her aloneness. Her face was lined. Not by age but by circumstance and one would not

have to look too closely to see a glistening underneath those empty eyes.

I wanted to walk away, but I didn't. I wanted the pit in my chest to go away, but it stayed there. My feet went forward, her eyes glanced upwards and I told her my name, that I was from CUAV and how sorry I was about her son, John.

It all seems surreal now. Evelyn O'Connell has gone back to her house in Phoenix. Her son Michael lives in Phoenix too and he's looking for a job. Her other son Patrick drove back to Colorado to be with his kids. And, John is no longer amongst the living and his killers are somewhere in a California prison.

As for me, I'm still here and writing away. I'm still trying to move people from complacency to action. To inform, to make angry and to make sure we don't forget that numbers get bigger, statistics get complex and lives get shattered by thugs who violate us for being us. And the victims keep on coming and the

mothers and friends of the victims keep on grieving.

And, the writing doesn't get easier. Sometimes you just burn out and chalk it up for lack of subject matter. But, then something cuts at you and you have to get it out of your system. And, I have to get this out of my system because year-end statistics for 1985 are cutting at me—just like the murder of John O'Connell cuts at me.

These are the figures that cut at our soul: There was a 61 percent increase in incidents of anti-gay violence reported to CUAV in 1985 compared to 1984. There were a total of 607 assailants involved in incidents of anti-gay violence in 1985.

Incidents requiring medical attention due to an attack constituted 29 percent of the total; 33 percent of all incidents involved the use of weapons. The majority of incidents occurred in the Castro area—27 percent.

(Continued on next page)

A SPECIAL APPEAL TO GAY MEN OF COLOR

Some people have the mistaken notion that AIDS is mainly a "white man's disease"—that People of Color aren't much at risk for AIDS.

The statistics prove otherwise. In the United States, roughly four out of every ten People with AIDS are non-white. Twenty-five percent of Americans with AIDS are Black. Nearly 15 percent are Hispanic.

The AIDS virus does not discriminate on the basis of race, or age, or gender, or sexual orientation.

AIDS can strike anyone who engages in the activities that can spread AIDS—Unsafe Sex or the sharing of IV drug needles.

In San Francisco, compared to the rest of the country, we've so far had relatively fewer cases of AIDS among Third World and People of Color. Let's keep it that way. Here in San Francisco, Hispanics account for 5.5 per-

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

cent 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.

Together, we can stop the spread of this disease.



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The Mind at Large

A Short History of the 50-Minute Profession

by J. Davis Mannino

Psychology—the 50-minute profession—has evolved through great accomplishment, bizarre turns and macabre twists, into a science. Much of the language of psychology has its roots in antiquity and history. The term “tranquillizer” for instance was once a torturous device which restrained a psychotic individual in a chair with straps around the arms, legs and head, much like the electric chair at San Quentin Prison. Its purpose was to “quiet the person.” The inventor of this modest torture device was Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813), founder of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Rush was an avid fan of astrology, bloodletting and purgatives. With such footnotes from the past we slowly begin to appreciate the joy and deliverance the arrival of such drugs as Valium and Librium must have brought.

Another notorious figure in psychiatry was Dr. Anton Mesmer (1734-1815) who developed the notion that planets influenced a universal magnetic fluid. The distribution of this fluid in the body determined health or disease. In attempting to find a cure for mental illness, Dr. Mesmer concluded that all

persons possessed magnetic forces which could influence the distribution of magnetic fluid in other persons; thus effecting cures. Mesmer opened his clinic in Paris in 1778 where he treated all diseases by “animal magnetism.”

He would seat his patients around a tub containing various chemicals. Iron rods protruded from the tub and were applied to the affected portions of the body. The room was darkened, appropriate music played, and Mesmer would appear grandly in a lilac robe passing from patient to patient touching each one with his hands and his wand. Through these means Mesmer was apparently able to treat hysterical anesthetics, paralysis and demonstrate most of the phenomena, discovered later, that we now call “hypnosis.” Mesmer was eventually branded a charlatan and forced out of Paris. It is to Dr. Anton Mesmer we owe the verb “to mesmerize.”

Psychology has long been influenced by bizarre events, public outcry and considerable research. Psychology is one of the few sciences influenced by democracy. Alcoholism was voted “in” as a disease by members of the American Psychiatric Association, and homosexuality was voted “out” as a disease by that same group in 1973.

Discrimination and sexism has long been a way of life in the field of psychology as well as in religion. There is significant evidence indicating the persecution of witches throughout history was partly a means for curbing the eroticism of priests and monks which centuries of celibacy had not stamped out. Women stirred men's passions, therefore, they must be carriers of the devil. Most accused of witchcraft and persecuted throughout history were women. The fact that these women were often subjected to sexual in-

dignities suggests the motivations were not purely religious.

The term “hysterical” comes from the latin for “wandering uterus,” since belief held that much of the mental illness which afflicted women was due to a floating uterus. This major sexist abuse in mental health diagnosis was only recently corrected in 1978 when the diagnosis of “hysteria” was changed to “histrionic.” The fact that we do not know what makes someone mentally ill is one thing, but to blame it on a floating uterus was more than forward thinking psychotherapists could justify.

Paracelsus (1490-1541) was one of the first learned men of his time to begin rejecting demonology—possession by the devil—in favor of astral influences. Paracelsus was convinced that the moon exercised a supernatural influence over the brain. He defied both the medical and the theological traditions of his time. It did not help that he was very arrogant as well. As a result he was hounded and persecuted until his death. Since the latin word for moon is “luna” it is to Paracelsus and his work with St. Vitus's dance that we owe the term “lunatic.”

There was no greater psychologist than Shakespeare, who noted in *King Lear* (Act II, Scene iii): “Bedlam beggars, who with roaring voices, sometime with lunatic bans, sometime with prayers, enforce their charity.”

The profession has come a long way. ■

The Mind at Large is written by J. Davis Mannino, psychotherapist (Ed.D.), educator, and consultant. Each month he will take a curious off-centered look at psychology.

CUAV

(Continued from previous page)

Now, let's talk about the statistics for the last quarter, October through December, 1985. That quarter shows a continuing and significant rise in the numbers of anti-gay incidents reported to this office with a 69 percent increase for the 4th quarter of 1985 as compared to the same quarter in 1984. Thirty-one percent of the total incidents required medical attention, of those, 42 percent were severe enough to require surgery, hospitalization or extensive out-patient care. And, victims keep on coming and mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and loved ones keep on grieving.

Just like the two women two weeks ago who were called “dykes” on Haight Street. These two women, who were attacked by a man who left one of them with a perforated eardrum and the other with a fractured nose. Both of them wondering why a police officer went to the assailant's home, left his card and now can't do anything because the assailant didn't bother to come by the Hall of Justice or call him in response.

Or the young man aboard the 24-Disisadero who heard just about enough from ten thugs calling a single man a faggot and told them to knock it off. This young man who was dragged across the floor, stomped on and kicked and called a “faggot.” This young man, a victim of rabid anti-gay violence is as straight as an arrow.

Or the man knifed to death in his apartment in the Castro. Or the man who was castrated and knifed repeatedly and who's butchered body was thrown like so much debris in a filthy parking lot South of Market.

I used to write about all this stuff with a pen. But now, we have a computer. There are too many numbers, complicated statistics, cross references and the like.

And my blood boils, and a public that would rather not talk about it looks the other way—like it just doesn't exist—like it just doesn't matter at all. Like Evelyn O'Connell doesn't grieve about her son and two women never were attacked on Haight Street, and the 24-Disisadero doesn't exist, and numbers are just numbers and they don't have a god-damned soul. ■

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS

WILL SNYDER

Gerbilgate? Rumors Fly Faster Than Fur In Philly

PHILADELPHIA—Gerbils are in the news again in Philadelphia!

In fact, the good citizens of the City of Brotherly Love are about ready to call the situation “Gerbilgate.”

Emergency Room directors of eight Philadelphia area hospitals confirmed that they have neither treated nor heard of a case in which a man was hospitalized for injuries resulting from the insertion of a gerbil or another live animal into his anus.

The rumors have been flying about as much as the fur in this town. A year ago, reports from an unknown source indicated that a man had been admitted to the emergency room of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania after allegedly dealing in gerbil sex. The rumors gained some fire and brimstone when Dr. Paul Cameron, the conservative, anti-gay psychologist who was expelled from the American Psychological Association, decried gay sex with gerbils.

The rumors re-surfaced two weeks ago on a Philly talk show, *The Irv Homer Show*. Apparently, Homer wouldn't put a caller on who wanted to talk about gerbils. Homer's home station, WWDB-FM, has tried to discourage the gerbil rumors. General Manager Jack Ellery said “the subject of gerbiling or kinky sex doesn't belong on the radio station.”

Animal rights groups have been getting interested in the rumors, too. According to Pat Owens, the managing director of the Women's SPCA, her organization has been getting calls saying three hospitals have been treating men for injuries as a result of alleged sex with gerbils.

“When we first got phone calls, I thought it must be a full moon out there,” said Owens, “But after getting the calls and the letters, I began to become concerned.”

A hoax or the real thing? No one in Philadelphia knows for sure.

—The Philadelphia Gay News

Philadelphia Keeps Baths . . . For Now

PHILADELPHIA—A city government advisory committee recently said that Philadelphia baths should remain open. The Mayor's Advisory Committee (ACHE) said AIDS discrimination is already covered under existing city laws, that antibody testing should remain voluntary and that insurers should not be allowed to screen applicants for antibodies before approving coverage.

The ACHE said the baths should not be closed “unless they facilitate and promote unsafe sexual practices which pose a high risk of transmission of the HTLV-3, LAV virus.”

The subcommittee, however, also said that “any facility which promotes hypodermic needle sharing should be closed.”

—The Philadelphia Gay News

GAA Is Watching You, Big Brother

WASHINGTON—The Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) asked Washington Mayor Marion Barry to block the sale of a city-owned building to Big Brothers of the National Capital Area. GAA registered its complaint against Big Brothers because the latter organization refuses to accept gay men as companions, or “Big Brothers” for fatherless boys.

One way GAA would accept the sale of the building to Big Brothers, according to GAA member Craig Howell, would be if Big Brothers ended its discrimination against gay people.

Officials with the Big Brothers groups say they want “role models” for fatherless boys. In 1984, Leroy W. Upshur—the executive director of the Big Brothers of the National Capital Area—said in a letter to GAA that the group's purpose is to “serve as traditional male role models and exemplify the standards of character and lifestyle prevailing in the community at large.”

Jim Zais, an openly gay program coordinator of the mayor's

Ward 2 Office of Community Services said, “My feeling is that he (Barry) would be sym-

thetic to a proposal that seeks an end to discrimination.”

—The Washington Blade

Barbra Buys 'Normal' Heart, Plans To Direct Film

HOLLYWOOD—Actress Barbra Streisand has bought the screen rights to Larry Kramer's smash hit play, *The Normal Heart*. Streisand will direct the film as well as play the only female supporting role, that of a doctor who attempts to help early AIDS patients against all odds.

Kramer's play has been one of

the most controversial ones on Broadway in many years. It attacks the city of New York, Mayor Ed Koch, *The New York Times* and the U.S. government for inhumane and neglectful treatment of AIDS patients at the start of the epidemic.

Streisand said a commitment to a new Mark Rydell film, *Nuts*, will keep her from starting *The Normal Heart* right away. This is her second directorial assignment. In 1983, she directed *Yentl*.

—The San Diego Gazette

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IS IT SAFE TO HAVE UNSAFE SEX WITH YOUR LOVER?

Many men have the mistaken idea that Unsafe Sex with a lover is safe, especially if the relationship is monogamous.

That is rarely true. For most of us, there is no safe way to have Unsafe Sex during the AIDS epidemic.

Nearly all of the publicity about AIDS has focused on avoiding Unsafe Sex with multiple partners. That is because from an epidemiological point of view, Unsafe Sex with multiple partners spreads AIDS far more widely than Unsafe Sex with a single partner.

Monogamous relationships do cut down on the spread of AIDS, but they don't guarantee the safety of the men in the relationships.

No one knows for certain just how much re-exposure to the virus is required for the disease to result. The body's defenses may be able to resist some quantity of the virus, but at some point, if you continue to be exposed (even to viruses from the same person), your body's defenses may be overcome.

It is not safe to have Unsafe Sex with your lover (or anyone else), UNLESS:

1. You have BOTH been in an EXCLUSIVELY monogamous relationship with each other for at least five years AND neither of you has shared IV needles, had transfusions, or used other blood products; OR
2. You have both been tested for HTLV-3 antibodies twice over a six-month period and have both received negative test results and haven't since been exposed.

Hardly anyone qualifies!

Caring about your partner these days means protecting one another from re-exposure to the virus. Try new and safer ways of sexual expression. Use condoms if you have anal sex. Avoid Unsafe Sex.

Take care of one another. Take care of the community. There is nothing you can do about the past. There is a great deal you can do about the future.

If you would like more information or assistance, help is available. The STOP AIDS

Project, 621-7177, offers one-evening discussion groups about the AIDS epidemic. 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 HOTLINE, 863-AIDS, can provide the latest information on AIDS-risk and AIDS-prevention, as well as other referrals.



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Allen White makes a point in the KPIX Conference Room (Photo: Rink)

'Fear and Loathing' Edited Out by CBS

Network Surprises Frisco with Compassionate Coverage on '60 Minutes' by Allen White

CBS Television estimates that over 35 million people nationwide viewed Life and Death in San Francisco last Sunday night on 60 Minutes. Filmed in the last six months, the show was an examination of how the city's gay community has coped with the AIDS health crisis.

The show was seen first at the Giraffe bar from its East Coast feed at 4 p.m. Giraffe waiter Mark Mahadeen was stunned by the reaction of the customers as they watched the show. "I have never waited on people who were so scared. The fear on their faces gave me goosebumps." Though there was general approval of the program's content, the show was a jarring experience for those who filled the bar to see it through the technological wizardry of the satellite dish.

The show was a statement of human pride, compassion and caring wrapped in the power of San Francisco's gay community. At the Giraffe it struck a nerve.

Russell Yorks and Alex Gallego are two lovers who watched the show at the Polk Street bar. Yorks was the patient at San Francisco General with his lover in the show. "We thought we better come and see it," said Yorks. They were worried, as were many at how the show might be edited. Both Yorks and Gallego said they approved of the show.

Concern for how the show would be edited was voiced by many. The producer, Grace Diekhaus, had co-produced Gay Power, Gay Politics in 1980 for CBS. That is still shown today by anti-gay groups and is acknowledged as the most homophobic, distorted view of the gay community ever produced by a national television network.

The show subtly implied that the gay movement has been stopped. It was for Jim Geary, director of the Shanti Project, to calmly but firmly state that the gay movement is now stronger than ever. His remarks that clarified that the actions shown are all a result of a strong gay community responding in strength to a crisis.

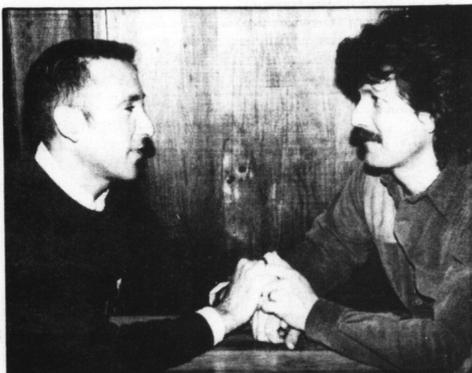
No new information was revealed in the show. Everything reported in the segment has been reported in virtually every gay newspaper in the country and most major straight news media. What made this show different and important was that it presented real people, real gay people, before tens of millions of people across the United States.

The show subtly implied that the gay movement has been stopped. It was for Jim Geary, director of Shanti Project, to calmly but firmly state that the gay movement is now stronger than ever.

provide to say exactly the same thing.

They saw Dr. Paul Volberding state that AIDS is "a garden variety venereal disease." In rapid fire order Mike Wallace listed kissing, saliva, tears, toilet seats, food handling and each time Volberding tells over 35 million people that none of these will spread AIDS.

(Continued on page 18)



Lovers Russell Yorks and Alex Gallego were featured on 60 Minutes. (Photo: Rink)



KPIX's Jim Bunn talks about the show with Sup. Harry Britt. (Photo: Rink)

Sheehan Loses SF State Job

Former Campus Cop Says Message Is: 'Stay In Your Closets'

by Gregory Douthwaite

San Francisco State University does not have to rehire a lesbian campus police sergeant who won a discrimination suit against the university for her firing, a judge ruled this week.

