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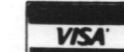
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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bridges: The 'Hooker' Who Said No

PBS Documentary Based on a Hoax?

by Brian Jones

There is no proof that Fabian Bridges ever spread AIDS. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) implies that Bridges knowingly spread AIDS. That implication is at the heart of the PBS special, *AIDS: A National Inquiry*.

But the documentary never documents that Bridges spread AIDS—and PBS acknowledges this shortcoming in its press releases. And the producer of the film crew which followed Bridges has directly contradicted PBS statements that Bridges was "a homosexual prostitute."

PBS states in its press packet on the show, "Bridges moves from city to city, claiming that he's living promiscuously." Locally, KQED-FM radio described the storyline as the "story of Fabian Bridges, a homosexual prostitute who alleges he had sex with six partners a night, and refused to stop even though he knew he had AIDS."

The headline runs over a picture of Bridges. It continues with the text, "Fabian Bridges had AIDS. He knew it. The authorities knew it. But his victims didn't..."

The notable words here are "claiming" and "alleges." PBS is refusing to vouch for the truthfulness of its own documentary.

At the same time, PBS has published ads—but not in the Bay Area—making much stronger claims for the Bridges story. "SHOULD SOMEBODY HAVE STOPPED THIS MAN FROM SPREADING AIDS?" Is the headline of an ad which ran

in TV Guide in most other PBS markets last week.

The claim that Fabian Bridges spread AIDS is based solely on Bridges' own statements. There is no evidence to support what Bridges said.

To the contrary, other evidence indicates that Bridges made up his story to win favor from the film crew which followed him—and which paid his expenses.

The Houston vice squad followed Bridges for three days and at one point attempted to entrap him into offering to prostitute himself. Bridges refused. The vice squad could find no



A sea of protesters gave KQED the business Tuesday

(Photo: M. Hicks)

evidence that Bridges was hustling for sex. This fact is not mentioned in the PBS special.

There are indications that the down-and-out drifter was "playing to the camera"—telling the film crew what it wanted to hear, in order to get attention.

The producer of the Bridges film acknowledged this possibility. Mike Sullivan of WCCO-TV in Minneapolis headed the crew which followed Bridges. He detailed the crew's involvement with Bridges in an on-the-record interview with the Minneapolis

gay newspaper *Equal Time*. Sullivan told *Equal Time* there was a "legitimate question" whether Bridges told the film crew falsehoods in return "for meals and a few nights in

(Continued on page 15)

Boycott of PBS, KQED Urged

Pickets Angry at Broadcast; FCC License May Be Questioned

by Charles Linebarger

KQED aired the controversial *Frontline* broadcast *AIDS: A National Inquiry* on Tuesday night, Mar. 25 and as predicted San Francisco's gay and lesbian community reacted with outrage, picketing and a call for a national boycott of PBS and locally of public television station KQED.

The *Frontline* program was centered on a 35-minute documentary about Fabian Bridges alleged to be a gay black hustler who, according to the blurb for the show, "said he had sex with six partners a night and refused to stop even though he knew he had AIDS." It was followed by an hour and a half panel discussion from which a number of the panelists were absent in protest.

The PBS film on Fabian Bridges has been the center of a controversy since its inception last Fall. It was filmed by WCCO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Minneapolis, under conditions which led to charges of check-book journalism and the deliberate incitement of hysteria.

Plante was working in Houston last year when the Bridges story was being filmed, he was quoted at the time as saying, "I think they are the finest station in America but a news conference gets called, hysteria is generated, and they get wonderful footage for their documentary."

KPIX-TV reporter Hank

(Continued on page 2)

Should somebody have stopped this man from spreading AIDS?

Fabian Bridges had AIDS. He knew it. The authorities knew it. But his victims didn't, and despite warnings from health and law enforcement officials in three cities, Bridges continued to be sexually active. How can victims like him be helped? And must we limit the rights of individuals, to protect public safety? Tonight, his story is told, as part of an examination of the continuing threat of AIDS.

FRONTLINE AIDS—A National Inquiry

Tuesday, March 25, 8pm (Repeated Monday, March 31, 11pm) **KQED**

The man, the ad and the controversy. PBS ran this ad in a lot of markets, but not in San Francisco. (Photo: M. Hicks)

Today

Rights bills passed in New York City and in Sacramento. George Mendenhall tells of the celebrations in both cities, page 4.

Bonnets and Baskets—it's Easter time again, and that means the softball league opener and the Lily Street party, see page 16.

Bounced from a bar in Redwood City for dancing together, two gay men may sue for their civil rights. Gerard Koskovich reports, page 18.

Jane Rule, author of the novel *Desert of the Heart*, soon to be on movie screens as *Desert Hearts*, spoke at Stanford recently, page 22.

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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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KQED
(Continued from page one)

WCCO helped to pay Bridges' way around the country with \$10 here and \$15 there. They kept Bridges on the street with handouts so that their filming could continue of Bridges' sojourn and the media circus that they apparently made certain would follow in his path. WCCO called authorities everywhere they filmed, and then, they stepped back to film the circus.

Bridges died of AIDS on Nov. 17 and PBS's *Frontline* series took the WCCO film for its weekly in-depth news oriented show. David Fanning, producer of *Frontline*, talked to *B.A.R.* about the charges made about his documentary on Monday night, the day before the show aired nationally. On the charge that WCCO had been guilty of checkbook journalism, Fanning responded, "To every rule there is an exception. When payment seems warranted by the circumstances, we acknowledge it in the film. Our payment to Fabian was minimal."

When asked about the media circus which followed Bridges wherever he went, Fanning said, "Those are charges I don't take seriously. They had a very serious dilemma. They were given serious information and had to make a decision. The decision was made by the film crew to be good citizens and call the authorities."

Fanning admitted that this was the first broadcast about AIDS that *Frontline* has done. "I think it's an ugly, inflammatory piece of shady journalism," said Tim Wolfred, director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Wolfred saw the show last week after being alerted to it by Richard Dunne, of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. Across the country gay leaders reacted sharply to the news that PBS was going to air the Bridges story.

Julian Rush, director of the Colorado AIDS Project in Denver, said "I'm incensed that it's going to be aired because I know the public is going to perceive it as a more typical example of behavior than it is. We're fighting a bill here now that deals with quarantine and contact tracing and I feel the timing for this show couldn't be worse."

Paul Kawata, director of the National AIDS Network in

Washington, D.C., said, "I do not have the ability nor do I have the desire to stop the rage that will be out there in the world after this film is shown."

FCC HEARINGS

Leaders in the community and others watched the film at 6 p.m. at the Giraffe bar on Polk Street via the bar's satellite pick up. Meanwhile reporters and film crews televised the scene live into homes throughout the Bay Area.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, San Francisco's former Director of Health, drew applause from the crowd when he said on the PBS panel discussion, "I think this film has created a controversy because Fabian Bridges was exploited by the media. They gave him \$10, \$15, a radio, but never enough to get him off the streets. The harm is that a lot of people will see this as an example of how the gay male lives."

John Lorenzini, president of People With AIDS, said after the *Frontline* show, "You have just witnessed a very exploitive type of documentary... I don't believe that any kind of discussion groups afterward can make up for this film."

And then a number of gay community leaders spoke to call for a boycott of PBS and KQED. "This is a time of great tragedy for our community," said Ralph Payne. "We payed for that program tonight with public funds. But we have the power to do something about that program."

Roberto Esteves, chair of the San Francisco Telecommunications Policy Commission, talked to the *B.A.R.* about how the airing of the Bridges film and the insensitivity of KQED to gay and lesbian concerns may affect its coming hearings before the FCC.

"Broadcast stations operate under licenses for use of the public airways," said Esteves. "It is my understanding that (KQED's) channel 32 is up for review. If people feel that channel 32 has not served the community they can file protests with the FCC objecting to the renewal of its license."

"The channel 32 issue is in some ways broader than this particular program because what we have been saying to KQED is that we want more gay programming and channel 32 is an underused resource. I feel like we've just had mud slung—media mud—and I think it's time to sling some back."

C. Linebarger

picketers was loud enough to be heard in the station's offices. Over a hundred picketers snaked in front of the KQED studios.

OUTRAGE

As news of the show's content spread in the community, many of the city's gay leaders began to try to prevent KQED's airing of the film. Early morning conferences followed one after another at which all of the city's gay political clubs were represented. Roberto Esteves from Alice, Rick Pacurar from Milk, Ralph Payne from Stone-wall, Chris Bowman from the Concerned Republicans, Laurie McBride from the Golden Gate Business Association, and Paul Boneberg from Mobilization Against AIDS, were present at those meetings.

The consensus was that the film should not be shown and Anthony Tiano, president of KQED, was informed that if it was shown the gay community would react against the station and against PBS. Tiano responded by scheduling two more acceptable AIDS films after the *Frontline* show, at 11 p.m. But he refused to cancel the Bridges story.

At a press conference hastily called by Tiano at KQED the afternoon before the showing of the film, and before the picketing that had been promised at the station, Tiano admitted to reporters that he would not have allowed KQED reporters to gather a story in the way that WCCO had obtained the Bridges' story. But once again he refused to cancel the broadcast.

Many of the panelists who had been slated to appear after the Bridges' film boycotted the show, Larry Bush, legislative assistant to Assemblyman Art Agnos, Phil Nash, a gay activist in Colorado, and Jeff Levi, political director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force all cancelled. Last minute replacements were made for some of the missing panelists but the show's producer apparently didn't even trust San Francisco's lone panel member, Bobby Reynolds, who was briefly brought into the discussion only once near the end of the show.

Pickets appeared as promised outside of KQED's 8th Street offices at 5 on Tuesday. Banners were waved aloft by all the political clubs along with signs equating KQED and PBS with fascism. The chanting of the

Cycle Through SF The Easy Way

Bike-a-Thon Plans 25 Mile Jaunt Through The City

The 25-magically-flat-mile route for the '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon on Saturday, May 3, is just that—flat and full of magic. The laziest of bicyclists—one who meanders around Golden Gate Park on a balmy day with nowhere specific to go—has done 25 miles without even knowing it. Different Spokes has designed the 25 mile loop so that everyone can easily ride it. The route will weave out of the Castro, up to the Park, out the bicycle path and around Lake Merced, back across the Park, over to the Presidio and back to the Castro.

There will be a rest stop at Lake Merced, the halfway point, with plenty of food and drink available. Support vehicles with spare tubes and parts will follow the riders. People knowledgeable about bicycle repairs will be available to assist with changing tires and minor problems as necessary. A shuttle van will be continuously monitoring the route, ensuring safety for everyone.

Different Spokes will offer training and preview rides of the 25-mile loop every Sunday start-



He's just resting now. But on May 3, he'll be busy. (Photo: S. O'Hara)



and Polk), All American Boy (Castro), any of the eight beneficiary agencies, by mail ('86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon, P.O. Box 14711, San Francisco, 94114) or by calling (415) 771-0677. ■

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A police sketch of the Dolores Park victim.

Dolores Park Killing

San Francisco police are still trying to identify a man found murdered in Dolores Park early Sunday morning, Mar. 23. He was described as white, 35 to 40 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches tall, 167 pounds. He was wearing a grey jacket over a black and red plaid shirt and had a prominent gold front tooth. Anyone with information is asked to call SFPD Inspectors Mullane or Gerrins at 553-1145. ■

AIDS Services

The San Francisco Health Commission will begin a series of meetings on April 1 designed to inform the general public, health care providers and patients about programs offered by the Health Department, and to take public comment on those programs.

The first meeting, which will discuss AIDS related services, will run from 4 to 6 p.m. April 1 in the Carr Auditorium at San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Ave. The auditorium is located in room 100 of Building 3, on the 22nd Street side of the hospital.

The Health Commission welcomes the public and health care providers to attend the meetings and testify. Written testimony may be submitted to the commission office at 101 Grove St., Room 309, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. ■



Somebody sent a message to Washington from Castro St. (Photo: Rink)

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AIDS UPDATE '86

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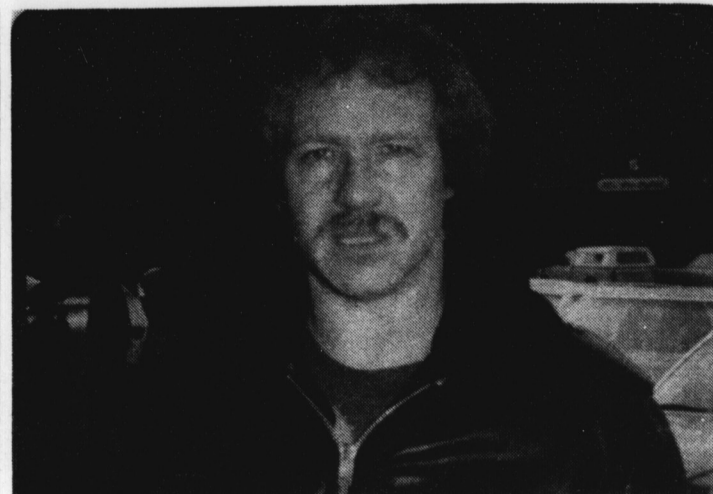
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'Pandemonium broke out in the gallery and one hundred of us stood up, applauding, cheering, crying, embracing one another. We held hands in a chain and then thrust our arms over our heads. It was a thrilling, a joyous occasion. We need victory at this time.'

—Steve Ault



NYC Passes Gay Bill—Finally Success After 15 Year Struggle; Religious Leaders Promise Retaliation

by George Mendenhall

"Pandemonium broke out in the gallery and one hundred of us stood up, applauding, cheering, crying, embracing one another. We held hands in a chain and then thrust our arms over our heads. It was a thrilling, a joyous occasion. We need this victory at this time."

Steve Ault, New York City's Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, was describing the scene on March 20 when the Big Apple's city council finally adopted a lesbian and gay rights ordinance, Intro 2. The vote culminated a 15 year struggle, supported in recent battles by Mayor Ed Koch.

Major opposition to the legislation had come from the Roman Catholic archdiocese and orthodox Jews. They had earlier won a court battle to void Koch's order banning job discrimination against gay people in organizations doing business with the city. Cardinal John O'Connor had urged all Catholics to oppose the pending legislation in a Mar. 16 letter read in each parish. O'Connor stated he will now consult with church attorneys to see how the law can be voided.

The unexpectedly large 21-14 vote came at 6 p.m. after a four-hour council debate. This was not a public hearing. That had been held Mar. 11 when over one hundred people testified in a marathon 11-hour session before the council's General Welfare Committee. When the committee voted the measure out (5-1), gay activists predicted a 19-16 victory before the full council.

Some council members said they were emotionally disturbed by having to vote at all on the measure. Joseph F. Lisa of Queens, unsuccessfully tried to change his vote from yes to no after the tally. Noach Dear, an Orthodox Jew and a Democrat from Brooklyn, said he would "go to the very end to see that this is defeated." Dear, like his Catholic counterparts, urged that the ordinance would be giving approval to gay lifestyle.

Mary Pinkett, a council woman from Brooklyn who supported the ordinance, said she knew—as a black woman—what discrimination was like. Councilman Stephen DiBrienza made a moving speech for the measure and dedicated the vote to his friend, Peter Vogel who had recently died of AIDS.

CELEBRATIONS

Tom Stoddard, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund wrote the latest version of the ordinance. It adds "sexual orientation" to New York City's list of classifications covered by the current non-discrimination ordinance. The effect is to make it illegal to dis-

water down our previous versions. The ordinance is not different in what it protects." Former director of the National Gay Task Force, Ginny Apuzzo agreed. "In a time like now when employment and housing are crucial issues with AIDS homophobia on the increase, we do not have the luxury of talking about developing the perfect legislation," said Apuzzo.

Celebrants moved from the council chambers to the rotunda where they were joined by another one hundred cheering activists, some of whom had conducted an all-night candlelight vigil on the steps of City Hall. The rotunda crowd was taped by television stations and interviewed by a phalanx of 40 reporters.

Mayor Koch appeared. He told the media, "I will be signing the bill. There have been so many false fears. The sky is not going to fall. Fifteen years is a long time, too long in fact, to deny the promise of equal protection to those who are so clearly the victims of discrimination." Earlier in the week the mayor spoke at a gay rights rally that drew 2,000. He also called a press conference to support the measure. Earlier, he had testified for the ordinance before the General Welfare Committee.

The wild, celebrating crowd moved from the rotunda in surge to nearby Sheridan Square. Although the night was cold there were speeches and a display of banners and signs. Amidst the cheering, some danced to music provided by the Big Apple Core band. But that was not the end as the day concluded at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Ault described it as "jammed, a really happy crowd, the biggest crowd I have ever seen at the center. There was dancing and a spirit of good will."

Rights Bill Passes In Sacto., 7-2

by George Mendenhall

The religious fundamentalists presenting their usual "homosexuality is a sin" arguments Tuesday night in a two-hour hearing before the Sacramento City Council, couldn't derail gay rights legislation from a 7-2 victory. Only the two Republicans on the council voted in opposition.

