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Voters Nix LaRouche!!

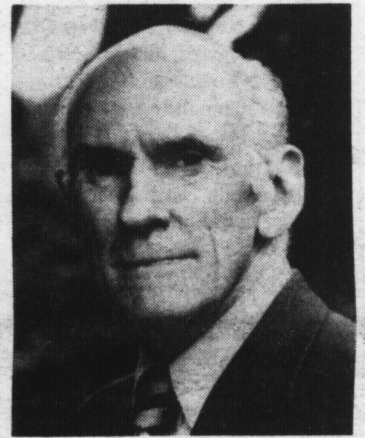
BAY AREA REPORTER

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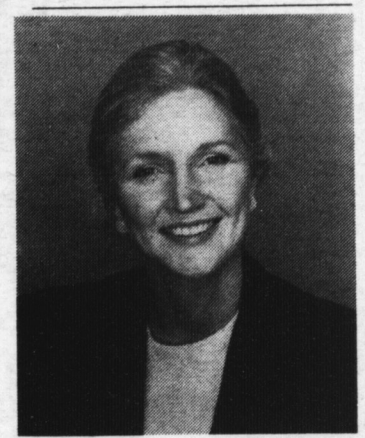
'64' Trounced; Cranston Wins; Rose Bird Loses; Duke Wins



The smiles increase as the 'No' votes start to do in Prop. 64. The scene was the Green Room of the Veterans' Building where many a LaRouche supporter was found. They were home crying in their venom. (Photo: Savage Photography)



Alan Cranston



Nancy Walker

by Wayne Friday
Prop. 64, the controversial "quarantine" initiative sponsored by right-wing politician Lyndon LaRouche, was soundly defeated by nearly a 4-1 margin in Tuesday's election. The city of San Francisco contributed greatly to the defeat of the proposition, voting against it by an 8-1 margin. The "LaRouche Initiative," which lost in every county, would have labeled AIDS an infectious, communicable disease and could have mandated quarantine of those carrying the HIV virus.

In what was the toughest, most expensive Senate race in California history, three-term, incumbent Democrat Alan Cranston narrowly defeated Republican Ed Zschau by a 51-49 margin.

As expected, GOP incumbent Gov. George Deukmejian easily defeated Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley by a 61-39 margin in a rematch of the gubernatorial campaign of four years ago.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird became the victim of a strong conservative campaign against her, losing by a 66-34 margin. Bird conceded 90 minutes after the polls closed and thus became the state's first justice ever denied reconfirmation. Her lopsided defeat caused fellow justices Cruz Reynoso and Charles Grodin, also the persistent targets of conservatives, to lose their seats on the bench later in the evening.

In other statewide propositions, Prop. 61 (officials' salary restrictions) lost; 63 (English the official state language) won; and 65 (the toxic discharge law) also won. Democrats won all other statewide constitutional offices as well.

Locally, all five incumbent members of the Board of Supervisors were re-elected, with liberal Nancy Walker finishing first and becoming the new board president in January. She was followed in the vote tolls by Bill Maher, Richard Hongisto, Wendy Nelder and Doris Ward. (Continued on page 2)



'Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil, and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder.'

'To choose someone of the same sex for one's sexual activity is to annul the rich symbolism and meaning, not to mention the goals, of the Creator's sexual design.'

'To refuse to sacrifice one's own will in obedience to the will of the Lord is effectively to prevent salvation.'

'All support should be withdrawn from any organizations which seek to undermine the teaching of the church, which are ambiguous about it, or which neglect it entirely.'

— Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons

Pope To Gays: 'Drop Dead'

Papal Bull Quashes Debate; Gay Catholics To 'Not Go Quietly'

by Ray O'Loughlin

In the strongest worded statement ever issued on homosexuality, the rulers of the Roman Catholic church last week condemned all forms of homosexuality as "disordered," blamed AIDS on homosexuality and careless gay people, urged churches around the world to withdraw all support from pro-gay organizations, and opposed civil rights guarantees for gays.

Written in English, the 11-page letter was clearly aimed at the North American church and gay Catholic activist groups. The document was issued by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly known as the Inquisition, and reportedly was approved by Pope John Paul II personally. (Continued on page 14)

Today

Gay voters provided crucial margins in a number of local and state races. David Lamble analyzes key precincts, page 3.

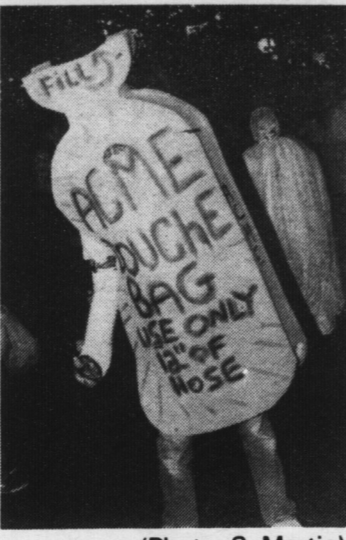
Bureaucratic bungling may cost two S.F. AIDS service organizations \$120,000. Mary Richards reports, page 5.

Tricks and Treats — Who are those men behind the masks? Check our Halloween photos, pages 16-18, 32-36.

It's Fun
Time
Again!!



(Photos: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



(Photo: S. Martin)

No Violence For This Castro Halloween

by Allen White

Capt. Michael Lennon was just beside himself. He had just experienced his first Halloween on Castro Street as the leader of the Mission Police Station and he couldn't hold back a chuckle.

Lennon said he received a bundle of compliments about his police uniform. "A lot of people wanted to know where they could buy one," Lennon said with a smile. "They wouldn't believe me when I told them it wasn't a costume."

'They wouldn't believe me when I told them it wasn't a costume.'

—Capt. Michael Lennon

Lennon had a reason to be laid back. Thanks to some nifty cooperation between his Mission officers and the Community United Against Violence, Halloween 1986 on Castro Street was a resounding success.

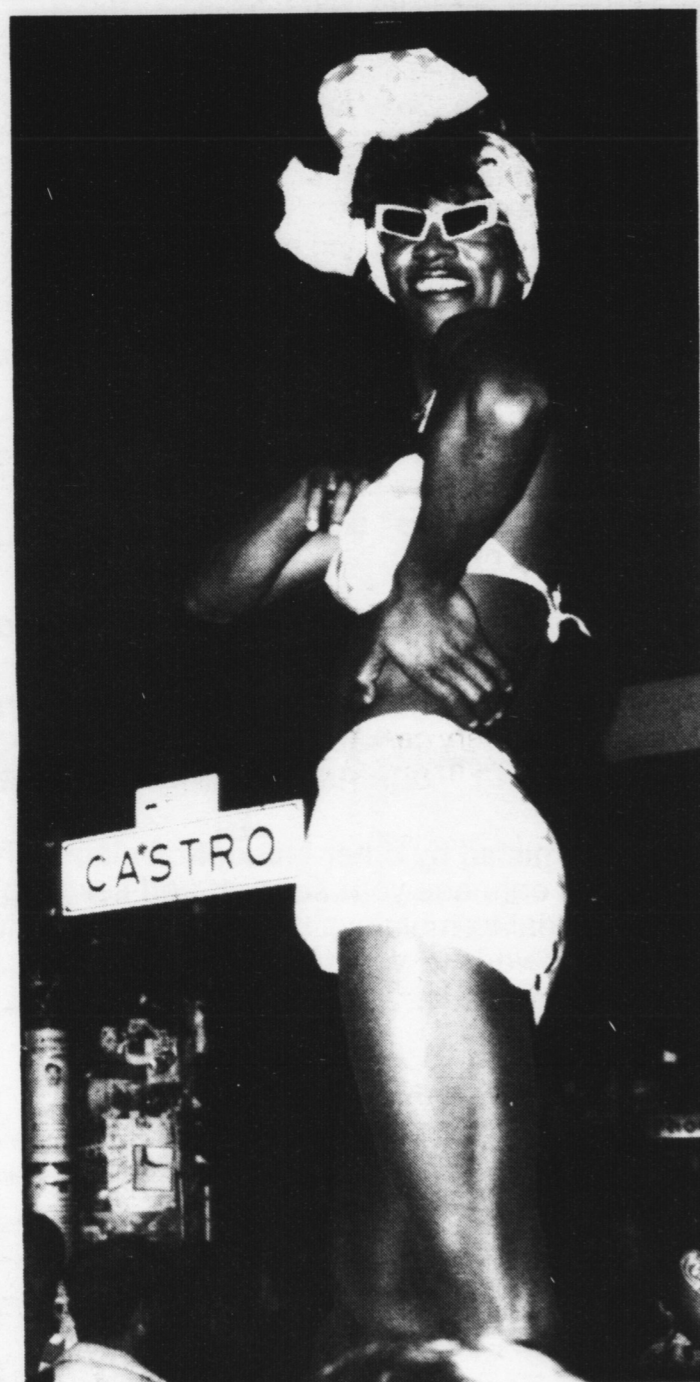
Over 20,000 people filled the Castro last Friday night for a mellow, violence-free Halloween. The crowd, mostly straight, turned the street into a huge outdoor party.

Concern for public safety disappeared as a plan meshing several city services was put into operation. At 5 p.m., the Muni started switching to diesel operation on all buses which feed into Castro Street. With that, plans were in place to divert buses away from Castro Street.