"The plaintiff (Myra Sheehan), has been fully compensated," wrote Superior Court Judge Daniel Hanlon in a brief ruling. "The motion [for reinstatement] is denied as moot."

A jury awarded Sheehan \$208,250 last month, after deciding that she was the victim of discrimination for sexual orientation. The award included \$200,000 in compensatory damages for wages lost after her dismissal in 1983, and \$8,250 in punitive damages from her former supervisors.

Sheehan, 31, accepted the ruling gracefully. "It's probably better not to go back to work," she said. "I fought a noble battle, but my fight is coming to an end."

Sheehan plans to use the award money to put herself through law school, which she plans to begin this fall. She kept these plans secret from the university. "I wanted them to reinstate me, thinking I'd be there forever," she said.

The university has made no changes since the jury verdict, Sheehan said. "They still could reinstate me if they want to talk about a settlement," she said. "It's important that they do one of two things: reinstate me, an open homosexual, or fire the administrator found guilty of discriminatory practices."

Sheehan spoke about the need for action against discrimination at a recent meeting of the S.F. State Lesbian and Gay Alliance. "They have to do something to show that this campus is not homophobic," she said. "If they don't, you better stay in the closet—this administration is not going to support you."

A lesbian university employee who asked to remain anonymous spoke at the meeting. "I am in the closet because I'm afraid of losing my job," she said. "Hundreds of faculty and staff are gay, and it's important to let the administration know we are not going to tolerate discrimination."

The campus police were reported to have secretly taped the meeting, even though an announcement was made that tape recorders were not allowed.

Judge Tells Prexy To Quit Selling Phony AIDS Cure

BOSTON—A Boston-area company was ordered by a Superior Court judge to quit advertising that one of its products could cure or prevent the development of AIDS or herpes.

Suffolk Superior Court Judge John J. Irwin, Jr. ordered Virus Guard, Inc. and its company president, James LaBarge, to stop false advertising. Virus Guard had run an advertisement in the Boston Phoenix claiming it could stop AIDS and herpes.

—The New York Native



Myra Sheehan (Photo: M. Hicks)

Issue a statement reiterating their support for fair employment practices.

Reinstate Myra Sheehan, a victim of an unjust dismissal.

Dismiss (campus police chief) Jon Schorle, who clearly violated a civil rights ordinance and California State University policy and who has cost the University \$200,000 thus far.

Bring an end to any further appeal of the jury's decision." Copies of the letter were sent to the two student newspapers, both of which have frequently featured the Sheehan case on the front page.

Sheehan said. Police had planned to use the tape as evidence against her in the motion for reinstatement, she said.

The Lesbian and Gay Alliance has written a letter to university president Chia-Wei Woo and the administration. "Gay men, lesbians and all other minority employees need to believe that the University's non-discriminatory policy is working for them," they wrote.

"We feel that if the University wishes to act in good faith, they should:

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.



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

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Going Hollywood

'Friends of Oscar' Gather to View Academy Awards and Raise Dollars for Hospice

by Allen White

Next Monday night the famous, the near famous, and the not so famous will gather for the Academy Awards. These "Friends of Oscar" as they are known will gather, not in Hollywood, but in the very home where just a few days ago Mr. Safe Sex sat across from Joan Collins in a luxurious mansion in Pacific Heights.

In yet another sign of gentrification in action, members of San Francisco's gay community will invade the part of the city vacated not too long ago by Mayor Dianne Feinstein. The event has moved from a restaurant in the lower Western Addition where it was held last year to an opulent mansion on Broadway.

Over 300 people are expected Monday evening (Mar. 24) and the admission is \$35 per person. Money is usually not mentioned except to state that 100 percent of the take is given directly to the Coming Home Hospice. So clean is the charity event that to gain entrance you must write your check directly to the charity. All expenses for the evening are completely underwritten by publicity shy benefactors.

The evening is presented in the elegance befitting a guest shot on the television show, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. To assure the proper tone is maintained, music will be provided by Peter Mintun at the piano. It's a nice touch because many people actually would rather hear Mintun play than figure out the Hollywood costume designer of the year. Most, in fact, don't even know who is nominated for costume designer of the year.

This is the sixth year for the "Friends of Oscar" and organizers say there will be one room where you can quietly watch the awards. In another room you can, more or less, quietly listen to Peter Mintun. Then there will be the main room where you can talk, cruise, listen to the latest in stocks, insurance and debate almost anything except politics. Finally, there is one room with no Academy Awards, no Peter Mintun, no talk and you can sit where Joan Collins sat.

Hollywood formal attire is required. The steering committee headed by Kile Ozier has debated at length the definition of formal attire that is "Hollywood." Style conscious Hollywood personality types realize that tuxedo rentals guarantee the latest in lapel size, collar style and cuff length. Others from the conservative "older school" argue the merits of purchase claiming benefits as a tax write off.

One young man suggested the judge to order the blood test for anyone convicted of specific sex offenses that have often been used to arrest gay men. The testing results would be disclosed to the court, the probation department, and the state Department of Health Services. This bill, authored by Sen. Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward), who is also chair of the Judiciary Committee, erodes the current confidentiality law authored by Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-SF).

Information for this evening of elegant charity may be had by calling Kile Ozier at 626-7161. If you plan to arrive in a beaded sequin gown and wreck the place, don't tell Mr. Ozier when you call.



Clark Taylor: "Of course we're outrageous." (Photo: M. Hicks)

Having Fun Yet?

Risk Reduction Playshop Shows Men How to Play Hot and Safe

by Jay Newquist

Is there a way to eroticize safe sex? Psychologist Clark Taylor says AIDS is no reason to deny those pleasures that make us human, there still exists good, hot, safe sex.

Taylor is a believer who discussed safe sex guidelines last week before a free forum of X-rated mirth conducted by the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. He and his colleagues say they are not above urging their audience to inflate condoms like balloons, lecturing on the merits of water pistols filled with hydrogen peroxide and screening the multi-media *Safe Sex Fuck-a-rama*.

Isn't this joviality a bit off the wall during the current serious climate of AIDS? "Of course we're outrageous, but we're also very effective about bringing the safe sex message," said Taylor who didn't apologize for such zaniness in

relate well to it. We want to show that safe sex can be fun."

Taylor reported the institute had its origins in the basement of Glide Memorial Church some 16 years ago. It was incorporated in 1976. Some 20 scholars now conduct classes and research through its facilities.

Taylor has degrees in anthropology and human sexuality. He first studied homosexual behavior in rural Mexican men, but he decided he had to expand his range to study all varieties of sexual behavior. He also maintains his own private practice as a safe sex advisor, principally for a clientele of bisexual women. He also has explored erotic body massage, bathing and eating (a la Tom Jones), and has in addition assisted handicapped people to eroticize parts of the body other than the sex organs to regain an orgasmic potential.

Taylor was responsible for the special condom issue of the tabloid *Hot and Healthy Times* that

(Continued on page 21)

Legislature Moves On Testing Bills

Six Bills Propose Mandatory Tests, Weaken Confidentiality Protections

by George Mendenhall

Six bills that would open the door to mandatory HTLV-3 antibody testing for millions of Californians and permit the testing results to be distributed have been introduced here in the state legislature. The legislation would supersede current law enacted last year (A.B. 403) which was to protect confidentiality.

The first of the testing bills, S.B. 1545, passed its first hurdle, the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mar. 5 after a brief hearing. Sen. Milton Marks (D-SF) was the only opposition in the 8-1 vote.

S.B. 1545 would permit a judge to order the blood test for anyone convicted of specific sex offenses that have often been used to arrest gay men. The testing results would be disclosed to the court, the probation department, and the state Department of Health Services. This bill, authored by Sen. Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward), who is also chair of the Judiciary Committee, erodes the current confidentiality law authored by Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-SF).

Testing could be ordered for those found guilty of soliciting to engage or engaging in "lewd or dissolute conduct," prostitution, loitering in or about a toilet "for the purpose of engaging in or soliciting any lewd or lascivious or unlawful act," and "annoying or molesting a child under 18 years age."

Testifying against S.B. 1545 were two gay activists, who spoke for non-gay groups—Priscilla Alexander, of the National Organization for Women, and Cleve Jones, of the Friends Committee on Legislation. They were joined by Dahne Macklin of the American Civil Liberties Union and Atty. Cyrus Richards of the California Public Defenders Association. Jones said he believed that the legislators would have listened to doctors testifying on AIDS testing. "The old civil rights and gay rights arguments do not work anymore. We need doctors testifying on these bills," said Jones.

Five additional bills are moving through committees of the legislature: three from Sen. John Doolittle (R-Roseville) would require testing for marriage license applicants (S.B. 1478) and prisoners (S.B. 1513) and Assemblyman Eric Seastrand (R-San Luis Obispo) would allow the chief medical officer of a state prison or youth authority to order a test (A.B. 3318).

The Agnos law on confidentiality is specific. It does not allow anyone to be tested for AIDS antibody virus except those who give written approval in each instance of testing. Agnos has pending another confidentiality bill (A.B. 3667) which permits a person with AIDS to give a blanket approval for all testing.

The new testing bills open up the door to a casual use of test results as the testing is made mandatory. S.B. 1545 and S.B. 1543 require that results go to the sheriff or a warden; S.B. 1478 to a marriage license bureau clerk, and A.B. 3551 to hospitals and county health officers. S.B. 1545 also gives results to the state Department of Health Services so it may "document" AIDS testing results.

Larry Bush, Agnos aide,

states, "We will now be moving to amend our confidentiality bill to correct some of the breaches being made. When we adopted it we had been told that AIDS testing was a safeguard for the blood supply. Now we are being told that it has diagnostic value. We are committed to making all the testing confidential and only by consent." In addition to A.B. 3667, Marks and Roberti have introduced a bill (S.B. 2454) that would require that public health records on testing be confidential.



Sen. Bill Lockyer Sen. Milton Marks Assemblyman Art Agnos (Photo: Rink)

ANAL SEX AND AIDS

After four years of studying thousands of cases of AIDS, the evidence is becoming increasingly clear: *anal sex is the number one cause of AIDS transmission in America.*

Several epidemiological studies conducted independently in several different cities, involving thousands of gay and bisexual men, have produced essentially the same finding—the principal difference between gay men who get AIDS, and gay men who don't get AIDS, is the amount and kind of Unsafe anal sex they have engaged in.

Unsafe anal sex includes anal intercourse without a condom, rimming, scat, fisting and fingering, and the sharing of dildoes and other insertive sex toys.

So our message is very simple—if we as a community are to survive this epidemic, unprotected anal

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.*



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DEATHS

Jon Herzstam

Jon Herzstam, 34, died at home on March 5, 13 months after being diagnosed with AIDS. A memorial service was held Saturday, March 8 at Bethany Church where Jon's family and friends gathered to celebrate his life.



During the 11 years he worked at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, he was a counselor at Mission Crisis and later was the coordinator of sexual minority youth services at the Center for Special Problems.

In his life, Jon touched us as a friend and co-worker, as a poet who helped us see life in its joy and sorrow, as a fighter for justice who had the courage to admit his limitations. In the dignity of his death he has helped us understand more clearly our struggle in difficult times for meaning and hope in our own lives.

He will be deeply missed by Gary, Adria, and Jim, his friends, his mother Mary and his sisters Suzanne and Stephanie.

Donations can be made to Polk Street Town Hall for the Jon Herzstam Youth Fund, c/o Jed Emerson, 1044 Larkin Street, San Francisco, 94109, or Hospice of San Francisco.

Bill Spalding

William (Bill) Albert Spalding, my dearest friend and partner in life for three years, died peacefully in our home on Christmas Eve, our kitty by his side. He was 36. He was buried Jan. 4 near the family home on Martha's Vineyard, the island he loved so much. I doubt I will ever know a sweeter, more courageous man.

Bill leaves behind a wonderful family and many loving and much loved friends. I thank everyone for their

help, support and understanding during the most difficult and intimate period Bill and I ever shared, easing him through his death. Shanti has been of immeasurable help in healing my grief.

His family and I request that donations of time or money be made in Bill's memory to the Shanti Project and/or S.F. AIDS Foundation, two groups in great need of our concern and attention. Please contact Bruce if you desire more information. ■

Kurt Soderling

Kurt Paul Soderling passed away in San Francisco on March 8. A memorial service will be held at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St., on Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jim Sandmire of Golden Gate MCC will officiate. ■

Steven Cain

Steven L. Cain, 37, died last week of complications following treatment for pneumonia. He is survived by his



parents, Murray and Hannah Cain, of Magalia, CA. His brother, Joel Cain, of Berkeley, and his sister, Barbara Schwartz, of Los Angeles. A 13-year resident of San Francisco, Steve worked as a tax accountant. He had been active in campaigning for Senator Alan Cranston and for Harvey Milk. He was also treasurer of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, a volunteer for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and a board member of the Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties. Steve was well-known for his enthusiasm in working for these and other organizations. We will miss him. The family asks that contributions be sent to these organizations in lieu of flowers.

A memorial service will be held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at 220

Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 23. All friends of Steve are welcome. ■

Cecil Reed
July 20, 1948-
March 24, 1985



Your light still shines brightly. And we are still warm in the glow of your love. We're missing you. ■

Collin B. Kratz

On March 15, Collin B. Kratz passed into a more peaceful life, leaving many friends who will surely bear the loss, but cherish the wonderful memories he left behind.



His interest and love for children led him to San Francisco where he pursued a degree in child psychology at San Francisco State University. Due to an untimely illness, he returned to his home in Dallas, TX, where he was placed in the loving care of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Kratz.

Collin was a large man, though his heart far surpassed his stature. Being disabled his last seven years, he had great compassion for other handicapped people, and regularly contributed to the U.S. Mission, as well as other charitable and civic functions.

His kindness and courage in difficult times shall serve as an inspiration to all those who knew him. Rest in peace, dear friend. God watches over all his children. ■

CBS

(Continued from page 14)

They saw Cleve Jones tell how he had tested positive and how gay men in San Francisco were changing their sex habits. He strived to tell the American people that gay people are not some peculiar breed of creature.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein stated that there has been almost no political backlash to AIDS in San Francisco although she

acknowledged there had been isolated instances. She then gave credit to the gay community for its support of people with AIDS through such groups as Operation Concern, the Shanti Project and hospice care. She also emphasized the fact that it is less expensive to treat a person with AIDS in San Francisco than in any other city.

The show pointed out that there are now 2,000 Shanti volunteers working with people with AIDS. Richard Williams was at the Giraffe and is one of those volunteers. "The show is a positive expression of how San Francisco is responding," he said.

Williams said, "It was too bad the show didn't include women." Though there were many images of women shown, their participation in the community is never mentioned and the mayor and Shanti Project Housing Director Helen Scheitinger are the only two women who are interviewed. Greg Biers who also viewed the show said he felt the show was "fairly balanced" and "free of the usual stereotypes."

In a carefully planned precaution by KPIX a small group gathered last Sunday night in a conference room at the station. For days there had been serious concern about the final presentation of the 60 Minutes segment on AIDS and the San Francisco gay community.

producer of the CBS program, *Gay Power, Gay Politics*.

At 6:45, fifteen minutes before airtime, people gathered. Harry Britt, former Health Department Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman, KPIX General Manager Carolyn Wean, AIDS Lifeline reporter Jim Bunn and a writer and photographer from the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Recently returned from Washington, Sup. Harry Britt said, "I think this show is going to help. It is important that people hear and see what is happening. They need to see the pain."

He was extremely frustrated at the seeming inability to reach Administration representatives. "Reagan's response to AIDS has been just short of criminal. This show humanizes people with AIDS." He expressed hope that somehow this show might reach these government officials.

Speaking of San Francisco, Britt said, "The will is there to address the problem. The will is not always there in other parts of the country."

Britt said he agreed with Jim Geary. "We are at the height of our power. I have just returned from Washington and I can tell you, people listen to us. I talked to people such as Sen. Ted Kennedy and they know our power and they respect us."

Britt continued, "America must learn to know us. They must know we have the power to be capable of dealing with death and dealing with fear and this power translates politically."