Five hundred people crowded the chambers to hear twenty speakers, equally for and against the sweeping ordinance but when the decision was announced an estimated 80 percent of the crowd stood and applauded.

The new ordinance, which will have a final approval vote on April 1, establishes that there shall be no discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations. It specifically includes educational institutions and city services.

Opposition during the hearing was led by the longtime anti-gay Rev. W.B. Timberlake, who has been testifying against gay

bills for twenty years. He urged that the council let the state legislature deal with rights legislation. When Timberlake testified before state committees, he urged that cities handle such matters. He was joined by conservative who said that to grant gay rights was to condone a lifestyle.

Sacramento Mayor David Shore introduced the gay rights

(Continued on page 12)

LaRouche Surprises Demos in Balloting

California Initiative Proposes Quarantine; Dems Caught Off-Guard in Illinois

by Will Snyder

A proposed California state ballot initiative which would quarantine people with AIDS has until May 22 to gather 393,000 signatures. The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC)—a political and philosophical brainchild of ultra-conservative Lyndon LaRouche—is attempting to get the initiative on the ballot and gay leaders and supporters are preparing a counter-attack which they hope will keep the initiative off the ballot.

Gay Republican leader Bruce Decker, chair of Gov. George Deukmejian's AIDS Advisory Committee, has organized a meeting on April 12 at Los Angeles' Crown Plaza Hotel to fight the LaRouche initiative. The ballot proposal would not only quarantine people with AIDS, but also prevent them from being food handlers in schools or restaurants. AIDS victims would also be barred from working in or attending schools in California.

No one is certain how many signatures have been gathered by LaRouche's NDPC, an organization which does not have any connection with the Democratic Party. One unconfirmed report credited the NDPC with gathering 195,000 signatures. However, Barbara Lee, a staff member of Secretary of State March Fong Eu's Elections Division office, could not confirm any figures.

"I don't know a thing about what they have collected," said Lee, "because no figures have been reported to our office. It is the responsibility of each county to report signatures for initiatives such as this and no county has done so yet."

Lee said the May 22 deadline for the NDPC does not guarantee that the initiative will make it to next November's state ballot even if the requirement of 393,000 signatures is met.

"We have suggested to them that they get their signatures in to us by April 18," said Lee. "The trouble they'll run into if they get them to us by May 22 is that we still have to verify the signatures. If that takes too long or there's a lot of paper work, it'll be too late for them."

According to Decker, the more signatures the NDPC gathers, the more its chances of avoiding an audit. "If they get, say, 790,000 names," said Decker, "they'll avoid the audit because it will be figured that they have enough legitimate names. But if they only have say 400,000, then the Secretary of State will probably want to audit them because they'll be cutting it close. (to the 393,000)."

Decker credited the LaRouche group with what he referred to as a certain amount of creativity in the way words were used on the ballot. "The key word in the whole initiative is 'shall,'" said Decker, who referred to a section which states, "... all personnel of the Department of Health Services and all health officers shall fulfill all of the duties and obligations specified in each and all of the sections of said statutory divisions and administrative code subchapter in a manner consistent with the intent of this Act, as shall all other persons identified in said provisions."

"In other words," said Decker, "some officials—especially in smaller areas—just simply won't want to risk a \$1,500 per



The old home of the NDPC on Noriega St. The LaRouche organization has moved its headquarters to Livermore. (Photo: Rink)

supporters won election to that state's Democratic ticket, he said that the NDPC is something to be taken seriously.

In the Illinois election, Mark Fairchild won the nomination for lieutenant governor and Janice Hart grabbed the nomination for secretary of state. Adlai Stevenson—the Democratic candidate for governor and a long-time liberal, is considering running as a third party candidate. Even incumbent Republican Gov. James Thompson, a moderate, is reportedly "incensed"

with the results of the Democratic primary. Reports out of Illinois indicate that the state Democratic party was wrapped up in a feud between Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and long-time Chicago alderman and party boss Edward Vrdolyak. "My guess is they didn't pay enough attention to what was happening," Jim Ruvalo, the Ohio Democratic chair, told the Los Angeles Times. The Times also reported about more Democratic miseries in its weekend editions. La-

Rouche supporter Art Hoffman snared the Democratic nomination in the 40th Congressional District in Orange County. Democrats hope to run a write-in candidate against Hoffman and five-term Republican Robert Badham of Newport Beach.

"They have been successful because they have people committed to the mechanics of politics," said Decker of the NDPC. "and politics is a mechanical thing."

"Take Illinois," added Decker. "The moderate Democrats were home making money and raising families and the LaRouche people bit them in the ass. Those people just don't stop playing politics between elections."

Decker said, however, that he didn't mean this as a criticism of just the Democrats. He referred to the LaRouche group as "anathema" for both parties.

"They're anathema to the Democrats," he said, "because they try to represent themselves as Democrats and they're anathema to Republicans because they give us a bad name."

As B.A.R. went to press, Brian Lantz, a San Francisco-based official with the NDPC, was unavailable for comment.

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LETTERS

Open Your Mind, Edwards

★ After reading Mr. Edwards' "Boo Christianity" *B.A.R.*, March 20, I felt compelled to respond.

I am an Episcopalian, a native of this city, gay and for 25 years active in the church. I have never made a secret of my sexuality. From Bishops Pike, Myers, Swing and priests in their charge I have only received the love, compassion and understanding a Christian person might expect from their pastoral father: never condemnation or "guilt-trips" regarding my lifestyle.

Enough of my personal experience. If Mr. Edwards would open his eyes and ears he would know that Bishops of the Episcopal Church have knowingly ordained gay men for years and recently a lesbian. On the first Monday of each month a prayer/healing service for AIDS victims, their friends and families is held at Grace Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. I could go on and on, but will suggest to Mr. Edwards that he visit The Parsonage at 555A Castro Street to personally observe the Episcopal Church ministering to all the gay and lesbian community: all children of God.

I am not so naive to believe that our social institutions, including the Episcopal Church, are perfect, but this church has made it very clear to all who will listen that it has *not* rejected the gay and lesbian community.

There is no instance in the Bible where Jesus even mentions homosexuality, but He was specific in telling us to love God with all our heart and mind, also to love our neighbors as we do ourselves.

Robert R. Mayo
San Francisco

Support Gay Businesses

★ I'm hearing more and more reports from my friends and acquaintances that many gay businesses are going out of business due to lack of patronage. Obviously, AIDS is the culprit.

But why should any of us let this hysteria affect our very souls? Don't we have enough to deal with without letting a disease run our lives? Sure, have safe sex but don't stop patronizing the gay bars, baths, bookstores, shops, etc., otherwise you're letting the disease do just that.

Can't you have fun without connecting sex to it? By patronizing gay establishments, clubs, businesses, organizations, etc., your gay dollars will then be donated to the proper avenues of assistance, whether it's political, medical, social, etc.

We're cutting our own throats by just staying home and becoming hermits. The people who can do the most to combat AIDS or oppression are business people, but they need us to do just that. Our motto should always be: *Buy Gay and Patronize Gay*. We can't rely on our sympathetic nongay friends all the time. Stand up and be counted! And have fun while doing it.

And while I'm at it, I wish to say this: I notice there are always excellent letters published in *B.A.R.*, no matter the subject matter or opinion and I compliment *B.A.R.* for it, but why not also write to the "straight" newspapers in your area too. We, as gays, already know the problems we face. It's the straight world that needs to know too, but they aren't going to find out about it from just a gay newspaper. So why not send the same excellent letters to the other publications as well? Otherwise, the bigots will get all the press.

Dean Tomich
San Jose

Get Off My Toilet Bowl!

★ I saw an ad on television the other night. There's a new toilet bowl cleaner on the market named "Swish."

I can't decide if this is reason to take to the streets in protest or the perfect gift for the queen who thought she'd seen everything.

Patrick Gaffney
San Francisco

How About the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians?

★ One of the delights of the *B.A.R.* letters page is the rainbow of opinion and new ideas it offers. But sometimes a letter will be so outrageous or so ill-considered as to appear undeserving of ink and paper. Thomas M. Edwards' recent attack on the Roman Catholic and Episcopalian churches as perpetrators of general misery is both outrageous and ill-considered.

As one who has lived in both a small, rural Southern town and a white collar suburb of a Northeastern industrial city, I can testify that Southern Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians are no less skilled at hiding the apples of discord in the robes

of Christ than their Anglican and Roman brothers. Indeed, many of them are still at it, even trying to seduce the young by reintroducing "prayer" (a word which they have snatched from the language and given their own twisted meaning) into the public schools.

What is to be done? Mr. Edwards offers no solutions in his letter. Had he suggested that he might run for the Board of Supervisors on a platform of taxing church property in the county of San Francisco, I would have applauded and supported his stand. It is not right that those of us who disagree with most churches' political aims should be taxed to support them. (Did you know that the S.F.F.D. changes light bulbs inside lofty church structures—at your expense? My contributions to California Republicans for Choice, meanwhile, are not tax-deductible.)

Or, Mr. Edwards might have taken a wider stand and suggested that all Americans be tested and examined on their religious beliefs, and those who are found to harbor Roman Catholic sympathies might be tattooed on the forehead so that anyone who wishes to have affectional relationships with Roman Catholics or view their talk shows on PBS might be forewarned and take suitable precautions not to be infected. Provisions in such legislation could be written to make it illegal to cover such a tattoo with makeup or a mused forelock. Moreover the sale of incense and similar room odorizers would be banned from religious goods stores, since the Roman and Anglican liturgy and its paraphernalia have been known to invite other wise rational people into getting down on their knees and performing the most humble acts.

In the case of Episcopalians and Presbyterians, federal funds could be withdrawn from states that do not close down country clubs. Bible camps and revival meetings might be prohibited for Southern Baptists and Methodists.

Is this a violation of the First Amendment rights of religion? No. These are desperate times when all manner of religious extremists are grasping for the powers of the American government. Since the ultimate aims of religion are peace, love and communion with God, we must take desperate steps to preserve these aims for everyone. The First Amendment, after all, says nothing about churches.

Perhaps Mr. Thomas M. Edwards is right if he wants to close them down.

Peter B. Dyer
San Francisco

Applause! Applause!

★ I want to share my excitement about a new element of gay culture in San Francisco. Every Tuesday night on cable channel 6 we have the opportunity to enjoy a full hour of gay TV. Starting at 9 p.m. with *Pride and Progress*, half an hour of information about gay rights, AIDS and the struggle against hypocrisy, and followed at 9:30 p.m. by *The Right Stuff*, a gay arts and entertainment show, gay TV is the best thing that's happened since the gay press.

There has been a lot of criticism of gay TV since it began airing a couple months ago, and with good reason. Some of the stuff is really bad. I was embarrassed watching the first shows, done in New York. I'm proud of the way San Francisco's contribution has improved the show.

I realize, however, not everybody appreciates the endearing quality of Phillip R. Ford gasping for breath. Not everybody agrees that Doris Fish is the world's greatest drag queen. Not everyone will admit that Monica Palacios is the essence of cool or Doug Kimball the icon of macho. Some people don't even like Tippi.

None of that matters. What does matter is that somebody is doing this. America needs gay TV. God put homosexuals on this planet for a reason, and it wasn't to sit on our duffs waiting for a brunch invitation from the mayor.

The AIDS crisis has made us more aware of our identities as gay men and women. We realize that our basic rights cannot be taken for granted. We also realize there is a tremendous reservoir of gay talent, capable of producing the greatest scientific, cultural, and political achievements of human history.

I'm on my feet applauding. I'm applauding John Canali, Joseph Durant, and all the other people who make this show happen every week. And I'm applauding those of you who have the guts to do more than bellyache, the guts to participate, to contribute your criticisms in a creative spirit, to advertise, to watch, to tell your friends. Please support gay TV.

Daniel Grimes
San Francisco



Wayne Friday
POLITICS & POKER

The LaRouche 'Democrats'

With a surprising upset victory in two statewide races in last week's Illinois Democratic primary, the followers of the right-wing political cult of Lyndon LaRouche were claiming this week that "Illinois is just the beginning. We are going to take over the Democratic Party."

Two supporters of the anti-gay LaRouche won Democratic party nominations last Tuesday for Illinois lieutenant governor and secretary of state—much to the shock of both Illinois and national Democratic party officials. In a state primary where only 25 percent of the registered Democrats bothered to vote, LaRouche disciples defeated the regular Democratic party-endorsed candidates and won the right to run in the November general election as Democrats with former Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson, the nominee for governor.

Stevenson promptly disavowed the far-right nominees and threatened to form a write-in campaign under a third party label. Stevenson further indicated he would resign as the party gubernatorial nominee rather than run with those he described as "radical fascists."

While party leaders were looking for an explanation to the surprising Illinois turn of events (low voter turnout, unfamiliar names on the ballot, the ignoring of the lesser statewide races were part of the explanation), LaRouche and his followers were hailing the primary result as a "warning of things to come" across the country. They boasted that they have plans to field more than 800 candidates for national and local offices across the country—all on the Democratic party ticket.

In California this week, supporters of LaRouche were quick to take advantage of the Illinois results and were claiming that the National Democratic Policy Committee, the official name of the LaRouche organization, would run candidates in at least 18 Democratic congressional primaries, including the San Francisco districts currently held by Reps. Barbara Boxer and Sala Burton.

LaRouche followers held a hurriedly organized press conference on the steps of the Federal Building in San Francisco last week and announced that Rep. Burton would be opposed in the June primary by LaRouche candidate Andrew Klein, and Boxer would face another NDPC follower, James Legare. Klein was promising to make AIDS an issue in his primary campaign against Rep. Burton. He claimed that the "regular Democratic party" had become "pro-gay rights, anti-defense, and anti-beam weapons." He said he lived in Livermore, out of the Burton district, because "we all cleared out of the city because of the AIDS epidemic (because) it's not safe to eat in the restaurants here anymore."

While many see the LaRouche "Democrats" as a real threat to the



Richard Hongisto (Photo: Rink)

President in 1976 as the candidate of the now defunct U.S. Labor Party, again in 1980 as an Independent and again in 1984 as a right-wing Democrat.

LaRouche started out as a Marxist, then went to the other side of the political spectrum

and wound up as a radical right-winger. His organization, the National Democratic Party Committee, publishes right-wing books, newspapers and pamphlets that they distribute worldwide.

LaRouche is 64 years old and his party headquarters in Northern Virginia is an armed camp surrounded by fences, watched over by television monitors and patrols armed with semiautomatic rifles. LaRouche has often told reporters that his life has been threatened by Communists, Zionists, gangsters, the Queen of England, the Rockefellers, the Trilateral Commission and international terrorists.

The LaRouche platform calls for immediate AIDS testing of all Americans, with quarantine for anyone who has AIDS or who tests positive to the HTLV virus. He favors Nuremberg-style trials for all drug dealers, increased stockpiling of nuclear weapons, and the immediate dismantling of the "communist-dominated" United Nations. While the LaRouche "Democrats" have no affiliation whatsoever with the regular Democratic party, they have fielded candidates in a number of Democratic party primaries as a way, they say, to "seek change in the Democratic party." In recent years LaRouche followers have campaigned suc-

(Continued on page 14)

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.

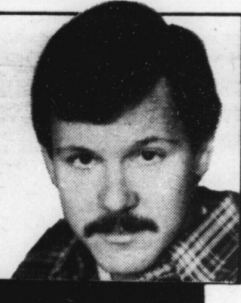
The AIDS antibody test detects the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus by using a simple blood test. **This is not a test for AIDS.** The test does NOT show if you have AIDS or an AIDS Related Condition (ARC), nor can it tell if you will develop AIDS or ARC in the future. **THE TEST DOES SHOW IF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

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.



TDD: 621-5106
Funding for this message provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Brian Jones



Etiquette for a J/O Party

A satisfying sex life is essential to one's holistic health, as is enough sleep and a square diet. This seems obvious. Yet, with current turns of events, all sorts of people have tried to kick the "habit"—reviving the Victorian notion that sex is a bothersome necessity. You can tell who they are—the really bitchy ones. Celibacy spreads its pent-up nastiness beyond the primary non-participant.

It's all counterproductive and unnecessary. It's like responding to an outbreak of food poisoning by refusing to eat for five or six years, until the whole thing blows over.

Now maybe you thought that all the super sex studs of San Francisco went to the Big Hot Tub in the Sky or joined Homos Anonymous, or worse, moved to L.A.

Happily I can report that this

is not the case. San Francisco is still the city of simmering sleaze and super sex studs and we rude dudes are again setting the pace. This time it's all about getting through the '80s without dropping dead or getting bored, which rank about equal in my book.

Some of us aren't doing either one and here is how we are doing it.

A few weeks ago in a place which used to be that South of Market fuckatorium, The Catacombs, we were whipping the lizard at an event called "All Hands on Dick." This affair was followed two weeks later by the "Pan International Global Jack-Off," PIGJO for short.

Now there was a time of

course when you simply did not discuss masturbation. Standards were different then and there was no B.A.R.

Back when I was a kid, which was 900,000 years ago, nobody warned me that when you choked the chicken, it spit back.