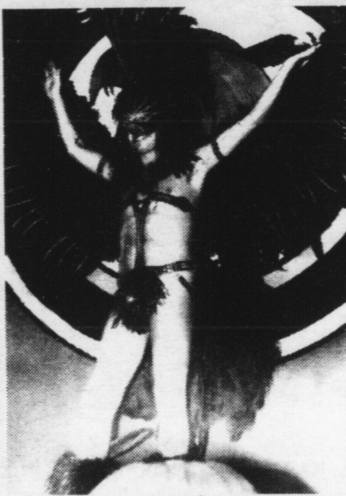
At the same time, the San Francisco Police Department and the Community United Against Violence (CUAV) were setting up an elaborate command center behind Hibernia Bank. The city's only mobile police command center was parked at Castro and 18th Street.

Cathy Oberhoffer, the wife of a Mission Station police officer, began making submarine sandwiches. Throughout the night she volunteered to serve her sandwiches to police officers and CUAV volunteers. The location behind the bank was used as a place for the over 50 police officers and 30 CUAV volunteers to go and relax.

(Continued on next page)



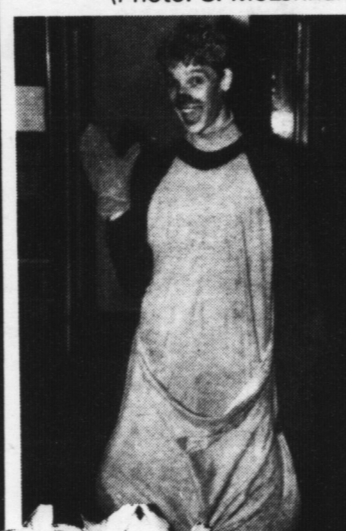
(Photo: S. Martin)



(Photo: S. Martin)



(Photo: S. McLennan)



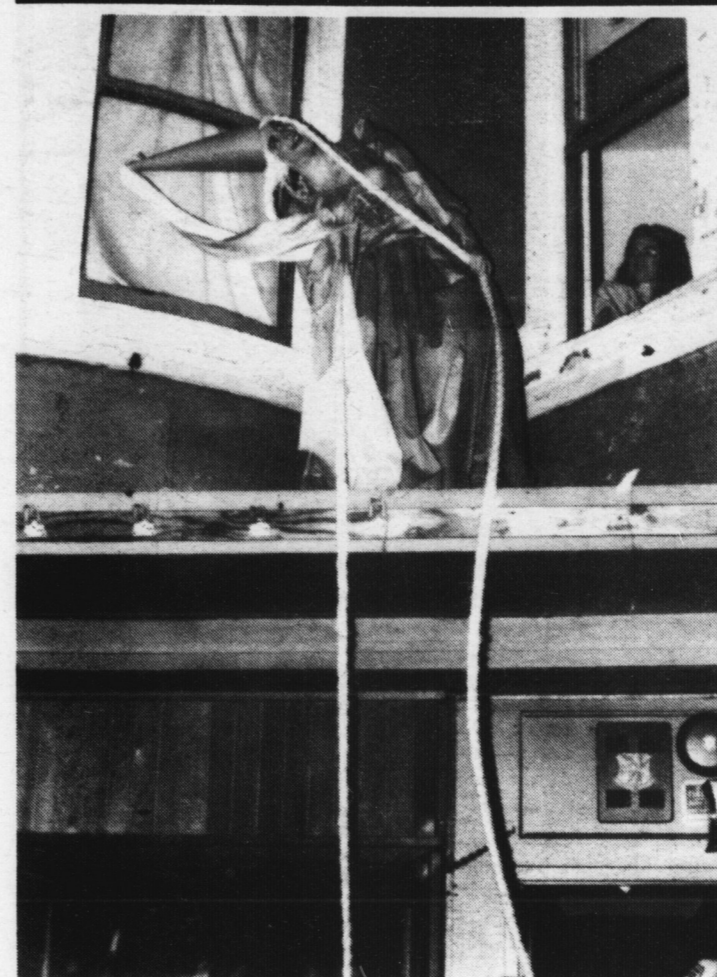
(S. McLennan)



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



Halloween

(Continued from previous page)

The first phase of the plan went into operation as over two dozen police officers began boarding the Muni lines that feed into the Castro. Any weapons found on the transit vehicles were confiscated.

The buses and Muni Metro were the first indications people had of the huge police presence. Almost every bus coming into the Castro had a police officer on board. At 8 p.m. there were another two dozen uniformed police officers on Castro. They were joined with another two dozen CUAV volunteers.



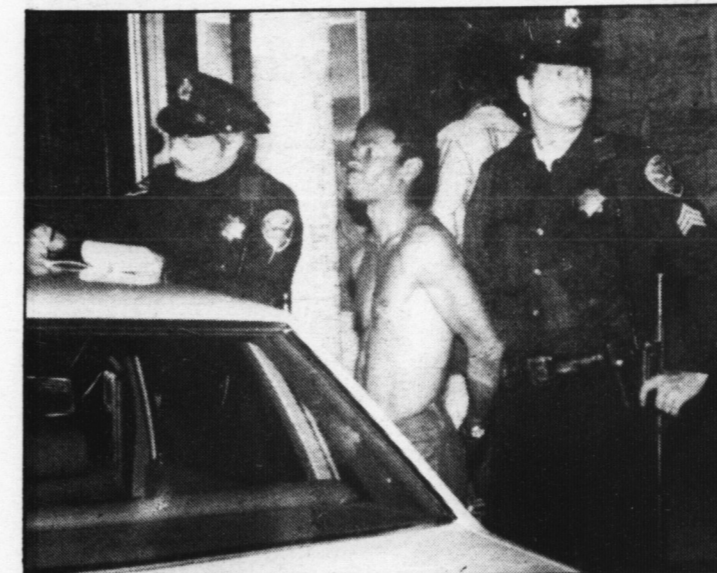
'The mood of the crowd was very relaxed. The tension created by the possibility of violence was gone. CUAV spokespersons said a reason may have been letters that were sent out to all city schools regarding Halloween conduct.'

(Photo: S. McLennan)

The teaming of CUAV volunteers and police is an example of community and law enforcement cooperation. The shirts to identify the CUAV volunteers were purchased with money raised by gay and lesbian police officers at Mission Station. In turn, CUAV was on the street with their volunteers as a support for police.

The crowd seemed to build at a slower pace than previous years. The street was not closed until almost 9 p.m. During the early hours, the large police presence sent a signal to troublemakers that violence would not be tolerated. And to show they meant business, police confiscated over 100 weapons, ranging from swords to baseballs.

(Continued on next page)



A young man is arrested on Castro St. One of the few unhappy moments of Halloween. (Photo: Rink)



(Photos left, above and right: S. Martin)



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Halloween
(Continued from previous page)
Lennon had high praise for the Community United Against Violence. "Their work was exemplary," he said.

In front of the Castro Theatre, three guys named Rex, D.J. and Randy filled over 1,200 balloons with helium and gave them away as Halloween gifts. Tommi Rose danced and performed from his stage above the Phoenix to an appreciative crowd.

The mood of the crowd was very relaxed. The tension created by the possibility of violence was gone. CUAV spokespersons said a reason may have been letters that were sent to all city schools regarding Halloween conduct. Others thought another reason for the lack of violence may have been the warm weather.

The crowding of the streets also created mammoth traffic jams on Market Street and surrounding streets. Another area where traffic seemed to simply stop moving was at 8th and Brannan Sts. Sanford Kellman's "Tarzan Boys" Halloween Party was being presented at the Giftcenter. Across the street, the Exotic Erotic Ball was at the Concourse Pavilion. The two events brought close to 10,000 people into the area.

Inside the Giftcenter, hundreds of people danced and prepared for the costume contest. Judges for the night included Sup. Richard Hongisto, Sylvester and the Campus Theatre's Adam Davis.

During the night there were over 250 entries in the costume contest. They vied for almost \$2,500 in prize money. The honorary Queen of the Jungle award was presented by the judges to Sylvester.

Trocadero Transfer was jammed for its "Trick or Treat" party. Many at the party would return the following night for the Troc's annual "Black Party." More crowds jammed the 181 Club in the Tenderloin for the "Nightclub of the Living Dead" with Doris Fish and friends.

Several hundred people spent Halloween inside the Castro Theatre listening to Bob Vaughn at the organ and watching the classic "Phantom Of The Opera." The live version of the Rocky Horror Show held forth at the Theatre on the Square while the film version was presented at Midnight at the Strand Theatre.

At 2 a.m., Castro Street was again open for traffic. Walking curb to curb, the San Francisco Police Department walked from market to 19th Street. The gay community showed its appreciation to the officers as they applauded and yelled vigorously. It was the second year the police have received this type of ovation at the end of Halloween night.

So, who could blame Lennon for feeling a huge dose of pride over the evening. Halloween was peaceful. His officers get a well-earned round of applause. And, he gets a few plaudits for his sartorial splendor!



(Photo: S. McLennan)



(Photo: S. Martin)

Gay Rites

ACLU, Episcopal Diocese Favor Same-Sex Marriage, Partner Benefits

by Allen White

The Diocese of California of the Episcopal Church has gone on record as endorsing a rite to meet the needs of people of the same sex who wish to have their relationships blessed by the church. The action took place last month during the same week that the American Civil Liberties Union adopted a formal policy statement endorsing both gay and lesbian marriage and a range of economic benefits for gay and lesbian life partners.

The Episcopal Church has long been dealing with this issue. This latest action came during a diocesan convention held at Grace Cathedral, Oct. 25.

The resolution states that there are profound and different needs being presented to the church by the communities of this diocese. Several examples were noted such as senior citizens who wish to gain acceptance by the church without being legally married. Handicapped persons were mentioned who do not wish to jeopardize disability benefits. Single parents were also mentioned.

But Swing cautioned that he will not work "out of step with the institution of the church." He commented that improper moves within the church can be damaging. "I will move in league with the church," he said.