Spokespersons at KPIX stated that the 60 Minutes program had a 25 rating which translates to approximately 500,000 persons in the station's viewing area. ■

A. White

"I've been around for a while"



Jessie McVey
Shanti Practical Support Volunteer

And I've spent a lot of my life seeing situations that weren't taken care of. So what's being done here impresses me. I know of instances where someone didn't have family. So at Shanti, we made a family for this person. Shanti to me is creating ways where people can be loved and cared for and have support.

Life in this country is wild enough, isolating enough, and frustrating enough. I think the pattern being set by Shanti of loving care and the example of

what can be done with people working together is incredible. I may be naive, but that's how I feel.

Shanti is satisfying some part of me in some way, because I'm feeling much more secure and stable. It's touching part of me that's never been touched before.

I may eventually not want to be in Shanti. But I can't imagine not caring for people with AIDS.

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G BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS



It's clean-up and repair time at Fife's.

Fife's Rebuilds After the Flood

At Fife's, on the Russian River, a crew of 40 workers have been cleaning, scrubbing, and rebuilding seven days a week to get the resort back on its feet. At 8 a.m. on Feb. 17, the water level just kept going up. Cabins were lifted from their foundations. Furniture floated away and the staff had to evacuate the premises.

"We expected some flooding, but we had no idea how bad the damage would really be," said Fife's manager, Mike Vayssie. "Essential-

ly, we'll be opening a brand new resort at the end of the month," he explained. "It's really exciting, the new Fifes will be better than ever!"

The Fife's crew has been hard at work and the resort will be opening their dining room, lodge, and ten cabins on Good Friday, March 28. They plan to have the entire resort open for business on May Day Weekend, May 2nd, 3rd and 4th, with new carpeting, drapes and all new furnishings. ■

EAST BAY MY WAY

Move Over, Alexis!

NEZ PAS

FLABERGASTED MACARIZATIONS! (A Baggled Nose?)

It's enough to make a grown man weep! When the event of a lifetime happens, why did I have to be among the few who were unable to witness it?

Picture—if you can!—Jim Houghton of Big Mama's casting aside his traditional faded Levi's and semi-unbuttoned sport shirt and sensible shoes, to be completely costumed in a quite proper soup-and-fish! That's right, dear reader, Zephyr Jim in a tuxedo. It mesmerizes the thinking process! And so astonishing was this fete, more flash bulbs popped than if several debutante balls were put together. I doubt whether Joan Collins, herself, could have caused more of a stir.

And just what prompted this extreme departure from the norm? Well, Big Mama's was nominated by the Cabaret Gold Awards as Outstanding Cabaret in the Greater Bay Area. It was such an honor that both Jim and Daddy David decided to don their cutaways, if you will, and make their appearance in grand style.

Perhaps there was some premonition involved with all of this, because Big Mama's did, indeed, win its nomination. Congratulations to all who were involved in making this honor possible.

Zephyr in a tuxedo? I still can't believe it!

MARATHON ENDURO (A Racy Nose?)

There's just no rest for some people. Carlos is now at the Lake Lounge, days, Mondays through Thursdays; Paradise dining room Fridays and Saturdays; Paradise bar on Sundays. Mercy! doesn't that girl realize that a body needs some time off?

And if that isn't enough strenuous exercise for her, read on. Because there will be no traditional tricycle race this year on Memorial Day, Carlos has decided that he will enter the Bay-to-Breakers race in San Francisco this coming May. What is a tad unusual about it is the fact that he will be doing his racing wearing a full wedding dress, heels, and starched veil! He is, of course, taking pledges (the minimum being \$1 a mile), with the proceeds divided between Oakland Float Contingent and AIDS. Yes, dear one, he got my name and number! Huh? Well, the minimum, of course!

Carlos would like it announced that there will be a very important meeting of the Pom Pons, Flats, and Banner Corps at the Lake Lounge on Saturday, Mar. 29, at 1 p.m. Contact Paul Moulten or Lady Carlos for further information.

"REIGNING CONFUSION" UPDATE (A Reporting Nose)

There was no Suicide Party at the Paradise last Friday or



Daddy David and Jim Houghton

Saturday. Empress Johnny has postponed it until further notice. And, Val Sousa is continuing with her plans for a function at the Paradise, this Sunday, Mar. 23, for the In Memory Fund. Also, on that same date, Big Mama's celebrates its 8th Anniversary, with entertainment and buffet.

OLLA-PODRIDA (A This 'n' That Nose)

Bless Emperor Paul's heart. He asked if I knew where the entry forms were for the Special Olympics Bowl-a-Thon. He thought people were bowling to raise money for that very special charity. He was a bit bemused when I informed him that it was for members of Special Olympics only, doing their thing. How fortunate we are that he is always ready to participate in a worthy cause. And, bless Tim (Perfect Print Press of S.F.) for keeping score that day. His teams won!

East Bay Assistance Fund now has its account open with American Savings. The Tavern Guild Foundation has issued a check in the amount of \$10,000 to get the ball rolling towards all the East Bay's money being in a "home" account.

Unless you haven't already guessed it, expect an important announcement in about a week. It will occur at Town & Country on Friday, Mar. 28, under the moniker ***TBSB***. I'm not at liberty to divulge any details, but does phascolarctos cinereus give you a hint? Where's my drink, Don?

Expect the unexpected when Mr. Lumberjack George has his spaghetti—why do sooo many have trouble spelling that type of pasta?—feed at Revol on Monday, Mar. 31. The T&C Dollies will make an appearance along with a "guest Revol Dolly."

Don't forget the Saturday Soup Kitchen at the Lake Lounge. All proceeds go to the Oakland Parade Contingent. Kudos to all who participate, whether it be donating the food or buying same.

Oh, shit! First it was "typewriter error." Now I can use computer error! The OPC's Chicken Feed was at the T&C, not Paradise. Let's see, who or what can I blame next?

Al Ruiz would give me only 25 cents to put his name in the column. Hell, for 50 cents I'd have put in his picture!

★ ★ ★
In order to clean something, something else must become dirty. But everything can get dirty without anything getting clean! I ponder as I smile. Love, ■

Nez

Lesbian

(Continued from page 3)

whether you have engaged in homosexual acts, but merely whether you are homosexual!"

Johnson served for two years with the Air Force on active duty in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1981 she transferred to the Air Force Reserve and served with a unit of the California Air National Guard in Hayward until her discharge in 1984.

In June 1983, Johnson wrote her commanding officer: "I am a lesbian and that will remain my political and sexual preference. However, my homosexuality does not in any way conflict with my ability to perform my military duties. I do not and will not advocate homosexuality to anyone while on military duty... Please retain this letter in my permanent file."

Johnson told *Bay Area Reporter* that she informed the Air Force of her lesbianism because "basically I felt it was going to come out sooner or later so it might as well come from me."

Within a year the Air Force Reserve had discharged Johnson on the basis of her homosexuality. She sued for reinstatement but U.S. District Judge Edward Garcia of Sacramento rejected her request. Johnson then appealed.

Of Garcia's ruling Johnson said, "He kind of went around our arguments and made up some that neither side had argued." Both she and Achtenberg have better hopes of the present judicial panel.

"I think that the court appeared very receptive to the argument we were making," said Achtenberg, "that there is a distinction between status, being homosexual, and statements saying you are homosexual, as against conduct, engaging in homosexual conduct. The court seemed to understand the distinction and its applicability to the law."

According to Achtenberg 2,000-3,000 gay men and lesbians are discharged from U.S. armed forces each year for their



Julise Johnson
(Photo: Rink)

sexual preference. "Procedures to get gays out of the military are getting more and more summary and fewer people are fighting back because the rules are so skewed in favor of the military. (But) in this case there is a new question of law to be answered."

ACLU lawyer, Donna Hitchens, is also representing Johnson. According to Hitchens, she and Achtenberg are arguing that Johnson is "constitutionally protected by free speech, and she is a state employee. California law protects lesbians and gay men from discharge in state employment."

Hitchens noted that the military has given various reasons over the years for its policy of discriminating against gay people, from the threat of blackmail, to a more recent reason given, "people won't want their children to enlist if there are gay people in the army."

U.S. Justice Department attorney Mark Johnston was not available for comment.

Judge Alfred Goodwin, speaking for the three judge panel, told those at the hearing that their decision will be made later.

"If they rule for us," said Achtenberg, "this case will be very important, because we can then try to expand this ruling to other areas of government." ■

C. Linebarger

Sex

(Continued from page 16)

hit the streets Valentine's Day. Everything you wanted to know about condom use is explored in graphic detail.

A few safe sex techniques also surfaced in two of Taylor's instructive films: *All Hands on Dick* is a 30-minute exploration of the consummate staging of a jlo party. A report on the movie was made on a Dutch national TV newscast, according to Taylor, who also reported a reverential jlo party was similarly staged in Amsterdam.

"There is sex with AIDS," he said.

Taylor said that the Institute and support groups like the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Sexologists Sexual Health Project gatherings on safe sex need not be cold and clinical. A five-minute lecture about planning the total sexual encounter kicks off the typical institute gathering like the recent forum where Taylor was joined by colleagues David Lourea and Norma Wilcox.

Taylor indicated one had to bear in mind which activities were safe and others that are close to the risky category, but could be practiced. A panel next explores safe sex guidelines, including S&M, phone sex, jlo par-

J. Newquist

BVNA

(Continued from page 6)

"The park plan was a compromise," he said. "What it says basically, is that there have to be limits to behavior in public parks, as in public places everywhere."

BVNA vice president Alex Captainian agrees. He admits that Hooper is not faultless in drawing negative attention to specific park problems. But he believes that Hooper's primary concern is for the health of the park.

"I think we have produced a park management plan that is excellent," said Captainian. "The trees are old and diseased and have to be replanted. If the erosion in some areas isn't checked, there won't be any park left to worry about. And the erosion in the gay areas is the worst."

Meanwhile, Hooper continues to plug away at getting the city to spend more money on the park, and generating controversy for himself in the process, although he says he doesn't like seeing his name in the paper.

But public sex, for Hooper, is not something that can be tolerated in a park across the street from his house.

"I have had friends for years who I knew were gay, but they handle sex as a discreet and private matter," said Hooper. "What I see going on across the street goes much further than my wildest heterosexual fantasies."

"There is a category of behavior that is private in nature, and when it becomes public it makes people feel uncomfortable," he said. "One time I was going up a path in the

park and I saw two men up ahead of me, one was giving the other a blowjob. I felt like I had been assaulted. I felt like I had been when I'm solicited by a prostitute down on Market Street."

The silent party in this whole affair is, of course, the gay constituency that uses the park. One user this writer talked to sees Buena Vista as the last vestige of the pre-AIDS free sex zones.

This user thinks they could trim the park bushes, but leave the gay area in the center intact. Whether a gay sex "preserve" is set aside in Buena Vista is

doubtful. The Rec & Parks department plans to spend another \$85,000 this year to continue their tree and bush trimming and another \$240,000 to install an irrigation system at the top.

As BVNA vice president Captainian said, the completed conversion of St. Joseph's Hospital into 137 condominiums and increased surrounding gentrification has taken its toll. "The neighborhood is changing, and the park needs to change with it." ■

W. April

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 21

- **Tennessee Williams:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street (at S. Van Ness), S.F., 10 p.m., \$5, reservations 861-5079. An evening of three one-act plays by Williams: *Something Unspoken*, *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen*, and *Hello From Berna*.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.
- **Levitation:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$11-\$12. The West Coast premiere of a magically endearing comedy about a cynical young writer who spends a transforming night with the ghosts of his past.
- **White Marriage:** stage presentation, Durham Studio Theatre, Dwinelle hall, U-C Berkeley, Berkeley, 8 PM, \$2 students, \$4 general admission. This critically-acclaimed play by Tadeusz Rozewicz is the first contemporary Polish play to deal with a feminist/lesbian theme. Loosely based on the life of turn-of-the-century Polish feminist Maria Komornicka and the earlier lesbian-inspired fiction of Narozyca Zmichowska.
- **Crystal Reeves and Jennifer Berezan:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM.
- **Fraternity Order of Gays:** card fest, 1031 Cherry Ave., #48, San Bruno. Play your favorite: Hearts, Bridge, Canasta, Uno and Pinochle. Refreshments served. Call 873-4389 or 641-0999 for details.
- **Fraternity Order of Gays:** beginning Italian classes, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 641-0999 for details.
- **Alternative Treatment for AIDS Patients:** panel discussion, 4th Annual Whole Life Expo, Moscone
- **Levitation:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).
- **White Marriage:** stage presentation, Durham Studio Theatre, U-C Berkeley (see Friday for details).
- **Exotic/Erotic Nite IV:** houseboat party, 61 Issaquah Dock, Sausalito, 6-11 PM. Make friends on a houseboat roomy enough to include a sauna, a jacuzzi, showers, a video lounge, game room and fireplace. At 7:30 PM, Joseph Kramer will host a session of group oil massage. Registration is required. Room for only 15 people. Call 550-0533 for details.
- **Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:** Purim celebration, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3, members; \$5, non-members.
- **Marga Gomez and Danny Williams:** Comedy Night in Stockton, First Unitarian Church, 2737 Pacific Ave., Stockton, 8 PM, \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call (209) 943-5277 for details. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church of Stockton.
- **Sweet Honey in the Rock:** music, The Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7:30 PM, 10:30 PM, \$10.
- **Great Outdoors/San Francisco:** Mt. Tam/Stinson Beach Hike. Meet at Pavlot Parking lot, 1:00 AM. Call 383-4486 for details.
- **Over Our Heads:** improvisational comedy, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7.
- **Different Spokes:** city loop, meet at McLaren Lodge at the corner of Stanyan and Kennedy in Golden Gate Park, 10 AM. Call 282-3032 for details.
- **Eastbay Front Runners:** Alameda shoreline run, call 526-3506 or 261-3246 for details.
- **Sober Sexuality:** substance abuse lecture series, 2152B Market St., (near Church St.), 11 AM-1 PM, \$5 per lecture. Topics: Sex with drugs, sex without drugs, "35 years old going on 16," sober sex is sensible and safe and compulsive-obsessive sex.



See the hilarious improv comedy of Over Our Heads this weekend at Rhino

Center, 3rd and Mission Sts., 2:15-4 PM. Panel members include: Richard Shames, M.D.; Dana Ulman, MPH; Misha Cohen, CA.; Lorne Crane, MD and "ex-Person with AIDS" Jay Baldwin.

- **Vitamin C and AIDS:** discussion, 4th Annual Whole Life Expo, Moscone Center, 3rd and Mission Sts., S.F., 5:15-6 PM. Dr. Robert Cathcart will discuss Vitamin C and its effect on AIDS.
- **AIDS—The Newest Epidemic:** Marxist Study Series, Book Center, 518 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2 donation. Brian O'Brian, professor of biology at Santa Rosa J.C., will speak.
- **Linda Tillery and Grupo Matica:** dance, The Farm, 1499 Potrero, S.F., 9 PM-1 AM, \$6 in advance (all BASS outlets, Modern Times Bookstore in S.F. and La Pena in Berkeley). To charge by phone, call 762-BASS, \$7.50 at the door. A benefit for the Watsonville Canning Company strikers.
- **Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:** worship services, 220 Danvers (at Caselli), S.F., 8:15 PM.
- **San Francisco Lesbian Chorus:** party, Harriet Tubman Hall, 3rd Floor, S.F. Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. A fundraiser for the chorus. Former chorus members and friends welcome. Refreshments, dancing, sing-a-long, surprise entertainment.
- **Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- **Over Our Heads:** improvisational comedy, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7.
- **Santa Rosa MCC:** Palm Sunday worship services, 7 PM. Call (707) 526-HOPE for details.
- **Gay Volleyball:** pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Deharo, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- **Le Jazz Hot:** cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- **Men's Clinic:** free and confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. Counseling and referrals for men with AIDS/ARC concerns, open to all Bay Area gay men, sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7-9 PM. Call 644-0425 for more information.
- **Levitation:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 3 PM, 8:30 PM, \$9-\$10. (See Friday for details.)
- **Community at Risk: Towards a New Intimacy for Gay Men:** panel discussion, 4th Annual Whole Life Expo, Moscone Center, 3rd and Mission Sts., 1:45-2:30 PM. The panel discussion will touch on the fundamental changes taking place in our community in the Era of AIDS. Operation Concern therapists Jim Fishman and Gordon Murray will lead the discussion.