It felt good which meant it absolutely must not be discussed with anyone. One day this innocent childish fun went TOO FAR. That little dangly thing got wounded horribly. IT BROKE! You could tell. It was all swollen and red and (oh, horror!) it was oozing at one end.

Well, I just knew I was going to die. But I did not dare discuss this disgusting disability with anyone. After all, if I hadn't been doing such a filthy thing in the first place, this would not have happened.

So I kept quiet and did the only sensible thing. I did it again. And again!

On the third day, driven with the desperation of the doomed soul, I discussed my broken weenie with the boys next door.

They were doing it too! The whole neighborhood was doing it. The whole world was doing it. We did it together. It was a fun summer.

The whole world is still doing it—but somehow, jackoff has a

bad rap. Jackoff is considered second-class sex. I wonder why.

Maybe it's anxiety. Most of us learned how to do it on the sly, ever fearful of pre-ejaculatory interruption. "Young man, what are you doing in there?" "Awwwww, Mom!"

Or take sexual shame. Please. At least when you are doing it with someone else you can pretend it's romance. I pretend it's romance all the time.

When you are doing it with yourself, it is obviously pure sex. Most of us still have enough hang-ups that sex for sex feels bad. So we put down jackoff.

Times have changed and so has the sex scene. For some, this means dusting off old hangups about sex. For others, this means being all undressed with somewhere to go: a jackoff event.

Etiquette is the key to a successful jackoff event. The one rule is do not, repeat don't, discuss real estate. This will get some dudes so excited they will pop right away and have to go home early to calculate tax write-offs.

Remember: Practice makes pervert. ■

B. Jones



Rita the Cheerleader.

(Photo: Rink)



Rita plays Ms. Claus at Christmas time.

(Photo: Rink)

Mike Hippler

ON THE OFF BEAT



Rita Rockett Powered by Love

I met her at the Cable Car Awards, shortly before she won the Dorothy Langston Award for Human Rights. She called me Mark all night long, even after I won an award of my own and though she should have known better. But I didn't mind, for until I met her I had been making a faux-pas of my own—I had always thought she was a drag queen. With a name like Rita Rockett, I reasoned, what else could she be?

Known throughout the local gay community for the brunches she serves to people with AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital, Rita even looks like a drag queen—when she dresses the part. On the Sunday after the Cable Car Awards, for instance, she struts into Ward 5-A wearing a scandalous French maid outfit, complete with lace gloves, black fishnets, frilly white socks, spiked heels, and, to top it off, red heart-shaped glasses.

"Ooh, Rita, your hair looks great," coos one of her co-workers.

"Thanks," Rita replies. "I just took it out of the box."

She does look great. But how she manages it, God only knows. She has spent most of the day before cooking 52 pounds of chicken with her friend and partner Terry Scott. The chicken, however, is only part of the day's menu. Also included are seafood mousse, tossed green salad, potato salad ("half yogurt, half mayonnaise, in case anybody asks"), homemade peach ice cream, and a host of other deserts (brownies, orange cheesecake, marble pound cake, and cherry almond tart, to be specific).

There is enough to feed a small army—and a small army is

ready to eat it, including 16 patients on Ward 5-A, 12 scattered around the hospital, their friends and family, and various doctors, nurses, and staff people. Rita usually plans on 60, which leaves lots of room for left-overs.

While Rita races around the hospital inviting people with AIDS to brunch in the patient lounge and taking orders from those who would rather stay in their rooms, a staff of dedicated volunteers serves in the lounge. These volunteers—on this day it is Tony, David, Johnny, and Richard—have been with Rita for periods ranging from a few months to over a year. Without them, her job would be infinitely more difficult.

It is Rita, however, who is always the center of attention. Every few minutes she storms into the lounge and exclaims, "Hey everybody, it's a party! And so high-tone!"

Rita began doing brunches on the ward almost two years ago, at Easter 1984. A good friend of hers, Dennis Yount, a bartender at the Eagle, was sick at the time, confined to his room, and feeling very bitter and alone. Rita planned a big party to cheer him up, but Dennis died before the party took place.

Undaunted, Rita threw the party for the other people on the ward. At first, she was concerned that her presence there would be unwelcome. She was nervous that the people at the hospital might not understand or accept what she was trying to do. But her fears were quickly allayed by an immediate outpouring of love and gratitude from patients and staff alike. Rita's brunches quickly became a standard feature of life on Ward 5-B (later

to become Ward 5-A).

For Rita, the idea of throwing a party to cheer people up comes naturally. A long-time resident of Texas, she says, "If you come from the South, whenever anything is wrong, you bring food. If somebody is sick or has died, somehow that always makes it right. It brings people together."

Bringing people together is especially important on Ward 5-A, where people seldom have the chance to gather, due to limitations imposed by their illness. This applies to family as well as to fellow patients.

One person told Rita that the Christmas dinner she gave was the first dinner his family had had together for nine years. Rita was grateful to have helped bring about this reunion. "If you can make people happy for only a few minutes," she says, "you've at least accomplished something."

Cooking and serving are not the only things Rita does at her brunches. She also entertains. At Easter, she was the Easter Bunny; at Christmas, she was Mrs. Claus. Sometimes she invites local entertainers like the Vocal Minority to perform, and she

herself tap-dances.

This is not unusual for Rita, for she has been a party girl for years, ever since she first moved to San Francisco as an ex-Navy wife from San Diego in 1977. Back then, seeking to establish a new life for herself, she used to dance on tabletops at one of the Castro area's wilder party bars. She also used to throw big parties at her home. But despite bittersweet memories of those times, Rita admits that these were parties

(Continued on page 13)

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BAY AREA REPORTER MARCH 27, 1986 PAGE 10



Dr. Betty Brooks won her case against Long Beach State University.

Classroom Spies Accuse Prof. of Teaching Porn

Lesbian Instructor Fired for Sex Education Course; State Arbitrator Rules Against University

by George Mendenhall

Dr. Betty Brooks, a self-described radical lesbian, has won a state arbitration case which would allow her to teach a course called Women and Their Bodies at Long Beach State University. State arbitrator Adolph Koven has ruled that LBSU violated its contract with Brooks when it failed to rehire her in its Women's Studies Department in 1984. Because Brooks was not rehired, she is now suing the university. The religious and political right have used this case—and five others—as a national fundraising issue.

Five lesbian professors have been fired at the Long Beach campus since the Brooks dismissal. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit to gain their reinstatement and financial loss.

Brooks believes she was dropped because of the explicit sexual content of her course which had been attacked by the political and religious right. A lawsuit, also initiated by the American Civil Liberties Union, is now pending in an attempt to win an estimated \$2,000 in back pay and reinstatement. The amount is small because she was a part-time teacher.

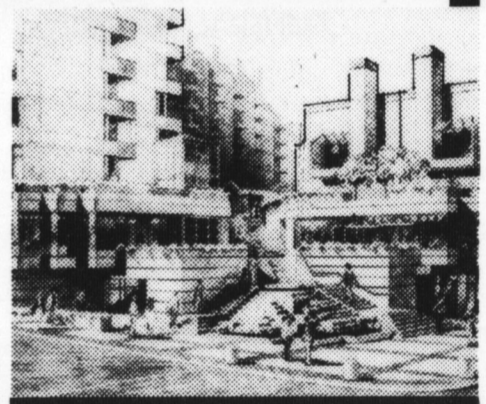
The arbitrator ruled that the university had "changed the criteria for hiring her without notifying her or the Women's Studies Department." He wrote that the university must give Brooks "careful consideration" in its hiring process. Although she had taught the course for nine years and had received high ratings from the university in the past, she was let go.

In February, 1982, a group of fundamentalist religious leaders and politicians in Long Beach approached university officials and charged that Brooks' courses were "pro-lesbian, radical and ultra-feminist." A conservative state senator, H. L. Richardson, attempted to withdraw \$1 million in LBSU funding but dropped his effort after the lawsuit was filed.

(Continued on page 13)

Have You Heard What's New South of Market?

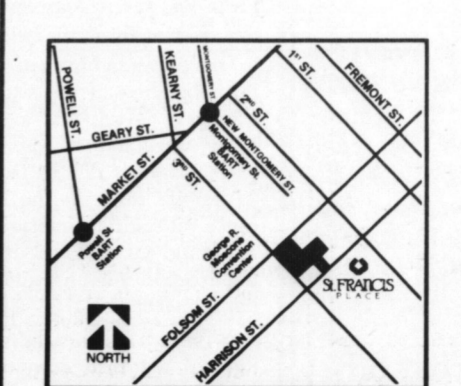
Over 200 professionals and corporate executives have already rented a new home at St. Francis Place. With our last 2 towers almost complete and only a few units left in the first 3 towers, now is the time to get in on the action! Live downtown in San Francisco's exciting new rental community!



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Animals (Photo: M. Hicks)

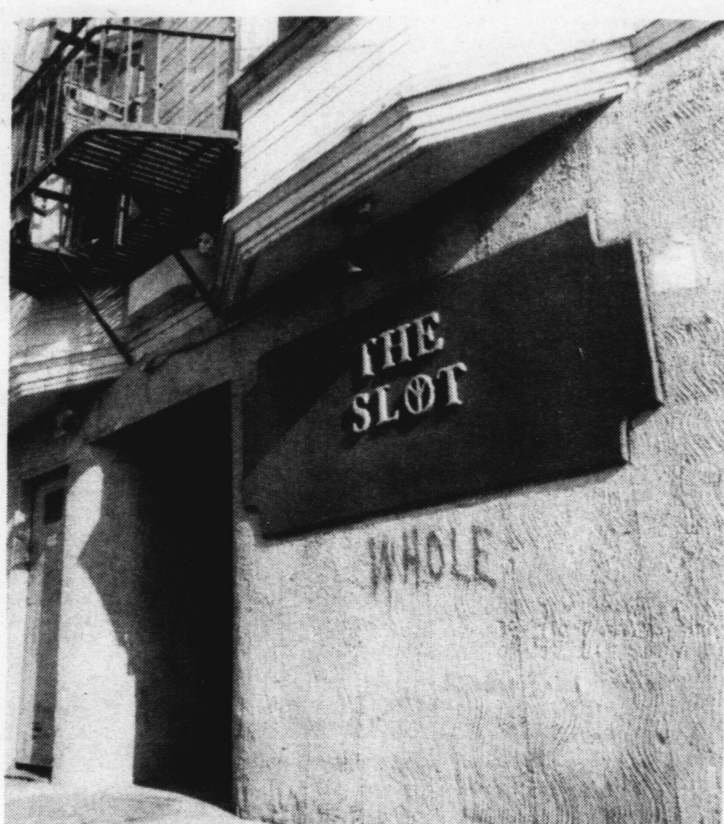
Permits Revoked

Superior Court Judge Roy Wonder ordered the hotel permits of Animals and The Slot revoked Mar. 25. Wonder's ruling came in response to Deputy City Attorney Phil Ward's complaint that the two South of Market businesses were renting rooms for unsafe sex and were not "bona fide hotels in the traditional sense."

The two businesses had claimed they were not bathhouses and were exempt from Wonder's 1984 order forbidding bathhouses from renting private rooms.

Ward submitted a report to the court from private investigators stating that owners allowed multiple unsafe sex acts to occur and were not policing their patrons as required.

Owners of the two clubs said that the court action would mean closure of their businesses.



The Slot (Photo: M. Hicks)

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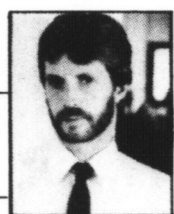


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Bridges

(continued from page 1)

a cheap motel." WCCO-TV has admitted paying for Bridges' expenses in Cleveland and Houston while the crew trailed him.

Sullivan told *Equal Time* that the "most serious issue" is whether Bridges lied to please the WCCO film crew, which had befriended him.

Sullivan directly contradicted PBS' statement that Bridges was a "homosexual prostitute." Sullivan said Bridges told the film crew that he had only one sex-for-pay encounter, for five dollars, before he lost his regular job because of AIDS.

BRIDGES' STORY

Certainly, Bridges did not start his odd odyssey to stardom as a hustler. He was a relatively well-paid worker for the Harris County (Houston), Texas Public Works Department when he was diagnosed with AIDS in July 1984.

Bridges was let go from the job when he became ill. He moved to Indianapolis, where his two sisters lived.

Meanwhile, PBS and WCCO-TV in Minneapolis jointly began planning an AIDS special focusing on anti-gay backlash. WCCO's film crew traveled to Houston in the summer of 1984 but did not find enough happening to justify a documentary, according to producer Sullivan.

Sullivan told *Equal Time* that the gay community in Houston had been "hurt badly" by its defeat in a January 1984 gay-rights referendum. The Houston gay community "were kind of on the run politically. I think it would be fair to say they would be very vulnerable" to an outbreak of AIDS hysteria.

A source in the Houston gay community told the film crew about Fabian Bridges. The original tip, Sullivan said, was that Bridges had been forced to leave Houston because no nursing home there would care for him.

For Bridges, it was the beginning of an odyssey of despair as family and authorities in a string of cities sought to banish him because of AIDS.

Bridges first went to Indianapolis, where his sisters lived. But they would not take him in, because their husbands were afraid of getting AIDS.

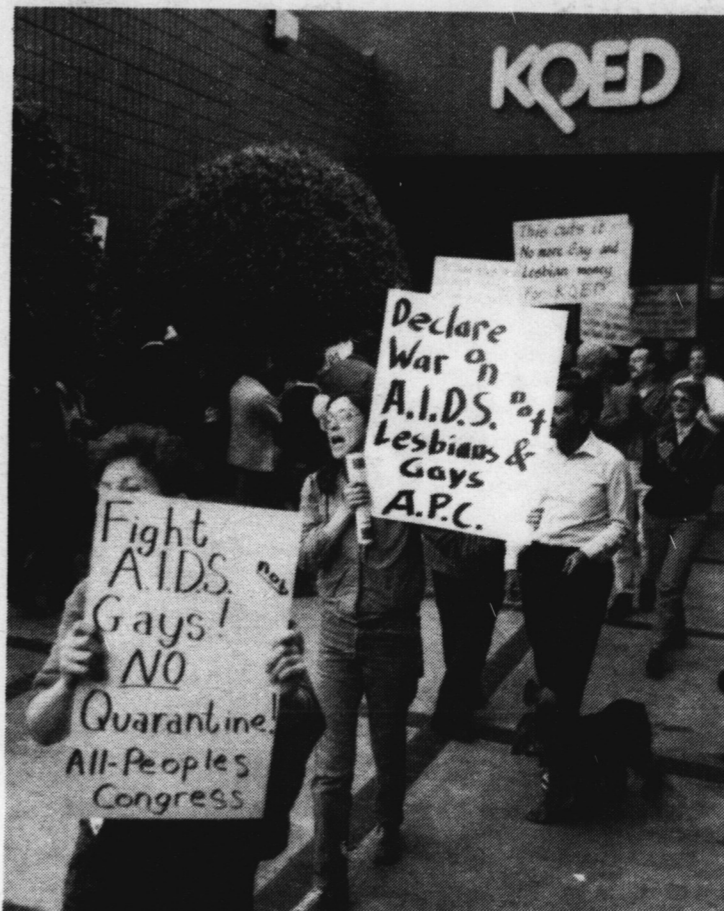
Bridges was living on the streets in Indianapolis when he was arrested for stealing a bicycle. According to producer Sullivan, "When the jailer found out he had AIDS, they hustled him right into court. The judge pulled twenty dollars out of his own pocket and said to get him out of town."

The charge was dropped in return for Bridges' promise to get out of town. Deputies put him on a bus for Cleveland, where his mother lived.

WCCO finally tracked down Bridges in Cleveland, where he was "basically wandering around." His mother, too, had banished him because her husband—Bridges' stepfather—was fearful of catching AIDS.

CASH FOR QUOTES

At this time, Sullivan acknowledged, the film crew began paying Bridges money for living expenses. At the same time, the film crew "befriended" Bridges. What Bridges did not know was that the film crew



Protestors made a lot of noise outside of KQED (Photo: M. Hicks)

also would report him to law enforcement officials and political leaders in Cleveland, and later, in Houston.

When Bridges told the film crew he was continuing to have sex, and wasn't telling people he had AIDS, "that gave us great pause," Sullivan said. They decided to inform the Cleveland Health Department.

'Something smelled funny after it seemed WCCO's team was more interested in how Houston media was reacting to the story, than to the story itself.'

—Hank Plante

Subsequently, a member of Cleveland City Council learned of the Bridges case and called a press conference. There was a media uproar about the so-called "homosexual prostitute spreading AIDS."

Cleveland City Council decided to activate its quarantine powers and forceably hold Bridges for 10 days, until further action could be decided upon. But by then, Bridges had fled town.

Bridges returned to Houston. The film crew caught up with him again, and again offered small sums of cash for his expenses. The station had admitted paying a total of \$112 to Bridges. It was a small sum, but Bridges was destitute and without income.

Bridges again claimed to be actively engaging in sex. The WCCO film crew alerted medical authorities, and the resulting publicity caused an uproar in Houston. The uproar was then filmed by the WCCO film crew for PBS. The documentary team had finally gotten the AIDS backlash they were looking for—by creating it.