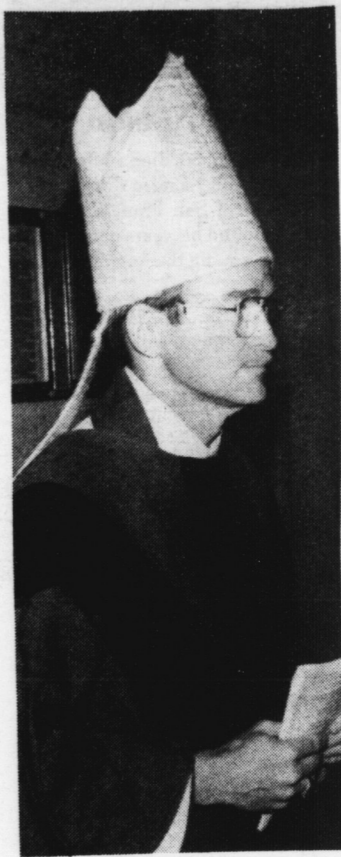
The ACLU statement was added to that organization's long-standing policy against discrimination based on sexual orientation. "This new statement extends the general anti-discrimination principle of existing policy and specifies ACLU support for changing the laws of marriage," said Nan D. Hunter, director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The new policy statement describes both the recognition of gay and lesbian marriage and the recognition of economic benefits for unmarried partners as "imperative for the complete legal equality of lesbians and gay men." The benefits covered by the policy include employee fringe benefits, insurance benefits, income tax benefits, and visitation and next-of-kin rights when a lover is incapacitated.

In San Francisco, National Gay Rights Advocates also has been working for the legal rights of gay couples. It is part of a legal agenda the organization has had for almost five years. Jean O'Leary, executive director of NGRA said, "It is a far reaching program intended to achieve security and equality for lesbians and gay men—both as individuals and couples."

Swing said the acceptance of gay marriages or blessings is a change in the "primitive" of the church. He said he will work to set the "proper climate for change" within the church.

Swing said the acceptance of gay marriages or blessings is a change in the "primitive" of the church. He said he will work to set the "proper climate for change" within the church.



Bishop Swing (Photo: Rink)

Leonard Graff, legal director of NGRA said, "Gay people must be treated equally in hiring, promotions, fringe benefits, taxation, visitation rights and insurance programs."

Graff noted one example by NGRA which involved the Automobile Association in Southern California. They were successful in getting domestic partnerships honored in the issuance of automobile insurance. AAA's Northern California counterpart has followed that example.

Graff said the legal recognition of domestic partnerships will provide the ability for gay men and lesbians to achieve tax advantages and many discounts now only available to married couples.

Scientists Rap U.S. On AIDS Programs

Urge Billions for Research, Therapy; Endorse Education in 'Vernacular'

by Charles Lineberger

A National Academy of Sciences panel last week severely criticized U.S. response to AIDS, saying grimly that the epidemic could become the worst health catastrophe of this century. Calling the federal effort in the fight against AIDS "woefully inadequate," the panel projected a national AIDS caseload of 270,000 people by the end of 1991 and warned that the epidemic could get completely out of control unless the federal government began pouring billions of dollars into research and education immediately.

The special panel of scientists and researchers created by the National Academy of Sciences are believed to have put together the most comprehensive study on the AIDS epidemic that has been done to date. Their recommendations could have a major impact on future federal spending on AIDS.

The scientists called for a huge increase in federal spending that would quintuple the current national funds being spent to fight the epidemic. In fiscal year 1986 the federal government allocated \$233 million (\$410 million has been budgeted for 1987) to fight AIDS. The National Academy of Sciences panel urged at least \$1 billion annually be spent on research into possible therapies and vaccines and an equal amount on education to contain the spread of the HIV virus in the population.

According to the 300-page report, "by the end of 1991 there will have been a cumulative total of more than 270,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, with more than 74,000 of those occurring in 1991 alone. By the end of 1991 there will have been a cumulative total of more than 179,000 deaths from AIDS in the United States, with 54,000 of those occurring in 1991 alone."

The study found that "because the typical time between infection with HIV and the development of clinical AIDS is four or more years, most of the persons who will develop AIDS between now and 1991 already are infected. The vast majority of AIDS cases will continue to come from currently recognized high-risk groups."

Although the panel opposed mandatory testing for HIV infection, they did recommend that those in high-risk groups voluntarily reducing the spread of HIV infection.

EDUCATION ONLY HOPE

The report declared that neither a vaccine nor a really satisfactory drug therapy for HIV infection is likely to be found in the next five years. "For at least the next several years, the most effective measure for significantly reducing the spread of HIV infection is education."

(Continued on page 22)

Bazaar Calendar

- THURSDAY 11/6**
All Candidate Party, Galleon, 8 p.m.
Charity Benefit Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., hosted by "Daddy" Tom Rodgers.
"Thank You Karl Stewart" Benefit, Galleon, 8 p.m., cabaret entertainment.
- FRIDAY 11/7**
Third Anniversary Party, Kokpit, 8 p.m. — Miss Pigg's Special Show, 10 p.m. — Char's All-Star Review, 12 midnight — Special Anniversary Show, Host: Bobby Pace, Hostesses: Pigg, Ginger, Char, Mae and Kitty Litter.
A.L. Allen Candidate Party, 222 Club, 6-10 p.m., 50/50 Raffle.
Warlocks Open Meeting, Powerhouse, 8 p.m.
- SATURDAY 11/8**
Blair Candidate Party, Men's Room, 2-5 p.m.
A.L. Allen Candidate Party, Village, 6-10 p.m.
Third Anniversary Weekend, Kokpit, 8 p.m., drink specials, buffet; also Sunday brunch.
- SUNDAY 11/9**
CMC Carnival, Pier 3, Fort Mason, 3-11 p.m., buses from your favorite bars.
- MONDAY 11/10**
A.L. Allen Candidate Party, Amelia's, 6-10 p.m.
Ms. Kitty Candidate Party, Stallion, 8 p.m.
- TUESDAY 11/11**
Imperial Court Open Meeting, Galleon (Garden of Eatin'), 7:30 p.m.
Don Tribur Candidate Party, Village, 8 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY 11/12**
Don Tribur Candidate Party, Kokpit, 8 p.m.
A.L. Allen Candidate Party, Galleon, 8 p.m.
Ms. Kitty Candidate Party, Men's Room, 8 p.m.

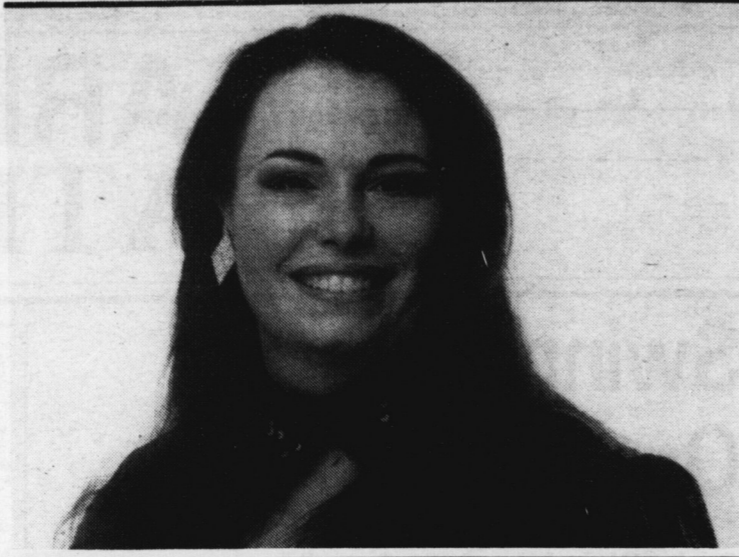
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Cynthia



There's no getting around it. One just has to like Cynthia Bythell. Whether it's listening to her perform at a piano bar, or doing a cabaret-type show, or just sitting and talking one on one, her bubbly and honest personality exudes to all who see her.

Cynthia Bythell—British, Welsh, Scotch, and American Indian—didn't revert to her maiden name, but instead uses her ex-husband's name as her real and performing "nom de theatre." She has performed in a variety of spots both in the West and East Bay scene, including The Old Clamhouse, Revol, Driftwood Lounge, Berkeley House, Paradise, Spoiled Brat, and Lake Lounge.

She was actually born in Hollywood! But at a very early age this Pisces (Cancer moon with Aries rising) moved with her parents to what she thought was a big city—Chico! (No, I didn't have the chutzpah to ask her about Velveta fondue!)

Nez: How long have you been studying music?

Cynthia: Well, I say since the age of five, but my mother says the age of seven. She taught voice and music and told me that I had to learn to read music. When I was three or four, she taught me to spell my name to the tune of "Peter Cottontail."

Nez: When did you first perform professionally?

Cynthia: Growing up in Chico, I participated in a lot of the local talent shows there. My first actual paying job came when I was in junior high school. The team of "Cindy & Cindy" (yes, my partner's name was Cynthia, too!) performed at a banquet. After high school I was involved with the performing community at California State University at Chico.

Nez: When did you move to the Bay Area?

Cynthia: I think it was in the early 1970's. I moved down here primarily for the weather. I had to give up my singing and the piano to survive. I was really a "little town girl!" and was taken aback by "big city" living. I lacked the sophistication and know-how to meet people. It took time to recover from the culture shock.

Nez: Something must have happened. You're not grooming dogs anymore.