SATURDAY 22

- **Tennessee Williams:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).
- **Different Spokes:** Decide-and-Ride, meet at McLaren Lodge at the corner of Stanyan and Kennedy in Golden Gate Park at 1 PM. Call 771-0677 for details.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** bowling, Diablo Lanes, 1500 Monument Blvd., Concord, 9:45 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Writing Workshop:** for women 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 12 noon. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, call 626-7000 for more information.



Levitation continues at Theatre Rhino this week (Photo: S. Cohen)

SUNDAY 23

- **Different Spokes:** decide-and-ride, McLaren Park, Stanyan and Kennedy, 10 AM. Call 771-0677 for details.
- **Vocal Minority:** music, Nova Theatre, 16th and Dolores Sts., S.F., 7 PM, \$7. VM's production of *R.P.M.* features music from the Swing Era to early rock, from Elvis to Manhattan Transfer.
- **Affirmation, Gay and Lesbian Mormons:** meeting, every Sunday evening, 7 PM. Call 641-4554 for details.
- **Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco:** worship and communion service, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM. Childcare provided. Call 863-4434 for details.
- **Santa Rosa MCC:** worship services, 7 PM. Call (707) 526-HOPE for details.
- **Slightly Younger Gays & Lesbians:** meeting, Billy De Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 1-3 PM.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship celebration, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Deharo, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- **Le Jazz Hot:** cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
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MONDAY 24

- **Western Star Dancers:** new dancing class, males and females welcome for this continuous Monday class by this S.F. gay square dance club. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for more information and location.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** men's support group, 1853 Market St., 2nd Floor, 6-8 PM.
- **Support Groups for PWA and those concerned about AIDS:** ongoing meeting, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 2425 Geary Blvd., 3:30-4:45 PM. The meetings will be held in Conference Room B on the fifth floor. Call 929-4186 for details.
- **American Society on Aging:** conference. For more information call the GLOE office, 626-7000.
- **Oscar Night:** Watch the Academy Awards at Nine, 399 9th St., S.F., 5:30 PM, \$8 for Frameline members, \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. A benefit for the S.F. International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Call 861-5245 for details. Sponsored by Frameline.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike at Point Reyes, Wildcat Beach, 9:45 AM under the big Safeway sign near Market and Church. Call 474-6200 for details.
- **Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center:**



Three by Three, along with Jose Felix Sanchez and La Guajira, three films by Calagero Salvo, will be shown at the Roxie as a benefit for Frameline March 25

board meeting, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM. Call 923-AGAY for details.

TUESDAY 25

- **Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Call 864-5483 for details.
- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 552-8413 for details.
- **San Francisco Intergenerational Program:** prose and play-writing workshop for beginners and advanced students. Call 431-6254 for more details.
- **Tuffy Eldridge:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- **Black Gay and Bisexual Men:** meeting, Pacific Center, Berkeley. Call 548-8283 for details.
- **Asian Gay and Bisexual Men:** meeting, Pacific Center, Berkeley. Call 548-8283 for details.
- **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band:** practice every Tuesday, Pacific Ballet Center, 11th St. and Mission, S.F. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.
- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, Billy De Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM.
- **Gay-Nite:** Rollergarden, 15721 East 14th St., San Leandro, 7:30 PM-Midnight.
- **The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana (at Durant), Berkeley, 7 PM. For details, call 465-7388 or 655-3825.
- **American Society on Aging:** conference. For more information, call the GLOE office at 626-7000.
- **burLEZk:** erotic strip show and benefit for AIDS/ARC vigil, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 PM, \$9.
- **Three films by Calagero Salvo:** Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., (at Valencia), S.F. Frameline is the sponsor for these three films, *Three By Three*, *Jose Felix Sanchez and La Guajira*. Call 863-1087 for details.
- **Sharon McNight:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8.
- **Ed Fonseca:** cabaret, N' Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$1.

WEDNESDAY 26

- **Levitation:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 8:30 PM (see Friday for details).
- **American Society on Aging:** conference. For more information, call the GLOE office at 626-7000.
- **AIDS in The Workplace:** gay television programming, Channel 9, 10 AM-1 PM. A panel of experts will answer questions such as: Can employers test and screen employees or applicants for AIDS? What are the legal and privacy rights of persons with AIDS? What is the impact of AIDS on the insurance industry and corporate health benefit plans?
- **Steve and Ellen Seskin:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.
- **Sharon McNight:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8.
- **Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.
- **Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday, Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.
- **Common Concerns:** black lesbian outreach 25 and under discussion and support group, 7-8:45 PM. Call Nanosha at 864-0876 for more information.
- **Men's Wart Clinic:** removal of penile and external and internal anal venereal warts, Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, Oakland, sliding scale. Staff physician is Dr. Fred Strauss of the Gay Men's Health Collective. Call 444-5676 for more information.
- **S.F. Lesbian/Gay Chorus:** "Together in Harmony" rehearsals at All-Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St. (near Masonic), 7:30-10 PM. Call 334-6542 for details.
- **Fruit Punch:** gay radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, 10 PM.

THURSDAY 27

- **Levitation:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 8:30 PM (see Friday for details).
- **James Broughton:** film presentation, S.F. Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3.50 general admission; \$2 students, seniors. Films include *The Pleasure Garden* and *Devotions*.
- **Men's Rap Group:** led by George Birmisa, 711 Eddy St., S.F., 2:45 PM.
- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.

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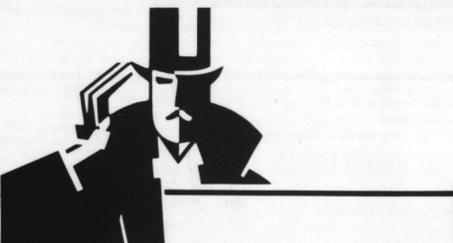
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FILM

'Dress' Makers

Jess Wells' Short Story Turned Into 'Fuckin' Dyke' Film

by Steve Warren

'It's incredible, because that slinky material is lying in folds across my ass and I can feel the air rushing up to my cunt.'
—The Dress

Until I encountered Jess Wells I thought the main difference between lesbian and gay male erotica was that women don't use the phrase "Fuck me, daddy" as much. Wells, performance artist and author of four books including *The Dress* and *The Cry and A Shirt with No Seams*, gives workshops in the writing of erotica and, more important to her, the inclusion of sex in literature. It's not just fucking, she says. "Sex can be used to explain psychological developments."

Her aforementioned book of short stories, while labeled "lesbian fiction and erotica," spends a lot more time in the psyche than in the bed. That's probably why it appealed to Jaime Smith, an Antioch film major with a senior project to do.

"(The Dress) is very very very very very erotic," she says. "It doesn't go into explicit fucking scenes. It doesn't take that away from me, it lets me go home and do it."

Smith asked Wells if she could make a film of *The Dress*. The author agreed and the two of them, along with Lauretta Moltor, formed the Women's Film Project. Although Smith had never made a 16 mm. sound film before they were able to assemble a professional crew on a volunteer basis, largely because of the story's popularity in the lesbian community. They wound up with 53 actresses, 37 crew members (three of them men) and "probably another 50 behind the scenes."

Wells was impressed. "That's fuckin' exciting! That many fuckin' dykes with that much energy around this story!"

The six-page story doesn't read like a film script. A lesbian is shopping in a thrift store. She

sees a black dress and, on a whim, tries it on, and awakens femme feelings in herself which had long been suppressed. She takes off the dress, which someone else buys, and goes to the gym to work out.

As I cover my knuckles, entwined my fingers with the wide Everlast fighters' wraps, take a stance, pull one fist to my face, the other ready for the punch, I just shake my head and think, 'Oooh, that dress.'
—The Dress

While Hollywood would work a motorcycle chase into this interior monologue if they were filming it—which they wouldn't—Wells wrote the script as "a very literal translation of the story." She will voice the narration herself, while the leading role will be played by Electra, an actress of "Jewish and Greek mix. Her lover (in the film) is a tall, thin, Aryan woman named Tove."

Wells says it was politically

important to the filmmakers "to get away from traditional erotica—a skinny girl with big breasts in lingerie. This is not just a white woman's movie. This is about a woman who experiences herself in terms of different races and cultures. We filmed women of different sizes and races. This is not a traditional film, this is a fuckin' dyke film!"

Although they hope the viewer's erotic feelings will be stirred by the film, they have decided not to label it erotica. "To me erotica is an art form of its own," Wells says, "not a drama that deals with sex. Eroticism has its own demands, its own tempo."

With undue modesty the author suggests that lesbian erotica has evolved tremendously in the three years since she wrote *The Dress*: "Audiences are now more sophisticated in terms of what they demand from eroticism." She describes herself as a madwoman on the set of the film, which has no sex and very little nudity. "I went around yelling, 'We have to show some tits right now! If we don't they'll laugh us out of the community.' You've gotta get them hot," she says.

Smith, who still finds suggestion more erotic than explicitness, laughs at herself: "The big joke on the set was, 'Why the hell is this shy little girl from Oklahoma doing this goddam film?' " In the future she'd like to make "films like *Entre Nous* that have tension and an erotic nature, even though there might not be any sex."

Obviously a fan of Wells, Smith defends her work as still relevant, still erotic, and "it always will be. A lot of women have told me it's still the hottest story on the market."

Changing fashions are dating the story, Wells feels. That the dress was black was a radical statement three years ago. "Now we announce an audition and everyone shows up in black!" The character's new awareness is also a product of its time, but has not yet been superseded. "She discovers femme eroticism which is not restricted to roles," Wells said. "In fact she comes out not just as a femme, but a femme top, which couldn't have happened before the late '70s-early '80s."

In drafting a proposal for the Film Arts Foundation, which this month agreed to sponsor the film, giving it tax-free status, they were forced to change the word "femme" to "feminine," which upset Wells because the meanings are so different; but the change is just in the proposal, not the film.

The air coming up my legs doesn't tell me that I'm exposed and unprotected in a world of men, but that in my safe world of sex with women I choose at this moment to make myself vulnerable to my lover.
—The Dress

The Community Thrift Store was the main location for the film. As the woman in the dress imagines meeting her lover in a bar, the scene shifts to the 16th

(Continued on page 38)

STAGE



Between two lovers — Michael Koppy (c.) presents Carl Daddio (l.) and Michael Brown as the lovers in *March of the Falsettos*. (Photo: S. Warren)

Bisexual Chic

Michael Koppy Brings *March of the Falsettos* to San Francisco

by Steve Warren

Michael Koppy is an original. He doesn't subscribe to the idea that no one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public. Of course, Michael Koppy isn't rich either.

"I'm not going to do a show I don't believe in," says the producer-director who also acts as his own publicist. He's believed in William Finn's *March of the Falsettos* and tried to bring it to San Francisco for four years. It finally opens this week in the new 99-seat Zephyr Theater at 25 Van Ness.

"I originally anticipated this would be a small show between bigger projects," Koppy said. At the time he was in the middle of the run of another "small" show, the wonderful *Street Dreams* which played for six months in 1981-82.

For a time the larger theaters had the rights to Finn's bisexual musical tied up, but they finally let it go because of exorbitant royalty demands. "It's not that big a show," Koppy says. "It shouldn't play a fucking 1,100-seat house."

After *Falsettos* proved "a critical success but a financial failure" in Los Angeles, the rights reverted to Samuel French, who liked Koppy because his *Street Dreams* had been the longest and most successful run that show had anywhere.

With permission to do the musical, Koppy started hunting for the right space. He tells interesting, colorful, and probably libelous stories about a number of local theaters and the people who run them. "I'm the most persistent son of a bitch in town," he boasts. He's happy with the Zephyr, which is so new the opening had to be postponed a week when construction fell behind schedule.

March of the Falsettos is the story of Marvin (Carl Daddio) who, as he sings, "... divorced my wife, I left my child and I ran off with a friend ... I want it all." Michael Brown plays Whizzer, the friend he ran off with. Melissa Martin is Trina, the wife who has trouble understanding. She consults Mendel (Ren Reynolds), Marvin's psychiatrist ("Do you only treat queers?"), and winds up moving in with him. The son, Jason (Mark Bemederfer alternating with David La May), has a harder

(Continued on page 38)

STAGE

The Master's Workbench

by Bernard Spunberg

Broken, jagged pieces of love find alignment of sorts in three Tennessee Williams one-act plays currently performed in the Studio at Theater Rhino. Produced and directed by Joe Cappetta and assisted by C.D. Arnold and Randy Turoff, the three works are really little more than fragments. Nevertheless, they convey the powerfully bittersweet emotion of lonely people letting go of the loves of their dreams as they take hold of the loves of their lives.

Beautiful, painfully honest acting by Charlie Hufford and Carlton Powers make *Talk to Me Like the Rain* and *Let Me Listen* the most successful piece on the program. Repetitive and dreamlike in structure, the play depicts two men in a cheap room in New York City. One man, played by Hufford, is awakening from a binge of alcohol and violent sex. His lover, played by Powers, has been writing quietly for several hours. The two men move through a stately, almost ritualized

verbal dance of accusation, confession, separation, and reconciliation. Through the various phases of the confrontation, Hufford and Powers sustain intensity that reveals both psychology and poetry.

The two women who perform *Something Unspoken* do not form quite so integrated an ensemble. The play finds two refined Southern ladies—one wealthy and powerful and the other her live-in secretary—at breakfast. The rich woman is in a snit over the impending election of officers of the local chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The day is also significant as the 15th anniversary of the women's relationship, and the rich woman is disappointed to learn that the event does not have the same meaning for her secretary as it does for her. After 15 years of guarded warmth and no intimacy, the secretary cannot respond with the affection her employer feels implicit in their relationship. Finally, however, the women reach a true yet un-

spoken understanding.

Wanda McCaddon's characterization of the wealthy woman has the sort of bluster that is the legacy of a lifetime of getting her own way. Drawing a fine distinction between an egotistical tantrum and real emotional upset, McCaddon's portrayal of the secretary seems incomplete. Her movements around the breakfast table, supposedly a routine worked out over 15 years, are as awkward and unfamiliar as they might have been on her first day of employment.

The actors who play the drag queens in *Hello From Bertha*, the last play on the bill, are listed in the program as Miss X, Silvana Nova, and Tippi. They play Goldie, Bertha, and Lena. When characters have names more believably human than actors, something is wrong somewhere. In this production, Williams' little story about a desperate drag queen is overwhelmed by an orgy of costumes, makeup, and

(Continued on page 38)



Miss X, Silvana Nova, and Tippi in Tennessee Williams' *Three Short Acts*. (Photo: L. Naslund)

Come to the Cabaret

by Stephen Drewes

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has proclaimed March 10 to April 10 "Live Entertainment Days," which is as it should be. It certainly started off with a bang March 10 when the San Francisco Council on Entertainment gave the local cabaret scene a well-deserved pat on the back at the Cabaret Gold Awards ceremony.

It was a terrific evening—one of the best parties in a long time. The show itself was elegantly directed by Marc Anthony, who never allowed it to drag or lose focus, and everyone looked and sounded great.

Weslia Whitfield, Outstanding Female Vocalist, gave a transcendent performance of "Make Someone Happy" that nearly stopped the show, and Leola Jiles, Entertainer of the Year, sang "Dr. Feelgood" with joyous sexuality. Other standouts: a gentle and funny performance by gay comic Danny Williams, Bill De Lisle's "A Train," Paul Gilger and Ann Jillian's disarming acceptance speeches, Michael Feinstein's medley from *Of Thee I Sing*... the list is endless.

It was the sort of event during which everyone has a lot of fun congratulating themselves and their friends for having the great good taste to be where the action is, and I, for one, am looking forward eagerly to doing the whole thing over again next year.

In the meantime, there's a lot going on out there in Cabaret Land, and much of it is a lot of fun.

Ed Fonseca sold out Buckley's last month, and barring another storm, he should do so again at the 'N Touch March 25. Fonseca is a dark, slender tenor, with remarkably eloquent hands, who is unique in the Bay area in that his material is chosen largely from the great European songwriters—songs written or performed by the likes of Piaf, Weill, Monnot, Brel, and Hajadakis. He's a story teller rather than a song stylist, and not a bit

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STAGE

Who the #@+*! is Mona Rogers?

by Mark I. Chester

Mona Rogers, Mona Rogers, Mona Rogers, Who the fuck is Mona Rogers?

I'm so glad you asked. Mona Rogers is "the most photographic piece of hell that ever barked back at store windows 'cause they dared reflect her." This woman is no small change. She is the focus of writer/director Philip-Dimitri Galas' obsessive fascination in his play, *Mona Rogers in Person*.