This occurred in early October, when Houston was in the midst of a vicious anti-gay mayoral campaign. The Bridges case was picked up by the Houston "straight slate" and used by mayoral candidate Louie Welch, who said that one way to stop the spread of AIDS "is to shoot the queers."

The PBS film on Bridges makes no mention of the political background in Houston at the time of the Bridges ex-

tired, confused black gay man," Hill told the *New York Native*. "I walked up to him and said, 'Mr. Bridges, I am Ray Hill. Can I be your friend?' In our conversation, I found out that everything the police told me about him was not true."

Hill said that Bridges did threaten to prostitute himself if he did not get help—but never acted on the threat. Hill said that the herpes lesions covering Bridges' body below the waist would have prevented him from prostitution.

The film crew's handling of the Bridges case drew disgust from mainstream journalists as well as gay activists.

Hank Plante first exposed the film crew's relationship to Bridges, in a report on KRIVTV in Houston. Plante is now a reporter for KPIX-TV here. Plante said, "Something smelled funny after it seemed WCCO's team was more interested in how Houston media was reacting to the story, than to the story itself."

On Oct. 23, the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* exposed the film crew's link to the Bridges case. Television critic Nick Coleman wrote, "WCCO was wrong, wrong, wrong to be giving money to a subject of a news documentary."

Claude Peck, a gay radio broadcaster in Minneapolis, said the film crew and its resulting PBS story on Bridges "hit a new low in journalistic and moral standards."

"WCCO's relationship with Bridges so far has been sickeningly exploitative, whether viewed by the standards of journalism or by the standards of human kindness and decency," Peck said.

Peck accused the film crew of "fact bashing" and said, "It sounds like Bridges may have mental problems. He certainly has financial and health problems. What he needed was a real friend, not the false hand of friendship offered by WCCO producers."

Bridges' problems are over now. He died Nov. 4 in Houston. He was 30 years old.

But the problems for the gay community—concocted out of the questionable PBS handling of a dying man and the fear toward him—may just be beginning.

B. Jones

Stonewall Hears Candidates

Recent members of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club whose dues are in arrears will have the opportunity to renew their membership and vote on endorsements for the June primary election at the April 7 meeting of Stonewall. New members must have been affiliated with Stonewall at least 30 days in order to vote. This rule is designed to prevent packing of meetings by pressure groups.

All Democratic candidates in the June primary election will be invited to speak at the meeting. Political vice president John Wahl is contacting all Democratic office-seekers whose candidacy will be determined in the primary.

Bruce Pettit will analyze the ten San Francisco city propositions which will appear on the June ballot. The ten state propositions will be analyzed and discussed at the May meeting of Stonewall.

The Stonewall Gay Democratic Club meets on the first Monday of each month at the MCC at 150 Eureka Street in the Castro District. Business meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., following a half-hour social session.

Mr. Financial District

The S.F. AIDS Fund in cooperation with the Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights proudly announce the 2nd Annual Mr. Financial District contest to be held at Sutter's Mill, on Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10, which includes a free drink.

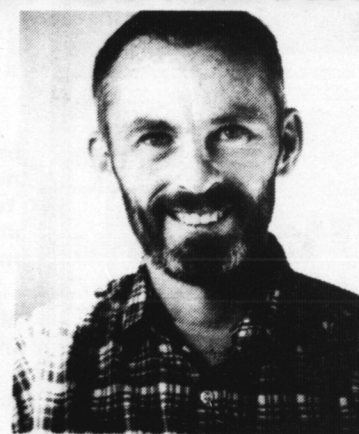
There will be celebrity judges, and prizes and commemorative plaques will be awarded to the three winners.

Contestant application forms are now available from any bartender at Sutter's Mill. Independent contestant fee is \$10, sponsored contestant fee is \$25.

There will be entertainment, an art auction, and a raffle. First prize is a \$4,500 fur coat, and there are many other prizes. Tickets \$2, 6 for \$10.

All proceeds go to the S.F. AIDS Fund, an all volunteer organization giving direct financial grants to people with AIDS.

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Bobby Reynolds
Shanti Board of Directors


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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 28

- Diablo Valley MCC:** Good Friday Tennebrae Service, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 7:30 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Bleeding Catholic Children:** stage presentation, Theatre Des Vampyres, Artists Television Access, 220 8th St., S.F., \$4. Call 548-7728 for details.
- Golden Gate MCC:** Good Friday observance, 48 Belcher St., S.F. (between 14th and Duboce Sts.), 7:30 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- Over Our Heads with Karen Ripley:** comedy cabaret, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- Last Call with Danny Williams:** comedy, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Call 861-5079 for details.
- Patty Wolfe:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 cover, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- Tennessee Williams:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., 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 Bertha*.
- 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.



Sue Fink will play the Baybrick April 2.

FRIDAY 28

- Different Spokes:** Bike-a-Thon registration, Hibernia Beach, Castro & 18th Sts., 9 AM-6 PM.
- The White Party . . . "An Evening in Paris":** Easter party, Trocadero Transfer, 520 Fourth St., S.F., 10 PM until Easter sunrise, \$15 (Troc ID not required). Special entertainment includes Tamaine Hawkins. White attire suggested. Call 495-0185 for details.
- Olivia Records Showcase:** spring concert, Zellerbach Auditorium, UC Berkeley, 7:30 PM, \$12.50 reserved, \$10.50 (under 12, over 60, disabled). Concert promoters Olivia Records and Cal Performances present Cris Williamson, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie, Tret Fure and Deidre McCalla and MC Judy Sloan. Call 655-0364 for details.
- Persephone Uprising!** Spring Ritual and Creativity Day for all women warriors, John Hinkel Park, Berkeley, 9 AM-4:30 PM, cost: 3 percent of your monthly income or \$30. Presentations, creative meditation workshops, participatory ritual, potluck picnic, skills and crafts exchange. Call 848-1364 for details.
- March Food Drive for the AIDS Food Bank:** AAA Studio, 233 14th St., 12 PM-6 PM. Bring bottled juices, vitamins, canned stews, toothpaste, tuna, cat-sup, corn flakes, razors, toilet paper, shampoo. Can't bring food? Send a check! Call 861-8180 for details.
- Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Play Monopoly, Risk, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Sorry and other games.
- International Gathering of Women:** Good Samaritan Community Center, 1292 Potrero Ave. (at 25th St.), S.F., 10 AM-4 PM. \$3 donation. Panelists include Selma James, founder of the International Wages for Housework Campaign; Wilmette Brown, author of *Black Women and the Peace Movement*; Clotil Walcott,



Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie, plus Chris Williamson, Tret Fure, and Deidre McCalla will be at the Zellerbach for an Olivia Records Showcase March 29. Bring a can of food for the AIDS Foundation Food Bank. (Photo: M. Hicks)

SUNDAY 30

- Different Spokes:** Bike-a-Thon preview bike run, McLaren Lodge, Stanyan and Oak Sts., 10 AM. A 25-mile, *magically flat* S.F. route for all those who want to get in shape for the May 3 Bike-a-Thon. Call 282-3032 for details.
- Different Spokes:** Bike-a-Thon registration, Hibernia Beach, Castro & 18th Sts., 9 AM-6 PM.
- Diablo Valley MCC:** Easter Worship Services, sunrise service at 6 AM, Concord Blvd. Park (next to Concord High School); Easter Morning celebration at 10 AM at MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Dignity:** Easter Mass, St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate (near Civic Center), S.F., 5:30 PM.
- 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.
- 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.)
- Different Spokes:** Decide 'N Ride, meet at the Rockridge BART station, 10 AM. Call 481-2487 for details.
- Affirmation (Gay and Lesbian Mormons):** picnic and Easter egg hunt in Lakeside Park, 1 PM. Call 641-4554 for details.
- The Rytho-Matics:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5 cover.
- Leola Jiles:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 7 PM.
- Easter Day Champagne Tea Dance:** n' Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 7 PM-2 AM, \$1.
- Conjunto Cespedes:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$5.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** Stow Lake, 1-5 miles, 10 AM. Meet at Stow Lake Bathhouse, Golden Gate Park. Call 474-9424 or 673-7303 for details.
- San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike, Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Meet under the big Safeway sign near Market and Church. Call 928-2176 for details.
- Different Spokes/Peninsula-South Bay:** Decide-'N-Ride, meet in Neiman-Marcus parking lot of Stanford Center, Palo Alto, 10 AM.



Easter Sunday is your last chance to see the Vocal Minority Go RPM at the Nova Theatre (Photo: A. McClintock)

WEDNESDAY 2

- Diablo Valley MCC:** Bible Study and Prayer & Praise Worship, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord. Bible Study at 7 PM. Prayer & Praise Worship at 8:15 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Sue Fink:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM.
- Ann Dyer and Ed Kelley:** music, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM, 10 PM, \$5 cover.
- Levitation:** stage presentation, Theatre Rhinoceros, 8:30 PM (see Friday for details).
- 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 Nanoshka 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.
- Levitation:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 8:30 PM (see Friday for details).
- Men's Rap Group:** led by George Birmisa, 711 Eddy St., S.F., 2:45 PM.

MONDAY 31


- XXX Safe Sex Forum:** MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10:30 PM. Free, but space is limited. Call 863-2437 for reservations and details. Sponsored by S.F. AIDS Foundation and Sexologists Sexual Health Project.
- AIDS Healing Service:** MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 6:30 PM. Sponsored by the Metaphysical Alliance, along with the AIDS Interfaith Network.
- 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.

TUESDAY 1

- Different Spokes:** membership meeting, S.F. Public Library, 1833 Page St. (near Cole), 7:30 PM.
- Until December:** record release party, I-Beam, 1748 Haight (near Cole), S.F., 6 PM.
- 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 431-6245 for more details.
- 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.

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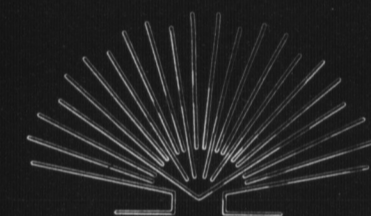
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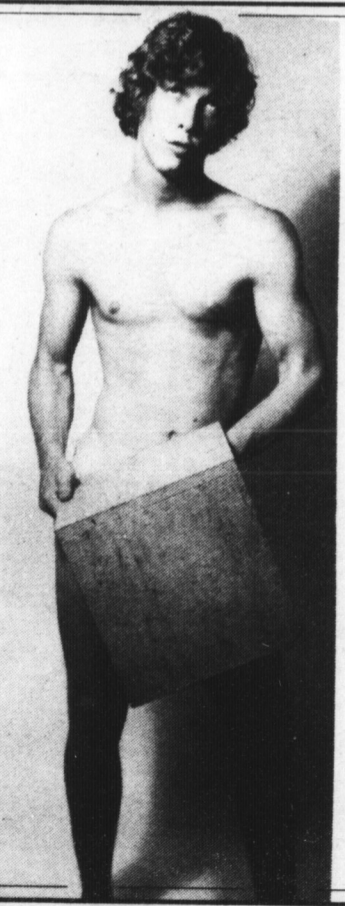
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Jane Rule at Stanford

'What's a Nice Girl Like You Writing Stuff Like This For?'

by Gerard Koskovich

With more than 30 years of writing behind her, Jane Rule has established herself as an incisive and profoundly sensitive novelist. Rule has published a distinguished body of work, starting with *Desert of the Heart* (1964), that weaves the experience of her community—the gay community—into a broad and varied tapestry of lives.

With the release of *Desert Hearts*, the feature film based on Rule's classic lesbian love story, the author is certain to win even wider recognition.

A naturalized Canadian citizen, Rule grew up in Palo Alto. She graduated from Palo Alto High School, studied as an undergraduate at Mills College in Oakland, then briefly attended Stanford University.

'People who write their hearts out and never get published are not writers, they're idiots.'

—Jane Rule



Rule returned to Stanford recently for a visit to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, the second oldest gay student organization in the nation. Eighty-five people—a mix of gay and non-gay, women and men—crowded the GLAS offices in the Old Firehouse on the Stanford campus to hear her speak.

Of her one quarter as a Stanford graduate student in English in 1953, Rule said, "Nobody was out—not even Christopher Isherwood!" But Rule was open about her lesbianism. "I was writing material that would make it perfectly clear to anyone," she said.

Rule's Stanford writing professor, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Wallace Stegner, did his best to discourage her honesty. "What's a nice girl like you writing stuff like this for?" she recalls him asking. "You must

have read Gertrude Stein, and I don't approve of her!"

Asked how she found the courage to publish *Desert of the Heart* in the early 1960s, Rule reviewed the years after she left Stanford. "I finished that book just before I turned 30," she said. "I had been writing seriously for 10 years and I had published one short story. When I set out to write *Desert of the Heart*, it never crossed my mind that it would be published.

"People who write their hearts out and never get published are not writers," Rule said. "They're idiots. And I had been confronted with that idiocy. I thought I should stop writing, and I did—for six months or so."

Rule found that she couldn't resist her calling and returned to write *Desert of the Heart*. On finishing the novel, Rule said, "I looked at it and I thought for the

first time, 'Oh my god, I think this may, in fact, be publishable! Now what am I going to do?'"

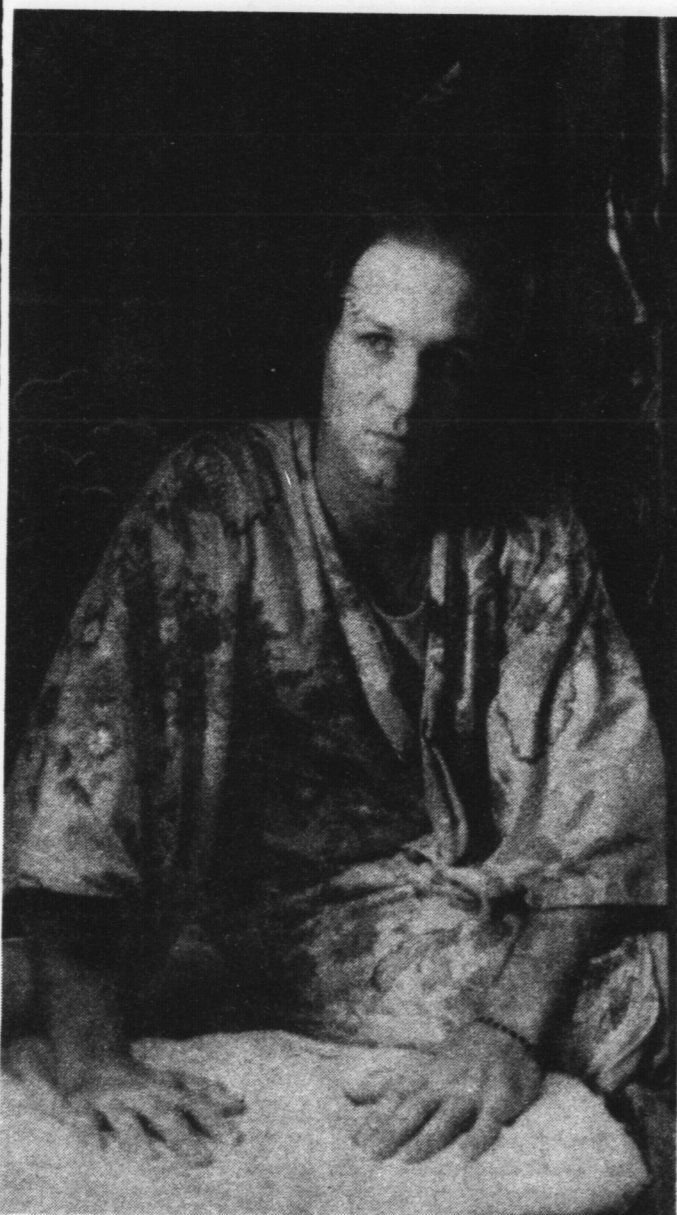
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Jerome Moskowitz

(Photo: C. Toloui)

All My Children

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by Jon Sugar

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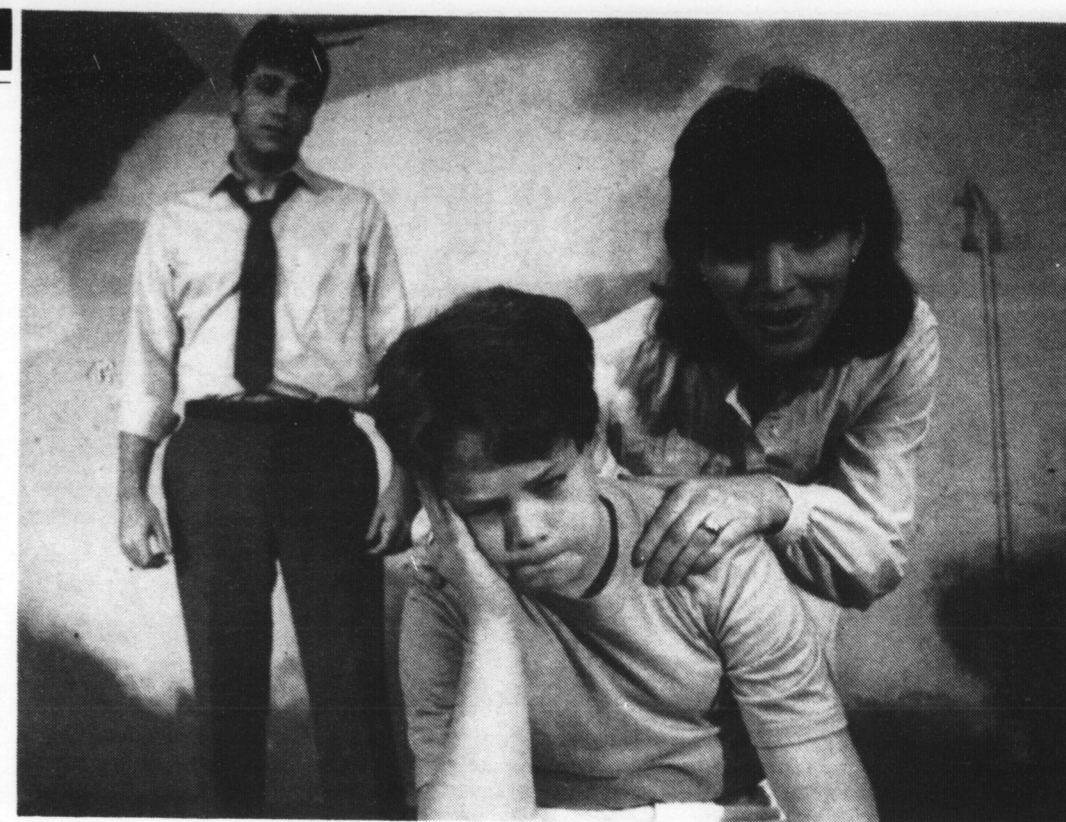
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Jane Rule at Stanford

'What's a Nice Girl Like You Writing Stuff Like This For?'

by Gerard Koskovich

With more than 30 years of writing behind her, Jane Rule has established herself as an incisive and profoundly sensitive novelist. Rule has published a distinguished body of work, starting with *Desert of the Heart* (1964), that weaves the experience of her community—the gay community—into a broad and varied tapestry of lives.