Cynthia: Finally, about four years ago I said, "If I'm going to do it, I'd better do it!" It was my dream to perform. I seriously looked for work. When I was on vacation in Guerneville, I took my paltry resume to the Embers. I got my first steady job—for one month—performing four nights a week. They asked me to stay on, but the commute was getting to me. I then got a job at the Lake Lounge performing five nights a week. When it rains, it pours. Not only was I working the Lake

Lounge for the early hours, but also I was working the late hours at the Berkeley House. It was really tiring.

Then, I landed a job on Sundays at the Sausalito Inn. Fred moved me to the Paradise and I continued there a short time. But I liked the Sausalito Inn; it was love between us. I quit all other jobs and worked at the Inn for about two years.

Nez: What about the cabaret circuit in the Bay Area?

Cynthia: About at the time I decided that I didn't want to limit myself just to the piano bar and branch out into the cabaret scene, that scene began to reduce. There are about two and a half real cabarets left in San Francisco: Plush Room, City Cabaret, and Cat's. I was in the first shows at the Valencia Rose. I recorded a tape and accompanied myself. Then the Rose folded, but I didn't consider it the kiss of death! In all honesty, I feel that the stricter laws and enforcement of DUIs reflected on the diminishing customers at the cabarets.

Nez: What's in the works now?

Cynthia: I joined a new country/western/pop band, which has no name as yet; it is still in the forming stages. It has seven members, six of whom are men. I sing and double on the keyboards. I write a lot of original songs and we plan to tour the

'I was in the first shows at the Valencia Rose. I recorded a tape and accompanied myself. The, the Rose folded, but I didn't consider it the kiss of death!'

—Cynthia Bythell

country to see if there is a market for them. I have only been writing songs for about two years, and I have something like 25 of them. To me, the lyrics are easier than the melody. I usually write the words first and fit the music to them.

Nez: Which "hit" song best describes Cynthia? Which one of your original songs best describes Cynthia?

Cynthia: I guess I would have to say, "It's a Grand Night for Singing." The second part I would have to say, "One Little Tear." It really isn't a sad song. You have to listen closely to the lyrics to see why it is so much Cynthia.

Nez: Do you still experience stage fright?

Cynthia: Yes, definitely about doing cabaret, but not about the

piano bar. I don't feel that piano bar is really performing.

Nez: Any regrets?

Cynthia: I'm sorry that I didn't get started professionally earlier. I spent so much time making sure that I would survive. I should have taken the risk to stick to my music full time in the early days.

Anyone interested in more information—or bookings!—may reach Cynthia Bythell at (415) 549-2284, or 2812 Tenth St, Berkeley, CA 94710.

My gut reaction is that Cynthia Bythell will make it. And then, Gee! Someday, perhaps I'll be able to say, "I knew her when..." Some people will stop at nothing to reach their objective, but only because they refuse to put on the brakes. I'll smile at that! Love, Nez

Scientists

(Continued from page 19)

fection is education," said the report.

Calling current federal expenditures on safe sex education "woefully inadequate," the panel called for \$1 billion a year to be spent on education alone. On safe sex literature, it said, "educators must be prepared to specify that intercourse—anal or vaginal—with an infected or possibly-infected person and without the protection of a condom is very risky. They must be willing to use whatever vernacular is required for that message to be understood."

David Baltimore, co-chair of the panel, told reporters, "We discovered that there is very little knowledge about sexual practices in the United States at all. It's not just homophobia; there seems to be a phobia about the whole question."

The report termed IV drug users the main conduit by which AIDS may spread extensively into the straight community. The panel recommended giving sterile, disposable needles and syringes to drug users on a short-term basis to determine its effect on the incidence of HIV infection and on drug use.

The panel also called for the expenditure of another \$1 billion annually to fund research into new AIDS drugs and search for a possible vaccine. It also recommended that a national presidential or joint presidential-congressional commission be created to oversee the fight against AIDS.

The report said that 10 million people world-wide have already been infected with HIV since its appearance in the mid-seventies in Africa. According to the report, "infection with HIV appears to be widespread in central Africa and rapidly increasing in prevalence in eastern and southern Africa."

But as with earlier reports, this study found AIDS in Africa to be spread largely through heterosexual intercourse. Even the opportunistic infections accompanying the disease appear to be different, said the scientists.

The report proposed that the U.S. provide \$50 million to the U.N.'s World Health Organization to fight the disease in underdeveloped countries.

In the United States, 26,875 cases have been diagnosed since 1981 and 15,070 of these have died. California has seen one-fifth of all AIDS cases in this country for a total of 5,992 over five years.



Who Me?

One out of four Americans with AIDS is Black. The fact is, AIDS does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic identity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

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Cardinal

(Continued from page 14)

past summer. The groups "pray that the Cardinal's compassion for persons suffering with AIDS and his concern that their rights be protected also extend to those gay and lesbian persons who are healthy." They assert that the true mark of the Church's compassion "is not in how it deals with those who are sick or dying but how well it responds to the needs of healthy, positively affirmed lesbian women and gay men."

Bro. Rick Garcia, Chicago spokesperson for the Catholic Coalition For Gay Civil Rights said "The pastoral begins with a moving story of a young gay man who was abandoned by his family and friends when he developed AIDS. It is ironic that the Cardinal finds this particularly sad when the Church abandons gay and lesbian persons daily."

Sr. Donna Quinn, Executive Director of Chicago Catholic Women, said "Cardinal Bernardin has called the gay community a 'community of grief.' His opposition to the basic civil rights of gay and lesbian persons has contributed greatly to this grief. The wound is deep. A mere pastoral letter will not heal it."

The statement noted the increase of physical violence and discrimination against gay and lesbian persons during this health crisis and charged that words condemning such violence and discrimination "ring empty and false" unless they are backed up with "concrete actions to curb such violence and discrimination." The statement said the groups would be "calling upon the Cardinal to address the issue of anti-gay/lesbian violence and to support strong legislation protecting the rights of lesbian and gay persons."

"That is the real challenge and responsibility," Garcia said.

BAPHR Sets Nov. 10 For Grant Applications

The Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) Foundation is accepting grant applications from Bay Area non-profit organizations that address lesbian and gay health-care issues. Application deadline is Monday, Nov. 10.

The BAPHR Foundation funds health-related education and direct service projects which impact the gay and lesbian communities of the nine-county Bay Area. Grants may be awarded for direct health-services projects, medically-related social projects and educational programs for

both the general public and the medical community.

To obtain an application and complete guidelines, contact the BAPHR Foundation at P.O. Box 14546, San Francisco, CA 94114-0546, or call (415) 558-9353.

Seminar On Candida Issue

A free seminar will be held Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at Vibrant Health Center (Noe & Market). The seminar will address the "Candida Issue," what it is, how it occurs, and what can be done. The guest speaker will be Karen Kingsolven from Cardiovascular Research Company in Concord, CA.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

Boys Will Be Boys

Felice Picano Talks About Gay Adolescence and Being Grown Up in the '80s

by Wendell Ricketts

Author and publisher Felice Picano has the native New Yorker's ease in speaking his mind. New Yorkers have no qualms about engaging in tearful fights with their lovers in the middle of busy sidewalks, or about loudly expressing their opinion of a movie to patrons waiting in line to get in, or about banging on the side of a car that has passed too closely by. In his way, Picano is that unabashed.

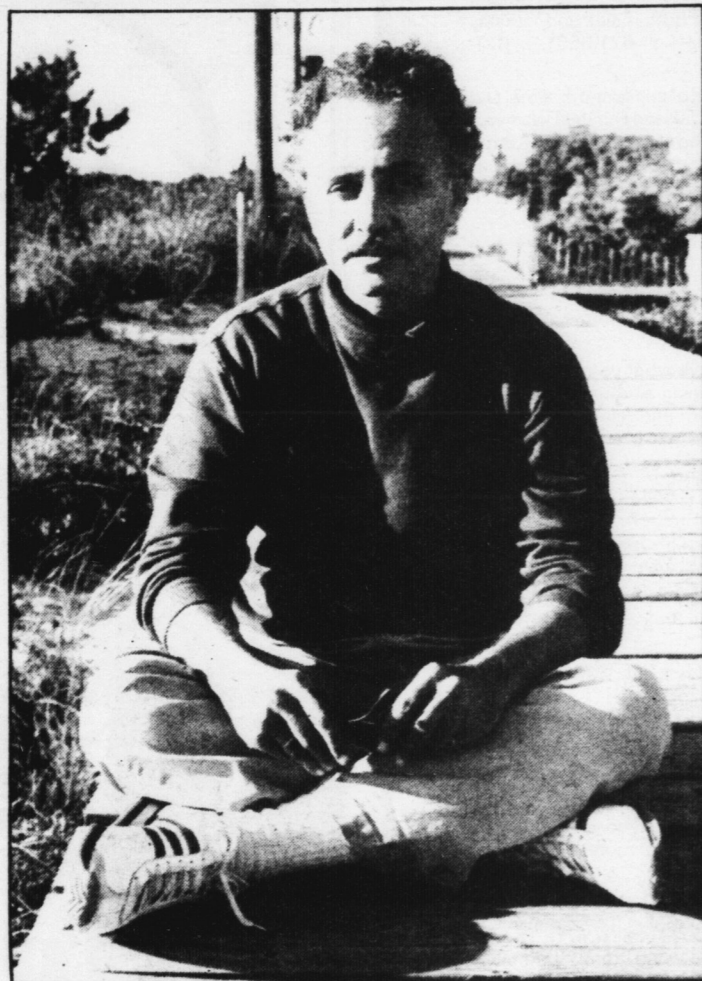
Picano is not, let it be clear, what anyone could call rude, and he isn't to be found brawling in the streets. But he doesn't mind "being pushy" (as he says) about what he has accomplished in his life. Indeed, he has a great deal to be proud of. His first novel, *Smart As The Devil*, appeared in 1975. Since then he has published 10 books, including a volume of short stories, an edited volume of lesbian and gay fiction, a landmark book of poems, and *Ambidextrous*, his most recent work. A novelized memoir (or autobiographical novel), *Ambidextrous* is roughly the story of Picano's early teen years in Queens. Strikingly, the boy-narrator of the three interlocking tales that make up *Ambidextrous* is never called by name, but Picano says, "He's Felice. It's me." In the months since its publication, *Ambidextrous* has become one of the most widely admired — and most wildly misunderstood — of Picano's books.