She is also the creation of actress Helen Shumaker, who exploded across the stage of the New Performance Gallery in a devastating performance that illuminated the heart of darkness. Due to the success of the four-day run at the NPC, Shumaker and *Mona Rogers in Person* are opening a Thursday through Sunday four-week run at the Climate Gallery.

In a jam-packed, sizzling, and exhausting hour-and-a-half, Galas and Shumaker have created a performance that is a painting. Mona Rogers is a state of mind, a flash of living hell, exposed and dissected for all the world to see. In 22 segments divided by blackouts, Galas and Shumaker explore and detail the parameters of Mona Rogers' dark vision about herself and the world.

Mona Rogers is an angry soul. An intellectual ex-burlesque queen, Mona Rogers rants and rages, slashes and trashes everything from her mother, her apartment, her boyfriend, and the art establishment, to the state of the nation. She is sarcastic cynicism on a pedestal;



Helen Shumaker as Mona Rogers

bitterly funny and very very intense. She never lets up. She never lets go. And there is a brilliant jewel of truth hidden beneath the layers of Mona Rogers' pain.

The basis for this show is Galas' writing. Filled with music and rhythms that carry the words along, it is at turns wickedly, sharply biting and pure poetry. Tongue-tying twisters tumble from Mona Rogers' mouth faster than we can hear them. Passions spit the seeds of new word flowers at a dizzying rate, growing bizarre and wonderful images in our minds. This is not a show for the lazy or dull.

Galas' direction increases the sense of the surreal. Mona Rogers' life is a series of poses and choreographed and stylized movements that quickly cut to the core, speaking volumes with the flick of a hand and the tilt

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EVEN IN BABYLON

Hysteria In Heels



JOHN F. KARR

The way I figure it, any woman who can do what Helen Shumaker does while wearing too high heels in her stage paroxysm of rage and brute force hysterics are a theatrical confrontation few actresses could imagine, much less navigate, even in earth shoes. No problem for La Shumaker, though. Bound into the last word in clinging dresses, and perched atop those stilts of high heels, Shumaker doesn't simply act the role of Mona—she detonates.

But how else to play the ultimate, the apotheosis of every drag queen in history? Mona Rogers is an American Pirate Jenny, all vengeance and fury. Her tale is told in a barrage of scathing wit, venomous self-knowledge, and caustic clarity. Shumaker met Mona Rogers' author, Philip-Dimitri Galas, in 1981, and went from being "his greatest fan" to his co-star in rapid order.

"I couldn't break myself away from front row center everytime he did anything," Shumaker told me. "He's a riveting performer, and he writes the most captivating, exciting verbage I've ever encountered out of anybody's head."

Galas had already created the theatrical form he called Avant Vaudeville, which combined the satiric, intimate European cabaret form with the broad

quickness of American vaudeville. He'd written and performed pieces like *Talent Beyond the Law*, and now Shumaker joined him for several editions of his *Performance Hell*, which was about performers and performing.

"In a sense I entered the scene as window dressing," said Shumaker, whose small size and light weight lent itself to Galas' vaudevillian shtick and anarchic vision of the performer's job. "Philip could throw me around, apache style, and still be able to deliver his lines."

"One day he announced to me I would be doing a solo show and I'd better get myself ready to handle that, whatever that meant. He'd already written *Mona Rogers Before She Never Got Famous*, and we stuck that into *Performance Hell*.

"Mona did very well in Hollywood. She was so quotable and on the lips of the audience that Philip developed more pieces over a two-year period."

Shumaker neatly sidestepped the issues raised by the rich piece, its take on womanhood, or the reasons it was developed: "I think a lot of that isn't my business." She connects to the piece as a performer and through her unlimited admiration for the writing.

For the character of Mona Rogers, Galas has dipped into

(Continued on page 31)



TALES OF TESSI TURA

Febrile Phenomena

GEORGE HEYMONT

The past few months have seen debilitating strains of the flu pass through town which, on more than one occasion, have kept otherwise hale and hearty people out of work. When it comes to avoiding close contact with professional colleagues, opera singers frequently find themselves in extremely trying situations.

All too often, a good part of their work requires them to let strangers breathe into their faces while they remain locked in a seemingly passionate embrace. The more wind that comes out of a singer's mouth, the more likely it is that his germs will invade a colleague's nose and throat before going on to attack the passive partner's pulmonary system. To date, no stage director has attempted to mount an opera in which singers are required to wear surgical face masks. I doubt one ever will.

Several years ago I attended a performance of Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* in Los Angeles during which Beverly Sills was battling the flu. Rather than disappoint her audience, the soprano went onstage and acted up a storm while singing over her cold. Reaching down to the bottom of her poisonous boots, she delivered a model lesson in how to muster your artistic resources in order to overcome a physical handicap.

In that one hair-raising evening, I learned more about the art of performing than I have in nearly 20 years of attending opera. Unfortunately, this winter saw too many other instances in which both singers and management suffered from the effects of a flu which was wreaking havoc backstage.

FILLE WITH A FLU

No sooner had I stepped foot into Washington's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts than I bumped into a tiny bundle wrapped in a fur coat who gasped "Good God, George. Don't tell me you're here tonight. I've got to sing *The Daughter of the Regiment* and I've got the flu!" As I soon learned, soprano Eriq Mills wasn't the only artist at the Washington Opera who was battling a cold. Just before the performance started, General Director Martin Feinstein stepped before the curtain to announce that baritone Francois Loup—a favorite with Washingtonians who was unable to sing that night because of a severe cold—would mime the role of Sergeant Sulpice and perform his character's spoken lines while LeRoy Lehr sang from the Orchestra pit.

As the evening wore on, the gimmick worked well enough for the performance to be saved. There were, however, a wealth of compensating factors. John Fowler's Tonio had a strong stage presence bolstered by ringing high C's which, within the intimate confines of the Kennedy Center's heavily wooded 500-seat Terrace Theatre, made it sound as if the young tenor had invented a new technique for amplification. Mezzo-Soprano Joyce Castle scored another triumph as the uppity Marquise of Berkenfield, while Muriel Smallwood did some pretty im-

pressive sneering as the Grand Duchess of Krackenthorp.

The advantage of having Donizetti's comic opera performed in such a tiny theater as the Terrace is that it gives audiences a much more joyous experience than what they receive when *La Fille du Regiment* is staged at the Metropolitan Opera House or in other large auditoriums. Compared to the rest of Leon Major's bustling direction, Jonathan Green's Hortensius proved to be a bit of a lame duck characterization. However, Zack Brown's set and costumes were utterly charming, and Joseph Rescigno's conducting brought a great sense of vitality to the evening.

And what of the petite and ailing Mills? I doubt anyone in the audience could ever have guessed this coloratura soprano was even the slightest bit under the weather. An artist who possesses one of the healthiest pairs of vocal cords in the business, Mills delivered her usual perky characterization of Marie with spunk and pizzazz—singing like a bird and hitting high notes for days. If more artists could perform when they are healthy like Eriq Mills performs when she's sick, we'd be hearing a much better quality of opera all around the United States.

MOOR THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW

Verdi's *Otello* offers one of the supreme challenges of the tenor repertoire and, on the evening Giuseppe Giacomini was scheduled to make his San Diego debut (while singing the first *Otello* of his career), the Italian tenor was obviously battling the effects of a nasty flu. There aren't too many tenors around who can substitute on a moment's notice for an ailing *Otello*, which is why there was no way for Giacomini to get out of his opening night predicament.

While there were many moments during which the tenor's handsome voice rang true, his frustration at being unable to produce the tones he had so carefully prepared made him look as if he were about to shit in his pants from a combination of fear and heartache. This highly respected artist was caught in a situation I wouldn't wish upon my worst enemy, much less a dog. To its credit, the audience was most sympathetic to his plight.

Had all gone well, this would have been an extremely well-produced production, because Wolfram Skalicki's sets (on loan from the Canadian Opera Company) were among the most handsome I have ever seen for *Otello*. Together with costumes rented from Malabar and Roger Pines' English OperaText translations (borrowed from the Dallas Opera) Ian Campbell had put together a potentially stunning package. Lotfi Mansouri's stage direction went way beyond his usual deft crowd control. Neatly framing certain key moments in Shakespeare's plot, Mansouri was able to get extra mileage out of Silvano Carroli's *Iago*.

Although this is hardly the most suavely sung arch villain in the business, Carroli gave San Diegans one of the slimiest and most smugly self-satisfied portrayals I have ever encountered.



Marie (Erie Mills) and Tonio (John Fowler) embrace during Donizetti's *The Daughter of The Regiment*.

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WIDE SCREENING

STEVE WARREN

We Eat The World

Movies don't come in just black-and-white or color anymore. This new one is in a process that might be called "Rambocolor"—all red, white, and blue.

16 DAYS OF GLORY

Almost two years after the fact the Los Angeles Olympic Games are nostalgia. Bud Greenspan's film *16 Days of Glory* will bring back whatever feelings you had at the time—excitement or boredom, national pride or disgust at the unsportingly pro-U.S. tone of the media coverage, or simply arousal at the sight of the athletes, especially the swimmers in their Speedos.

Most of the highlights are here, with the focus on one or two major contenders in each event covered. In the lengthy decathlon segment they are from West Germany and Great Britain. In most of the others an American is the front runner and/or the eventual winner. Athletes interviewed speak of

winning for the U.S. and feeling proud to be an American, but no other countries are allowed to express their pride. "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played more than all other anthems combined.

An hour and 40 minutes pass before the first of two women's contests—gymnastics with Mary Lou Retton, the least well photographed event in the film. Narrator David Perry makes everything from historical trivia to a gold medal sound like the Second Coming.

Yes, *16 Days of Glory* is the same chauvinistic bullshit that flooded us in the summer of '84, but maybe it will help build enthusiasm for this year's Gay Games II. (Galaxy)

SPEAKING OF THE WORLD . . .

We've previewed so much of the 29th San Francisco International Film Festival we don't have space to write about it all. Herewith are reviewettes listed in order of their first San Francisco

showing in the festival. Consult a Festival schedule for other screenings and information on unreviewed films. PAL is the Palace of Fine Arts, OP is Opera Plaza.

Friday, March 21: 7:15: *Meantime*, British telefilm, one of five by Festival "discovery" Mike Leigh. This frequently hilarious portrait of a very happy family should have become a series. (OP)

7:30: *Yellow Earth*, a Chinese soldier plants seeds of feminism in a 12-year-old girl in a slow but moving drama. (PAL)

9:30: *Shanghai Blues*, melo-drama and slapstick comedy confuse a '40s-style "Hollywood" musical from Hong Kong, but it's all innocent fun. (PAL)

Saturday, March 22: 9:30: *False as Water*, jealousy leads to murder in a Swedish thriller that's intelligent until it turns silly in the climax. (PAL)

Sunday, March 23: 7:00:



Hello Mary Lou, Goodbye Heart — You won't see much footage of the 16-year-old heartbreaker in *16 Days of Glory*

Honest Decent and True, made for TV and looks it, but this British comedy has a few scenes that brilliantly satirize the advertising industry. (OP)

Monday, March 24: This is Oscar Night. I'll be home by my TV, but if you prefer to watch with a crowd you have two choices. This Festival will have the Academy Awards on the big Palace of Fine Arts screen, followed by the British telefilm *Time after Time* with Sir John Gielgud. The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, meanwhile, will have an Oscar party at Nine, 395 9th St., featuring Tom Ammiano, Monica Palacios, Marga Gomez, Phil Ford, and Doris Fish.

Tuesday, March 25: 9:00: *Alpine Fire*, remarkably human and highly recommended tale of incest in a remote Swiss mountain setting. (PAL)

9:00: *Fran*, Australian portrait of a self-destructive, totally dependent woman. Well-acted but painful to watch. (OP)

Wednesday, March 26: 7:00: *Babel Opera*, Belgian backstage story blended with *Don Giovanni* rehearsals. A treat for eye and ear, but not much for the head and heart. (PAL)

9:00: *Salvador*, James Woods and Jim Belushi star in Oliver Stone's indictment of U.S. foreign policy. Good, but less effective than *Under Fire* or *Latino*. (PAL)

Thursday, March 27: 6:30: *Something Like Yoshiwara*, charming contemporary Japanese comedy about bathing buddies, one with two girlfriends, trying to break into show business. (PAL)

6:30: *The Tables Turned*, lightweight but pleasant one-joke, anti-machismo Cuban comedy with songs. Original title translates as "The Birds Firing Back at the Shotgun." (York)

7:30: *Beauty and the Beast*, father gives daughter the right advice for the wrong reasons in a Danish drama you can love and hate simultaneously. The girl and her boyfriends are gorgeous. (OP)

8:30: *Frida*, beautiful but incoherent collage of random moments in the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Her lesbianism is only hinted at until the end. (York)

9:30: *Improper Conduct*, compelling and controversial documentary about the mistreatment of gays in Castro's Cuba. (OP)

Forget what we said last week about Pasolini. Technical difficulties have forced the cancellation of the exhibit and related seminars. Maybe next year. ■



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A class action has been filed in the Superior Court of California, in and for the County of San Francisco, on behalf of all persons who have been discriminated against in employment, based upon their homosexuality, by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., or by Pacific Bell (collectively referred to as "the Company"), during the period 1970 to the present. If you are a homosexual man or woman, and you either (a) applied for employment with the Company during the above period and were rejected due to your homosexuality, (b) were employed by the Company at any time during that period and were terminated, denied promotion, or otherwise harassed or discriminated against due to your homosexuality, or (c) intend to apply in the future for employment by the Company, and fear that you will suffer discrimination due to your homosexuality, you may be included in this class action.

The action is entitled *Gay Law Students Association, National Gay Task Force, Bernard Boyle, Robert DeSantis, Jose Garcia, Marvin McMahan, Julia Nava, and Victor Seth Sargeant, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, versus the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company*, No. 691-750. Plaintiffs contend that during the period 1970 through the present, inclusive, the company had a policy and practice of discrimination against homosexual applicants for employment and employees. The named plaintiffs and class representatives include two associations organized in part for the purpose of eliminating discrimination against homosexuals in employment, rejected applicants for employment by the Company, and former and current employees of the Company. The Company denies that it has engaged in arbitrary employment discrimination against homosexuals.

Any member of the class may exclude him or herself from the class and from this action by giving timely notice of his or her desire to do so. The deadline for giving such notice has been extended to April 1, 1986. If you desire to be excluded from the class, you must notify the Court of that fact by April 1, 1986, by a letter mentioning the above case name and number and stating that you wish to exclude yourself from the class in this action, addressed to: Clerk, San Francisco Superior Court, City Hall, San Francisco, California 94102. *The claim of any class member who does not request to be excluded from the class by the above procedure will be terminated by the judgment in this action under the rule of res judicata.*

Any class member who does not request exclusion may move in the San Francisco Superior Court for permission to appear in this action as a named class co-representative.

Plaintiffs estimate that, if successful, the total amount of the recovery in this action will be at least five million dollars. Plaintiff's counsel anticipate that they will recover fees and costs of approximately \$500,000, which will be paid from the funds recovered before distribution of the net proceeds to class members. The net amount to be recovered by each member if the action is successful will be determined by an apportionment of the remainder of the recovery and will depend in part upon the evidence of actual damages such as lost wages which is proven by each class member who presents a claim for resolution by the Court. In addition, plaintiffs will seek an order permitting distribution of any uncollected portion of the total recovery to organizations which serve the California homosexual community.

Class members who do not wish to request exclusion from this action, and wish to obtain further information may contact Michael Dickstein or Kevin James at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe, 44 Montgomery Street, San Francisco 94104, (415) 772-6000, or Leonard Graff at National Gay Rights Advocates, 540 Castro Street, San Francisco 94114, (415) 863-9156.

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

G.S.L. UPDATE

SCOREBOARD

League Meets Saturday Players' \$\$\$ Due

TOM VINDEED

This Saturday at noon the Badlands will hold a Gay Softball League meeting. Players' fees (\$30) will be due, and it is hoped that each manager will write one check for his or her team in order to expedite the proceedings. There were no new items of business put on the agenda, so this could be a short meeting.

The bowling tournament is scheduled for Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Park Bowl. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the league. Entrance fee is \$10 per bowler.