With the release of *Desert Hearts*, the feature film based on Rule's classic lesbian love story, the author is certain to win even wider recognition.

A naturalized Canadian citizen, Rule grew up in Palo Alto. She graduated from Palo Alto High School, studied as an undergraduate at Mills College in Oakland, then briefly attended Stanford University.

'People who write their hearts out and never get published are not writers, they're idiots.'

—Jane Rule



Rule returned to Stanford recently for a visit to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, the second oldest gay student organization in the nation. Eighty-five people—a mix of gay and non-gay, women and men—crowded the GLAS offices in the Old Firehouse on the Stanford campus to hear her speak.

Of her one quarter as a Stanford graduate student in English in 1953, Rule said, "Nobody was out—not even Christopher Isherwood!" But Rule was open about her lesbianism. "I was writing material that would make it perfectly clear to anyone," she said.

Rule's Stanford writing professor, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Wallace Stegner, did his best to discourage her honesty. "What's a nice girl like you writing stuff like this for?" she recalls him asking. "You must

have read Gertrude Stein, and I don't approve of her!"

Asked how she found the courage to publish *Desert of the Heart* in the early 1960s, Rule reviewed the years after she left Stanford. "I finished that book just before I turned 30," she said. "I had been writing seriously for 10 years and I had published one short story. When I set out to write *Desert of the Heart*, it never crossed my mind that it would be published.

"People who write their hearts out and never get published are not writers," Rule said, "they're idiots. And I had been confronted with that idiocy. I thought I should stop writing, and I did—for six months or so."

Rule found that she couldn't resist her calling and returned to write *Desert of the Heart*. On finishing the novel, Rule said, "I looked at it and I thought for the

first time, 'Oh my god, I think this may, in fact, be publishable! Now what am I going to do?'"

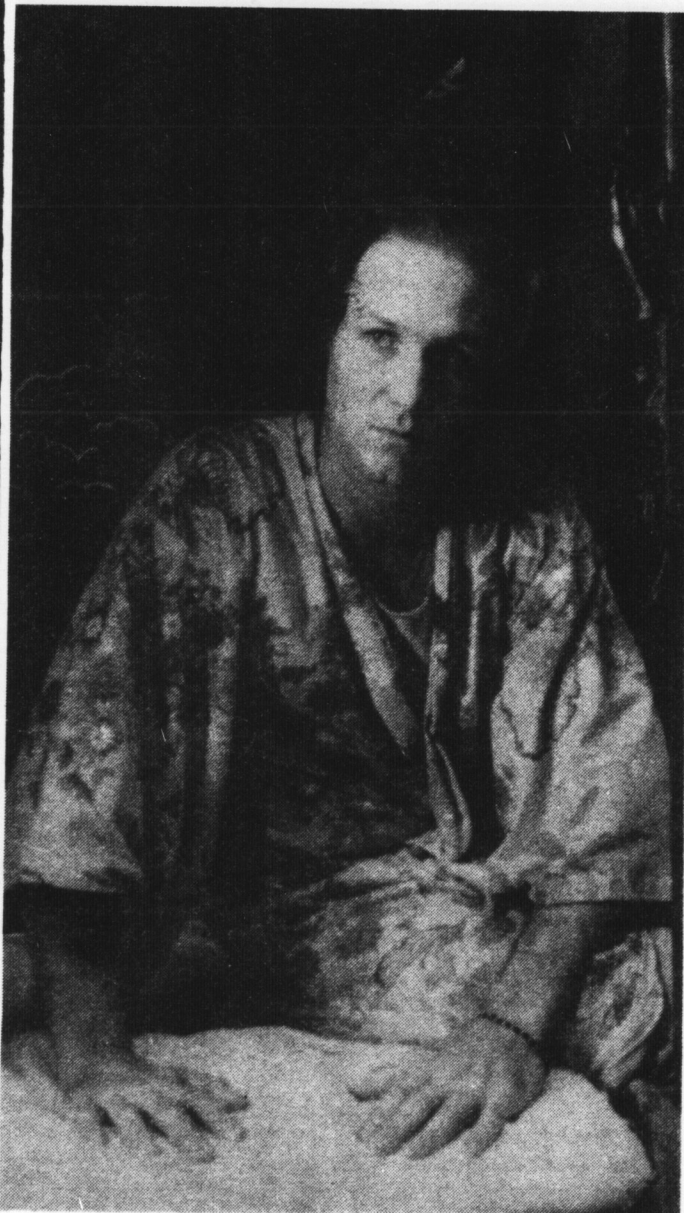
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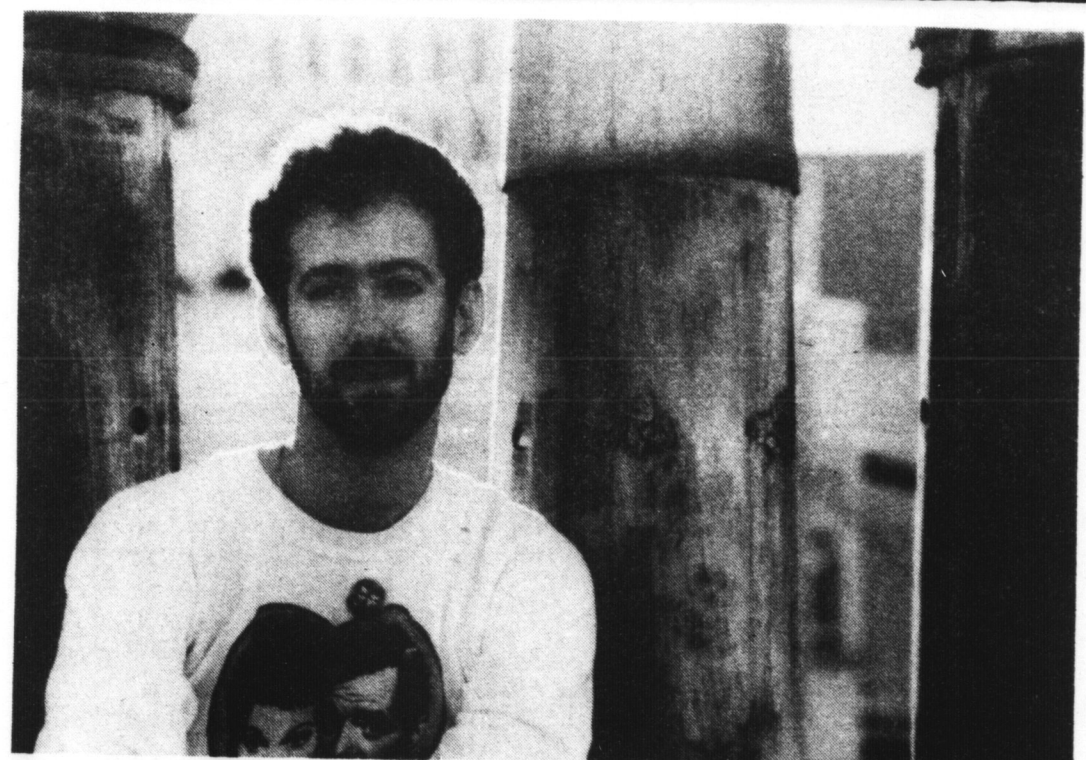
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The players are five women whose lights burn brightly in very different ways. Roo Brown, a veteran of the original New York cast, is a sharp comedian who also creates a tender, sensitive picture of two women sharing the end of their lives in "Sisters." I don't generally warm to songs about the poignancy of family relationships, but Chesley Ann Santoro's rendition of "The Portrait," aided by director Charles Abbot's stunning staging, won me over.

Karla Burns is smashing as the Bessie Smith figure, and in just about everything else she does. Her torch number in

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For Information, page 158

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BACK TO BATON

PHILIP CAMPBELL

Sense and Sensibility

I doubt whether anyone would deny the existence of a gay sensibility in the arts. It may be difficult to define, but it sure is easy to find. The spoken and written word has been served by an endless list of creators, enriching the medium itself and the world at large. So, too, from painting to dance comes a cavalcade of artists who happen also to be gay. But is there a gay music?

From Benjamin Britten to Samuel Barber and Ned Rorem we can easily find openly homosexual composers, but does that mean their music is gay? In the ultimate analysis, I think not. Music is a universal language transcending such categorization. Still, the need to come out seems obvious for every field of endeavor, so I am happy to report the invaluable presence of the Society of Lesbian and Gay Composers.

While the world of music is less homophobic than others, there is a definite need for a performance outlet showcasing and nurturing gay talent. This makes the remarkable success of the Society all the more satisfying.

The concert staged last Sunday in the cozy Noe Valley Ministry proved the diversity of the gay community, and yielded enough good material and exciting performers to fill several columns with raves and many more matinees with delicious entertainment.

It is difficult knowing where to concentrate. Everyone involved, from organizers to participants, deserves enthusiastic praise. Perhaps the best means of conveying the richness of the afternoon is in a review of the compositions. They are, after all, the parts of the day that will live forever.

Jon O'Bergh's "Timescape 2" immediately established the degree of competence which propelled the concert through a dizzying range of styles and attitudes. Violinist Valerie Tisdal made the most of the lovely singing lines given her by the composer, who ably accompanied on the piano. The title is an apt description of this dreamlike reverie, rooted in late 19th century romanticism and the spiky lyricism of the early 20th.

Of all the delights in store, I was most engrossed by "Four Delineations of Curtmantle" by Seattle-based Karen P. Thomas. Describing various moments in the life of Henry II of England, including his all-important relationship with Thomas Becket, "Curtmantle" is both subtle evocation and bravura display for solo tenor trombone. Reminiscent of Ned Rorem's sketches for cello, but thoroughly original, Thomas has written a tone poem for a very difficult instrument and managed to convey a distant moment with beautiful insight. Soloist Monique Buzzarte played with dedication and no small share of insight herself.

Robert C. Chesley almost sabotaged the rendition of his "Three Poems of Thomas Hardy" with a self-deprecating program note complaining of the regressive influence of his wife, who filled him with a "fey idealism" and "dilletantish productivity." Really, Chester might thank her for giving him the ability to write a catchy tune, as in the first song, and a knack for



Valerie Tisdal (r.) and Stephen Damonte react to applause at the Society of Lesbian and Gay Composers concert (Photo: M. Hicks)

matching text with gracious vocal line. Soprano Kristen Norderval filled the room with a clear, vibratoless tone that gave these quasi-Victorian numbers a genuine appeal.

Paul Attinello also hedged his bets by giving too many nods to the composers who have influenced him. Boulez and Scriabin are hovering above his extended song for Soprano (a dauntless Renee Fladen-Kamm) called "Boyelles," but his inspiration is strong enough to go without undue explanation.

Matthew McQueen's "One Punk to a Bunk" is more of a performance piece than a standard recital item, but it was enjoyable enough for the campy, half-assed reading it was given. A sort of "Gee, Officer Krupke" on Polk Street. The voices employed were excellent: Philip Horvitz, Karl Brown, Jim Tyler, and the composer. The central punk in question was "danced" by an uncredited performer, and conductor Sid Trice was listed as Alto Saxophone, which he may be better at, though he looked "mahvellous" in Midnight Cowboy drag.

Concluding the slightly top-heavy first half was central organizer Rodger D. Pettyjohn's *Three Movements from Missa Amatoria*: "Foreplay," "Orgasm," and "Resolution." The movements are certainly closely aligned with their titles and the entire piece is pleasant listening, but once again I wished the composer had let the music speak for itself. Musicians and painters really should learn to leave the poetry to the poets. Pettyjohn might also consider re-orchestrating this piece.

I can understand why composers like Andrew Lloyd Webber are increasingly dependent on synthesizers to create orchestral sounds. It saves a bundle in pay for union players. Why someone would take an electronic instrument and then force it to sound like an organ is beyond me, however. I kept thinking how much less gimmicky and more beautiful this blend of "new age" a la Tomita or Mannheim Steamroller would have sounded scored for something truly novel, like piano, organ,

and drums. It's easier to get a performance when you don't have to use an organ, though and I did like the score even if it veered a little too close to pop for my taste.

Two extremely brief Satie-inspired pieces by Jane Geren opened the second half and left me hungry, but pianist Stephen Damonte was just right with his deft touch. Another short, two-movement work with distinct influences from Francis Poulenc called "Duo" for violoncello and clarinet revealed an accomplished technique from writer Louis Sacriste, coupled with a charming lyrical wit. Gwyneth Davis and Minnie Koche played beautifully.

The afternoon's second foray into computer generated music was closer to what I want from electronic instruments. There was never any doubt that a machine was making these sounds, but the high spirits and very amusing humor of composer Karl Brown was abundantly clear. Sensibly scrapping the notion of "programme," Brown made us laugh and marvel at his impressive invention. "Thank You Very Much" for processed telephones earned a hearty and delighted ovation.

The longest composition and, arguably, the most ambitious, Stephen Damonte's "Sonata for Violin and Piano" ended the concert and gave a nice symmetry to all that had preceded it. The work itself could use some trimming. There are enough ideas for several pieces and it starts to come unravelled towards the end, but there is a unique talent involved here and the moments of reflection and song are very lovely. Once again Violinist Valerie Tisdal showed her understanding and some understandable strain. Damonte played the piano part himself. I must assume it was definitive.

The Society of Lesbian and Gay composers is obviously an able lot, worthy of much wider recognition. I certainly hope they will be encouraged by the success of last Sunday and give us many more memorable matinees. A candle light concert featuring selected artists would be more than welcome too. ■

EVEN IN BABYLON

No Comprendo la Blues

JOHN F. KARR

Who could have expected a white boy like me would become a guardian of authentic style in black music? But enduring the deluge of distorted material which comprises the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's current musical revue, *In the House of the Blues*, made me such a watchdog. The audience seemed all too happy to applaud any illogic of musical history and every confusion of script in this revue, which purports to offer an overview of blues history as well as a lesson in the spirit of the blues.

The opening numbers of the show pose a big jump—from an African polyrhythmic chant to a slick "Satin Doll"—but a possible one. But what are we to make of a Tin Pan Alley cliche like "Sleepy Time Down South," or a Cab Calloway who sings not his theme song or one of the more appropriate reefer-tunes with which he scandalized, but Eddie Cantor's hit, "Makin' Whoopee"? Not only does the tune have nothing to do with the blues and little to do with Calloway, but it conjures the picture of Eddie Cantor performing in his usual style: blackface. The topper to the uninformed content of *In the House of the Blues*, though, is a dramatic confrontation between Bessie Smith and her lover. A painful leavetaking, it propels Bessie not into some classic four bar moan, but the

Jewish-based Tin Pan Alley weeper, "I'm Afraid the Masquerade is Over"—wrong period, wrong style; how I'd love to hear the cussing retort the real Bessie would deliver if she found this tune in her mouth!