Ten years ago Picano formed his own gay publishing house, Sea Horse Press. About four years later he joined with Larry Mitchell, who had begun Calamus Press, and Terry Helbing, founder of the JH Playscripts series, and the three men launched a new imprint, Gay Presses of New York.

The first book they took on was Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*, which almost immediately sold 60,000 copies as well as foreign and hardcover rights. Gay Presses of New York was, as the saying goes, bankrolled. Since then, GPNY has published a variety of titles — poetry, nonfiction, and fiction — including San Franciscan Robert Gluck's latest novel, *Jack The Modernist*.

Picano's published works include mystery/thrillers that were not aimed solely at gay audiences and which "crossed over" with enormous success. (*The Lure* is probably the best example.) He recently completed a screenplay based on his novel, *Eyes*.

Picano is intensely self-absorbed, but not arrogant; proud, but not pompous. He is not reluctant to affirm that he is clever, or successful, or talented. Of his busy New York life and wide circle of literary friends, he has said, "This is the kind of life I always wished I'd have." So there is the strange sensation that one ought to find this man — who speaks so freely about his accomplishments — self-centered and vain. Instead, what one really finds is that he is gracious and witty.



Felice Picano

In these excerpts from our recent interview, Picano talked about gay culture, relationships, men and women, and his latest book, *Ambidextrous*.

Wendell Ricketts: You've often spoken about *Fire Island* as a kind of Utopia of the '70s, and as a metaphor for gay culture. In another interview you noted, "When somebody says they're going to *Fire Island* you say 'Ah ha, they're going to be free and gay for two days or a month or whatever and somehow they're going to come back and look at life from a new perspective.'" What was that perspective?

Felice Picano: It's hard to say what it was, but a friend of myself and Andrew Holleran's, a young Swiss-German fellow, has been visiting me. He's a theater director and an intellectual and lives in gay Berlin, which is very similar to gay life in New York or San Francisco these days. Except that they don't really have disco-theques the way we have them, and part of his experience when he came here was to go out to *Fire Island* with me and to go dancing one night at two in the morning and to get out at ten, and to have been completely danced out. And he said to me, "This is unlike anything I've ever experienced in Europe." I said, "We used to do this every weekend. We've done this every weekend for 15 years!" And it's inexplicable, but it's a particular experience that began in a couple of discos in Manhattan — *The Loft*, and *Flamingo*, and the *Tenth Floor* — and out at *Fire Island*.

W.R.: It reminds me of that great line in *Parting Glances* where Nick says to the kid from

bidextrous, the young hero falls in love with a boy named Ricky Hersh. Their sexy, adventurous, and ultimately doomed love affair is described in detail in the middle third of the book. Ricky, Picano says, became the prototype of the men he later found himself falling in love with.

W.R.: Can you say what it was about Ricky Hersh that made him a prototype?

F.P.: Mysterious, unobtainable. You know, in the long run unobtainable, by my standards. He retains his own identity and integrity no matter what happens and that makes him of greater value than people who give in easily. . . I didn't understand my relationship with Ricky Hersh until I had a lover who resembled him almost totally 22 years later. In that relationship I finally understood what had happened many years before.

W.R.: When you say that the attraction is to men who are "in the long run unobtainable," what is it that you struggle to obtain?

F.P.: Total fidelity? I don't mean that in a sexual sense, but total fidelity. You know, the type of thing that women actually give rather easily because they've been taught to give it, even nowadays. And men are not taught to give that.

W.R.: And yet there's something in you, in the character in *Ambidextrous*, who even at age 12 wants that.

F.P.: Uh-huh. Knows that it is possible and likely. Does not know that it may not be obtainable in a male-male sexual relationship. I have found it, for example, in a friendship of 12 or 13 years.

W.R.: What does "fidelity" mean in that context, then?

F.P.: Oh . . . reliability, someone who's always there. A type of instinctual knowing that your friend may be in trouble and what to do. That's one of the aspects of what I'm talking about. I don't think I've ever really had that in a sexual relationship. I still look for it. . . A lot of it has to do with our upbringing. In Islamic countries, for example, men are taught that they can be the most important thing in each other's lives, whether they have wives and families and kids and whatever. Since we haven't been taught that, it's just very hard for us to learn. Occasionally there will be people who have figured it out for themselves and two of them come together, and then you have gay marriages that last 20 and 30 years. But even there an immense amount of compromise has to take place on a constant basis, just because the male ego is so large and difficult to deal with. And we're not really taught to deal with it. To defer to another man out of love is not what we're taught at all as children. We're taught to go there and punch him in the nose. (laughs) Why lesbian relationships, I think, last longer is that women are taught from a very early age

to defer to someone else, and to make a compromise without resenting it. And I think that helps them a lot. I notice a lot of lesbian relationships are in trouble these days, (laughs) because they have their own things to deal with, but it literally comes out of cultural upbringing.

W.R.: It's an interesting paradox because as much as gay men are believed to be sissies, we really do maintain this almost macho thing that you're talking about — not deferring to other men, competition instead of compromise.

F.P.: You bet. There are very few gay men who would not be comfortable in a men's club situation, you know what I mean?

W.R.: The smoking room kind of thing?

F.P.: Absolutely. Because we grew up with all of that. Whether we accepted them or rejected them or not, we know how to play by those rules. And it happens in the business world, it happens in the arts, it happens in almost any world that you are involved in. At a certain point you play by men's rules. And women in business play by men's rules also. I don't know how we unlearn it. I'm hoping that another generation is taught differently.

W.R.: Now, in *Ambidextrous*, Felice eventually finds Ricky's independence too much to bear, and he devises a test to try to get reassurance from him. Unfortunately, it seems to backfire.

F.P.: But you'll remember that it really grows out of Ricky's saying that he belongs to "me, myself, and I" and nobody else. And that's what Felice is testing. Because if there are two people in love, and one of them says "I only belong to myself, nobody can ever possess me in any way, shape, or form," that is a challenge. . . I've found, in any important love relationship, that one of the two partners always forces a crisis, which is a demand to lay out your colors, say exactly what's going on here. When it works, it means the relationship continues. When it doesn't work, it means that it doesn't continue, and that's what that boy (Felice) is learning there. Things are too vague for him, he feels too separated from the loved one, and he needs to be reassured. And if he's not going to be reassured, he wants just the opposite. He wants it ended.

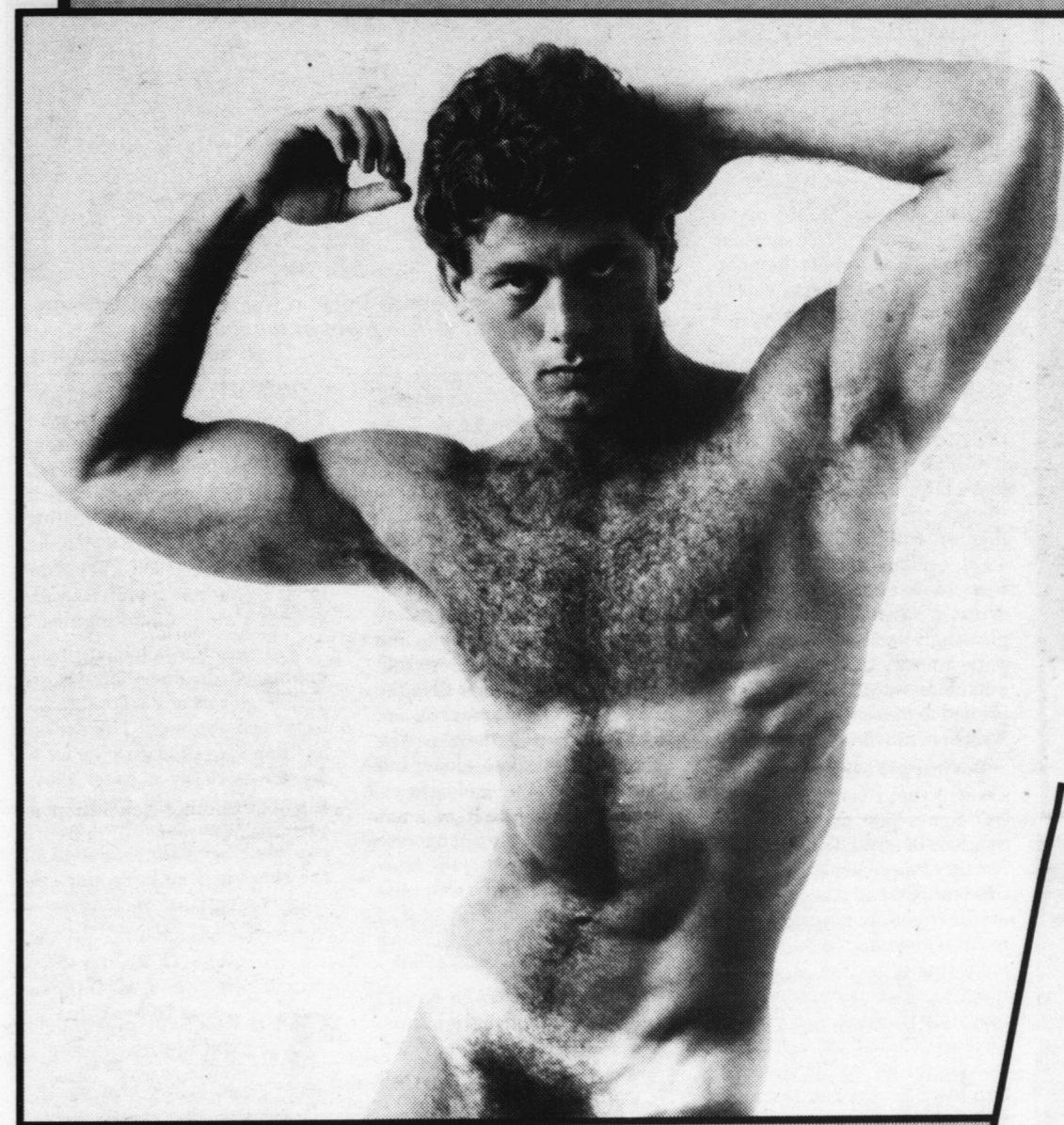
W.R.: Would you say you're pessimistic about love and relationships?