Last week I promised to comment on the league giving more money to the winning team to go to the Gay Softball World Series. I say no way. It seems as if every year it is brought up by a member or coach of the winning team. I don't believe Bob Docca has ever raised this question or even Chuck Smith, who have never finished in the top four. Let's face it, \$2,000 is a healthy chunk of money, and now we give \$1,000 to the women's team. Speaking of fair, why the disparity between the men's and women's money? I say give them the same amount. My choice is \$1,000.

The old line applies hard and fast these days. If you need money to go to the series, stay home and don't go away to another tournament during the year and save



Sister Vicious wants you to come to the SF vs. LA basketball game April 5 (Photo: Rink)

yourself \$3,000 to \$7,000. If the winning team can't afford to go, send the second, third, fourth, or 17th place team if necessary. See you on the lanes Sunday.

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings and Personal Achievements
(The League Averages Are Unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 17 of 28 - as of 3/2/86)		TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 19 of 32 - as of 2/25/86)	
1. Sassy	11 1	1. The '69' Club	10 2
2. Alley Cats	10 2	2. La Cage Ah Balls	9 1/2 2 1/2
3. Vagabond	8 4	3. 'Guys N Dolls'	9 3
4. Split City Rollers	8 4	4. 'Five Big Balls'	8 4
5. Lucky Strikes	8 4	5. Sorority Bitches	7 1/2 4 1/2
6. S.G.F.H. & Biff	6 1/2 5.5	6. Housewives From Hell	7 5
7. Strange Interlude	6 6	7. 5 Inner Pieces	7 5
8. Deadwoods II	6 6	8. Tramps R Us	5 7
9. Four In A Row	6 6	9. Teddy Bears	5 7
10. Rocky's Boys	5 7	10. Steering Committee	5 7
11. Pin Pistols	4 1/2 7 1/2	11. Number Won	4 1/2 7 1/2
12. Spikers	4 8	12. Strikes 'N' Spares	4 8
13. 300 and Won	4 8	13. The DP's	3 1/2 8 1/2
14. High Rollers	4 8	14. Strangers In The Night	3 9
15. Miss-Splits	3 9	15. Bottoms Up	3 5
16. Not Again	2 10	16. Team #16	0 12

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 20 of 32 - as of 2/24/86)		WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 19 of 32 - as of 2/26/86)	
1. Play With It, Ltd.	14 2	1. Mother Nature	11 1
2. Bow-K	13 1/2 2 1/2	2. Brunswick Beauties	8 4
3. The Poppers	11 5	3. Play With It, Ltd.	7 5
4. Foote Plumbing	11 5	4. Pubio's	7 5
5. Damaged Goods	11 5	5. Urasis Dragon	7 5
6. Vagabond	10 6	6. Thing II	7 5
7. Agency Rent A Car	10 6	7. Team 18	7 5
8. Belew Meanies	9 7	8. Peaches & Creams	7 5
9. Pacific Coast Glass	6 10	9. Alley Oups	7 1
10. Diner Dogs	6 10	10. Contour Gals	6 6
11. One's Still Up	5 11	11. Gerri's Kids	6 6
12. Kimo's	5 11	12. Male Image	5 7
13. Powerhouse	5 1	13. Taco Tycoons	5 7
14. Tina's Weenies	4 12	14. Blackouts	5 7
15. Bench & Bar	4 12	15. Gutter Girls	5 3
16. Pin Pals	2 1/2 13 1/2	16. Mix Ups	4 8

COMMUNITY BONANZA LEAGUE (Week 23 of 32 - as of 2/24/86)	
1. PG Gutter Girls	22 6
2. El Rio Tartarugas	17 11
3. 5 Not So Ezy Pcs	17 11
4. Oh! So Close!	13 15
5. Spare Me!!!	13 15
6. The Smooth Operators	0 28
7. Team #2	0 8
8. Team #8	0 8

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

Tavern Guild Bowling Leagues 1986 Summer Season Advisory

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE	(Remaining information same as above)	TAVERN GUILD THURSDAY LEAGUE
Summer Season Starts April 14		Summer Season Starts April 17
Pre-season Meeting 2nd Floor Park Bowl (Vote on Officers/Bylaws, Accept New Teams/Bowlers) 7:30 p.m.		Pre-season Meeting 2nd Floor Park Bowl (Vote on Officers/Bylaws, Accept New Teams/Bowlers) 8:00 p.m.
Commence Bowling 8:30 p.m.		Commence Bowling 9:00 p.m.
5 Person Teams \$7.50 Per Bowler Per Evening (5 Bowler Minimum Charge)		4 Person Teams (5th Sub-bowler Optional) Price \$7.50 Per Bowler Per Evening (4 Bowler Minimum Charge)

SFPA Standings

Division I	Division III
Traveler's	Transfer Stop
De-Duck-Tions	El Rio Turtles
Ducks DeLuxe	Traveler's Hustlers
Bear Bottoms	Park Bowl Stokers
Transfer	Bear Hugs
Troubleshooters	Rainbow Rainbows
Watering Hole Bisons	Maud's Squad
Pilner Spenicidae	
Badlands Lushes	
	TOP TEN
	1. Edward Howard
	2. E. Z.
	3. Ron Chevette
	4. Gino Smith
	5. Luby Pelletier
	6. Charles Dossett
	7. Jim Dunham
	8. Dennis Healy
	9. Lisa Duncan
	Bill Kasee

Mona

(Continued from page 26)

of a head. For Galas, the whole body can act as a mask, projecting what he wants the world to see. Mona Rogers wants the world to see an image, a photograph of a woman, a doll, but never the real Mona Rogers. It is a contradiction, because for the audience, the poses are the real Mona Rogers.

With minimal stage set and

alcohol. With a voice that comes from the back of her throat, and a walk with hips thrust forward, sunken chest and rounded shoulders, Shumaker physically is the personification of the burlesque queen of novels and late-night television.

In dress and attitude—and keeping in mind that Mona Rogers was written into existence by a gay man—Mona Rogers is a vision of transvestism. But Shumaker is neither a parody of women nor

extreme physicality in places with high heels and a dress that keeps the knees together, the live-wire energy that must look uncontrolled and insane, but be kept under control at all times. Shumaker puts out. She proves that theater can be magic.

The piece is long in a world saturated with two-and-one-half minute pop songs and half-hour TV sit coms. For me, only one segment with Mona Rogers fooling around with large cutouts of shoes seemed worthy of being cut. My only complaint about Shumaker is that her Mona Rogers drinks water while alcohol seems more appropriate. But these are minor comments.

Who the fuck is Mona Rogers? I'll let her tell you in her own words.

"Mona Rogers eats TV dinners on TV trays in front of the television with a drink and a cigarette at midnight/ in an apartment downtown/ above a pawn shop/ on a street where people get murdered for no reason at all./ This woman is an adventure."

And so is Helen Shumaker in *Mona Rogers in Person*. ■

M. I. Chester

Mona Rogers in Person
Through April 13
Climate Gallery; 626-9196

'I used to be so pointed, that I could walk through a crowd and shred it.'

—Mona Rogers

props, no costume changes or intermission, and an energy level that goes from intense to extremely intense, and neither a smile nor a laugh from Mona Rogers in the entire show, although the audience is smiling and laughing much of the time, the show has been painted with monochromatic tones. While newcomers to Galas' work may find the show somewhat monotone, those familiar with Galas will discover a range of levels and feelings that broadens his work to symphonic levels.

But the real key to this show is the actress who makes Galas' vision come to life. In Helen Shumaker, Galas has met his match. Shumaker is chilling, startling, and ultimately winning in a show that has her speeding at 80 miles an hour in a 30 mile an hour school zone for an hour and a half. Shumaker's contribution to this piece is clearly annotated in the playbill by Galas. In a role Galas originally wrote for himself, Shumaker has created Mona Rogers in her own image, and the space for *Mona Rogers in Person* to become a reality.

Shumaker is a tiny dynamo in bouffant wig, black and white striped spandex dress, matching high heels, heavy stylized makeup, one hand on hip, the other hand poised in the air with a cigarette and a voice that has seen too many late nights layered with cigarette smoke and

camp. While Shumaker's Mona Rogers may look like drag to 1980s men and women, Mona Rogers is just being herself.

"I am being natural," she flings at those who want her to be real. Mona Rogers wants to have an effect on people. "I used to be so pointed," she intones, "that I could walk through a crowd and shred it."

It is an exceedingly difficult part; maintaining the attitude and focus without a break, the

Babylon

(Continued from page 26)

anger hits the audience in a breathless explosion.

"Philip's work always starts out faster than you can handle," said Shumaker, "and then speeds up."

And does the actress get caught in this whirlwind, identity with Mona?

"What I do is I don't think about it. The character comes. When you put on that dress and wig and those falsies and those shoes, where else are you going to go? The range is prescribed. I always have a sense I'm winging it, on the brink."

The actress remains in control even though it looks like she's thrown herself over that brink.

"On the way down I enjoy the craft," she said. "It's an incredi-

ble script, and all I have to do is get out of its way. I'm an audience too, enjoying it, thinking only of doing justice to it, reaching the ultimate in what has to be done with it."

"Which is?"

"You milk it like crazy."

THESE TOO

Robert Gluck, with excerpts from *Jack the Modernist* and Kevin Killian, will present a reading at the Clarion Cafe, 2118 Mission, Sunday, 23rd, at 6 p.m.

Sharon McNight at the 1187 Club: March 24 and 26.

A great treat: James Broughton with his mischevious film *The Pleasure Garden* plus shorter movies and some readings from recent work, at the SF Art Institute, Thursday, 27th, at 8 p.m.; \$3.50. ■

J. F. Karr



Leola Jiles, Entertainer of the Year at Cabaret Gold Awards (Photo: Rink)

Cabaret

(Continued from page 25)

afraid to be dramatic. I find all his stuff interesting, but particularly enjoyed his medley of "Padam Padam" and "Carol of the Bells," which he also translated, and the Piaf classic "Les Amants d'un Jour." He closed the show with a medley of "After the Ball" and "Remember," which knocked me out. Fonseca is a performer steeped in the French tradition of street songs, which, after all, is where it all started. Seek him out.

Julie Wilder, the much-touted New Girl in Town, is everything the critics claim. She's winsome, perky, girlish, jaunty, and jolly. My taste, however, runs towards something a little more sophisticated. What the hell, I don't mind if a singer is downright haggard as long as she's interesting! Wilder gave me the sensation I was being sung to by a talented airline stewardess. She did manage to engage me a couple of times. Her rendition of "Blame It On My Youth" is lovely, as is "Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me." Unfortunately, she closed with "Tomorrow," from *Annie*, which was a wee bit too close to home. I'm afraid I find Wilder's ingenuousness is more off-putting than not.

The Ardvark Party at the 1177 Club, which is their open mike evening, takes place on the first Monday of every month. Like all open mikes, it's a mixed bag, which is half the fun. Last month we got The Bottle

Boys, peroxidized twins dressed largely in red rhinestones, a South American jazz singer named Lois Blue and, among others, a Dan Hicks look-alike named Allen Michael Turner who took me right back to the '60s. The evening was capped with a surprise appearance by Sharon McNight, which is always a pleasure. The Ardvark Party is produced by Paul Gilger, who won a Cabaret Gold Award last week, and is hosted by theatrical designer Peter David Heth.

I was able to take in only the second half of Leslie Ann Sourci's debut as a single act at Buckley's in February, which is too bad. Sourci is a diminutive, wide-eyed blonde who positively oozes natural charm. I was much taken with her versions of "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square" and "Half As Big As Life." Mikio turned in a strong but uneven performance at the 'N Touch a few days later. I've taken this singer to task before for over-elaborating his work, and the criticism still stands, but he has a handsome baritone and did fine things with "Birth of the Blues," "Skylark," "The Nearness of You" and, in duet with his accompanist James Followell, produced a spectacular rendition of Brel's "If We Only Have Love." Speaking of Brel, I wish someone would tell our local cabaret singers that nobody, but nobody, can make "Carousel" interesting anymore. It's the *Our Town* of songs. We've heard it, thank you! ■

S. Drewes

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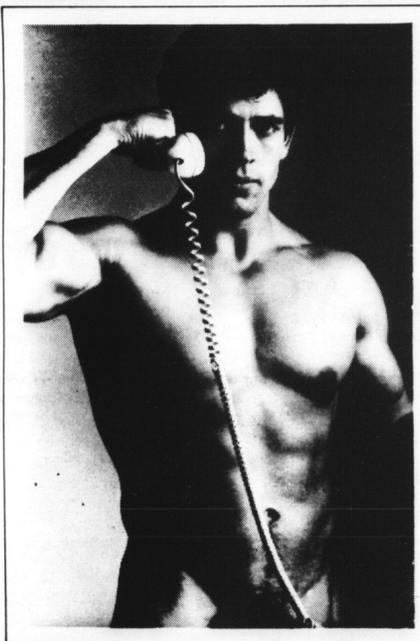
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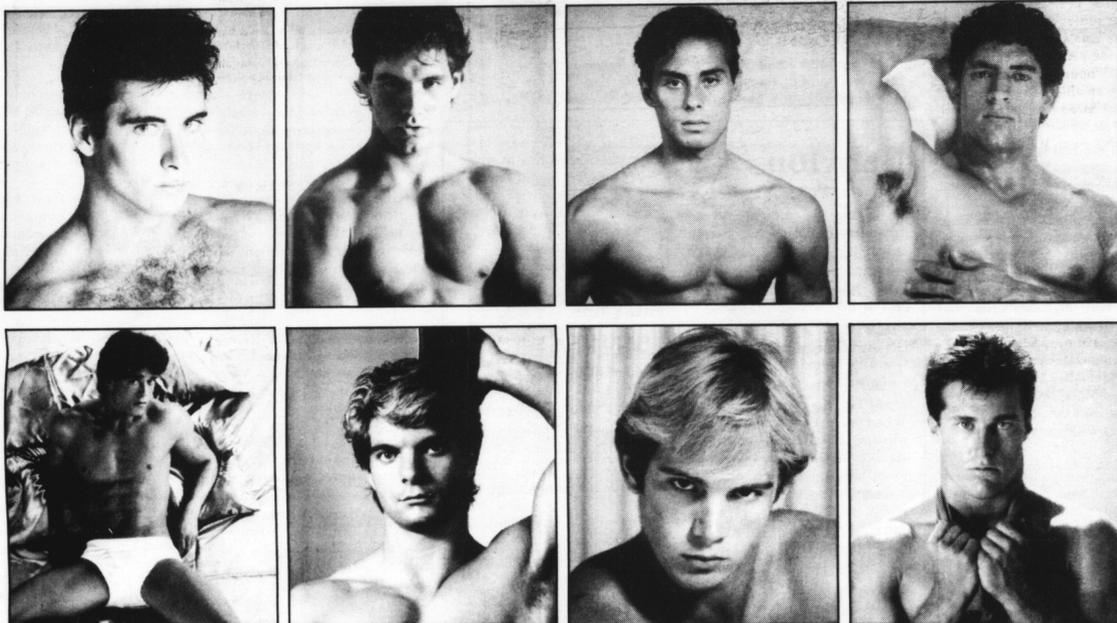
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BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR



MR. MARCUS

The Search For Mr. Leather 1986

March 12 the judges picked the final two contenders for the Mr. Leather SF title at the Powerhouse Bar. In the past three weeks, there have been several candidates vying for the title and a chance to represent the bar at the Intl. Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago Memorial Day weekend. The previous winners and first runners-up will compete in the finals at the Powerhouse Sunday, April 6, beginning at 1800 hours. The winner will receive an all-expenses paid air trip to Chicago to compete in leatherdom's most prestigious title, International Mr. Leather 1986-87.

Thursday, April 3, the SF-Eagle will begin its weekly competition to name Mr. SF-Eagle Leather, and each Thursday thereafter (April 10, 17), with the finals to select the Chicago representative being held on Thursday, April 24. The winner will represent the bar in Chicago and will receive round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, and \$500, repeat, five hundred dollars in spending cash. All you hot leathermen had best get your act(s) together, start pumping up, review your attitude about leather, and get your gear in order. I wouldn't say members of San Francisco's leather community are poor losers, but they sure like having the title in their own back yard.