Such wrong-headed choices of song are amplified by a stage band that knows only one arrangement and, it seems, only one key, so that the show becomes tonally wearying. The choreography of Halifu Osmare straddles the second-rate ballet of Las Vegas adagio and Hollywood B. musicals, neither appropriate. The script, by David Charles and director Buddy Butler, is all muddle and mystification, a demi-Twilight Zone of ghost story and platitude. Hardly touching the social factors of a changing society which led to the blues' demise, the script leaves the performers floundering under the amateurish direction of Butler, which demonstrates if, not why the blues died, then how it is being killed today.

The skeletal plot of the show should have been a strong enough conceit upon which to hang a parade of musical numbers. An efficient, nonsense black law student, Melody, inherits the club where Bessie Smith played her last engagement. Ignorant of the club's history—and therefore the music of her people—Melody is visited by the ghosts of the past



Jesse Moore (l.), Denise Perrier, and Jonathan Wilson in *In House of the Blues* (Photo: A. Nomura)

who embue her with their knowledge and talent, so that her musical heritage can once again blossom.

The musical ghosts include the famous—Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Alberta Hunter, Billie Holiday, Calloway, and more—and the near forgotten, like Mamie Smith, the first black woman recorded, and the hysterically funny, off-color vaudeville team of Butterbeans and Susie. Wish that sounded as good on stage as it does in synopsis, but the incessant script won't get out of the way, and the highlighted performers are lost in a maze of trivial numbers, confused chronology, sloppy direction, and indulgent performance.

There is a good deal of talent

among the cast, although little of it has been properly channeled and much is of the energy-isolated school. Butler has wisely had his performers elicit the mood of a star rather than attempt an impersonation, and this works for some strong performers, like Margarette Robinson as Ma Rainey, or the composed Billie Holiday of a woman whose name I can't track down. It works less well for Velina Brown as Melody, who seems uncomfortable all evening and whose small vocal range cannot encompass the musical chores asked of it. The highly touted Denise Perrier seems miscast as Bessie. Perrier is a beautiful woman with a bewitching smile and a saxophone voice. She has Bessie's regal poise, and sings

earnestly—taken by most for soulfully—but she's as uncommitted as Bessie was committed, gliding over Bessie like a high fashion model on a runway of four bar blues. Perrier's night club manner and voice make a perfect picture of Hildegard exactly where something visceral is needed.

In the House of the Blues is a stiff and confused evening, its script reaching for allusions and resonances it simply can't sustain. It's the opening production of the rather wonderful, large theater of the new Zephyr Theatre complex at Van Ness and Market, but needs pruning and rehearsals to become a proper show, or to serve the music it bows to. It plays through April 27; 474-8800. ■

STAGE

Good Soporific

By Stephen Drewes

Waves of apathy swept through the audiences at the Curran Theatre last Thursday when *Pump Boys and Dinettes* opened for what I

suspect will be a very limited run. The only surprising thing about this show is that the producers felt it might be attractive to San Francisco audiences.



Guy Strobel (kneeling), Jason Edwards, Richard Perrin, and John Schimmel make up the Pump Boys of *Pump Boys and Dinettes*

Wrong, wrong, wrong!

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a collection of 19 unmemorable, ersatz-1950s country western songs concerning, as I recall, the joys of life far from the Maddening Crowd, which are tied together by not very much. It takes place in the Double Cupp Diner, which I think may be in Texas somewhere. The four Pump Boys and the Cupp Sisters decide to go to Florida, which they do, and then they come back. That, believe it or not, is the entire plot.

The performers of this piece are, on the whole, an attractive and spirited group. The Cupp sisters are played by Mary Gutzi and Donna Watton, and the Pumpers by Jason Edwards, Richard Perrin, John Schimmel, and Guy Strobel. They all sing well, move easily, and play their

instruments competently, but it would take a great deal more than mere amiability to overcome this cliché-ridden material.

'The only surprising thing about this show is that the producers felt it might be attractive to San Francisco audiences.'

We get the nerd with the secret something that makes the gals love him (I wonder what that might be), the cheerful hayseed who's enjoying a love/hate relationship with the harder-bitten of the two Cupps, and yawn and yawn. The set, on the other hand, is a stunner. It is beautifully designed and intricately

decorated by Doug Johnson and Christopher Nowak. The costumes work well, and the real star of the evening is lighting designer B.J. McCourty, who has pulled all the stops out with a vengeance.

To do it justice, *Pump Boys and Dinettes* would probably work a lot better in a smaller house—it's been playing for three years in Chicago, I'm told—but in the vastness of the Curran it's fluff in the wind. It's an effective soporific, though. My companion of the evening, a lady with a lot more energy than I'm ever likely to have, had fallen into a gentle doze by the end of the first act. Being the wiser of the two, she elected to retire at halftime. I wish I could have joined her. ■

Pump Boys and Dinettes
Curran Theatre

Closet Ball 1986

Galleria Design Center May 10, 8:30 PM

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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

G.S.L. UPDATE

Opening Day Spectacle Set for Sunday

Are you ready for another of those super shows the Gay Softball League puts on for its opening game? Sunday at noon at Lang Field, Turk and Gough Streets, will be the site of this year's ninth GSL season opening game.

The two teams vying against each other will be Rawhide II and the Pilsner Inn. Without a doubt these two teams have the largest followings in the league, and both expect larger than normal turnouts for this game.

According to the history of the league, the Pilsner should be slight favorites in the game because the team made the greatest opening day game comeback win in the history of the league to date. Down 10-0 after four innings, the Penguins came back to win.

Last year, the "old" Rawhide team was thrashed by Festus in the opening game, but this year's edition will prove a more formidable foe for the Pilsner because it is a completely new team, headed by Michael Bulwitt.

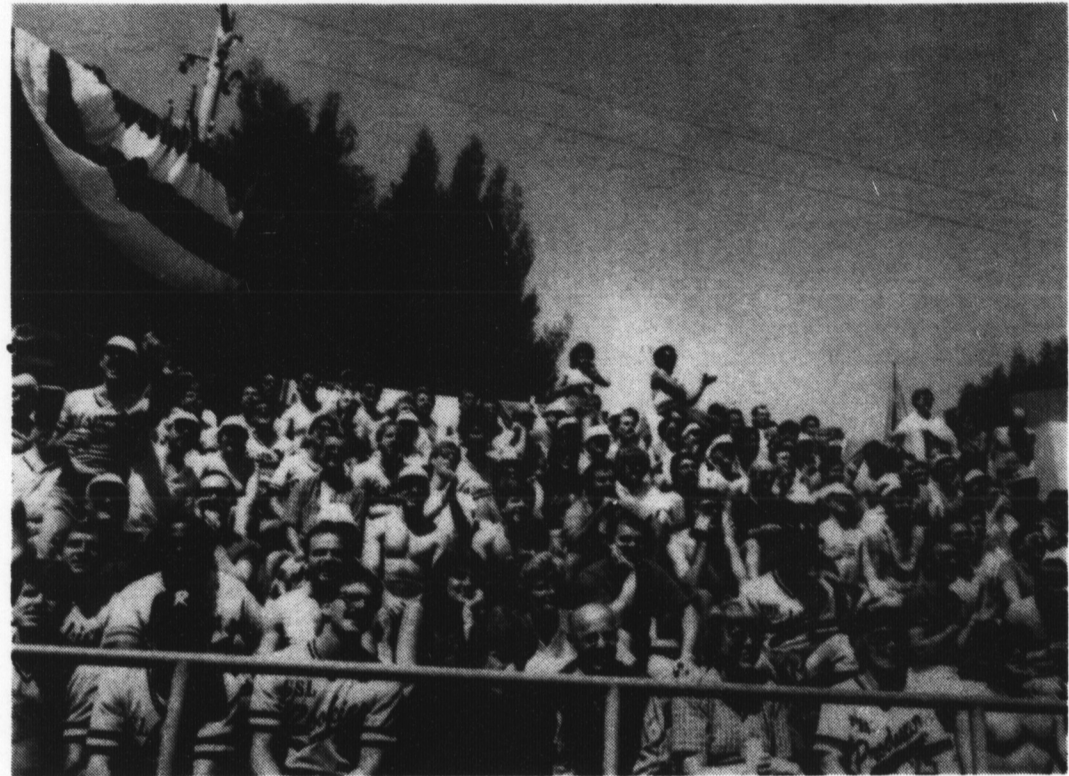
If the game itself doesn't excite you, how about the festivities that preceded the game?

Lang Field will be festooned with flags, banners, and balloons the likes of which have never been seen. Hot music will embellish the events on the field, as will the women and men there, especially if it's a hot day.

The parade of teams, some in spanking-new uniforms, with their team colors flying high, is not to be missed. Tony Treviso will honor our friends with AIDS by releasing thousands of balloons before the National Anthem is finished. Someone known only to the executive board will throw out the first ball. Usually a local celebrity from the entertainment or political arena is chosen. The words "play ball" will be bellowed by the umpire, and so will begin another great opening day for the GSL.

Beer and hot dogs will be hawked by members of various GSL teams throughout the day for a donation of \$1 each. Maybe Bob Cramer of Cable Car Awards fame will honor us with a few cases of peanuts as he did last year, completing the scenario for the game.

After the game everyone is encouraged to join the GSL at the



Join the crowds at the GSL opening game

TOM VINDEED

Trocadero Transfer for an afternoon of mad-cap dancing to the great sounds of the Troc's music. Admission is only \$3. When was the last time you got into the Troc for only \$3? I'll bet commissioner Rick Brattin will come up with that famous dance contest that is always a big hit at

GSL dances.

Some members of the board have worked very hard to make this the best opening game ever, and if the gay community supports the GSL as it has in the past, it will be the best yet. Join the fun. You won't regret it or forget it.

of yours, come out and support that team. All schedules will be listed in the Bay Area Reporter each week for the next four months of what is certainly the best gay softball in the nation. We are gay, and proud of it.

GOLDEN GATE DIVISION

Bear Hollow
Phone Booth
Village
Amelia's
Cafe Sn. Marcos
Rawhide II
Captain Video
Hunks
Pilsner Inn

BARBARY COAST DIVISION

Badlands
Kokpit
Ginger's
Eagle
Pendulum
Trax
Castro Travel
Gangway

Believe it or not, there are other goings on in the city besides the opening game. April 3 at 8 p.m. Trax will hold an auction for its team, with 25 percent of the proceeds going to the Shanti Project. April 5 the Sisters' 5th Annual Basketball Extravaganza will be held at Kezar Pavilion. Tickets are on sale at both Headlines stores, and proceeds will benefit Gay Games II. This will surely be an unforgettable evening, right Gilbert?

Getting back to softball, below are the 17 teams that represent the GSL for the 1986 season. If one of the sponsors is a favorite



Join the pedalpushers at the second AIDS Bike-A-Thon May 3. You can ride a flat 25-mile course in the city, or a more challenging 100-mile course. Look for the registration booth at Hibernia Beach this weekend, or call 771-0677.

LEAGUE BOWL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Emphasis on Achievement

With both the Community and Tavern Guild leagues swiftly approaching the last evenings of the Winter 85/86 season, the shuffling for positions has become particularly intense. However, in spite of a general tendency in this now-or-never period to reach beyond one's recognized abilities, it would be difficult indeed to surpass some of the unique achievements realized earlier in the season.

A few examples of first-ers are: Doug Litwin of the Wed-CommLea Contour Gals bowled a perfect 300 game; Patty Oates of the SunWomBusLea Amelia's team achieved a fantastic 720 scratch series; Jerry De Young of the WedTavGldLea Pendulum Pandas realized a rare Dutch 200 game; while Adrian Stenson of the same league bowled a beautiful game of one open frame, one spare frame, followed by a string of 10 strikes, finishing with a dizzying 268 game. Also, on 3/19, the Play With It, Ltd. team, in spite of suffering a 10-pin drop for an absent bowler, rolled their way into a fabulous 1002 series.

As icing on the cake, over the May 14-16 weekend, a five-person S.F. team composed of Randy Peterson, Pat Conlon, Keith Currier, Ron Raimondi, and Simeon Traw flew to Vancouver, B.C. to participate in the 32 team, two squad, English Basy Cup Bowling Tournament. While the S.F. team's performance was admirable, Randy Peterson's personal performance was no less than astounding. He got second place in Singles and third place in the Overall category. Certainly our brothers and sisters in the land of the Maple Leaf will long remember the name of Randy Peterson, and so shall we.

Finally, the responses to the 4x4' free advertising spaces being offered at Park Bowl are beginning to pour in. Therefore, if your sponsor is interested in taking advantage of this generous offer, please remind him or her that they must create and submit a poster/placard a.s.a.p. because the spaces aren't limited to Tavern Guild League and Sunday Women's Business League team sponsors only. ■

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings and Personal Achievements

S.F. WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE

(Week 26 of 33 - as of 3/16/86)

League Average: NA	
1. C.B.S., Inc.	31 9
2. Artemis Cafe	29½ 10½
3. Thatcher & Winston	25 15
4. Awards By Chris	23 17
5. Amelia's	21 19
6. Mood Swings	20½ 19½
7. Cafe Commons	20 20
8. Spare Us	19 21
9. Better Natural	19 21
10. Francois Coffee House	17 23
11. Olive Oil's	17 23
12. Cassidy Cabinets	16 24
13. City Landscapes	16 24
14. Women At Play	16 24
15. Maud's Squad	15 25
16. Chula Productions	15 25

13. The Unknown Bowlers

39½ 44½	19. Imitation Bowling	32 48
39½ 44½	20. Slaughterhaus 5	24½ 55½
39 45	21. Pin Busters	24 56
36½ 47½	22. Team #20	0 80

TAVERN GUILD WEDNESDAY LEAGUE

(Week 20 of 23 - as of 3/12/86)

League Average: 728	
1. Pilsner #1	55 25
2. Play With It, Ltd.	53 27
3. Moby Dick	49 31
4. Park Bowl	48 32
5. Pilsner Potlickers	48 32
6. Play With It Forever	48 32
7. Pilsner Pointless Sisters	47 33
8. Pilsner II	47 33
9. Crisco Alleycats	44 36
10. David Kelsey's Unmentionables	43 37
11. S.F. Eagle II	42½ 37½
12. For Your Eyes Only	40 40
13. S.F. Eagle I	39 41
14. Ram's Head Bar	38 42
15. On The Road Again Travel	38 42
16. Hangover Harlots	38 42
17. Pendulum Pandas	37 43
18. Gutter Girls	37 43

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE

(Week 21 of 22 - as of 3/17/86)

League Average: 708	
1. Pilsner Preyboys	58½ 25½
2. Play With It, Ltd.	58 25½
3. Frantic Finishers	58 26
4. Park Bowl	53½ 30½
5. Capricorn Coffee I	48½ 35½
6. 4>Your Eyes Only	48½ 35½
7. Pilsner Powderpuffs	47 37
8. Penguin Lust (Pilsner)	46½ 37½
9. The Gutter Sluts	46½ 37½
10. P. Opus Pilsner	43 41
11. Lane's End	43 37
12. The Pendulum Crowd	43 41

THURSDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE

(Week 20 of 22 - as of 3/13/86)

League Average: 554	
1. Ron's Records	54 26
2. Febe's	53 27
3. Alamo Square Saloon	51 29
4. Wild Balls	50½ 29½
5. S.F. Eagle	47 33
6. Cock-a-Doodle-Do	46 34
7. Park Bowl	44 36
8. Station Studs	43 37
9. Queen Mary's Pub	40 40
10. Pilsner Pinups	40 40
11. Pig Pins	39½ 40½
12. Raggs	39 41
13. Fast Trax	36 44
14. Trax	34 46
15. Hang-ups	34 46
16. Good Service	33½ 46½
17. Misfits	33 47
18. 4 Little Pigs	33 47
19. Ram's Head	30½ 49½
20. Harlettes	25 55

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young



Tri-City Bowling

Mal Garcia, with the invaluable support the other 3rd Annual TCBT Committee members, Randy Peterson, S.F.; Bill Wallace/Jerry Behling, Palo Alto; Tom Lane/Norm Frohwein, Sacramento, organized and presented the largest Tri-City tournament to date on March 22. The event included 53 five-person teams, comprised of male, female, and mixed, bowling in three 3-hour shifts. Two of the six female teams entered placed 3rd and 4th.

Following are the nine teams, and their total pin counts (pending average verification) including 80 percent handicap, that placed in the money.