F.P.: Pessimistic about them? No, I wouldn't say I'm pessimistic. I'd say I'm realistic. (laughs) Having had many!

An excerpt of Picano's second volume of memoirs appears in George Stambolian's recently published literary anthology, *Men on Men*. Stambolian will sign his book at Walt Whitman Bookshop Nov. 22.

ALL MALE - ALL LIVE - ALL NUDE

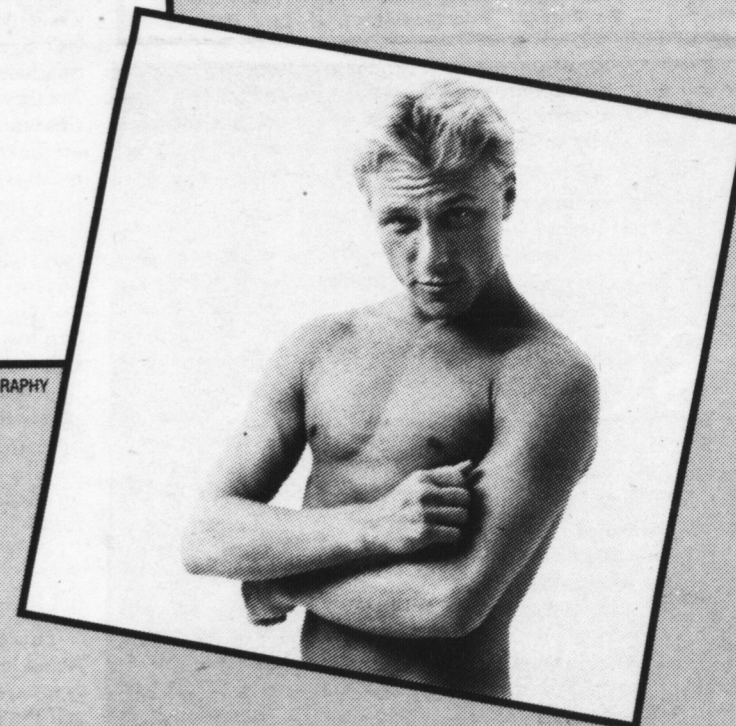
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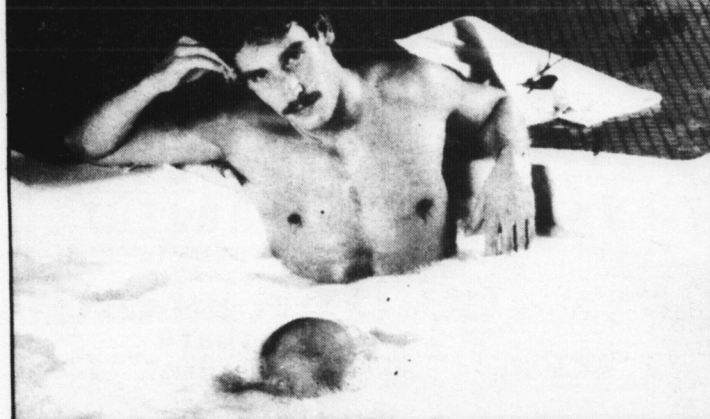


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Mr. Marcus

My Favorite Press Releases

If you've ever been, hope to be, or have designs on being a columnist, you can rest assured that a lot of your mail will consist of death threats, thank yous, free tickets to this, that and the other, and invitations to every sewing bee or dog fight in the area for 150 miles around. This is not to mention contests in New York, San Diego, Seattle, Denver, and other major urban centers. Naturally, a little weeding out must take place. I can't imagine anyone here in Mecca making travel plans for Mr./Ms. Stockyards in Omaha, can you?

Some of the press releases I get are straight typed copy and others are fully illustrated or accompanied by frontal nudity, which I am restricted from printing — ah well, that's life. The most interesting press release I got last week was one from the J/O Buddies. Since this is the age of safe sex for most people, I found the announcement of the J/O Buddies' next party, Erection Zone, very enticing even for me, a non-group sex fairy. On Saturday, 15 Nov. at 890 Folsom, the Sons of J/OB are opening up their new loft space at 2100 hours for a \$10 fee (\$12 for new Buddies). The copy reads: "Have you ever had fantasies about those butch guys working on the construction site? Think about tool belts, bulging baskets, horny dicks, and strong, tough hands. We want you to wear your tight worn jeans, stained t-shirts, hard hats, smelly jocks, and get ready for a jack-off spectacular that'll be raw and raunchy!" etc., etc., ad naughty-um! The doors are open between 2100-2300, so be there! And hey, they need help getting the construction work together for the big party, so if you want to help, construction work party nights are Sat. and Sun., Nov. 8 and 9. If you help tear out some old structures and open up the space you'll get a free pass to the party Nov. 15 and (they hope), some after-work "action." Call Buzz at



Trish and Denise made an appearance at the Eagle Halloween night (Photo: R. Pruzan)

921-7314 for work volunteer party or info on the party itself. Buzz has a hard spot for construction workers and will assure you a good time!

The second-best press release (verbal) was from the California Motor Club (CMC), announcing its 21st Annual Carnival. Now, you know anything that has an annual drawing power over a 21-year period must have something going for it! I can remember when it cost a piddling \$3 for 7½ hours of boozing, cruising, flooz-

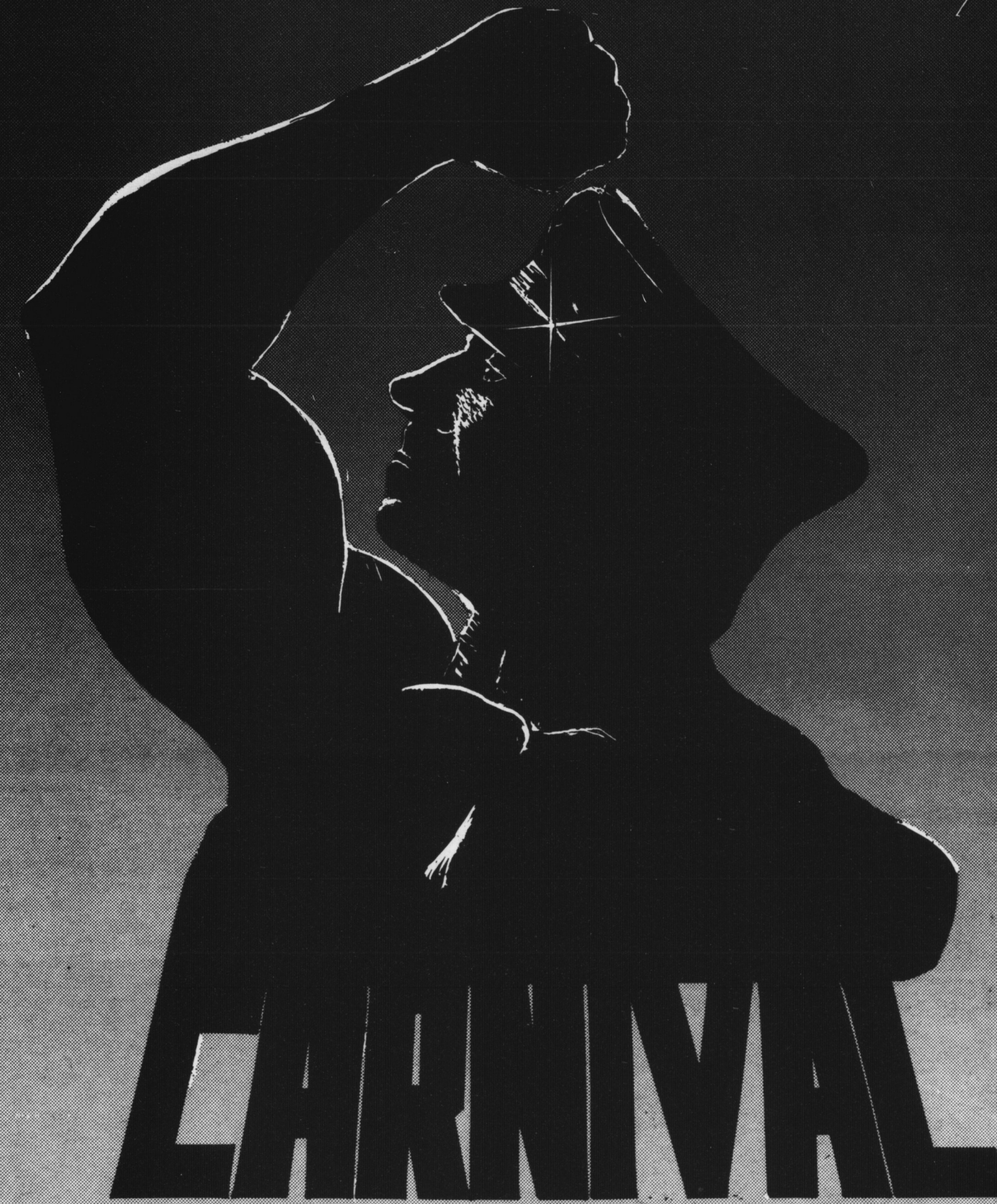
ing, and 24-hour marriages. The carnivals were held at Seaman's Hall on Fremont Street for years, a place so small that when one or two thousand dudes filled it up, a sardine can was looking good! They devised up and down traffic, outdoor booths, and everything that didn't work but only made the carnival more enticing. I'm sure many of you can remember when there were as many as 21 candidates for Mr. Carnival and when dudes from Polk