The \$50 package deal for the Memorial Day weekend in Chicago is available for \$485 with a \$100 deposit due by April 1. Call 765-6367 to make your reservations now. In addition, several San Francisco leather men are planning another huge party at the hotel headquarters



Mark Podhorecki, winner of the second round of the Mr. Leather SF contests held at the Powerhouse.

(Photo: Marcus)

but your positive attitude about your position in the leather world is paramount, as well as your ability to express it before some 2,000 leather men. If you're looking for the title as a glamour piece, forget it. Wearing the International Mr. Leather title is not an easy job—ask Patrick Toner if you think otherwise.

'I wouldn't say members of San Francisco's leather community are poor losers, but they sure like having the title in their own back yard.'

in Chicago. Don't miss out on a hot, heavy, leather madness weekend.

Last Wednesday, the swarthy and compact-muscled Mark Podhorecki prevailed over three other contestants at the Powerhouse and will compete with the winners of the previous week, including Jim Ed, who grabbed the 1st runner-up spot.

The interest and suspense is building. All of the contestants thus far seem to know what the judges are looking for. With Intl. Mr. Leather in its 8th year, it's clearly evident the most points given by the seven judges in Chicago are for the contestants' ability to speak and express himself in order to be the spokesman for gay life's most misunderstood subculture. Of course, looks, physique, and leather image are important too,

secretary didn't notify anyone as to who won what, but they say a good time was had by all.

Sunday, the GDI's held their annual Spring Equinox beer bust in the patio of the SF-Eagle. Larisse (in full leather) and Ms. Goldblatt were most friendly in their beer-serving chores. Larisse got more accolades for turning 50 than she ever got in her previous 49 years, with messages from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors! My dear, I daresay the envy was running rampant all over the club circuit when all those parchment papers were floating around the place.

Searching, searching for a place to spend your hard-earned tokens? Let's see what's on tap: Tonight, for just \$5 and beginning at 2030 hours, you can meet almost every star in the gay firmament of San Francisco. Time was when the so-called "leaders" of the community were referred to as the "Golden 400"; that number has been far surpassed and totals closer to the "Golden 1,000" these days. With the big influx of gay men and women to Mecca, their many talents and accomplishments have brought them a bit of celebrity status. Tonight, the benefit for Mobilization Against AIDS will have all these "stars" on hand with the Fourskins headlining the considerable list of talent to entertain you. Add to the list in

Togas, togas were everywhere last Friday at the Cycle Runners M/C annual Toga Party; at my deadline, the corresponding

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(Attention Members)

- Due to recent rapid growth of business, new guidelines are as follows:
1. Jack-Off Only (Even the appearance of unsafe activity not permitted).
 2. No drugs.
 3. No alcoholic beverages sold. Beer may be checked at counter & claimed on same night as checked. No other alcohol permitted.
 5. Soft drinks may be purchased at counter. Charge of 50¢ per item for any other soft drink brought onto premises.
 5. Coats, jackets, neckties, umbrellas & bags must be checked at counter. No item may be left unattended in club.
 6. On mandatory clothing check nights all clothing must be checked with exception of shoes, which must be worn at all times.
 7. Not responsible for Lost or Stolen articles.
 8. No pipes, cigars, or grass.
- Failure to comply with rules will result in non-refundable suspension of membership. Thank you for your Cooperation.

EVERY:

Monday—**JACK OFF PARTY 8-12PM.**

(Mandatory clothes check each Mon., Thurs., & Sun.)

Tues.—**EXHIBITIONIST PRACTICE**

Wed.—**EXHIBITIONIST PRACTICE**

Thurs.—**JACK OFF PARTY 8-12PM.**

(Mandatory clothes check each Mon., Thurs., & Sun.)

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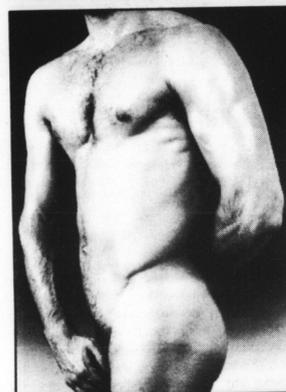
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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

person tonight, Steve Kajikawa, the current Daddy's Boy, Michael Valerio, Mr. Financial District, Pete Pettine, Mr. SF-Eagle Leather, and Ernie Viola, Mr. CMC Carnival, who promises he'll show up with at least one of his wives! The party goes from 2030 until 0200 tomorrow morning, and I hope you all turn out for this very worthy cause. Paul Boneberg has really worked himself to a frazzle getting it together and deserves a big hand for his efforts. Hope to see all of you there. By the way, the Spring Madness party is at the Industrial Dance Co. (formerly Alfie's) on Market, near Church.

Mr. Gay SF Bill Ireton and Miss Gay SF Miss Goldblatt are having a beer bust at the Transfer Sun., March 23, from 1500 to 1800, a benefit for the Inter-Club Fund with a \$6 donation, while across town the duke and duchess are having another at the SF-Eagle patio, same time, same price, but selecting Mr./Ms. Easter Bunny. Oh dear!

The Barbary Coasters M/C are celebrating their 20th anniversary party Saturday, Mar. 29, at the California Club from 1930 to 2200 (by invitation only) and are asking all former members to contact them for a special ceremony.

Next Tuesday, March 18, Ken Dorr's photography show opens at the Ambush (don't miss it!) and the GSL (Gay Softball League) opens its season Sunday, March 30, at Lang Field (Gough & Turk). The adversaries will be the Pilsner Inn and Rawhide II for the noon opener. South of Market will be represented in the league this year by the SF-Eagle team, so get out and support the guys on this side of Market too!

Of course, the Lily St. Easter Party is on the 30th as well, and you're all invited.

This Saturday, March 15, The 15 Association is hosting its first spring party beginning at 2100. The theme this time is Rubber! and all you latent latex lovers are invited; the cost is 10 hockey pucks (\$10) or \$8 with your own six-pack. Call 641-7282 for details and have a bouncing good time. I hear the demonstrations will be hot!

**AND THE ROCKETS' RED GLARE
THE DISH BURSTING IN AIR**

Tod Briggs was the most eligible bachelor in town for only eight days; he decided the mantle of minor royalty wasn't all

that great and shed same without a bit of angst to get himself wed to that cute Bruce Brodnick, the T-shirt Tycoon second only to David Cockman. Tod says life as a commoner is freer, dearer, and saner, especially after getting released from a jealousy trip heretofore unknown in any royal family, camp or otherwise.

Nicest note from one of the losing candidates for Emperor—a thank you from Rick Manring for any and all support he received during the campaign and a pledge to support the endeavors of the winners. Haven't seen such genteel-

sun in Hawaii; seems as though Hamburger Mary's is the in place in the islands and Rita ran into Jim Cvitanich and Tom Youngblood! Does RH Factor know about this liaison? Does Herb Caen know Tom Youngblood is with Jim Cvitanich? Does anybody care?

If your lover enters a contest and doesn't win the first spot, is it any reason for said lover to chastize one of the judges who happens to be black, by making racist slurs as well as other ugly remarks? Has sportsmanship died South of Market? Really now!



See the Four Skins at the Mobilization Against AIDS benefit at 2140 Market March 20 (Photo: Marcus)

ness in a decade.

Does that Foster City dude with the lawyer "mistress" in town want a snapshot taken late last Sunday night near the entrance to the tearoom of a Folsom St. bar? The cheating mistress was in a clinch amorata when the bulb popped; his prey ran out the door; lawyer in hot pursuit; lawyer returns alone; prey returns alone. It was real cute!

And what about that fireman from up north who wooed and won a local wag and drug him off to a nearby motel before taking off on a flight to Baja California?

Rita Rockett tried to get away for a few "peaceful" days in the

While a few of the empresses before her have been criticized for "refusing to give up the crown," no such charges were levelled at the recently Dowagered Sissy Spaceout, still working hard this past Monday night (Mar. 17) at the auction at Moby Dick for the Gay Freedom Day Parade. She's more relaxed, more accessible, still dedicated, and right alongside everybody's sweetheart Rita Rockett.

Until next week then boys and girls, keep your legs crossed and remember: You can destroy your now by worrying about tomorrow!

Mister Marcus

Bazaar Calendar

THURSDAY 3/20
Forum Meeting, Chez Mollet (527 Bryant), 8:30 p.m.

Spring Madness, 2140 Market, 8:30 p.m., \$5, show, snacks, benefit for Mobilization Against AIDS.

Bare Chest Contest, SF Eagle, 10 p.m., Mr. April.

SATURDAY 3/22
Exotic/Erotic Nite IV, sponsored for and by Persons with AIDS/SARC Alliance, a retreat from 6-11 p.m., info John 550-0533.

Red & Black Leather Party, Casa Loma, 8 p.m., \$3, x-rated, benefit for Shanti and (DOB/MC) SF Film Fund.

SUNDAY 3/23
Mr. & Ms. Bunny Contest,

SF Eagle, 2-7 p.m., \$6 beer bust, contest, info 863-8432 or 552-9981, hosts Grand Duke Tony and Grand Duchess Deena.

Benefit Beer Bust, Transfer, 3-6 p.m., \$6, benefit Inter Club Fund and Senior and Gay Holiday Dinner Program, Hosts Mr. and Miss Gay Bill and Goldblatt, food, show, special guests.

GSL Bowling Tourney Awards, Trax, 4 p.m.

Empress Ginger's Long Awaited Retirement Party, Kim's, 6-10 p.m., 50/50 Raffle, show, buffet.

WEDNESDAY 3/26
Comedy Vs. Alexis, Casa Loma, Dynasty 9 p.m., Open Mike Comedy 10 p.m., Host/MC Danny Williams.

Compiled by Karl Stewart

COURTLY CHATTER

Changing of the Guard



REMY

Springtime is considered the "renewal of life" and ushers in many new beginnings. This is the time of the year many organizations and clubs elect officers for the coming year. Over the last several months many of the motorcycle clubs conducted elections for 1986.

Also, just less than four weeks ago, many of you participated in the election of the 14th Emperor and 21st Empress of San Francisco. The court titles are very similar to those of club or organizational officer titles. A good example would be the titles of Emperor and Empress as compared to the titles of President and Vice President. Although the Emperor and Empress share equally in position and responsibility, in many cases their support of each other is like the Vice President, who assumes the reins of office when the President is unable to perform his duties. The structure of the court system, which is much older than that of the democratic system, is based upon the trust and responsibility the monarchy bestows to those individuals who have served them faithfully. In the court system you have the Prime Minister, who is the official administrator/liaison for the monarchs. The cabinet ministers have specific responsibilities, e.g. financial, planning, fundraising, and report directly to the Prime Minister. The members of the court serve/participate on various committees usually headed up by one or more of the cabinet ministers. The advisors to the monarchs participate to ensure a free flow of ideas, both pro and con, and also actively assist the entire court in many of its endeavors.

In a democratic system, the officers other than the president are charged with specific responsibilities similar to those of the cabinet ministers. Members of the club serve on committees headed up by one or more of the officers. The honorary members, who by and large are former members of the club who contributed greatly to the success of the club, act as advisors. They too participate in the club's various projects, mainly for the common good of the club and its success. The president of a club is both figure head and administrator to whom the officers report. Another major responsibility of the president is that of liaison for the club to the

community at large, and between clubs with similar interests.

The ultimate goal of both organizations is success. Many people consider those who participate in the court system as just drag/costume oriented. These people also think the court has no specific goals in mind other than to dress up and have a good time. Nothing could be further from the truth. The current court system, over the last 20-odd years, has dedicated itself to the well being of the community, with extensive fundraising for numerous charities. The fundraisers have been for both the gay and straight com-

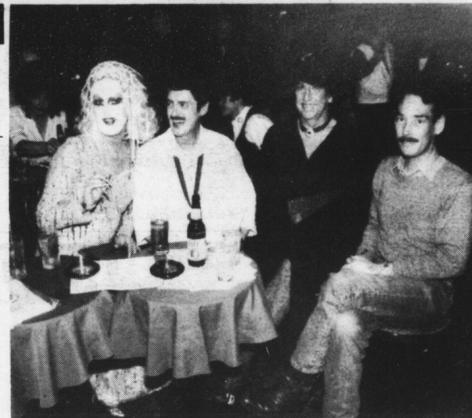
'Many people consider those who participate in the court system as just drag/costume oriented.'

munity. There are many charitable organizations that have gone to the courts and asked their assistance in raising money for their cause. Funds have also been raised when one of the members of our community, not necessarily a member of the court, was in need due to an accident or illness. Conservatively speaking, the entire court system has raised more than three million dollars for charitable causes.

The leather, levi, and motorcycle organizations have oftentimes been referred to as just another type of "drag" group. Here too is a major misconception. The bike clubs raise money annually for their Inter Club Fund. The ICF was founded by the clubs to assist their brothers who may need financial assistance due to illness or accident. These clubs have also raised money for other charitable organizations, and continue to do so. The leather contests, Up Your Alley, Folsom Street Faire, and many other South-of-Market functions are vehicles which raise money for charity. So when you see someone in leather, club overlay, or a sequined dress, don't judge them from what's on the outside. Try to look beyond the costume, for surely you will find hearts of gold!

The following clubs have installed, or will install, their officers for 1986. The San Francisco GDI Club installed new officers at their 11th Anniversary party Jan. 18 at the Transfer. The officers are: President, Jon-

ni Valle; Vice President, Bill Ireton; Road Captain, Richard Wellner; Treasurer, David Robinson; Recording Secretary, Les Johnson. The Warlocks Motorcycle Club installed their 1986 officers at a pre-Awards cocktail party Feb. 8 at the S.F. Eagle. The new officers are: President, Frank Rauch; Vice President, Wat Abbott; Road Captain, Jim Haltom; Secretary, Richard Pollock; Treasurer, Ray Rosborough. The Cycle Runners Motor Club announced their officers for 1986 at their 2nd Annual toga party "... And Toga Too" which was held Friday, March 14, at the California Club. The 1986 officers are: President,



Empress Sable Clown (l.) and Emperor Matt Brown with Diedre and Karl Stewart at their majesties' victory party at Kim's (Photo: Rink)

tion. Elected for 1986 are: President, Gene Forrest; Vice President, Bob Rowbottom; Road Captain, Church Eargle; Recording Secretary Andrew Korniej; Corresponding Secretary, Thomas Cooper; Treasurer, Fritz Hall. The BC's are asking any former club members who have not received an invitation to the 20th Anniversary to please contact Bob Rowbottom at 821-6079. The club would like to see you there to help celebrate 20 years of brotherhood.

UP & COMING

Thursday, March 20, The National Mobilization Against AIDS will be hosting "Spring

Madness... A Frivolous Party" at the Industrial Dance Company, 2140 Market St. There will be complimentary champagne and snacks with entertainment. The *Creme de la Creme* of San Francisco society will celebrate the spring equinox and festive dress is appropriate. There will be a large group of hosts and hostesses, to name a few, Supervisor John Molinari, Dr. Tom Waddell, Margot St. James, Patrick Toner, Emperor Matthew Brown and Empress Sable Clown, and many more of our notables and quotables. It all starts at 8:30 p.m. and goes to 2 a.m. A \$5 admission is re-

(Continued on next page)

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Nora Neat (l.), Aurora Borealis, and Cobalt at Kim's victory party for Empress Sable Clown and Emperor Matt Brown (Photo: Rink)

Chatter

(Continued from previous page)

quested and a no-host bar is available. Yes Virginia, our hosts will be there!

The Grand Ducal Council of San Francisco is asking "Who will be our next Mr. & Ms. Bunny?" Sunday, March 23 at the SF Eagle, there will be a contest to select the 1986 Bunnies of the year. For just \$6 you can have all the beer you can drink plus food and a good time. It all starts at 3 p.m. and runs till 6 p.m. The contest benefits the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank. For contestant information, please contact either the Grand Duke Tony Trevizo or Grand Duchess Deena Jones. Get your bunny outfits out and hop on down to the Eagle for a good time.

Mr. Gay Bill and Miss Gay Goldblatt are having a benefit beer bust at the Transfer, Church and Market Streets, Sunday, March 23. The function benefits the Inter Club Fund and the Senior & Gay Holiday Dinner Program. There will be food and a show with guest entertainers. It will be from 3 to 6 p.m. and a donation of \$6 is requested. Come join the fun!