1. IGBO '86	2969
2. The Ball Busters	2955
3. Gay Games	2941
4. Mona Tong Realty Co.	2911
5. Norma Jean's Mean Mach.	2896
6. Eagle	(tie) 2890
7. Really Dolly	(tie) 2890
8. Rusty Vega's	2886
9. Puhils	2883

The winners of the three shift side pots were:

(1st) Keith Ray	192
(2nd) Ron Squires	225
(3rd) Bob Wiesel	213

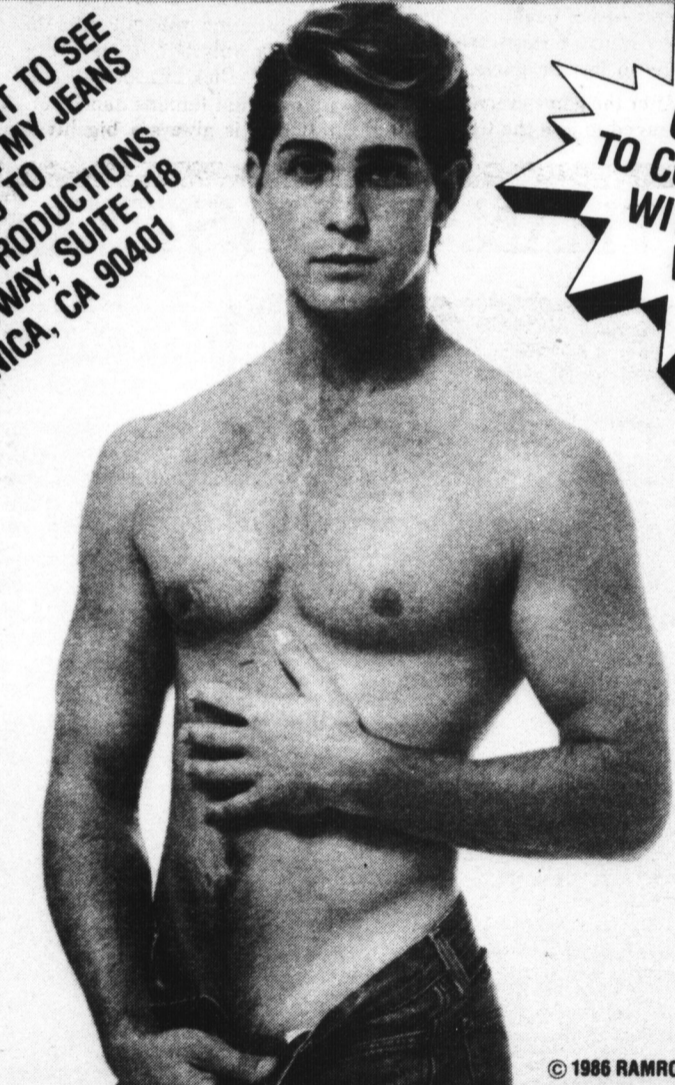
Immediately following the tournament, Amelia's, the Eagle, Maude's, and the Pilsner Inn all provided special favors for the bowlers, including free drinks and a magnificent buffet. With the total support of such an impressive alliance, can anyone doubt that organized bowling occupies a special place in the hearts of our community?

While still relishing the accomplishments achieved in the 3rd Annual Tri-City Tournament, we must, nevertheless, look forward to the 4th Annual Tri-City Bowling Tournament. In 1987, this special event will be held in Palo Alto the last Saturday in March. The information required to qualify for participation will be disseminated in plenty of time to permit everyone to make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, though, it will be difficult to surpass the success of the 3rd Annual Tri-City Tournament held in San Francisco, so, have at it Palo Alto! ■

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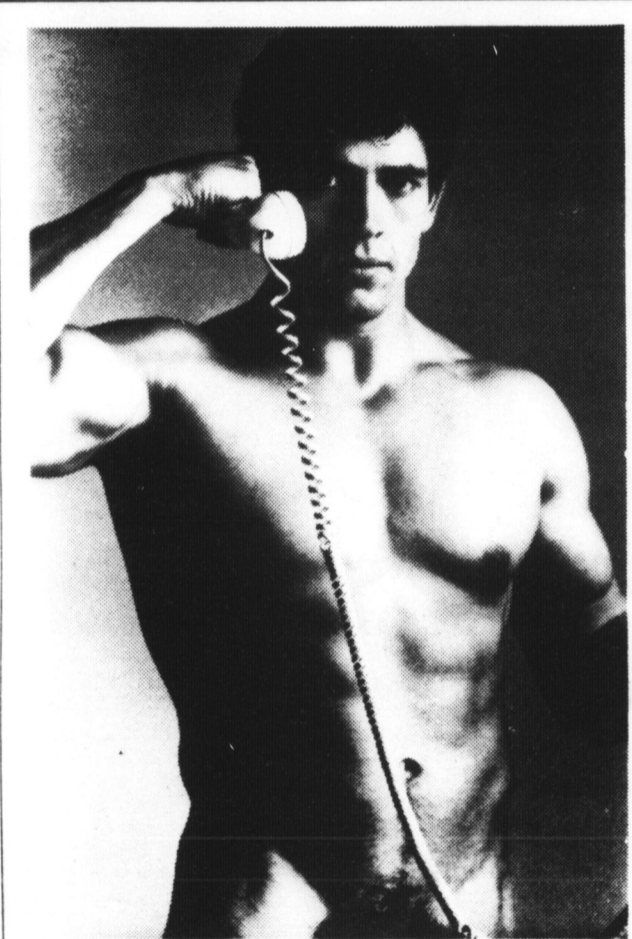
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(Attention Members)

Due to recent rapid growth of business, new guidelines are as follows:

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2. No drugs.
3. No alcoholic beverages sold. Beer may be checked at counter & claimed on same night as checked. No other alcohol permitted.
4. 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.

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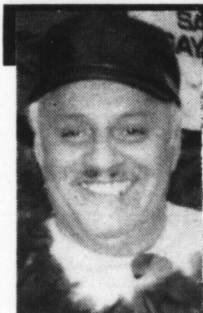
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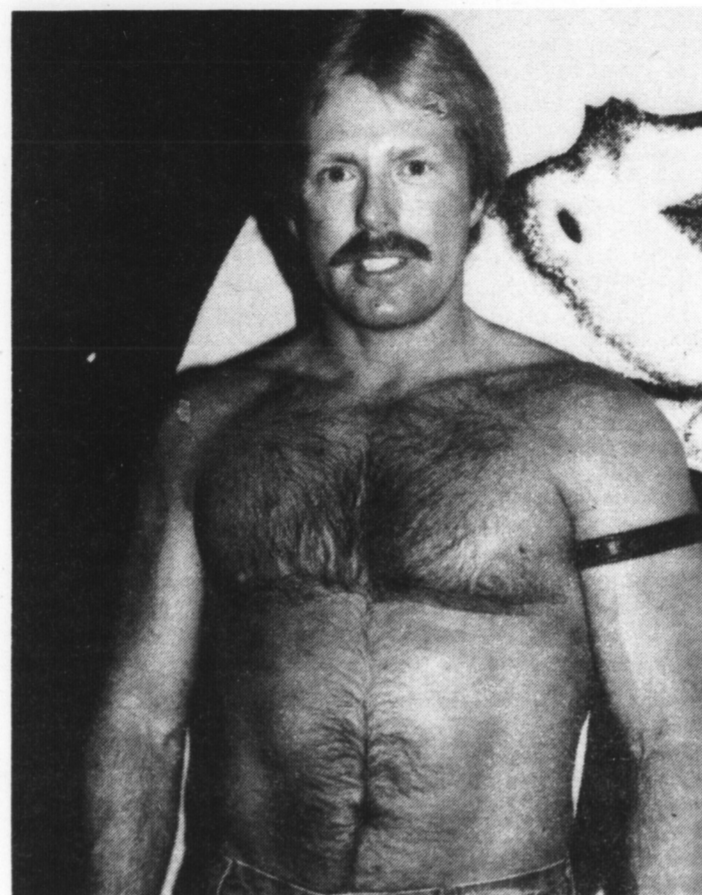


MR. MARCUS

Making Whoopee With The Mandarins of Mecca

If a bomb had been dropped on the Industrial Dance Company last Thursday night, every productive, talented, and respected individual of the gay world (and the few straight ones there) would have been gone in a flash; fortunately for all of us, this did not occur, but had you been there for the Mobilization Against AIDS benefit, you might have seen Sister Sadie yacking it up with Rev. Cecil Williams; members of the SF Trojans Football Team jawing with drag queens; political types swapping tall tales with leather dudes; and all in an amiable setting reaffirming the fact that the community was, for those few hours, united in an effort with far-reaching affects for all of us. Paul Boneberg deserves a big round of applause for gathering together Mr. This and Ms. That, royalty, leather, jocks, politicians, drags and singers and dancers all in one room to actually have fun. The entertainment was superb and everybody was munching on the goodies, soaking up the bubbly and gazing, with sagacious if not subdued peer pressure, at each other and nodding amiably. Poets, writers, dancers, singers, and even a few controversial people mingled together and actually had a good time. It was truly a picture to be remembered, and frankly, it should happen more often.

A few short blocks away, Mario Parami, a venerable member of the Rainbow M.C., embarked on the first day of his 40th year with a houseful of well-wishers and a cake that could best be described as an icon for those into "larger sizes." And further south at the SF-Eagle, close to a dozen brawny types were vying for the Mr. April 1987



Ron Mikkelson, Mr. April on the Eagle's 1987 calendar
(Photo: Marcus)

spot on the SF-Eagle's calendar. In the end, the judges picked a well-muscled landscape architect in the near-perfectly sculptured body of Ron Mikkelson, who certainly belied his 36 years with well-defined features, a product of his surfing and swimming pursuits.

There were several birthdays celebrated over the weekend as well. Mr. Financial District Michael Valerio was doing his thing on Sunday, while across town dozens were helping the Dowager Ginger get into the 60s routine. Saturday night up on Twin Peaks, an aging leather queen with a penchant for dish-

ing people in print ushered in his 47th with a gang of leathermen from hither and yon around the Bay Area; the dildo supplier to the world hosted the gathering and "that cake" made another appearance on the buffet table, prompting Mark Ferrari to hiss: "That baker must be having nightmares making those big things for every queen in town!" Monday night, the Dowager Empress Reba Rattlesnake plunged into the birthday arena, but exactly what occurred at the celebration is open to conjecture.

Despite the fact that Easter
(Continued on next page)



The Trojan gay football team at the Mobilization Against AIDS benefit at 2140 Market.
(Photo: Rink)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

isn't until this weekend, one of the royalty groups had a Mr./Ms. Bunny Contest at the SF-Eagle with a beer bust thrown in for good measure; when a bleach-eyed dude fell in the place and saw all those bunny ears, drags, and bare asses he promptly ordered a Calistoga, requested a cab, and ran out the door sputtering: "I swear I'll never drink again!" Can you blame him?

★ ★ ★

The march toward sending contestants to Chicago for the Intl. Mr. Leather competition is heating up too. Last Wednesday, the Powerhouse has been saved. Under it's new name, Intersection, one of their first attractions will be Tom Amiano opening April 11 with his funny, funny "Wrists" show at 2200 hours. Parkay & Paulette will launch a Star Search at the Transfer Sunday April 6 from 1500-1800 with a beer bust. They didn't say how much the benefit for Coming Home Hospice would cost. The SF Band Foundation is giving away a 1928 Dodge four-door sedan in mint condition at the Rawhide on Thursday, April 3, as a benefit for the Band Foundation and Coming Home Hospice, featuring the SF Tap Troupe and the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. Again, they didn't tell me the tariff or how much for the raffle tickets.

Want to thank you all for the press releases, but there's just not enough room here for all of them. The SF-Eagle celebrates its 5th anniversary Tues. and Wed., April 15 and 16, with new pins on the 15th and City Swing, a buffet, and Crosswinds on the 16th. They're giving away a free round trip ticket to Puerto Vallarta for a week in a private condo on the 16th, so don't miss out! That ought to be enough to keep you busy, panting, and running for the next two weeks. Can you dig?

IDOL GOSSIP

Was that Matt (Mattilda) Newman hauling a big bag of tokens for the porno movie machines into a jewelry shop to have the polished and given as a gift to one of our more over-sexed porn video buffs as a birthday present? Yes it was, only they looked so good he kept and used them for himself I hear.

Hey Joe Baker, would you like to have a heart-to-heart with the person everyone says you hate immensely? How could anyone hate anyone else, especially when they don't even know the person? What a waste of energy!

One of the hottest dudes who showed up at that aging leather queen's party on Twin Peaks last Sat. night is also a member of the Pigs in Paradise, but there were so many like him at that party I bet you can't guess which one it was?!

Congratulations to the Barbary Coasters M/C on its 20th anniversary, celebrating this Saturday night by invitation, and many more to the whole group. I hear their new corresponding secretary is quite on the ball, and I expect to see some evidence of that in the near, near future.

You can expect a mob scene at The Special Friday nights and Saturday afternoons now that the Mouth in Exile is back in action. Gabriel Starr (formerly of LA's Detour) begins his shenanigans this weekend, and I suspect will give a lot of competi-

tion to the other barmaids in the vicinity. Teamed up with Bubbles Abramson on Saturdays, it should be a riot, with the two fastest mouths in the West behind the bubble hoses.

George Burgess and Rick Booth just got back from an exotic trip to the South Seas (including Australia) where George met the world's most gorgeous dishwasher in Sydney, who happens to be the subject of many exotic leather/motorcycle-type note cards. Unfortunately, George met him on his last night in SF's sister city. In an unguarded moment, LaBooth was heard saying to a confidante: "We should either stage a benefit to bring the dude here for George or to deport George." I think I'd rather import the Aussie; George is too valuable to

this community to be deported. If you still haven't seen the video triumph of Male Entertainment Network (MEN) and their Men Behind Bars III, The Video, it will be shown tomorrow night at the Pilsner Inn (Friday, March 28) beginning at 2000 hours (8 p.m.).

Rumors running rampant about another new bar opening near the SF-Eagle (but closer to the Ambush) and to be called Balls. Now that takes Balls.

The LA Lesbian Basketball team will play the SF Lesbian Basketball team at Kezar Saturday, April 5, as a benefit for Gay Games II with a party at the Troc afterwards. The \$5 tickets are available at both Headlines stores if you really want to attend a butch event.

Nice to see the Emperor (Matthew) and the Empress (Sable) in the South of Market area, where before they were crowned they were very frequent; however, we understand the demands of royalty—they owed 'em at the coronation in Vancouver last weekend. Their upcoming investiture should be real swanky.

★ ★ ★

Sorry so many of you lost bets on the Academy Awards Monday night; better luck next year and with the new lottery game. Until next week then boys and girls, keep your legs crossed and remember: Once you pledge, don't hedge. And to PB: Thanks a million—only jewels like you will shine forever.

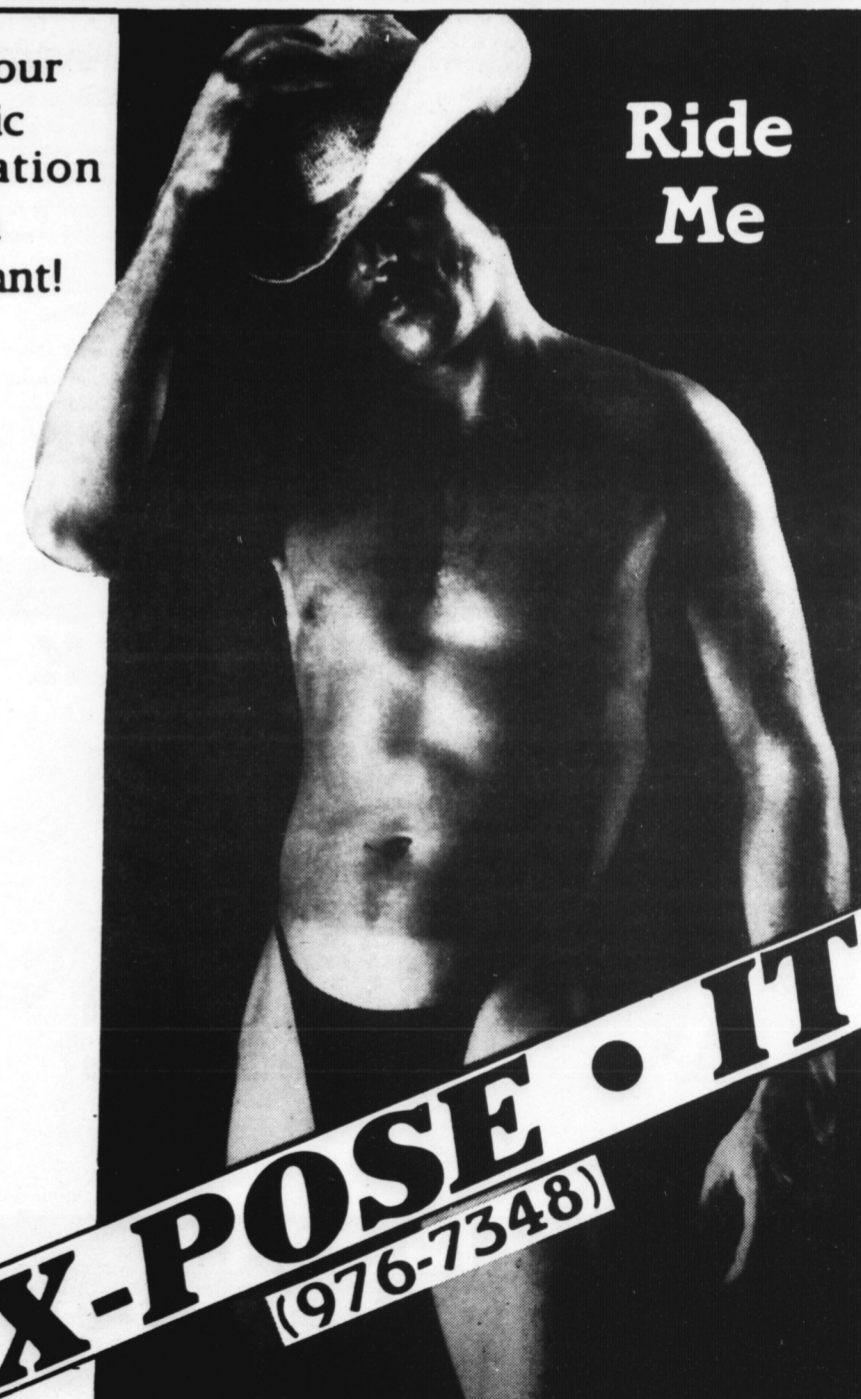
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FRIESE FRAME

Dig Up the Dirt

MARK FRIESE

Spring has sprung, at least as long as this weather holds out, and hopefully it will hold out for quite a while because some of the best parties this city has to offer will be taking place in the next couple of months!