(Continued on page 34)



The mob scene at Sanford Kellman's Tarzan Boys Halloween party at the Giftcenter (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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This 82-year-old cheerleader raised the crowd's spirit at the Eagle's Leather & Feathers Halloween party (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from page 32)
Street, Castro Street, and the dreaded Los Angeles clubs and bars won out in the balloting.
Well, lots of traces of the good old days still exist at the carnival. Heavy cruising for sure; lots of leather for sure; lots of booze and hot music (Robbie spins again!) and at my press time, there were six contestants for Mr. Carnival, the only one I know for sure being Duke Armstrong, the All American leather barrister and husband stealer.
The carnival this year takes a radical departure from the previous 20 years. It starts at 1500 hours and goes until 2300, thus assuring your boss this Monday that gay night life didn't end on Halloween. The tickets are \$12 in advance and available all over South of Market and at Headlines stores or from any CMC member, Mister S, and All American Boy.
David Sarathain (Prez of CMC) will be on hand with his fellow club members and his new wife (Randy Whittaker and Shadow) to help things go smoothly. Ernie Viola will give up his title, and from my last report smuggled in from L.A., the fervor has dwindled so there may not be any contestants from there.
Since Leather Daddy Tom Rodgers didn't get his beer bust committee in line, his beer bust at the Eagle has been canceled and replaced by the SF-Eagle employees' celebration of the Carnival.
Hope to see you all around and about and that's about it for impressive press releases this week, except to say that Teddy Bears on Gough opens for sure this weekend and that the manager of the New World (formerly Ramrod) is not Australian at all, but "please, I'm British!" Sorry 'bout that, Kym Whittington!

Halloween has come and gone. The parties at the SF-Eagle, Giftcenter Pav, and the Galleria were all fun. Lots of great costumes, music, star performances, and drag all over town. The Castro was a Disastro,
but thank God, no heavy mishaps.
Sonny Cline wrecked a lot of people when he came to the Eagle's Leather & Feathers competition as a white poodle with an authentic bark — Ken Savage was only slightly amused at the leg-lifting in his direction.
John and Peter scored well all over the place with their fabulous costumes, and at the Galleria, Gail Wilson, backed by the SF Tap Troupe and City Swing, cinched it with their group presentation on both offense and defense that Bill Walsh would have killed for. Galleria judge Pam Brooks managed to survive the smokers in the audience, and I most assuredly caught the glint of jealousy as La Wilson pummeled the audience with her

dynamite version of "You and the Night and the Music." The group wiped out any hopes for the other entries.
All around town it was frivolity galore. The Sanford Kellman presentation at the Giftcenter Pav garnered the biggest crowds for their Tarzan Boys and there were enough "swinging vines" around for all the Janes in the competition lanes, while "Until December" rocked out with mucho gusto.
The costumed ones scored well and all around it was a fun night. CUAVD volunteers are to be commended for the great job they did on Castro, and thanks to the SFPD for its backup.

So what else is coming your way? So much success at his last visit to SFO, Jim Ward of the LA Gauntlet rushes back to Mecca this Friday, Nov. 7 through Sun., Nov. 9, with his traveling piercing cavalcade Friday at 260 Shotwell; Sat. at Image Leathers, and Sunday (by appointment). Call 621-6294 for piercing clinic in a private residence on Sunday. Fakir Musafar will be a special guest at all three presentations, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.
The Warlocks M/C is having its open meeting at the Powerhouse this Friday eve, 2030 hours, and will show the video of the Debutramps run earlier this year.

Benefit for Karl Stewart at the Galleon Sunday, 9 Nov.
The Kokpit celebrates its second anniversary all weekend, Friday, Nov. 7 through Sunday the 9th. She isn't running for anything (ever again), but Ms. Pigg will be there.
And the owners of the new Teddy Bears on Gough opening this weekend are Jack Lane, Victor Davis, and Larry Evans, as I was so rudely reminded Monday when I was having dinner at the Line-Up and one of the carpenters was in his cups more than he ever was when he was married and couldn't hold on to his husband because of his insecurity. I ran out of creative press releases, so you'll have to forage around if none of the above is to your liking. (Continued on page 36)



The winners of the Eagle's Leather & Feathers contest donated their prize money to the AIDS Emergency Fund (Photo: R. Pruzan)

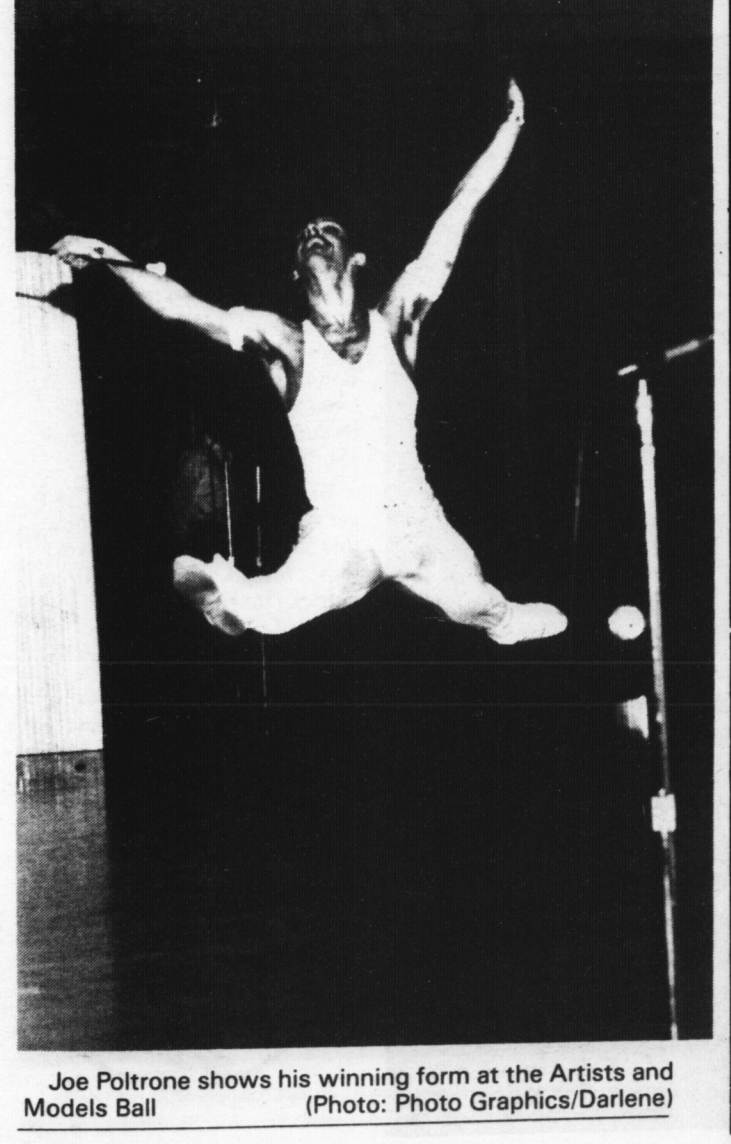
Mark Friese
Off to La La Land

This column is turned in late on Monday evenings, so it will be a hard chore for me to type it with my fingers crossed, and yes, even my legs, but needless to say, they are that way because of Prop. 64, in hopes that we will soundly defeat it and get back to the progress in dealing with the AIDS problem that we have set the standards of loving and caring for!

I certainly hope all of you voted Tuesday. Your vote is also part of the fight that we, as gays, can wage to protect our rights and our futures!
Something I'm sure we will always have is Halloween as our national holiday, a major part of that because we are the most qualified to have a good time, even though I am constantly amazed at how many butch numbers can put on a flawless face and ensemble in less than an hour, and then forget it for the rest of the year. Also, there is so much fun in walking up to people and letting them try to figure out who you are, even though I have almost perfected the art of seeming to know who they are while at the same time remaining confused for days after.

The Halloween weekend seemed to come off without too many problems. I worked at the New Bell, and I must say Northern Station's police were at their best, and their high visibility certainly was responsible for how smoothly the weekend went.
Friday night found Allen White at the GiftCenter for Tarzan Boys where he coordinated the judges, who included Dick Hongisto, anti-circus Angela Alioto, Sylvester, Randy Shilts, and others, as they reviewed more than 200 contestants, not an easy task.

Halloween was still in full swing Saturday evening as the Artists and Models Ball took center stage at the Galleria, and the reports all indicate that Robert Michael Productions has another success on its hands.
Out of all the cavorting that was offered over the weekend, I was able to fly off to the Funhouse at Trocadero for one of their best parties ever, one at which the music was non-stop and the circus acts were just what the doctor ordered. The music, by Robbie Leslie, was dynamite, as was the energy of the jampacked crowd, and even Fred Badalamente let his hair down and had a wonderful time. Dick Collier and his staff deserve a lot of credit for a great concept and party!