Later on that evening, the long awaited "Retirement" of Empress XIV Ginger will be held at Kimo's, Polk and Pine Streets. This will be a celebration of her 65th birthday, as she is the world's oldest living Empress. There will be a buffet and show with emcees Prince Imperial I, Monte Reddick, Emperor IX Bobby Pace, Empress XIII Char, and Empress XX Sissy. The special guest will be the world's second oldest living Empress, Grand Mere Empress I

Jose. It will start at 6 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. A minimum \$1 donation is requested and benefits the Empress Council's fund for Coming Home Hospice. This is one party you would not want to miss!

The Warlocks M/C will host its annual Easter Run on Easter Sunday, March 30. Registration is at 10 a.m. at Febe's, Bike Events will be at Buena Vista Park, and the Beer Bust and Lunch will be at the patio of the SF Eagle. \$10 will entitle you to a drink at Febe's and the Eagle. If you just want to attend the Beer Bust, the cost is \$6, which also includes lunch. There will be an Easter Bonnet Contest and guess the weight of the baby Easter bunny. There are some fun prizes and events planned, so plan to attend. For more information contact any member of the Warlocks.

Tuesday, April 1, the S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee will host an "April Fool's Day Madness" at the Kokpit, Turk and Leavenworth Streets. It will be a Beer Bust with entertainment by Empress Sable Clown and some fun games are planned. It only costs \$5 and starts at 7 p.m. It will benefit the Parade Committee's efforts to raise funds for the 1986 Parade to be held on the last Sunday in June. Come join the madness!

The Imperial Board of Trustees and Their Most Imperial Majesties Emperor Matthew Brown and Empress Sable Clown are pleased to announce the Investiture of the Imperial Court of "Legends, Myths and Magic." It will be held April 5 at the Western Merchandise Mart's Exchange Room, 1355 Market St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the Investiture



ALGA dinner panorama (l. to r.) Hoover Lee, Deena Jones, Gene Dennis, Tony Trevizo, Sable Clown, and Joe Tolbe. (Photo: Rink)

starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. The theme is "A Trip Through Time." The Investiture is where the actual crowning and investing of the offices of Emperor and Empress are performed. Also, the new Emperor and Empress will name their court, cabinet, and family in-laws.

That's it for now. Tell someone you really care, and hugs to all! Aloha!



Remy



Tatiana (l.), Emperor Matt Brown, Empress Sable Clown, and Diedre at a victory party for their eminences at Kimo's (Photo: Rink)

GayWHOGayWHATGayWHEREGay

AIDS Food Bank Seeks Donations

A food bank for people with AIDS will be open for donations Sunday, Mar. 23, 12:30 to 4 p.m. at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St.

In the Purim tradition of Shalach Manot, or "sending gifts by messenger," the SFJCC staff is asking for non-perishable food items and toiletries to help support the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Representatives from the Foundation will be at the Center's Purim Festival to collect the items. Needed items include canned meats, soups, vegetables, fruit juices, packaged macaroni and cheese, protein powder, instant meals, vitamins, paper products, soap, shaving cream, and other necessities.

The drop-off baskets will be located in the SFJCC lobby. For more information, phone 346-6040.

Corrections

A review of the play *Levitation* at Theatre Rhinoceros incorrectly identified Jane McFagan as playing the role of the protagonist's sister, Jean. The role is played by Susan Allen. Jane McFagan plays Inga, a school teacher.

Also, the incorrect address was given for Artists for Community Life, which is sponsoring an art exhibit expressing the community's feelings about the AIDS crisis. The correct address is 142 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Curves

A dance party for women sponsored by Curves will be held at the Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., March 26 from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. The cost is \$7.

Chorus Try-Outs

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco will hold auditions for all voice parts Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, from 7:15 to 10 p.m., at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St. near Masonic, with the next rehearsal scheduled for March 26.

The Chorus will rehearse material for its appearance at the Pride Concert, to be held on Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28; for its own concerts scheduled for Friday, Aug. 1, and Tuesday, Aug. 5, produced jointly with the Society of Lesbian and Gay Composers and for the closing ceremonies of Gay Games II Aug. 9.

Call 566-6496 for an audition appointment.

SWEET LIPS SEZ

Bit of Nostalgia

DICK WALTERS

Congratulations to Bob Face of the Kokpit on Turk Street for being the new Chairperson of the Council of Emperors. And thank you for dropping by the other day, Bobby. You are looking great.

Easter Sunday the 30th, Google's on Geary will be having an Easter Egg Dyeing Contest from 10 a.m. till noon.

Mame of course, Steve Suss of the Embers/Avenue, who at that time had three bars, including the beautiful Roman's and Kim tended bar on rollerskates at one of Steve's other bars, and yours truly became Portland's newest nude go-go boy. If you don't believe it ask Bob Ross to reprint the picture in Volume 1, No. 4 issue that is in the Czarina de Miracle Mile's column. Golly

... and yours truly became Portland's newest go-go boy.

Everything is supplied and there will be celebrity judges and prizes for the Best, Funniest, and Ugliest eggs, so come on down and join in the festivities. At 5 p.m. the great Frank Banks will be at the keyboard playing your favorite Easter Songs, and sometime during the afternoon Ray Pucini, the Easter Bunny of the Children's Wards of the hospitals in the city (this is his 24th year), will make an appearance in his fabulous outfit and distribute goodies to all of his Google's children, so don't miss this fun afternoon, right Kewpie Doll of Gingers Too on beautiful downtown 6th Street? Hi, Art York.

Like to welcome back from the Bayou Country of Louisiana the one and only Ronnie Sue who is looking just marvelous, isn't that right Lew and Don?

Hunks on Polk Street has the Golden Girls Softball Team with players over 40, 50, and in some cases 60. I hear they are bringing camp back into the Gay Softball League, but they should have had Cha Cha on the team for real camp—and are you really playing ball, Dave Williams?

Remember that the next Tavern Guild Meeting will be at Ginger's on Mason and Eddy Streets across from the Ramada Renaissance Hotel at 1 p.m., so don't miss this one.

Did you know that as of the 1st of April this year it will be the 15th year of publishing for the *Bay Area Reporter*? In looking over the original issues I would like to take note of some of the first writers which of course includes "Sweet Lips Sez" along with "Aunt Mildred's Gourmet Capers" by Don Cavallo, Paul Bentley's "Czarina de Miracle Mile," Connie CookOut aka Bob Ross our esteemed publisher, Lou Greene's "Cruisin' and Boozin'," and The Imperial Bull Sheet by Empress Cristal. Then we were joined by Jay (Ethyl) Noonan with "Two On The Aisle," George Mendenhall, El Scorp with "Life With Mercury," and of course Terry Alan Smith, Roger Thomas "Peninsula Gossip" and Kissy Diki, Rose Empress de Portland 8, and the fabulous Cecil Knockerworst Weatherbee, whose column you really needed to be involved with because it was "in."

And in May 1971 was our first big trip to Portland where we were welcomed and had a fantastic time that has ended in a friendship that has lasted all of these years. That is when I brought back my first Izar, who later became Emperor Kim of Portland, and of all the great people, Darcelle and Rock,

that was a long time ago, right Henri Le Leu?

Just looking through the first year's copies you realize how many wonderful people are no longer with us and how many great bars we all had so much fun in are also gone. But many, many of the wonderful people I met in those days are still what



St. Patrick's Day at the New Bell

(Photo: Rink)

I can call true friends.

I just want to say congratulations to Bob Ross for keeping this paper going and progressing with such a great staff for all of these years and hopefully for

a great many years to come, and thank you all for being advertisers and readers of B.A.R.

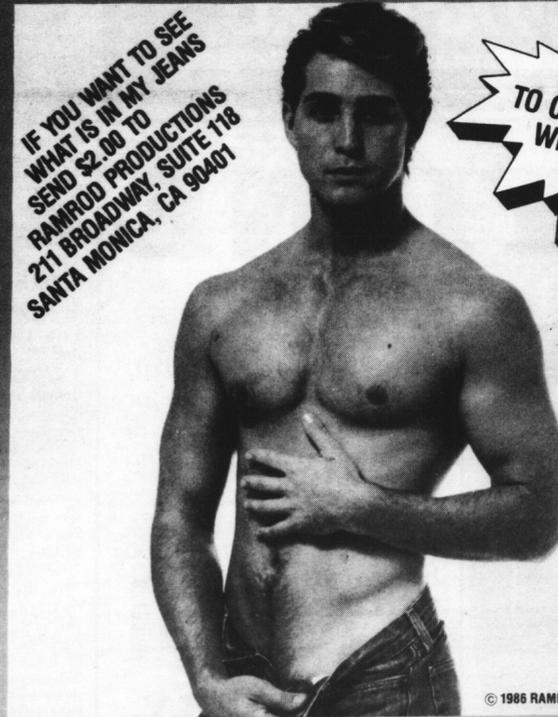
My next column will be all about Vancouver's Expo. I hope

a lot of people are going because all the info I have so far makes it look fabulous. I am going to Portland and Vancouver in June for three weeks and am looking forward to it.

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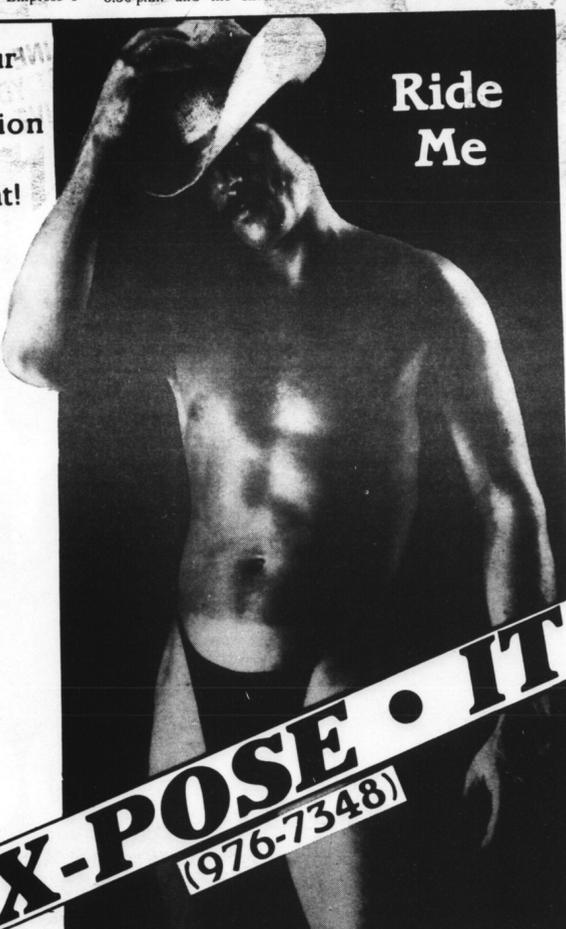
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GMC Pops Into Spring

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus "Pops Into Spring" with two concerts at Herbst Theater, Saturday evening March 29 and Sunday evening March 30. Presented by Golden Gate Performing Arts, the Saturday evening concert begins at 8 p.m., with the Sunday evening performance scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Gregg Tallman, the Chorus will present selections

from *Cabaret*, *Easter Parade*, *Chicago*, *Funny Girl*, *Wildcat*, *Company*, *Boy Meets Boy*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

The highlight of the concert promises to be two medleys. The "Mermaid Medley" was written for Chicago's Windy City Men's Chorus and includes her songs, from *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Call Me Madame*, *Girl Crazy*, and *Gypsy*. The other medley is comprised of hit tunes from Jerry Herman's smash musical *La Cage aux Folles*, and was written for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

Tickets are priced at \$8, \$10, and \$12. Box seats are \$15. Tickets can be purchased through the City Box Office by calling 392-4400 or through Golden Gate Performing Arts at 864-0327.

Photography Show

Ken Dorr will present his photographs at The Ambush, 1351 Harrison St., from March 18 through 30.



Action! — The making of 'The Dress' at the Community Thrift Store (Photo: Rink)

Dress

(Continued from page 24)

Note, which is where the bulk of the cast comes in. Gail Golden plays the woman who buys the dress, making her a "wacko bag lady," Wells says. Adele Prandini and Ann Block are the thrift store workers.

Some of the scenes in the store got out of hand, Smith reports. "We had some pretty campy people and it was hard to keep them from camping. We had a lot of things that we didn't plan on happen." Some of them, she adds, are too good to cut.

Auditions were videotaped, and the women would like to do something with those tapes in the future. "It's an amazing piece of lesbian culture," Wells said. "All these women telling stories of their interaction with dresses."

Speaking of dresses, the one that plays the title role was found in a thrift shop just three days before filming began. There were a couple of problems with it, Wells says. "It was yellow polyester, and it was six inches too small in the back because we're dealing with a non-traditional woman." Three days later, however, it was black and a perfect fit.

Smith is hoping to have a work print of *The Dress* ready by the April 15 deadline to enter it in this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. There are no major plans beyond that, except to try to make it available to lesbian and gay audiences through other film and women's music festivals.

At the time of our interview, however, she needed another \$900 to get the film out of the lab and into the editing room. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Films Arts Foundation, 346 9th St., San Francisco 94103, designated for *The Dress*.

"The goddess only knows," Wells said with more of her modesty, "what we'll come up with once we're through the editing process!"

If it captures the spirit of the short story, the 9 to 13-minute film will be a journey to a space between the erogenous and twilight zones that will entertain and arouse an audience of more than just "fuckin' dykes."

"I would stride across the dance floor in a bee-line for that green-eyed woman I love, so that everyone would see who the one in that black dress was going to fuck tonight.—*The Dress*"

S. Warren

Falsettos

(Continued from page 24)

"The kids are into electric trains."

No more of a threat to Bill Graham than he is to Carole Shorenstein, Kopy books occasional concerts by people he likes—Ronee Blakely and Patsy Montana, Riders in the Sky and the Cheap Suit Serenaders (who are coming back in May)—and next month he has Mike Seeger, Pete's half-brother, playing in Berkeley. "Any bozo can book Prince," Kopy says.

The entrepreneur also brings the Clio Award-winning commercials to the Palace of Fine Arts every year, and he's started what he hopes will be an ongoing "Evening with the Filmmaker" series by scheduling Sydney Pollack (*Tootsie*, *Out of Africa*)

for April 19. Pollack will be followed by Jamie Uys (*The Gods Must Be Crazy*) and Mark Rydell (*On Golden Pond*, *The Rose*), who will bring along the first scenes to be shown anywhere of Barbra Streisand in *Nuts*, which he's currently shooting.

"San Francisco should have an ongoing musical theater company," Kopy said. "There are so many good small shows that will never play here." It generally doesn't work when an established company tries to do a musical, he complained, because they tend to draw from their usual pool of talent.

"If you're gonna cast a musical," Michael Kopy said, "you go to the gay cabarets on Saturday night and the black churches on Sunday morning!"

S. Warren

Williams

(Continued from page 25)

scenery chewing. Williams wrote about people addicted to drama experiencing a genuine crisis. Here we get the addiction—the uproar and hysteria—but little else.

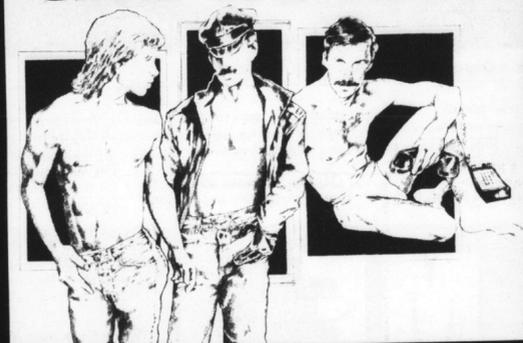
Director Cappetta does his best work with his best actors. His blocking and choice of background sound for *Talk to Me* subtly generates a mood of resignation and decay. His stage busi-

ness and props for *Something Unspoken* telegraphs characterization instantly. *Bertha* we could live without. But despite the occasional misstep, Cappetta deserves thanks for unearthing these little-known chips off the master's workbench, and most especially for giving *Talk to Me* a production so luminous.

B. Spunberg

Tennessee Williams (three short acts)
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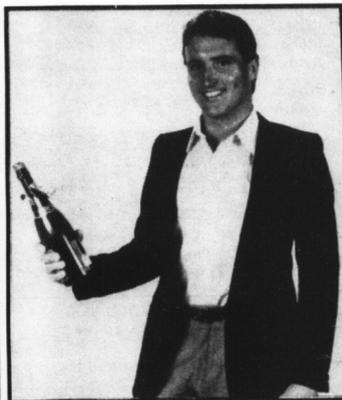


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