The traditional, the original, the one and only White Party once again takes over the Trocadero this Saturday evening with "An Evening In Paris" as the theme and setting for this annual, jam-packed event. It will feature Tramaine, whose latest dance hit "Fall Down (Spirit of Love)," is quickly approaching the number one spot on *Billboard's* Dance Music Chart, as well as all those other special surprises the Troc has become so well known for. The evening begins at 10 p.m. and continues until Easter Sunrise with tickets on sale at Headlines, Mikage, All American Boy, and other locations for \$15. Troc I.D. is not required for this event. By the way Michael DiFatta, flattery will get you everywhere!

Now that you have danced the night away, had a few cocktails in lieu of church, and are looking for another festive time to continue your all-nighter with, then buzz on over to the annual Lily Street Fair, on Lily between Laguna and Buchanan, which goes from noon till sunset with such features as an Easter egg hunt at 2 p.m. and an Easter



Join the Easter Parade at the Lily Street Fair
March 30 (Photo: Rink)

rest! Saturday evening will feature those wild and talented girls from Sacramento, Candy and Rosa, with special guest Miss Pat Montclair as they rev up with two shows, at 10 p.m. and midnight, and I can

unless she leaves the bay on the bus! Haven't stopped by Esta Noche since many members of the cast from Men Behind Bars invaded that fine drinking spot in between performances, and I'm not positive some of us can go back without phoning in advance so they will know to make an extra 50 gallons of popcorn!

Yes, it is finally going to happen before Stanley wastes away to nothing, which of course is the opening April 1 of Hot and Hunky II. It's at the Mint with easy access readily available. It will certainly be a welcome addition to the neighborhood, and they will announce the grand opening party soon. I know Stanley, as well as the new additions to the staff at the Mint, Steven, Beau, and "Vivacious John," are looking forward to it with baited breath.

Oh, it just wouldn't be a Friese Frame without the mention of another title up for grabs in the community. This week's title is brought to you by the folks at Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco who want you prospective title seekers to know that the contest will be in June, and it's never too early to start. Always nice to see Larrrie drop by the Bell, and it's rumored he might possibly be seeking the male portion of the title this year. Speaking of Larrrie, I've heard my old sister Larry Bookout is now bartending at the Starlight Room, which is experiencing a renaissance due to the fact that the former manager, Gary, is back in the saddle. I'm sure that Larry will do well there because the barstools are all bolted to the floor. Ask Larry for details on that famous story!

The next Tavern Guild meeting will be held at Gingers, that inexpensive drinking bar for people with money, at Eddy and Mason, at 1 p.m. Congratulations to George Banda, a good friend who is also the new vice president of the Tavern Guild. And if you want to know what they mean by people with money, see the flawless picture.

The '86 AIDS Bike-a-Thon, (Continued on next page)

Friese
(Continued from previous page)

which was created and sponsored by Different Spokes bicycle club, will take place May 3. They are taking registration forms now. The beneficiary organizations for this year are as follows: S.F. AIDS Foundation, S.F. AIDS Fund, S.F. Hospice, The Godfather Fund, Pacific Center AIDS Project, People With AIDS, The Shanti Project, and Sonoma County AIDS Network, all of which are worthy choices. You can make pledges or ride for anyone of the aforementioned charities. Get more information by calling 771-0677.

Coming to a theater or bar near you in the very near future is the court's trip to Reno for the coronation, which is a wild and fast-paced bus ride that includes your room and lots of other delightful goodies for a mere \$89. This madness will take place June 6-8, and they need your reservations and money now! Contact Michael Bowman or Bruce Harrelson at 621-7841.

Miss Parkay and Miss Paulette will present a benefit for the Coming Home Hospice at the Transfer Sunday, April 6, from 3 till 6 p.m., and it will include a beer bust for \$5, a lip sync contest, and a raffle for a weekend for two at the Woods Resort at

Russian River. Anna Conda blasts off April 19 at the California Club, and maybe this will finally explain what the *Black Hole of Calcutta* is all about. That is all for now. I was going to tell you about the Empress and Miss Gay who both recently had to spend a few hours in the slammer, but I won't. I was also going to spill the beans on a popular Castro bartender who has decided he will take away the lover of one of our fair city's titleholders, but I know it won't take many of you too long to figure out who that is! So I guess for now I will leave you to your own devices to dig up the dirt. Ciao.



The SF Eagle's Ms. Bunny (Kitty, L.) and Mr. Bunny (Don) have their cake and eat it too. (Photo: Rink)



Dorothy Duster and her entourage at a benefit at the Transfer for the Inter-Club Fund and the Senior Holiday Dinner program. (Photo: Rink)

GayWHOGayWHATGayWHEREGa

- Poetry Reading**
John Powers will read from his work March 27 at 8 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, California at Presidio, in San Francisco.
- Latinos**
Latino gay or bisexual males are needed for a support group forming now. Call Ivan at 548-8283 for more information.
- Models Sought**
The Sexologists Sexual Health Project, producers of the safe-sex seminars in conjunction with the SF AIDS Foundation, seeks male and female models to create hot, sexy, sleazy, or kinky images of safe sex. Special interest in condoms, latex/rubber wear, and leather. Interested in people of varied ages, physical types, and ethnic backgrounds. For more information call Mark at 621-6294.
- Common Ground**
Photographer Ann Meredith will exhibit photographs from the United Nation's Conference on the Decade of Women at the Matrix Gallery, 2424 Castro Way in Sacramento March 21 through May 4. Gallery hours are from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.
- Mint Condition**
Ray Chalker and the Rawhide II have donated a mint-condition 1928 Dodge four-door sedan to Coming Home Hospice and the San Francisco Band Foundation as a prize for a fundraising raffle to benefit both organizations. The official kick-off and premiere showing of this beautiful automobile will be held April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Rawhide II, 280 7th St. at Folsom. The Gay Freedom Day Marching Band's Pep Band will play, and the San Francisco Tap Troupe will perform.

Bazaar Calendar

FRIDAY 3/28
Marty Moon's Birthday, Kimo's, 8 p.m., show, etc.
Constantine MC Open Meeting, Febe's, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 3/29
20th Anniversary Celebration, BCMC, California Club, 7:30-10 p.m., by overlay or invitation, see BC members.
The Candi & Rosa Show, Kimo's, 10 p.m. and midnight, special guest star Ms. Pat Montclair.

SUNDAY 3/30
Warlock's MC Easter Run, check-in Febe's 10 a.m., \$10 (includes all events), end check point SF Eagle patio, beer bust \$6 (only), 3-6 p.m.
GSL Opening Day, Lang

TUESDAY 4/1
Parade Benefit, Kokpit, 5 p.m., beer bust \$5, 50/50 raffle, blackjack, show starring Empress Sable (MC).

WEDNESDAY 4/2
Comedy Night, Casa Loma, 10 p.m., Host/MC Danny Williams, open mike.

Compiled by Karl Stewart

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ALCOHOL, DRUGS... AND AIDS

There is growing evidence of a significant connection between AIDS and alcohol and drug abuse.

Substance abuse is an issue we can no longer afford to ignore.

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

First, alcohol and drugs depress the immune system and make you more susceptible to disease.

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

Second, alcohol and drugs reduce your ability to stick to judgments about what's safe and what isn't.

A huge majority of gay men in San Francisco have given up Unsafe Sex. For the relatively few who haven't yet, studies demonstrate

a strong correlation between alcohol and drug use and Unsafe Sex.

Third, sharing IV drug needles transmits the AIDS virus directly from the bloodstream of one infected person to the bloodstream of another.

If you do take the risk of using IV drugs, don't share needles! It's a direct route for the transmission of AIDS. There are thousands of IV drug users in America with AIDS, and probably other thousands who are still incubating the virus and who are contagious. Don't share needles!

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

If you want confidential and gay-sensitive information about substance abuse for yourself or for a friend, help is available. **Contact 18th Street Services, 2152B Market Street, 861-4898,** or call the AIDS Foundation's

AIDS HOTLINE, 863-AIDS, for a referral.

Remember:

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

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



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

415-863-AIDS

Toll free in
Northern California:
800-FOR-AIDS
TDD: 415-864-6606

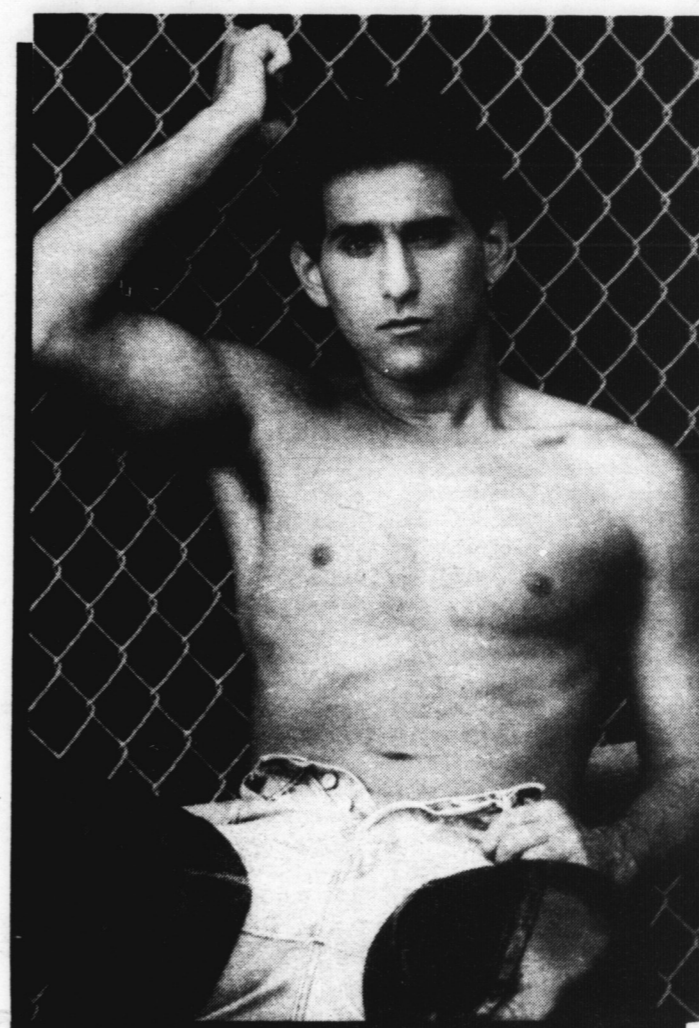
Major funding for the educational programs of The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

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The weather got hot, so hot Mark Ferrari decided to take a breather. (Photo: M. Hicks)

KQED License On the Line

Community Groups Contest License;
FCC Hearings Set for May

by Charles Linebarger

Public Television station KQED now the object of a gay and lesbian boycott is also in the midst of defending its licenses before the Federal Communication Commission, *Bay Area Reporter* learned this week. Stephen Yelverton, a trial attorney with the federal agency told *B.A.R.* that KQED is currently fighting to prevent the possible revocation of three licenses for its radio and television outlets. Hearings before the FCC are scheduled for this May.

According to Yelverton, KQED has been accused of misrepresentation to the FCC by a Bay Area community coalition known as the California Public Broadcasting Forum. At issue is KQED's pulling its channel 32 (KQEC) off the air in the mid-'70s for financial reasons. The FCC warned KQED that it would revoke the station's KQEC license if channel 32 was not returned to the air. KQED then testified to the FCC that equipment problems were keeping channel 32 dark. It is this last

statement for which KQED is being accused of misrepresentation.

"We're litigating this now in Washington before an administrative law judge of the FCC," said Yelverton.

Asked what happens if KQED loses the case, Yelverton answered, "The FCC could revoke the licenses of all three stations, KQED (channel 9), KQEC (channel 32), and KQED-FM. Possibly only KQEC's license would be revoked. The more like-

The FCC warned KQED that it would revoke the station's KQEC license if Channel 32 was not returned to the air. KQED then testified to the FCC that equipment problems were keeping Channel 32 dark. It is this last statement for which KQED is being accused of misrepresentation.

ly scenario is to lose one but it's possible to lose all three if the misrepresentation was egregious."

David Rice, a New York attorney representing the Bay Area coalition questioning KQED's license renewal, told *B.A.R.* that hearings on KQED are scheduled to begin in Washington on May 6. "I think we have a good case," said Rice. "We wouldn't be doing this if there wasn't something to it. The case stretches back at least a decade.

(Continued on page 2)

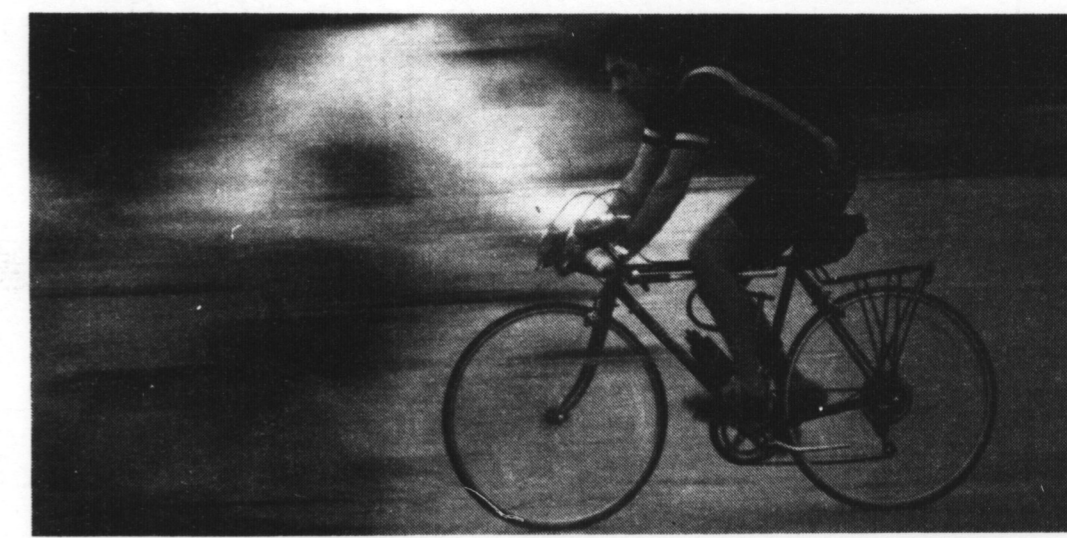
Sodomy Gets Its Day In Court

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Arguments
In Gay Case from Georgia

by Ray O'Loughlin

The challenge to Georgia's state law that makes gay sex a felony went before the U.S. Supreme Court, Monday, Mar. 31. According to attorney Leonard Graff, director of the San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates, the high court Justices appeared to accept the argument that Georgia's statute violates constitutionally protected rights to privacy.

(Continued on page 22)



Racing against time to register for the Bike-a-Thon? Not really. Just practicing. But you can still register for the Bike-a-Thon. For more Bike-a-Thon news, turn to page 16. (Photo: S. O'Hara)

Today

Project Inform is coordinating renegade research into treatments for AIDS. Paul Reed explains, **page 3.**

Pride Foundation is in the news again as one case is dismissed while a bigger one languishes, **page 5.**

The Big Screen shows some of lesbian and gay life. Steve Warren previews *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *Desert Hearts*, **page 26.**

Falwell Cries Poverty, Hangs Up

Calls Eat Up \$1 Million, He Says;
'The Gays Would Bankrupt Us.'

by Ray O'Loughlin

Is it God's will? Or maybe the work of Satan himself? Rev. Jerry Falwell is crying poverty and destruction these days because those militant phone queens have been dialing his toll free number like crazy. So busy have the lines been that the reverend is hanging up the free spiritual counselling service as of April 5.

In a three-page, desperate sounding appeal to his loyal viewers, the television evangelist wrote, "Listen to the tragic losses we have sustained: Approximately one million 'profane and harassment' calls have been

(Continued on page 4)



Jerry Falwell was smiling during the 1984 Democratic Convention in S.F., but now the Rev. is crying poverty, citing misuse of his telephone lines by bullying gay callers. (Photo: M. Hicks)