Joe Poltrone shows his winning form at the Artists and Models Ball (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlène)



The end of a very long night for the marathon dancers at the They Shoot Queers Don't They? benefit at the Baybrick (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlène)

Happy second anniversary to all at the Kokpit as they are celebrating this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with that Kokpit madness in abundance. The party starts at 8 p.m. Friday with Ms. Pigg hosting the run-off contest for performances of "You're Gonna Love Me," which will feature almost everyone who has done that number. It should be hot! There will also be shows for the rest of the evening and face-painting by Char and Ken, just kidding! Give them a call for the rest of their weekend schedule at 775-3260.
The New Bell Saloon and friends invite you to Marque Murdock's final bash this Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m. This affair will feature all the festive surprises Marque talked about so frequently.
The Mint will host the registration for the San Francisco No Tap Invitational Tournament this Friday from 6 p.m. till closing. The tournament will be played at Japantown Bowl Saturday and Sunday and you can get more info by calling the Mint at 626-4726. Karen Kiger from the Castro Station must be getting ready for this one!
By all means stop by the Hot 'N' Hunky at the Mint as they are now serving brunch on Sundays from 9 a.m. til 2 p.m., and I can assure you Ron (Doll) Fontanini and his staff do a great job on all the items.
Sunday there are three things happening I'm sure you want to know about, so here they are.
The C.M.C. Carnival will be at Fort Mason, Pier 3, from 3 til 11 p.m., and I urge you to support Duke Armstrong in his bid for Mr. C.M.C. Carnival because besides being a good guy, all the money he raises will go 50/50 to the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund and to the Band Foundation.
Little Mother will host an auction at the Revol, 40th and Telegraph in Oakland, Sunday starting at 4 p.m., with the money going to the East Bay AIDS Fund. There will be a show by Manuel and Tootsie, and Little Mother will try to control his "natural urges."
Ginger's Too will celebrate Beverly's birthday Sunday with a buffet and party starting at 4 p.m., and I won't mention how old Lipps said Beverly is for fear of retaliation, but I will say Totie did recommend a motorized wheelchair for Lipps while at a recent Sunday brunch. Also, get your reservations now for their (Continued on next page)

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R It's you and me in the gym, hot and sweaty
E for Daddy fantasies - he's waiting to punish you
S we'll head for the toilet for sleazy sex games
S I'm on top, you're definitely on the bottom
A \$2.00 service charge plus toll (if any) will appear on your bill as 976-7637. You must be over 18 to make this call.

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Let There Be Lights

Emperor Answers Widow's Prayer As She Claims Bridge For Him

by Allen White



The Widow said, 'Joshua, send me a sign. . .'

Last Sunday the widow of Emperor Joshua Norton claimed the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in the name of her departed husband.

The First Empress of San Francisco said, "Joshua wanted to send me a sign. I knew if I went to the bridge he would." Dressed in black, the Widow Norton made her way to a pier which reached out into San Francisco Bay. Viewing the bridge she remembered that Joshua Norton, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico, had proposed construction of a link between San Francisco and Oakland over a century ago. The bridge was opened 50 years ago on Nov. 12, 1936.

Standing at the pier, the Widow Norton said, almost prayerfully, "Joshua, send me a sign." Moments later as she lifted her hands to the bridge, the lights twinkled on (accentuating the bridge's suspension cables. She smiled and simply commented, "Joshua has heard my call." (Continued on page 2)



. . .and Joshua spoke.

(Photos: Savage Photography)

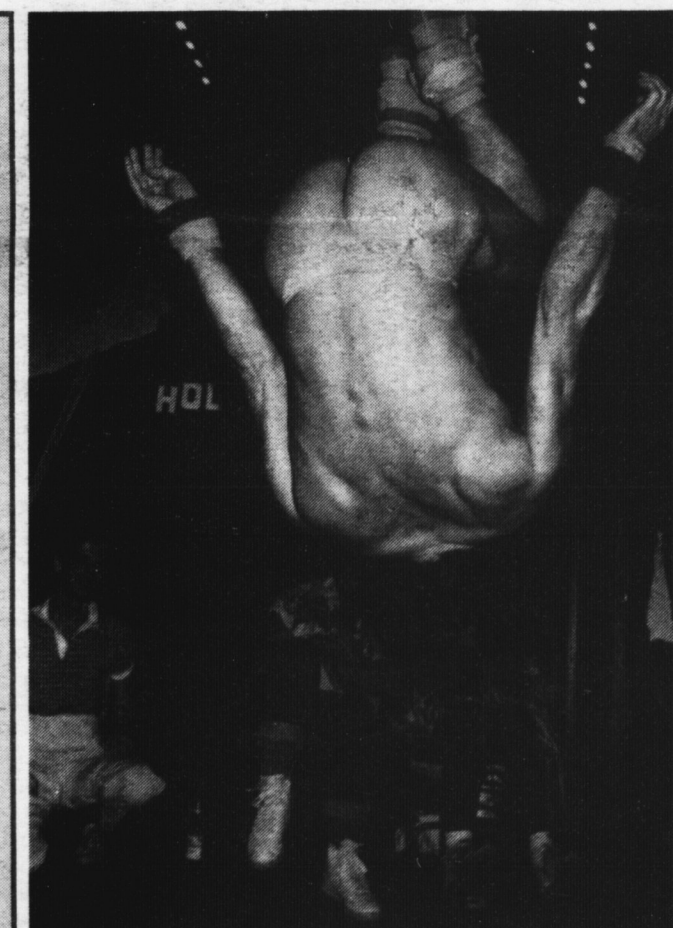
Today

Friendly Skies It Ain't: Delta Airlines says it should pay lower damages to gay victims of air crashes. See page 3.

Wild West: Rhyolite, Nevada may turn into the O.K. Corral one of these days now that the Ku Klux Klan wants to block the little gay city. Charles Linebarger reports, page 4.

South Bay Gays got their act together on Prop. 64 and now have a better organized political community for local issues. Dot James has the story, page 19.

Fathers and Sons get center stage in Timothy Mason's new play *Bearclaw*. Wendell Ricketts interviews the playwright, page 24.



The Magic Juggler, a traveling one-man show, won the Endup's Buns contest Thursday up-ended. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Special Panel To Investigate CDC

Weicker Calls for Congressional Inquiry; Sabotage of AIDS Research Charged

by Charles Linebarger

The National Academy of Science (NAS) has begun an investigation of the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. This follows charges made by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) that research had been sabotaged at the CDC's AIDS laboratories.

"We have been asked by Sen. Weicker in Congress and by Dr. James Mason (director of the CDC) to examine the management and overall productivity of the AIDS laboratory at the CDC," Gail Porter, NAS director of the Office of News and Public Investigation, told the Bay Area Reporter.

"And as part of that overall examination," added Porter, "we will be looking at specific allegations that have been made regarding possible suppression of research findings and possible sabotage of laboratory experiments."

Porter said a committee of three "experts" had been formed to do the investigation. The committee is chaired by a San

Franciscan, Dr. Julius Krevas, the chancellor at the University of California at San Francisco. Also on the panel are Dr. Robert Berliner, professor of physiology and medicine at Yale University, and Dr. Bernadine Healy, chairman of research at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

The panel visited the CDC's AIDS laboratories on the week- (Continued on page 2)

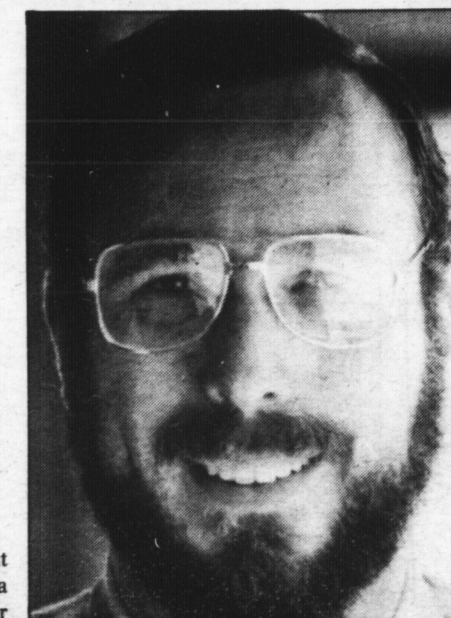
Losing Clout?

Even With Prop. 64 on Ballot, Gay Vote Was Down

by David Lamble

Despite the overwhelming gay-led rout of LaRouche at the ballot box, precinct analysis of last week's election indicates some disturbing trends concerning the gay vote and the future strength of lesbian and gay political clout in San Francisco. A sample of gay precincts around the city supports the argument that gay voter turnout was only slightly ahead (6 percent) of the city-wide vote.

Chris Bowman, president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, has been tracking the gay vote for the past eight years. Bowman has spotted a significant decline in the number



"If the minority candidates lose city-wide in 1988, then we may be able to galvanize minority support for a return to district elections."

—Chris Bowman

of single male voters and estimates that while gays constituted about 23 percent of the city electorate in 1978, the current gay slice of the voter pie is only about 17 percent. Bowman thinks that the effectiveness of gay coalition building against Prop. 64 might obscure a disappointing gay voter turnout.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"Even with a life-threatening ballot issue, there seems to have been a lot of apathy or maybe the gay vote is just simply not what it was in 1978, our high water mark."

Previous gay political strategies have assumed an ever rising (Continued from page 2)